LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

60TH PARLIAMENT

Nos. 184, 185 and 186

No. 184 — Tuesday, 8 September 2026

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

2 **CONDOLENCE STATEMENT** — **THE LATE ROBERT (BOB) STUART IVES** — The President advised the House of the death, on 20 August 2026, of Robert Stuart Ives, Member of the Legislative Council for the Electoral Province of Eumemmerring from 1988 to 1996.

Members rose in their places as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Robert (Bob) Ives.

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

On 1 September 2026 —

Corrections Amendment Act 2026

Crimes Amendment (Recruitment of Children for Criminal Activity and Production Notices) Act 2026

Racing Legislation Amendment (Entity Governance and Other Matters) Act 2026

Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Amendment Act 2026

Workplace Protection Orders Act 2026.

On 8 September 2026 —

Consumer Legislation Amendment Act 2026

Energy and Resources Legislation Amendment (VEET Strategic Review and Other Matters) Act 2026.

4 **QUESTION TIME** —

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

* * * * *

ANSWERS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION — Ordered that the following answers be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting —

- On the motion of Evan Mulholland, the answers given by Ingrid Stitt to questions relating to IBAC powers to investigate Big Build corruption (QwN 1463).
- On the motion of Georgie Crozier, the answers given by Ingrid Stitt to questions relating to Category one waiting times (QwN 1465).
- On the motion of Georgie Crozier, the answers given by Ingrid Stitt to questions relating to planned surgeries (QwN 1466).

* * * * *

QUESTIONS DIRECTED FOR WRITTEN RESPONSE — The President directed a minister to provide a written response to questions without notice pursuant to Standing Order 8.07 as follows:

- **Fire Services trucks reliability (QwN 1462)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Aiv Puglielli — response from Jaclyn Symes due Thursday, 10 September 2026.

* * * * *

CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

5 PETITIONS —

IMMEDIATELY REINSTATE VICTORIAN FISHERIES OFFICERS — Jeff Bourman presented a petition bearing 966 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to immediately reinstate the removed Victorian Fisheries officer positions and invest in more on-the-ground staff *(Ordered to be tabled).*

* * * * *

REVIEW THE VICTORIAN FISHERIES AUTHORITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN — Jeff Bourman presented a petition bearing 260 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to urgently review the Victorian Fisheries Authority's current strategic plan to ensure that the Victorian fishing community still has the core regulatory marine and freshwater fisheries management, fisheries science, and aquaculture management services, including undertaking fish stock assessment and compliance monitoring *(Ordered to be tabled).*

* * * * *

SAFE ACCESS TO PARK TRACKS — Jeff Bourman presented a petition bearing 1,468 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to ensure that the Victorian 4x4 community can safely access all tracks available to visitors in Victorian parks throughout the year *(Ordered to be tabled).*

* * * * *

REVIEW THE 'DEEMED TO COMPLY' PATHWAY AND RESTORE LOCAL PLANNING DISCRETION — Ann-Marie Hermans presented a petition bearing 191 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to review the 'deemed to comply' pathway under the Victoria Planning Provisions and support amendments to restore appropriate local council planning discretion when assessing developments subject to that pathway, including ensuring councils can properly consider local infrastructure capacity, public safety, drainage, flooding risk, transport impacts, cumulative development impacts, established tree canopy, environmental values and neighbourhood character where local circumstances warrant further assessment, and in undertaking this review consult

with local councils, planning professionals, industry, environmental organisations and the community to ensure Victoria's planning system delivers increased housing supply while supporting well-planned, sustainable and resilient communities for current and future generations *(Ordered to be tabled).*

* * * * *

DUTY OF CARE REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH-RISK PATIENTS WHO MISS MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS — Wendy Lovell presented a petition bearing 214 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to introduce clear and enforceable duty of care requirements for high-risk patients who miss medical appointments *(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.

* * * * *

RESTORE AND EXTEND THE CRANBOURNE TO KOO WEE RUP RAIL LINE — Renee Heath presented a petition bearing 4,242 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to prioritise and fund the restoration and extension of the Cranbourne to Koo Wee Rup rail line *(Ordered to be tabled).*

* * * * *

REZONE LAND IN KOO WEE RUP-LONGWARRY ROAD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES — Renee Heath presented a petition bearing 13 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to rezone 365 Koo Wee Rup-Longwarry Road, Koo Wee Rup, and approve a permit for the development of a school that provides opportunity for trades-based agriculture and horticulture education and training to meet the urgent needs of the community *(Ordered to be tabled).*

* * * * *

NEW SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHOOL FOR MELBOURNE'S WEST — Trung Luu presented a petition bearing 240 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to urgently plan, fund, and construct a new Special Developmental School in Melbourne's west to meet current and future demand *(Ordered to be tabled).*

* * * * *

IMPROVE WESTERN CRESCENT PUBLIC TRANSPORT LINKS — Sarah Mansfield presented a petition bearing 247 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Minister for Public and Active Transport and the Minister for Transport Infrastructure to reinstate the Geelong to Ballarat passenger rail services and upgrade Ballarat to Maryborough passenger rail services to hourly frequencies with connecting hourly coach services between Maryborough and Castlemaine *(Ordered to be tabled).*

