



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
60TH PARLIAMENT
Nos. 165 and 166

No. 165 — Tuesday, 12 May 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 14 April 2026, given the Royal Assent to the following Acts presented to her by the Clerk of the Parliaments:
Education and Training Reform Amendment (Free TAFE Guarantee) Act 2026
Electoral Amendment Act 2026
Justice Legislation Further Amendment (Miscellaneous) Act 2026
Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Act 2026
Safe Food Victoria Act 2026.
- 3 **ROADS, ROAD SAFETY AND PORTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2026** — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Road Safety Act 1986, the Heavy Vehicle National Law Application Act 2013, the Road Management Act 2004, the EastLink Project Act 2004, the Melbourne City Link Act 1995, the North East Link Act 2020, the West Gate Tunnel (Truck Bans and Traffic Management) Act 2019, the Port Management Act 1995, the Marine Safety Act 2010, the Rail Management Act 1996 and the Transport Integration Act 2010 and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.
On the motion of Jaclyn Symes, the Bill was read a first time and, by leave, ordered to be read a second time forthwith.
Jaclyn Symes laid on the Table the statement of compatibility as required by the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.
Jaclyn Symes moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Jaclyn Symes incorporated the second reading speech in Hansard.
On the motion of Melina Bath, the debate was adjourned for one week.
- 4 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** — The President advised the House that Richard Welch resigned from the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, effective from 11 May 2026.

The President advised the House that Ingrid Stitt resigned from the House Committee, effective from today.

5 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 Georgie Crozier, the answers given by Harriet Shing to questions relating to access to ambulance services (QwN 1314) were ordered to be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.

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CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

6 PETITIONS —

REZONING OF KINGSWOOD GOLF COURSE — Ann-Marie Hermans presented a petition bearing 2,064 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to adhere to all the findings of the Golf Course Redevelopment Standing Advisory Committee in relation to Kingswood Golf Course, including implementing flood controls, considering the submissions sent by residents to Engage Victoria in April 2025, ensuring that the development is at least halved in number and retaining the entirety of flora and fauna on the site (*Ordered to be tabled*).

The petition having received the required number of signatures, Ann-Marie Hermans listed the petition for future debate during Petitions (qualifying for debate).

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REMOVE GAG LAWS ON VCAT PROCEEDINGS OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER GUARDIANSHIP OR ADMINISTRATION ORDERS — Anasina Gray-Barberio presented a petition bearing 6 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to repeal Clause 37 in Schedule 1 of the *Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998* and restore dignity, open justice, and human rights to people with disability in Victoria by introducing a targeted, rights-based framework (*Ordered to be tabled*).

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MENTAL HEALTH BEDS FOR ADOLESCENTS IN THE HUME REGION — Wendy Lovell presented a petition bearing 326 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to urgently fund and establish at least eight dedicated adolescent inpatient mental health beds in the Hume region to ensure that young people can access safe, timely and age-appropriate care close to home (*Ordered to be tabled*).

On the motion of Wendy Lovell, the petition was ordered to be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.

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IMMEDIATELY CANCEL THE DELBURN WIND FARM — Melina Bath presented a petition bearing 2,805 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to immediately cancel the Delburn Wind Farm and reverse the SEC Victoria funding due to a clear conflict of interest and unacceptable bushfire and financial risks (*Ordered to be tabled*).

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

7 PAPERS —

PAPER PRESENTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL — Lizzie Blandthorn, by leave, presented the University of Divinity Report, 2025 (*Ordered to be tabled*).

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COMMITTEE REPORTS —

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE — Pursuant to section 35 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, Sonja Terpstra tabled —

Alert Digest No. 6 of 2026 (including Appendices) from the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee (*Ordered to be published*).

Annual Review 2024 on Statutory Rules and Legislative Instruments (including Appendices) from the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee (*Ordered to be published*).

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LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE — Pursuant to Standing Order 23.22, Joe McCracken tabled a Report on the Inquiry into public school funding (including an Appendix and Extracts of Proceedings) from the Legal and Social Issues Committee, and presented Transcripts of Evidence (*Transcripts of Evidence ordered to be tabled and the Report published*).

Joe McCracken moved, That the Council take note of the Report.

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

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INTEGRITY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE — Pursuant to section 35 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, Ryan Batchelor tabled a Report on the Inquiry into the adequacy of the annual budget of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission, the Victorian Ombudsman and Integrity Oversight Victoria (including an Appendix) from the Integrity and Oversight Committee (*Ordered to be published*).

