



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

**No. 176 — Tuesday, 11 August 2026**

*Proof Version*

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**1** The President took the Chair at 12.03 pm, read the Prayer and made an Acknowledgement of Country.

**2 THE LATE HONOURABLE JOHN DYSON HARROWFIELD** — Jaclyn Symes moved, That this House expresses its sincere sorrow at the death, on 1 July 2026, of the Honourable John Dyson Harrowfield, and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Mitcham from 1982 to 1992, and as Minister for Small Business from 1991 to 1992 and Minister for Finance in 1992.

Other members addressed the House.

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

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

*[Sitting suspended from 12.16 pm to 1.19 pm]*

**3 ASSENT TO ACTS** — The President read a Message from the Governor informing the Council that she had, on 4 August 2026, given the Royal Assent to the following Acts presented to her by the Clerk of the Parliaments:

*Dangerous Goods Transport Act 2026*

*Education and Training Reform Amendment Act 2026*

*Health Legislation Amendment (Regulatory Reform) Act 2026*

*Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Dangerous Goods) Act 2026.*

**4 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 Georgie Crozier, the answers given by Ingrid Stitt to questions relating to the Parkville Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Service (QwN 1397).

- On the motion of Georgie Crozier, the answers given by Ingrid Stitt to questions relating to the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission status update (QwN 1399).

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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:

- **Parkville Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Service (QwN 1397)** — substantive question asked by Georgie Crozier — response from Ingrid Stitt due Thursday, 13 August 2026.
- **Prison healthcare (QwN 1400)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Rachel Payne — response from Enver Erdogan due Thursday, 13 August 2026.

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

## 5 PETITIONS —

**REMOVE THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE CENTRAL NORTH REZ FROM THE 2025 VICTORIAN TRANSMISSION PLAN** — Wendy Lovell presented a petition bearing 1,300 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Minister for Energy and Resources and VicGrid to remove the eastern section of the Central North Renewable Energy Zone from the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan until proper consultation with affected landowners and community is undertaken.

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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## **EXEMPTIONS TO BAN OF CONVERTED E-BIKES ON METROPOLITAN AND V/LINE TRAINS**

— Aiv Puglielli presented a petition bearing 421 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to amend the Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) (Conduct on Public Transport) Regulations 2025 to grant exemptions for custom e-bikes built professionally by approved Victorian businesses to be allowed on metropolitan and V/Line trains.

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

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**PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONCESSIONS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS** — Aiv Puglielli presented a petition bearing 5,272 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to immediately extend concession public transport entitlements to all full-time graduate students.

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

## 6 **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT AMENDMENT (AGRICULTURAL LAND AND FOOD SECURITY) BILL 2026** — Melina Bath introduced *A Bill for an Act to amend the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and the Environment Effects Act 1978 in relation to agricultural land and for other purposes.*

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

- 7 LIQUOR CONTROL REFORM AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT (REDUCING ALCOHOL-RELATED HARMS) BILL 2026** — Sarah Mansfield introduced *A Bill for an Act to amend the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 and the Transport Integration Act 2010 in relation to the sale of alcohol and for other purposes.*

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

- 8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (STABILITY OF COUNCILS) BILL 2026** — Bev McArthur introduced *A Bill for an Act to amend the Local Government Act 2020 to enhance the integrity and governance standards of Councils and to amend the City of Melbourne Act 2001 to increase the ratio between the lowest and the highest differential rates if the Melbourne City Council uses the net annual value system of valuation and for other purposes.*

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

**9 PAPERS —**

**COMMITTEE REPORT — SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE** — Pursuant to section 35 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, Sonja Terpstra tabled Alert Digest No. 10 of 2026 (including Appendices) from the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee (*Ordered to be published*).

Sheena Watt moved, That the Council take note of the Report.

Question — put and agreed to.

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

Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 — Order of 29 May 2026 giving approval to the granting of a licence at Frankston North Public Park and Recreation Reserve.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission — Special report on Operation Richmond, August 2026 (*released on 5 August 2026 – a non-sitting day*) (*Ordered to be published*).

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

Ballarat Planning Scheme — Amendment C266.

Banyule, Casey and Darebin Planning Schemes — Amendment GC259.

Bass Coast Planning Scheme — Amendment C182.

Cardinia Planning Scheme — Amendment C283.

Glen Eira Planning Scheme — Amendment C277.

Latrobe Planning Scheme — Amendment C150.

Melbourne Planning Scheme — Amendments C492 and C502.

Mitchell Planning Scheme — Amendment C162.

Yarra Planning Scheme — Amendments C271, C273, C291 and C336.

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 —

Documents under section 15 in relation to Statutory Rule Nos. 73, 96, 108, 109 and 110.

Legislative instrument and related documents under section 16B in respect of Ministerial Order No. 1514 – Order Amending Ministerial Order No. 1228 – Victorian Institute of Teaching Registration Fees, under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006.

Wrongs Act 1958 — Notice of scale of fees and costs for referrals of medical questions to medical panels under Part VBA (*Gazette G30, 23 July 2026*).

**10 BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL** — Aiv Puglielli moved, by leave, That the following general business take precedence on Wednesday, 12 August 2026 —

- (1) order of the day made this day, second reading of the Liquor Control Reform and Other Acts Amendment (Reducing Alcohol-Related Harms) Bill 2026;
- (2) order of the day made this day, second reading of the Planning and Environment Amendment (Agricultural Land and Food Security) Bill 2026;
- (3) notice of motion given this day by Georgie Purcell on the use of electronic prescribing by veterinarians;
- (4) notice of motion given this day by Bev McArthur on a Royal Commission into corruption, criminality and misconduct across all government-funded construction projects; and
- (5) notice of motion No. 1552 standing in Rachel Payne’s name on a plebiscite on cannabis legalisation.

Question — put and agreed to.

**11 MEMBERS’ STATEMENTS** — Members made statements.

**12 BUSINESS POSTPONED** — Ordered — That the consideration of notices of motion, government business, Nos. 278 to 1517, be postponed until later this day.

**13 ELECTORAL AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS) BILL 2026** — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Jeff Bourman (*JB111C*) circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 33

Ryan Batchelor; Melina Bath; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Gaelle Broad; Katherine Copsey; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; 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; Aiv Puglielli; 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, 5

Jeff Bourman; David Ettershank; David Limbrick; Rachel Payne; 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 and committed to a Committee of the whole.

House in Committee.

*[Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm]*

Bill further considered in Committee of the whole.

Bill reported without amendment, the Report was adopted.

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

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 33

Ryan Batchelor; Melina Bath; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Gaelle Broad; Katherine Copsey; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; 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; Aiv Puglielli; 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, 4

Jeff Bourman; David Limbrick; Rachel Payne; 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.

**14 FIREARMS AMENDMENT BILL 2026** — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Renee Heath (*RH01C*), Jeff Bourman (*JB109C*), Katherine Copsey (*KC82C*) and David Limbrick (*DL76C and DL77C*) circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

*Business interrupted at 10.00 pm.*

Lizzie Blandthorn declared, That the sitting be extended by up to one hour pursuant to Standing Order 4.08.

Debate continued.

*Business interrupted at the conclusion of the declared extension.*

Jaclyn Symes declared, That the sitting be extended by up to one further hour pursuant to Standing Order 4.08.

Debate continued.

On the motion of Jaclyn Symes, the debate was adjourned until the next day of meeting.

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

Debate ensued.

The Council continued to sit after 12.00 midnight.

WEDNESDAY, 12 AUGUST 2026

Debate continued.

The Council adjourned at 12.19 am until later this day.

ROBERT McDONALD  
*Clerk of the Legislative Council*