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

* * * * *

CEASE THE PRACTICE OF MECHANICAL BEACH RAKING — Tom McIntosh presented a petition bearing 739 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to review local council beach cleaning policies to ensure practices align with State and Federal frameworks for marine and

coastal stewardship, including the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and the Victorian Coastal Strategy, and introduce legislation to cease the practice of mechanical beach raking and permanently adopt sustainable hand-cleaning methods that protect biodiversity to secure healthier marine ecosystems, safer public spaces, and more resilient coastlines for future generations *(Ordered to be tabled).*

* * * * *

RETAIN REAR ACCESS TO GEELONG WEST FIRE STATION — Bev McArthur presented a petition bearing 2,167 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to retain the land behind the Geelong West Fire Station, specifically 67B and 67C McCurdy Road, Herne Hill, for emergency services and community safety purposes, and if retention is not immediately possible, pause any proposed rezoning, disposal or development until a transparent assessment of emergency management impacts is completed in consultation with relevant stakeholders *(Ordered to be tabled).*

* * * * *

INSTALL UNDERGROUND WILDLIFE CROSSING ALONG BANYULE CREEK AT YALLAMBIE — Aiv Puglielli presented a petition bearing 2,406 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to ensure that the underground Wildlife Crossing at Banyule Creek, Borlase Reserve Lower Plenty Road, Yallambie, is installed as previously promised to the community in the North East Link Tunnels Urban Design and Landscape Plan, and publicly release the Kangaroo Management Plan for the project interface with Simpson Barracks and for the M80 interchange *(Ordered to be tabled).*

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

* * * * *

REJECT BORAL'S PROPOSED MONTROSE QUARRY EXTENSION — Aiv Puglielli presented a petition bearing 1,171 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government and the Minister for Planning to reject Boral's proposed Montrose Quarry Extension, implement long-term, accountable protections guarding against any future extension of the facility and guarantee that any forthcoming Environment Effects Statement scoping requirements will include an independent Human Health Impact assessment that examines the cumulative health impacts associated with dust, fine particulate matter, silica exposure, pollutants, noise, blasting, vibration, traffic, emissions, amenity loss, mental health, any other quarry-related impacts on nearby sensitive receptors *(Ordered to be tabled).*

On the motion of Aiv Puglielli, the petition was ordered to be taken into consideration 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. 12 of 2026 (including Appendices) from the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee *(Ordered to be published)*.

LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE — Pursuant to Standing Order 23.22, Joe McCracken tabled a Report on the Inquiry into anti-LGBTIQA+ hate crimes in Victoria (including an Appendix, Extracts of Proceedings and a Minority Report) 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.

* * * * *

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

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

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

* * * * *

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE — Pursuant to section 35 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, Sarah Mansfield tabled a Report on the Inquiry into voting centre accessibility (including Appendices) from the Electoral Matters Committee, and presented Transcripts of Evidence *(Transcripts of Evidence ordered to be tabled and the Report published).*

Sarah Mansfield moved, That the Council take note of the Report.

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

* * * * *

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

Auditor-General's Office — Report, 2025-26.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission — Report to the Attorney-General, 1 January to 31 December 2024, under section 464ZP of the Crimes Act 1958 *(Ordered to be published)*.

Major Events Act 2009 — Major Sporting Event Order for the National Football League (NFL) game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Los Angeles Rams on 11 September 2026 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), dated 1 September 2026, under section 22 of the Act.

Melbourne Cricket Ground Trust — Report, year ended 31 March 2026*, together with an explanation for the delay.

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

Alpine Planning Scheme — Amendment C65.

Cardinia Planning Scheme — Amendment C289.

---

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

Gannawarra and Swan Hill Planning Schemes — Amendment GC218.
Glen Eira Planning Scheme — Amendment C279.
Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme — Amendment C252.
Greater Geelong Planning Scheme — Amendment C484.
Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong Planning Schemes — Amendment GC276.
Melton Planning Scheme — Amendments C244 and C256.
Mitchell Planning Scheme — Amendment C155.
West Wimmera Planning Scheme — Amendment C37.
Whitehorse Planning Scheme — Amendment C268.

Statutory Rules under the following Acts of Parliament —
Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1996 — No. 117.
Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022 — No. 116.
Spent Convictions Act 2021 — No. 118.
Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983 — No. 119.

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Documents under section 15 in relation to Statutory Rule Nos. 116 and 119.

Victorian Local Government Grants Commission — Allocation Report, year ended 31 August 2026.

* * * * *

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

President's Report on overdue government responses to standing committee reports, as at 31 August 2026.

Response from the Minister for Roads and Road Safety to petition titled Maintain 100km speed limits from Traralgon to Churchill (petition No. 754) (presented by Melina Bath on 4 July 2026) *(released on 28 August 2026)*.

7 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS —

AI DATA CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS — The Clerk tabled a letter from the Attorney-General, dated 7 September 2026, in response to a resolution of the Council on 12 August 2026 (on the motion of Sarah Mansfield), relating to AI data centre developments, advising that there was insufficient time to respond and that a final response to the Order would be provided as soon as possible.