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

Question — put and agreed to.

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BUDGET PAPERS, 2026-27 — Pursuant to sections 27D, 27E and 40 of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, the Clerk tabled the 2026-27 —

- (a) Budget Information Paper – Gender Equality Budget Statement;
- (b) Budget Paper No. 2 – Strategy and Outlook;
- (c) Budget Paper No. 3 – Service Delivery;
- (d) Budget Paper No. 5 – Statement of Finances (incorporating Quarterly Financial Report No. 3); and
- (e) Department Performance Statement.

Harriet Shing, by leave, presented the 2026-27 —

- (a) Budget Overview;
- (b) Budget Paper No. 1 – Treasurer’s Speech; and
- (c) Budget Paper No. 4 – State Capital Program (*Ordered to be tabled*).

On the motion of Harriet Shing, the Budget Papers, 2026-27 were ordered to be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.

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

Auditor-General — Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Program Performance, April 2026 (*Ordered to be published*) (*released on 30 April 2026 – a non-sitting day*).

Bendigo Kangan Institute — Report, 2025*.

Box Hill Institute — Report, 2025*.

Chisholm Institute — Report, 2025*.

Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 — Order of 26 April 2026 giving approval to the granting of a lease at Edinburgh Gardens Reserve.

Deakin University — Report, 2025.

Federation University Australia — Report, 2025.

Gordon Institute of TAFE (The Gordon) — Report, 2025*.

Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE (GOTAFE) — Report, 2025*.

Holmesglen Institute — Report, 2025*.

Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 — Notice under section 32(3)(a)(iii) in relation to Statutory Rule No. 10 (*Gazette S204, 22 April 2026*).

Inquiries Act 2014 — Interim Report of the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion, together with a statement explaining why part of the Interim Report is not to be tabled at this time, under section 37(1) of the Act (*Ordered to be published*).

Judicial Entitlements Act 2015 — Attorney-General's recommendation statement to the 2025 Own Motion Recommendation Report of the Judicial Entitlements Panel, under section 34 of the Act.

La Trobe University — Report, 2025.

Melbourne Polytechnic — Report, 2025*.

Monash University — Report, 2025.

Planning and Environment Act 1987 — Notices of approval of the —
Ararat Planning Scheme — Amendment C43.

Ballarat, Baw Baw, Benalla, Colac Otway, Golden Plains, Greater Bendigo, Hepburn, Horsham, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Mansfield, Mitchell, Moorabool, Mount Alexander, Pyrenees, South Gippsland, Surf Coast and Wodonga Planning Schemes — Amendment GC255.

Bass Coast Planning Scheme — Amendment C176.

Baw Baw, Cardinia, Hume, South Gippsland and Wyndham Planning Schemes — Amendment GC263.

Boroondara Planning Scheme — Amendment C413 (Part 3).

Brimbank, Macedon Ranges, Merri-bek and Moonee Valley Planning Schemes — Amendment GC236.

Cardinia and Melbourne Planning Schemes — Amendment GC272.

Casey Planning Scheme — Amendment C304.

Colac Otway Planning Scheme — Amendments C125 (Part 2) and C132.

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

Darebin Planning Scheme — Amendment C191.
East Gippsland Planning Scheme — Amendment C159.
Glen Eira Planning Scheme — Amendment C280.
Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme — Amendment C275.
Greater Geelong Planning Scheme — Amendments C487 and C488.
Manningham Planning Scheme — Amendments C125 and C142.
Melbourne Planning Scheme — Amendment C493.
Melton Planning Scheme — Amendment C232.
Moorabool Planning Scheme — Amendment C85.
Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme — Amendment C315.
Port Phillip Planning Scheme — Amendment C233.
South Gippsland Planning Scheme — Amendment C133.
Victoria Planning Provisions — Amendments VC232, VC248, VC307 and VC308.
Wangaratta Planning Scheme — Amendment C95.
Wyndham Planning Scheme — Amendment C266.
Yarra Planning Scheme — Amendment C247.

Parliamentary Workplace Standards and Integrity Commission — Matter involving Mr Richard Welch, Member for the North-Eastern Metropolitan Region — Investigation report, April 2026 (*Ordered to be published*) (*released on 17 April 2026 – a non-sitting day*).

