



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

No. 182 — Thursday, 27 August 2026

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- 1 The President took the Chair at 9.32 am, read the Prayer and made an Acknowledgement of Country.
 - 2 **PETITION — SAFE ACCESS TO PARK TRACKS** — Jeff Bourman presented a petition bearing 3,192 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to urgently review the current strategic plan and ensure that the Victorian 4x4 community has access to tracks which are available for visitors to safely access remote parts of our parks through the year (*Ordered to be tabled*).

The petition having received the required number of signatures, Jeff Bourman listed the petition for future debate during Petitions (qualifying for debate).
 - 3 **PAPERS PRESENTED UNDER ACTS OF PARLIAMENT** — The Clerk tabled the following papers:
 - Gender Equality Act 2020 —
 - Final report on the Statutory review of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, under section 52 of the Act.
 - State Gender Equality Action Plan progress report, August 2023 – August 2025, under section 50 of the Act.
 - Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission — Report to the Minister for Police, 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024, under section 174B of the Firearms Act 1996 (*Ordered to be published*).
 - Statutory Rule under the Building Act 1993 — No. 115.
 - Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Documents under section 15 in relation to Statutory Rule Nos. 111, 112 and 115.
 - 4 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS** — Members made statements.
 - 5 **BUSINESS POSTPONED** — Ordered — That the consideration of notices of motion, government business, Nos. 278 to 1597, be postponed until later this day.
 - 6 **WORKPLACE PROTECTION ORDERS 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, 29

Ryan Batchelor; Melina Bath; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Jeff Bourman; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; 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; 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, 7

Katherine Copsey; 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 and committed to a Committee of the whole.

House in Committee.

Business interrupted at 12.00 noon.

7 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 specialist surgery wait times in regional Victoria (QwN 1448).
- On the motion of Georgie Crozier, the answers given by Ingrid Stitt to questions relating to surgery for prisoners (QwN 1451).

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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:

- **Parent access to information about their children (QwN 1447)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Moira Deeming — response from Lizzie Blandthorn due Monday, 31 August 2026.
- **Kangaroo meat products (QwN 1450)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Jeff Bourman — response from Lizzie Blandthorn due Monday, 31 August 2026.

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CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

8 WORKPLACE PROTECTION ORDERS BILL 2026 — Bill further considered in Committee of the whole.

Bill reported without amendment, the Report was adopted.

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

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 30

Ryan Batchelor; Melina Bath; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Jeff Bourman; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; 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.

9 MULTICULTURAL VICTORIA AMENDMENT BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

David Limbrick (*DL80C*), David Davis (for Evan Mulholland) (*EM72C and EM75C*), Moira Deeming (*MD04C and MD06C*), Anasina Gray-Barberio (*AG30C*) and Ingrid Stitt (*IS41C*) 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; Gaelle Broad; Katherine Copsey; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; 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; Sheena Watt; Richard Welch.

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

NOES, 3

Moira Deeming; David Limbrick; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell.

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

Question agreed to.

Bill committed to a Committee of the whole.

House in Committee.

[Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.33 pm]

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, 34

Ryan Batchelor; Melina Bath; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Gaelle Broad; Katherine Copsey; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; 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; Sheena Watt; Richard Welch.

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

NOES, 3

Moira Deeming; David Limbrick; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell.

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

Question agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Bill returned to the Assembly with a Message informing them that the Council have agreed to the Bill with amendments and requesting their agreement.

- 10 ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION REFORM AMENDMENT BILL 2026** — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

On the motion of Jaclyn Symes (for Ingrid Stitt), 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 Melina Bath, the debate was adjourned for one week.

- 11 EDUCATION AND TRAINING REFORM AMENDMENT (APPRENTICESHIPS, TRAINEESHIPS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER MATTERS) 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 to provide for a new regulatory scheme for apprenticeships and traineeships and in relation to the permission to teach scheme and school community safety orders and to amend the Workforce Inspectorate Victoria Act 2020 to provide for the appointment, functions and powers of the Apprenticeship and Traineeship Commissioner and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

On the motion of Jaclyn Symes (for Lizzie Blandthorn), 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 Evan Mulholland, the debate was adjourned for one week.

- 12 FAIR WORK (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL 2026** — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Fair Work (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2009 and the Victoria Police Act 2013 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 Melina Bath, the debate was adjourned for one week.

- 13 JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FAMILY VIOLENCE, COERCIVE CONTROL, GOOD CHARACTER, RISK ASSESSMENT AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026** — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Crimes Act 1958, the Criminal Procedure Act 2009, the Equal Opportunity Act 2010, the Family Violence Protection Act 2008, the Fines Reform Act 2014, the Infringements Act 2006, the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme Act 2016, the Personal Safety Intervention Orders Act 2010, the Road Safety Act 1986, the Sentencing Act 1991 and the Youth Justice Act 2024 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 (except for the statement under section 85(5) of the *Constitution Act 1975*).

Jaclyn Symes made a statement pursuant to section 85(5) of the *Constitution Act 1975* on the reasons for altering or varying this section.

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

- 14 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (STRONGER COMMUNITIES) BILL 2026** — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Local Government Act 2020 to enhance the integrity and governance standards of Councils, to enable the prescription of a Fair Jobs Code and to make provision for the appointment of a Local Government Fair Jobs Code Regulator and to amend the City of Melbourne Act 2001 to increase the permitted ratio between the lowest and highest differential rates if the Melbourne City Council uses the net annual value system of valuation and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

On the motion of Jaclyn Symes (for Ingrid Stitt), 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 Bev McArthur, the debate was adjourned for one week.

- 15 WORKPLACE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (ACCIDENT COMPENSATION AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026** — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013 in relation to guarantees and supported accommodation, the Accident Compensation Act 1985 in relation to supported accommodation, the Transport Accident Act 1986 in relation to supported accommodation, the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 in relation to the powers of representatives and coercive conduct and to make consequential amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Dangerous Goods) Act 2026 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 Melina Bath, the debate was adjourned for one week.

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

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 10.23 pm until tomorrow.

ROBERT McDONALD
Clerk of the Legislative Council