On the motion of David Davis, the Attorney-General's letter was ordered to be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.

* * * * *

WESTERN VICTORIA BUSINESS BUSHFIRE RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM — The Clerk tabled a letter from the Attorney-General, dated 7 September 2026, in response to a resolution of the Council on 26 August 2026 (on the motion of Bev McArthur), relating to the Western Victoria Business Bushfire Recovery Grant Program, advising that there was insufficient time to respond and that a final response to the Order would be provided as soon as possible.

On the motion of David Davis, the Attorney-General's letter was ordered to be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.

8 BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL — Aiv Puglielli moved, by leave, That the following general business take precedence on Wednesday, 9 September 2026 —

(1) order of the day No. 1, second reading of the Sale of Land Amendment (Property Developer Integrity) Bill 2026;
(2) notice of motion No. 1618, in an amended form, standing in David Davis' name establishing a Select Committee to inquire into the Auditor-General's Report on *Delivering the Suburban Rail Loop*;
(3) notice of motion given this day by Jeff Bourman on the achievements of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; and
(4) notice of motion given this day by Georgie Purcell on native forest logging.

Question — put and agreed to.

9 BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL — ORDER OF BUSINESS — Lee Tarlamis moved, by leave, That so much of Standing and Sessional Orders be suspended to the extent necessary to allow the following order of business on Wednesday, 9 September 2026 —

Messages
Formal business
Members' statements (up to 15 members)
Private member bills – moving second readings of bills for which precedence has been ordered
Short form documents motions (up to 2 motions)
General business
At 12.00 noon Questions
General business (continues)
At 5.15 pm, or after 300 minutes of general business has elapsed (whichever is later) Statements on tabled papers and petitions (30 minutes)
Petitions (qualifying for debate) (30 minutes)
Government business (60 minutes)
Valedictory statement made by Harriet Shing
Valedictory statement made by David Ettershank
Adjournment (up to 20 members).

Question — put and agreed to.

10 BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL — PETITIONS (QUALIFYING FOR DEBATE) — Melina Bath moved, by leave, That this House authorises the petition titled 'Remove the eastern section of the Central North REZ from the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan' tabled by Wendy Lovell on 11 August 2026 to be given precedence over all other items listed under Petitions (qualifying for debate) on Wednesday, 9 September 2026.

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 1597, be postponed until later this day.

13 JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FAMILY VIOLENCE, COERCIVE CONTROL, GOOD CHARACTER, RISK ASSESSMENT AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Rachel Payne *(RP25C and RP26C)* circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

Question — put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The Acting President advised that the President ruled certain amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole by Rachel Payne *(RP25C)* are outside the scope of the Bill.

Rachel Payne moved, That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have the power to consider amendments and a New Clause to amend the *Summary Offences Act 1966* to repeal the offence of begging or gathering alms.

Question — put and agreed to.

Bill ordered to be committed to a Committee of the whole later this day.

14 EDUCATION AND TRAINING REFORM AMENDMENT (APPRENTICESHIPS, TRAINEESHIPS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

[Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.33 pm]

Debate continued.

Richard Welch *(RW26C)* circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

Question — put and agreed to.

Bill committed to a Committee of the whole.

House in Committee.

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.

Bill further considered in Committee of the whole.

Bill reported without amendment, the Report was adopted.

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

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

NOES, 15

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

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

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 MULTICULTURAL VICTORIA AMENDMENT (MULTICULTURAL AND MULTIFAITH VICTORIA) BILL 2026 — The President read a Message from the Assembly informing the Council that they have agreed to the amendments made by the Council in this Bill.

16 BUSINESS POSTPONED — Ordered — That the consideration of orders of the day, government business, Nos. 3 and 4, be postponed until later this day.

17 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (STRONGER COMMUNITIES) BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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.

David Davis (for Bev McArthur) *(BM01C)* circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

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

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

Debate ensued.

The Council continued to sit after 12.00 midnight.

WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2026

Debate continued.

The Council adjourned at 12.11 am until later this day.

ROBERT McDONALD
Clerk of the Legislative Council

No. 185 — Wednesday, 9 September 2026

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

2 PETITIONS —

IMPROVE WESTERN CRESCENT PUBLIC TRANSPORT LINKS — Sarah Mansfield presented a petition bearing 193 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Minister for Public and Active Transport and the Minister for Transport Infrastructure to reinstate the Geelong to Ballarat passenger rail services and upgrade Ballarat to Maryborough passenger rail services to hourly frequencies with connecting hourly coach services between Maryborough and Castlemaine *(Ordered to be tabled).*

* * * * *

OPPOSE THE PROPOSED NIOKA SOLAR PROJECT AT GLENROWAN WEST — Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell presented a petition bearing 2,244 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to oppose and reject the Nioka Solar Project, including the Battery Energy Storage System,

remove the eastern section of the Central North Renewable Energy Zone from the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan and prevent large-scale cumulative industrial energy developments in designated bushfire prone areas on existing environmentally sensitive vegetation overlays in farming zones *(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).