Professional Standards Act 2003 —

The Australian Institute of Building Surveyors Professional Standards Scheme, under section 14 of the Act (*Gazette G16, 16 April 2026*).

The Surveyors Australia Professional Standards Scheme, under section 14 of the Act (*Gazette G16, 16 April 2026*).

Project Development and Construction Management Act 1994 — Nomination Order and Application Order of 31 March 2026, under sections 6 and 8 of the Act and a statement of reasons for making a Nomination Order of 21 March 2026, under section 9 of the Act.

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT University) — Report, 2025.

South West Institute of TAFE — Report, 2025*.

Statutory Rules under the following Acts of Parliament —

Architects Act 1991 — No. 29.

Building Act 1993 — No. 38.

Casino Control Act 1991 — No. 23.

Fines Reform Act 2014 — No. 34.

Infringements Act 2006 — No. 35.

Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 — No. 37.

Magistrates' Court Act 1989 — Nos. 30, 31 and 32.

Meat Industry Act 1993 — No. 22.

Non-Emergency Patient Transport and First Aid Services Act 2003 — No. 26.

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2010 — No. 39.

Planning and Environment Act 1987 — No. 40.

Professional Standards Act 2003 — No. 36.

Retirement Villages Act 1986 — Nos. 24 and 25.

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Nos. 27 and 28.

Supreme Court Act 1986 — No. 33.

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 —

Documents under section 15 in relation to Statutory Rule Nos. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 40.

Legislative instruments and related documents under section 16B in respect of —

PrimeSafe Meat Industry Licensing and Fees Determination 2026 under the Meat Industry Act 1993.

PrimeSafe Seafood Safety Licensing and Fees Determination 2026 under the Meat Industry Act 1993 and the Seafood Safety Act 2003.

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE (SuniTAFE) — Report, 2025*.

Swinburne University of Technology — Report, 2025.

TAFE Gippsland — Report, 2025*.

The University of Melbourne — Report, 2025.

Victoria University — Report, 2025.

William Angliss Institute of TAFE — Report, 2025*.

Wodonga Institute of TAFE — Report, 2025*.

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

Response from the Attorney-General to petition titled Non-lethal weapons for security guards at shopping centres (petition No. 663) (presented by Moira Deeming on 17 March 2026) (*released on 13 April 2026*).

Responses from the Minister for Education to petitions titled —

Comprehensive sexuality education in schools (petition No. 630) (presented by Bev McArthur on 3 February 2026) (*released on 7 April 2026*).

Protect Montessori education in public schools (petition No. 699) (presented by Nick McGowan on 19 February 2026) (*released on 13 April 2026*).

Response from the Minister for Emergency Services to petition titled Select Committee on fire services funding and resources (petition No. 735) (presented by Nick McGowan on 3 March 2026) (*released on 2 April 2026*).

Response from the Minister for Health to petition titled Public hospital in Tarneit (petition No. 643) (presented by Trung Luu on 3 February 2026) (*released on 13 April 2026*).

Responses from the Minister for Planning to petitions titled —

Desist from high-rise high-density zone planning (petition No. 620) (presented by Georgie Crozier on 4 February 2025) (*released on 9 April 2026*).

Waste incinerator in Sunbury (petition No. 716) (presented by David Ettershank on 2 December 2025) (*released on 4 May 2026*).

Response from the Minister for Police to petition titled Reduce scam locksmith operators (petition No. 654) (presented by Ann-Marie Hermans on 5 February 2026) (*released on 28 April 2026*).

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PROCLAMATIONS — The Clerk tabled proclamations of the Governor in Council fixing operative dates for the following Acts:

Building Legislation Amendment (Fairer Payments on Jobsites and Other Matters) Act 2025 — Part 2 (other than sections 25(4) and 45(3)) — 15 April 2026 (*Gazette S189, 14 April 2026*).

Entities Legislation Amendment (Consolidation and Other Matters) Act 2026 — Parts 4 and 6 and Division 1 of Part 9 — 15 April 2026 — Division 2 of Part 8 — 28 April 2026 — Remaining provisions of Division 1 of Part 8 — 3 May 2026 (*Gazette S189, 14 April 2026*).

Labour Hire Legislation Amendment (Licencing) Act 2025 — sections 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16(2) and (3), 17, 18 and 19 — 1 June 2026 (*Gazette S200, 21 April 2026*).