3 LIABILITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DAMAGE (MAKE POLLUTERS PAY) BILL 2026 — Sarah Mansfield introduced *A Bill for an Act to impose liability for climate change damage 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.

4 PAPERS —

PAPER PRESENTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL — Jaclyn Symes, by leave, presented a report on The status of Victoria's Koala population: Surveys to estimate abundance, genetic diversity and Koala health *(Ordered to be tabled)*.

* * * * *

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

Auditor-General — Maintaining State Roads, September 2026 (Volumes 1 and 2) *(Ordered to be published)*.

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Documents under section 15 in relation to Statutory Rule No. 117.

WorkSafe Victoria — Report of requests for the approval of persons or bodies by the Governor in Council, 2025-26, under section 11(2) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, section 10(2) of the Dangerous Goods Act 1985 and section 595(4) of the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013.

5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS — Members made statements.

6 SALE OF LAND AMENDMENT (PROPERTY DEVELOPER INTEGRITY) BILL 2026 — David Ettershank 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*.

David Ettershank moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

7 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — RAIL IMPROVEMENT CHARGE FOR THE SRL — Evan Mulholland moved, That this House —

(1) notes that —

(a) the Auditor-General's damning report, *Delivering the Suburban Rail Loop*, revealed that, from 1 January 2025, the Government imposed an unannounced 'rail improvement charge', secretly adding one per cent a year to metropolitan and regional fares above inflation;

(b) the charge was modelled to raise about $8 billion in net present value terms to 2062, with $4.8 billion allocated to Suburban Rail Loop East;

(c) in November 2024, the Government concluded the charge was essential to generate new revenue to service project borrowings, yet approved a communications plan excluding any reference to it;
(d) commuters paid the charge throughout 2025 and 2026 without it being disclosed in fare announcements, or the Government's December 2025 value capture announcement;

(2) recalls the Premier's undertaking that "integrity will not be optional", and notes the charge was first approved in August 2021 when he was Minister for Public Transport;
(3) considers the deliberate concealment of a charge on public transport users irreconcilable with that standard;
(4) in accordance with Standing Order 10.01, requires the Leader of the Government to table in the Council, within 30 days of the House agreeing to this resolution, all documents held by relevant departments, the Suburban Rail Loop Authority and ministerial offices concerning —
(a) approval, modelling and implementation of the charge;
(b) the November 2024 communications plan and decision to exclude the charge from public communications;
(c) the 2025 and 2026 fare announcements; and
(d) advice and costings concerning abolition of the charge.

Debate ensued.

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

Question — put and agreed to.

8 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — VICTORIA'S KOALA POPULATION — Georgie Purcell moved, That this House —

(1) notes that —
(a) the Government commissioned a $850,000 report on the health, abundance, and distribution of koalas in Victoria;
(b) the report was completed in June 2025 but has not been released;
(c) the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action has refused to answer questions about its findings or when the report will be made public;
(d) the expert authors of the report have expressed frustration that their work has seemingly been buried;
(e) many Victorians are concerned about the Government's management of koalas after an aerial shooting operation was undertaken at Budj Bim;
(2) in accordance with Standing Order 10.01, requires the Leader of the Government to table in the Council, within four weeks of the House agreeing to this resolution, the report titled *The statue of Victoria's Koala population: Surveys to estimate abundance, genetic diversity and Koala health.*

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.

9 SELECT COMMITTEE — AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT ON DELIVERING THE SUBURBAN RAIL LOOP — David Davis moved, That —

(1) a Select Committee of six members be appointed to inquire into, consider and report, within 30 days of the House agreeing to this resolution, on the Auditor-General's report titled *Delivering the Suburban Rail Loop*, tabled in Parliament on 26 August 2026;

(2) the Committee consist of two members from the Government nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Council, two members from the Opposition nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Council, and two members from among the remaining members in the Council, to be nominated jointly by those remaining members;

(3) substitute members may be appointed and the provisions outlined in Standing Order 23.08 will apply;

(4) the members will be appointed by lodgement of the names with the President within five calendar days of the Council agreeing to this resolution;

(5) the Chair of the Committee will be a non-Government member and the Deputy Chair will be a Government member;

(6) the first meeting of the Committee will be held within one week of members' names being lodged with the President;

(7) the Committee should conduct at least one or two full days of public hearings involving the —

(a) attendance of the former Treasurer, the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MLC;

(b) attendance of the former Ministers for the Suburban Rail Loop;

(c) voluntary attendance of the Premier, the Hon. Ben Carroll MP;

(d) voluntary attendance of the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Gabrielle Williams MP;

(e) attendance of other witnesses the Committee believes are appropriate; and

(8) the Committee should investigate all other matters relevant to this reference, including matters that arise from the Auditor-General's report.

Debate ensued.

Richard Welch moved, as an amendment, That after paragraph (7), **insert** the following new paragraph:

"(8) after the report is adopted by the Committee, the Chair may give the report to the Clerk and request that it be tabled when the House is not sitting and the provisions outlined in Standing Orders 23.22(2) to (4) will apply; and".

Debate ensued.

Business interrupted at 12.00 noon, pursuant to an order of the Council on 8 September 2026.

10 QUESTION TIME —

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

* * * * *

ANSWERS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION — On the motion of Georgie Crozier, the answers given by Ingrid Stitt to questions relating to the impact on public health system due to changes to private health rebates for older Australians (QwN 1474) were ordered to be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION — On the motion of David Davis, the minister's statement made by Jaclyn Symes relating to energy transition was ordered to be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.

* * * * *

QUESTIONS DIRECTED FOR WRITTEN RESPONSE — The President directed a minister to provide a written response to questions without notice pursuant to Standing Order 8.07 as follows:

- **Statue of Daniel Andrews (QwN 1469)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by David Limbrick — response from Jaclyn Symes due Friday, 11 September 2026.

* * * * *

CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

11 SELECT COMMITTEE — AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT ON DELIVERING THE SUBURBAN RAIL LOOP — Debate continued on the question, That —

(1) a Select Committee of six members be appointed to inquire into, consider and report, within 30 days of the House agreeing to this resolution, on the Auditor-General's report titled *Delivering the Suburban Rail Loop*, tabled in Parliament on 26 August 2026;

(2) the Committee consist of two members from the Government nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Council, two members from the Opposition nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Council, and two members from among the remaining members in the Council, to be nominated jointly by those remaining members;

(3) substitute members may be appointed and the provisions outlined in Standing Order 23.08 will apply;

(4) the members will be appointed by lodgement of the names with the President within five calendar days of the Council agreeing to this resolution;

(5) the Chair of the Committee will be a non-Government member and the Deputy Chair will be a Government member;

(6) the first meeting of the Committee will be held within one week of members' names being lodged with the President;

(7) the Committee should conduct at least one or two full days of public hearings involving the —

(a) attendance of the former Treasurer, the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MLC;

(b) attendance of the former Ministers for the Suburban Rail Loop;

(c) voluntary attendance of the Premier, the Hon. Ben Carroll MP;

(d) voluntary attendance of the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Gabrielle Williams MP;

(e) attendance of other witnesses the Committee believes are appropriate; and

(8) the Committee should investigate all other matters relevant to this reference, including matters that arise from the Auditor-General's report — *and on the amendment moved by Richard Welch* — That after paragraph (7), **insert** the following new paragraph:

"(8) after the report is adopted by the Committee, the Chair may give the report to the Clerk and request that it be tabled when the House is not sitting and the provisions outlined in Standing Orders 23.22(2) to (4) will apply; and".

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

Question — That the amendment moved by Richard Welch be agreed to — put and agreed to.

Question — That the motion, amended as follows, be agreed to — That —

(1) a Select Committee of six members be appointed to inquire into, consider and report, within 30 days of the House agreeing to this resolution, on the Auditor-General's report titled *Delivering the Suburban Rail Loop*, tabled in Parliament on 26 August 2026;

(2) the Committee consist of two members from the Government nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Council, two members from the Opposition nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Council, and two members from among the remaining members in the Council, to be nominated jointly by those remaining members;

(3) substitute members may be appointed and the provisions outlined in Standing Order 23.08 will apply;

(4) the members will be appointed by lodgement of the names with the President within five calendar days of the Council agreeing to this resolution;

(5) the Chair of the Committee will be a non-Government member and the Deputy Chair will be a Government member;

(6) the first meeting of the Committee will be held within one week of members' names being lodged with the President;

(7) the Committee should conduct at least one or two full days of public hearings involving the —

(a) attendance of the former Treasurer, the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MLC;

(b) attendance of the former Ministers for the Suburban Rail Loop;

(c) voluntary attendance of the Premier, the Hon. Ben Carroll MP;

(d) voluntary attendance of the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Gabrielle Williams MP;

(e) attendance of other witnesses the Committee believes are appropriate; and

(8) after the report is adopted by the Committee, the Chair may give the report to the Clerk and request that it be tabled when the House is not sitting and the provisions outlined in Standing Orders 23.22(2) to (4) will apply; and

(9) the Committee should investigate all other matters relevant to this reference, including matters that arise from the Auditor-General's report — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 15

Melina Bath; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; David Limbrick; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; Nick McGowan; Evan Mulholland; 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, 19

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

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

Question negatived.

12 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SHOOTERS, FISHERS AND FARMERS PARTY — Jeff Bourman moved, That this House —

(1) acknowledges that Shooters, Fishers and Farmers members were first elected in Victoria in 2014;

(2) recognises that the achievements of the Party since then include —

(a) participating in the Select Committee on Victoria's Recreational Native Bird Hunting Arrangements which resulted in the continuation of a sustainable duck season;

(b) unlocking public land access to Snake Island for hunting hog deer after nearly a century;

(c) increasing the breeds of hounds for hunting to include Blue Tick and Tan Coonhounds;

(d) securing $2.1 million to seal Gifkins Road, Little River;

(e) securing $3 million to meet Environment Protection Authority expectations for the North Wangaratta Sports Precinct;

(f) securing $1.2 million for a new Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad boat;

(g) playing a pivotal role in the creation of a new authority, Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria;

(3) notes that the threat to law-abiding firearm users is growing through the deliberate misunderstanding of shooting, hunting and firearms, and the continuing scare campaign run by those who simply cannot allow any recreation that they do not personally like;

(4) recognises that countries like New Zealand, England and many other European countries have a more mature understanding of firearm usage and hunting on public land, including the compulsory use of suppressors, compared to those who oppose the same standards and usage here in Victoria; and

(5) further notes that the re-election of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party is the only way to ensure the future of firearm ownership in Victoria.