- 8 BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL** — Aiv Puglielli moved, by leave, That the following general business take precedence on Wednesday, 13 May 2026 —

- (1) notice of motion given this day by David Limbrick on the Model Councillor Code of Conduct;
- (2) notice of motion given this day by Rachel Payne on Victoria Police’s cannabis cautioning scheme;
- (3) notice of motion given this day by Bev McArthur on the 2026-27 Budget; and
- (4) notice of motion given this day by Bev McArthur on transmission lines.

Question — put and agreed to.

- 9 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** — Harriet Shing moved, by leave, That Lee Tarlamis be a member of the House 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 1405, be postponed until later this day.

- 12 COGNATE DEBATE** — Harriet Shing moved, by leave, That this House authorises the President to permit the second reading debate on the Building and Plumbing Administration and Enforcement Bill 2026 to be taken concurrently with the second reading debate on the Cladding Safety Victoria Repeal Bill 2026.

Question — put and agreed to.

- 13 COGNATE DEBATE — BUILDING AND PLUMBING ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT BILL 2026 — CLADDING SAFETY VICTORIA REPEAL BILL 2026** — The concurrent debate commenced on the questions, That these Bills be now read a second time.

David Davis moved as a reasoned amendment to the question, That the Building and Plumbing Administration and Enforcement Bill 2026 be now read a second time, That all the words after “That” be omitted and replaced with “the Bill be withdrawn and not reintroduced until the Government has allowed for proper consultation with the industry to occur.”.

Debate ensued.

The concurrent debate having concluded —

- 14 BUILDING AND PLUMBING ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT BILL 2026** — Question — That the reasoned amendment moved by David Davis be agreed to — put. The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 14

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

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

NOES, 25

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Jeff Bourman; 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; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell; Sheena Watt.

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

Question negated.

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

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 38

Ryan Batchelor; Melina Bath; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Jeff Bourman; Gaelle Broad; Katherine Copsey; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Moira Deeming; 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; Nick McGowan; 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.

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

House in Committee.

Bill reported without amendment, the Report was adopted.

Harriet Shing moved, That the Bill be now read a third time and do pass.

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 24

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

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

NOES, 14

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

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

Question agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

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

- 15 CLADDING SAFETY VICTORIA REPEAL BILL 2026** — Question — That the Bill be now read a second time — put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and, by leave, 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.

- 16 ADJOURNMENT** — Lizzie Blandthorn moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 6.16 pm until tomorrow.

ROBERT McDONALD

Clerk of the Legislative Council

No. 166 — Wednesday, 13 May 2026

- 1** The President took the Chair at 9.33 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 —

Free TAFE, May 2026 *(Ordered to be published)*.

Responses to Performance Engagement Recommendations: Annual Status Update 2026, May 2026 *(Ordered to be published)*.

Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 — Report, 2025, by the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, under section 96 of the Act.

Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 — Notice under section 32(3)(a)(iii) in relation to Statutory Rule No. 26 *(Gazette G19, 7 May 2026)*.

Planning and Environment Act 1987 — Notice of approval of the Victoria Planning Provisions — Amendment VC309.

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PAPER PRESENTED UNDER STANDING ORDERS — The Clerk tabled the following paper:
Government response to the Legal and Social Issues Committee's Inquiry into Ambulance Victoria.

3 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS —

MONASH UNIVERSITY PRIMATES RESEARCH — The Clerk tabled a letter from the Attorney-General, dated 11 May 2026, in response to a resolution of the Council on 18 March 2026 (on the motion of Georgie Purcell), relating to Monash University primates research, 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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RENTAL CONTROLS — The Clerk tabled a letter from the Attorney-General, dated 11 May 2026, in response to a resolution of the Council on 1 April 2026 (on the motion of Aiv Puglielli), relating to rental controls, 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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PHARMACISTS INITIATING SUPPLY OF ORAL CONTRACEPTIVE PILL — In response to a resolution of the Council on 18 March 2026 (on the motion of Georgie Crozier), relating to pharmacists initiating supply of the oral contraceptive pill, the Clerk tabled —

- a schedule of the one document identified; and
- a letter from the Attorney-General, dated 11 May 2026, making a claim of executive privilege in relation to one document in full.

4 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS — Members made statements.