On the motion of Renee Heath, the debate was adjourned until later this day.

13 FOREST MANAGEMENT — Georgie Purcell moved, That this House —

(1) notes that —

(a) despite native forest logging ending, Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) continues to fell trees and remove timber from forests and national parks using the same contractors, machinery and methods previously used in the logging industry;

(b) unlike commercial logging, these works are not subject to a binding code of practice or oversight by the office of the Conservation Regulator;

(c) large, old hollow-bearing trees providing irreplaceable habitats for endangered wildlife, including the Greater Glider and Leadbeater's Possum, are being felled based on desktop assessments, with no requirement to publicly record which trees are removed, why, or what wildlife may have been affected;

(d) community groups and scientists raising concerns have been met with non-engagement and forced to pursue costly court action as the only available accountability mechanism;

(e) Victoria is required to demonstrate these operations comply with the new National Environmental Standards for Matters of National Environmental Significance set by the Commonwealth Government;

(2) calls on the Government to —

(a) commit to genuine transparency over FFMV tree-felling and timber removal operations on public land;

(b) extend mandatory on the ground threatened species surveys to all non-emergency tree-felling operations on public land;

(c) establish an independent mechanism for community concerns regarding forest management to be properly investigated;

(d) recognise and support the rights and aspirations of Traditional Owners over Country, including through meaningful joint management of Victoria's forests; and

(e) ensure that Victoria's forests and the wildlife that depend on them are genuinely protected.

Debate ensued.

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

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 8

Katherine Copsey; David Ettershank; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Sarah Mansfield; Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell.

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

NOES, 28

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; David Limbrick; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; Nick McGowan; Tom McIntosh; Evan Mulholland; Ingrid Stitt; Jaclyn Symes; Lee Tarlamis; Sonja Terpstra; Sheena Watt; Richard Welch.

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

Question negatived.

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) — REMOVE THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE CENTRAL NORTH REZ FROM THE 2025 VICTORIAN TRANSMISSION PLAN — Wendy Lovell 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 1619, be postponed until later this day.

18 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (STRONGER COMMUNITIES) BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Ryan Batchelor, the debate was adjourned until later this day.

[Sitting suspended from 5.45 pm to 6.15 pm]

19 VALEDICTORY STATEMENT — David Ettershank made a valedictory statement.

20 ADJOURNMENT — Lizzie Blandthorn moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 7.14 pm until tomorrow.

ROBERT McDONALD
Clerk of the Legislative Council

No. 186 — Thursday, 10 September 2026

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

2 PETITION — REMOVE GAG LAWS ON VCAT PROCEEDINGS OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER GUARDIANSHIP OR ADMINISTRATION ORDERS — Anasina Gray-Barberio presented a petition bearing 116 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)*.

On the motion of Anasina Gray-Barberio, the petition was ordered to be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.

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

Border Groundwaters Agreement Review Committee — Report, 2024-25.
Local Jobs First — Report, 2025-26.
Statutory Rules under the following Acts of Parliament —
Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 — No. 120.
Racing Act 1958 — No. 121.

4 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS — Members made statements.

5 BUSINESS POSTPONED — Ordered — That the consideration of notices of motion, government business, Nos. 278 to 1619, be postponed until later this day.

6 JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FAMILY VIOLENCE, COERCIVE CONTROL, GOOD CHARACTER, RISK ASSESSMENT AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026 — Bill committed to a Committee of the whole.

House in Committee.

Bill reported with amendments, the Report was adopted, and the Bill was read a third time with the concurrence of an absolute majority of the whole number of the members of the Legislative Council 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.

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

8 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AMENDMENT (WORK FROM HOME) BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Richard Welch *(RW25C)* circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

Business interrupted at 12.00 noon.

9 QUESTION TIME —

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

* * * * *

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 Ambulance ramping (QwN 1477).
- On the motion of Bev McArthur, the answers given by Ingrid Stitt to questions relating to Ballarat mental health services (QwN 1479).

* * * * *

CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

10 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AMENDMENT (WORK FROM HOME) BILL 2026 — Debate continued on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Jeff Bourman *(JB108C)* circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

Jeff Bourman moved, as a reasoned amendment, That all the words after "That" be omitted and replaced with " —

(1) this Bill be referred to a Select Committee for inquiry, consideration and report, by 20 October 2026, and the second reading of this Bill be deferred until the final report of the Committee is presented to the House;

(2) in undertaking this inquiry, the Committee should consider whether the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* should be amended to clarify that using prescription medication or requiring medical treatment for a disability is a characteristic that a person with that disability generally has;

(3) the Committee consist of two members from the Government nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Council, two members from the Opposition nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Council, and two members from among the remaining members in the Council, to be nominated jointly by those remaining members;

(4) substitute members may be appointed and the provisions outlined in Standing Order 23.08 will apply;

(5) the members will be appointed by lodgement of the names with the President within seven calendar days of the Council agreeing to this resolution; and

(6) the first meeting of the Committee will be held within one week of members' names being lodged with the President.".

Debate ensued.

David Ettershank *(DE37C and DE37C-alternate)* and Jaclyn Symes *(JS95C)* circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

Question — That the reasoned amendment moved by Jeff Bourman be agreed to — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 18

Melina Bath; Jeff Bourman; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Moira Deeming; David Ettershank; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; David Limbrick; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Evan Mulholland; Rachel Payne; Adem Somyurek; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell; Richard Welch.

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

NOES, 17

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

Bill referred to a Select Committee and further consideration of the Bill deferred until the Select Committee presents its final report.

11 MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY — JOINT STANDING ORDER 25 — The Acting President read a Message from the Assembly informing the Council that they have agreed to the request of the Council to rescind Joint Standing Order 25, effective from 1 December 2026.

12 MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLY — PARLIAMENTARY INTEGRITY ADVISER — ONGOING RESOLUTION — The Acting President read a Message from the Assembly informing the Council that they have agreed to the request of the Council to rescind the Resolution of the House made on 1 May 2019 relating to the Parliamentary Integrity Adviser, effective from 1 December 2026.

13 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (STRONGER COMMUNITIES) BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Gaelle Broad (for Bev McArthur) *(BM09C)*, Sarah Mansfield *(SMA83C, SMA85C, SMA91C and SMA93C)* and Ingrid Stitt *(IS44C)* circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

Question — put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The Acting President advised that the President ruled certain amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole by Sarah Mansfield *(SMA83C, SMA85C and SMA93C)*, Bev McArthur *(BM09C)* and Ingrid Stitt *(amendment Nos. 1 and 6 on IS44C)* are similarly outside the scope of the Bill.

Sarah Mansfield moved, That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have the power to consider amendments and New Clauses to amend the *City of Melbourne Act 2001* in relation to elections.

Question — put and agreed to.

Bill committed to a Committee of the whole.

House in Committee.

[Sitting suspended from 6.23 pm to 7.32 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, 22

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

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

NOES, 15

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

14 INDEPENDENT BROAD-BASED ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 2026 — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011 to broaden the concept of corrupt conduct and enhance the IBAC's ability to follow the money, to make consequential amendments to the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012 and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

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

Lizzie Blandthorn 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*.

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 Evan Mulholland, the debate was adjourned for one week.

15 INQUIRIES AMENDMENT (SPECIAL PROSECUTOR) BILL 2026 — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Inquiries Act 2014 to establish a Special Prosecutor to assist the Construction Royal Commission, to strengthen a Royal Commission's power to require information and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

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

Lizzie Blandthorn 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*.

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 Evan Mulholland, the debate was adjourned for one week.

16 JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FAMILY VIOLENCE, COERCIVE CONTROL, GOOD CHARACTER, RISK ASSESSMENT 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.

17 SITTING OF THE COUNCIL — Lizzie Blandthorn moved, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 22 September 2026.

Question — put and agreed to.

18 FAIR WORK (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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.

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

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 10.18 pm until Tuesday, 22 September 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. 184, 185 and 186

EDUCATION AND TRAINING REFORM AMENDMENT (APPRENTICESHIPS, TRAINEESHIPS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026

Committed Tuesday, 8 September 2026

Amendments circulated: Richard Welch (RW26C) (p. 1910)

Clauses 1 to 8 — put and agreed to.

Clause 9 — Richard Welch moved amendment No. 1 *(RW26C)*.

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 14

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Moira Deeming; Renee Heath; David Limbrick; 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, 22

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

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

Question negatived.

Richard Welch moved amendment No. 2 *(RW26C)*.

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 14

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Moira Deeming; Renee Heath; David Limbrick; 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, 22

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

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

Question negatived.

Richard Welch moved amendment No. 3 *(RW26C)*.

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 14

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Moira Deeming; Renee Heath; David Limbrick; 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, 22

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

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

Question negatived.

Clause 9 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 175 — put and agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

* * * * *

JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FAMILY VIOLENCE, COERCIVE CONTROL, GOOD CHARACTER, RISK ASSESSMENT AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026

Committed Thursday, 10 September 2026

Amendments circulated: Rachel Payne (RP25C and RP26C) (pp. 1910-12)

Clause 1 — Rachel Payne moved amendment Nos. 1 and 2 *(RP25C)*.

Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 20

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Katherine Copsey; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; David Limbrick; Sarah Mansfield; Tom McIntosh; Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell; Ingrid Stitt; Jaclyn Symes; Lee Tarlamis; Sonja Terpstra; Gayle Tierney.

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

NOES, 13

Jeff Bourman; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Moira Deeming; Ann-Marie Hermans; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; 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.

Rachel Payne moved amendment No. 1 *(RP26C)*.

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 21

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; 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; Ingrid Stitt; Jaclyn Symes; Sonja Terpstra; Gayle Tierney; Sheena Watt.

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

NOES, 11

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; 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.

Clause 1, as amended — put and agreed to.