5 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — SUSTAINABLE DATA CENTRE ACTION PLAN —

David Ettershank moved, That this House —

- (1) notes the failure of the Victorian Government to release its Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan; and
- (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, a copy of the Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan.

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.

6 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — PUBLIC LOTTERY LICENCE AGREEMENT —

Richard Welch (for Bev McArthur) moved, That this House —

- (1) notes that —
 - (a) on 6 May 2026, the Treasurer announced a 40-year extension of Victoria's exclusive Public Lottery Licence to Tattersall's Sweeps Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of The Lottery Corporation, to 30 June 2068;
 - (b) The Lottery Corporation described the contract award process as "exclusive, bilateral negotiations";
 - (c) by contrast, the previous licence was awarded for ten years, after a 20-month open process;
 - (d) the arrangement involves a \$1.145 billion upfront premium;
- (2) in accordance with Standing Order 10.01, requires the Leader of the Government to table in the Council, within three weeks of the House agreeing to this

resolution, the following documents held by the Department of Justice and Community Safety, the Department of Treasury and Finance and the Department of Premier and Cabinet, and relevant ministerial offices, from 1 January 2024 to 6 May 2026 —

- (a) all briefs, submissions and advice concerning exclusive or bilateral negotiations rather than a registration-of-interest process, tender, or other open market process;
- (b) all valuation advice or financial modelling concerning the 40-year licence extension and \$1.145 billion premium;
- (c) all records of meetings, in person or otherwise, including diary entries, agendas, file notes, minutes, electronic communications including SMS and encrypted messaging applications, and any other correspondence between the Government and The Lottery Corporation and related entities concerning the arrangement;
- (d) all advice, reports, assessments or recommendations provided by the Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission; and
- (e) the executed Public Lottery Licence agreement, including side letters or ancillary agreements.

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 MODEL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT — David Limbrick moved, That this House notes that —

- (1) local government reforms passed in 2020 established a requirement that each Council adopt its own Councillor Code of Conduct and associated processes, provided they were consistent with the ‘standards of conduct’;
- (2) reforms passed in 2024 replaced this requirement by imposing a Model Councillor Code of Conduct to all Councils and limiting the scope of internal resolution procedures;
- (3) during debate on the 2024 reforms Minister Blandthorn expressed a hope that it would lead to fewer frivolous cases;
- (4) frivolous and vexatious cases are still going through the internal arbitration process, relying on external independent arbiters at significant cost;
- (5) despite section 5 of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct stating that it is not intended to “limit, restrict or detract from robust public debate of issues in a democracy” it has had this effect;
- (6) robust political debate is critical to ensuring that issues of public concern are subject to discussion and consideration in our democratic institutions;

and calls on the Government to review the Model Councillor Code of Conduct and associated laws and regulations to ensure that councillors are free to express opinions and challenge ideas and policies without being subjected to lengthy arbitration processes.

Debate ensued.

Business interrupted at 12.00 noon, pursuant to Sessional Orders.

8 QUESTION TIME —

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

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CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

9 MODEL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT — Debate continued on the question, That this House notes that —

- (1) local government reforms passed in 2020 established a requirement that each Council adopt its own Councillor Code of Conduct and associated processes, provided they were consistent with the 'standards of conduct';
- (2) reforms passed in 2024 replaced this requirement by imposing a Model Councillor Code of Conduct to all Councils and limiting the scope of internal resolution procedures;
- (3) during debate on the 2024 reforms Minister Blandthorn expressed a hope that it would lead to fewer frivolous cases;
- (4) frivolous and vexatious cases are still going through the internal arbitration process, relying on external independent arbiters at significant cost;
- (5) despite section 5 of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct stating that it is not intended to "limit, restrict or detract from robust public debate of issues in a democracy" it has had this effect;
- (6) robust political debate is critical to ensuring that issues of public concern are subject to discussion and consideration in our democratic institutions;

and calls on the Government to review the Model Councillor Code of Conduct and associated laws and regulations to ensure that councillors are free to express opinions and challenge ideas and policies without being subjected to lengthy arbitration processes.

Question — put and agreed to.

10 VICTORIA POLICE'S CANNABIS CAUTIONING SCHEME — Rachel Payne moved, That this House notes that —

- (1) the Victoria Police Operational Manual states that —
 - (a) Victoria Police support the appropriate use of cautions, with the aim of redirecting eligible persons away from contact with the formal criminal justice system;
 - (b) in September 2024, Victoria Police updated guidance in relation to adult cannabis cautions to expand eligibility to include —
 - (i) removing restrictions on the number of cautions or diversions a person can be subject to;
 - (ii) removing the requirement that no other offences be involved unless deemed ineligible offences, that is all indictable offences that are not triable summarily;
- (2) recent Crime Statistics Agency data shows that —
 - (a) in 2021, 34 per cent of unique alleged offenders received a cannabis caution compared to 2025 where 37.5 per cent of unique alleged offenders received a cannabis caution, despite the revised guidance;
 - (b) rates of cautioning for Indigenous people are 11 times lower than the rate of non-Indigenous Victorians in the cannabis possession statistics;

- (3) given the broadened eligibility and removal of limits on cautions, the absence of a legislative framework risks inconsistent application, and supports the case for establishing the cannabis cautioning scheme in legislation to promote consistency, transparency and accountability;
- and calls on the Government to investigate options for legislative reform to Victoria Police's cannabis cautioning scheme.

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

11 2026-27 BUDGET — Bev McArthur moved, That this House —

- (1) condemns the Allan Labor Government's reckless disregard for Victoria's future demonstrated in its 2026-27 State Budget, and in particular —
- (a) the expected increase in net debt to \$199.3 billion in 2029-30, up from \$21.8 billion in 2014;
 - (b) the expected increase in interest expenses to \$11.8 billion per year by 2029-30, up from \$2.1 billion in 2014;
 - (c) the expected increase in total taxation revenue to \$50.2 billion per year by 2029-30, up from \$17.9 billion in 2014
 - (d) the expected increase in employee expenses to \$45.5 billion per year by 2029-30, up from \$18.5 billion in 2014;
- (2) notes that the financial burden on Victorian families by 2029-30 will be —
- (a) net debt per Victorian household of over \$70,000;
 - (b) an interest bill of over \$32 million each and every day;
- (3) recognises that the burden of repaying this debt will disproportionately fall on, and reduce the future opportunities of, younger Victorians;
- (4) calls on the Government to commit to a long-term economic plan to secure Victoria's future so that it can prioritise policy solutions to —
- (a) ease cost-of-living pressures;
 - (b) keep Victorians safe;
 - (c) strengthen healthcare; and
 - (d) enable home ownership.

Debate ensued.

The 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; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; 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, 20

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

- 12 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.

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

Business interrupted at 6.03 pm, pursuant to Sessional Orders.

- 14 PETITIONS (QUALIFYING FOR DEBATE) — RETAIN MARYBOROUGH VICROADS SERVICES** — Bev McArthur moved, That the petition be taken into consideration.

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

- 15 SITTING OF THE COUNCIL** — Jaclyn Symes moved, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 2 June 2026.

Question — put and agreed to.

- 16 APPROPRIATION (2026-2027) BILL 2026** — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act for the appropriation of certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund for the ordinary annual services of the Government for the financial year 2026/2027 and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

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

Jaclyn Symes laid on the Table statements of compatibility as required by the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025*.

Jaclyn Symes moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Jaclyn Symes incorporated the second reading speech in Hansard.

On the motion of Richard Welch, the debate was adjourned for one week.

- 17 COGNATE DEBATE — APPROPRIATION (2026-2027) BILL 2026 — BUDGET PAPERS, 2026-27** — Jaclyn Symes moved, by leave, That this House authorises the President to permit the second reading debate on the Appropriation (2026-2027) Bill 2026 to be taken concurrently with the debate on the motion to take note of the Budget Papers, 2026-27, contingent on such a motion being moved.

Question — put and agreed to.

- 18 APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT 2026-2027) BILL 2026** — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act for the appropriation of certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund for the Parliament in respect of the financial year 2026/2027 and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

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

Jaclyn Symes laid on the Table statements of compatibility as required by the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025*.

Jaclyn Symes moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Jaclyn Symes incorporated the second reading speech in Hansard.

On the motion of Richard Welch, the debate was adjourned for one week.

19 ADJOURNMENT — Jaclyn Symes moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 7.15 pm until Tuesday, 2 June 2026.

ROBERT McDONALD
Clerk of the Legislative Council

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
Supplement to Minutes Nos. 165 and 166

BUILDING AND PLUMBING ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT BILL 2026

Committed Tuesday, 12 May 2026

Clauses 1 to 1019 — put and agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