Clause 2 — Rachel Payne moved amendment No. 2 *(RP26C)*.

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

Rachel Payne moved amendment No. 3 *(RP25C)*.

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

Clause 2, as amended — put and agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 88 — put and agreed to.

New Clause 88A — Rachel Payne moved amendment No. 4 *(RP26C)*.

Question — That New Clause 88A stand part of the Bill — put and agreed to.

Clauses 89 to 93 — put and agreed to.

New Clause 93A — Rachel Payne moved amendment No. 4 *(RP25C)*.

Question — That the Part heading preceding New Clause 93A and New Clause 93A stand part of the Bill — put and agreed to.

Clauses 94 and 95 — put and agreed to.

Long title — Rachel Payne moved amendment No. 5 *(RP25C)*.
Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put and agreed to.
Question — That the long title, as amended, be the long title of the Bill — put and agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

* * * * *

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (STRONGER COMMUNITIES) BILL 2026

Committed Thursday, 10 September 2026

Amendments circulated: Sarah Mansfield (SMA83C, SMA85C, SMA91C and SMA93C) (pp. 1912-24), Bev McArthur (BM01C and BM09C) (pp. 1924-27) and Ingrid Stitt (IS44C) (pp. 1927-28).

Clause 1 — Bev McArthur moved amendment Nos. 1 and 2 *(BM01C)*.
Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put.
The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 14

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; David Limbrick; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Nick McGowan; Evan Mulholland; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell; Richard Welch.
(Recorded by Clerks-at-the-Table, pursuant to an order of the Council on 23 April 2020)

NOES, 22

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Jeff Bourman; Katherine Copsey; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Shaun Leane; Sarah Mansfield; Tom McIntosh; Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell; Ingrid Stitt; Jaclyn Symes; Lee Tarlamis; Sonja Terpstra; Gayle Tierney; Sheena Watt.
(Recorded by Clerks-at-the-Table, pursuant to an order of the Council on 23 April 2020)

Question negatived.

Ingrid Stitt moved amendment No. 1 *(IS44C)*.
Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put and agreed to.

Bev McArthur moved amendment Nos. 1 and 2 *(BM09C)*.
Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put and agreed to.

Sarah Mansfield moved amendment No. 1 *(SMA93C)*.
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; David Limbrick; Sarah Mansfield; Tom McIntosh; Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell; Ingrid Stitt; Jaclyn Symes; Lee Tarlamis; Sonja Terpstra; Gayle Tierney; Sheena Watt.

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

NOES, 14

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

Sarah Mansfield moved amendment Nos. 1 and 2 *(SMA83C)*.

Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 10

Jeff Bourman; Katherine Copsey; David Ettershank; Anasina Gray-Barberio; David Limbrick; Sarah Mansfield; Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell.

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

NOES, 26

Ryan Batchelor; Melina Bath; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; 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; Nick McGowan; Tom McIntosh; Evan Mulholland; 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)

Question negatived.

Clause 1, as amended — put and agreed to.

Clause 2 — Bev McArthur moved amendment No. 3 *(BM09C)*.

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

Clause 2, as amended — put and agreed to.

Clause 3 — put and agreed to.

Clause 4 — Sarah Mansfield moved amendment Nos. 1 and 3 *(SMA91C)*.

Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 7

Katherine Copsey; David Ettershank; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Sarah Mansfield; Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell.

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

NOES, 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; David Limbrick; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Nick McGowan; Tom McIntosh; Evan Mulholland; 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)

Question negatived.

Clause 4 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 11 — put and agreed to.

Clause 12 — Bev McArthur moved amendment No. 8 *(BM01C)*.

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 14

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; David Limbrick; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Nick McGowan; Evan Mulholland; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell; Richard Welch.

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

NOES, 22

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

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

Question negatived.

Clause 12 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 13 to 18 — put and agreed to.

New Clauses 18A and 18B — Ingrid Stitt moved amendment No. 2 *(IS44C)*.

Question — That New Clauses 18A and 18B stand part of the Bill — put and agreed to.

Clauses 19 and 20 — put and agreed to.

Clause 21 — Ingrid Stitt moved amendment Nos. 3 to 5 *(IS44C)*.

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

Clause 21, as amended — put and agreed to.

Clauses 22 to 26 — put and agreed to.

Clause 27 — Question — That Clause 27 stand part of the Bill — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 22

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

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

NOES, 14

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

Clause 28 — Question — That Clause 28 stand part of the Bill — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 22

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

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

NOES, 14

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

Clauses 29 and 30 — put and agreed to.

Clause 31 — Question — That Clause 31 stand part of the Bill — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 22

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

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

NOES, 14

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

Clause 32 — Bev McArthur moved amendment Nos. 28 to 30 *(BM01C)*.

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

Clause 32 — put and agreed to.

Clause 33

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

Clauses 35 to 44 — put and agreed to.

New Clauses 44A to 44D — Ingrid Stitt moved amendment No. 6 *(IS44C)*.

Question — That New Clauses 44A to 44D stand part of the Bill — put and agreed to.

New Clause 45AA — Bev McArthur moved amendment No. 4 *(BM09C)*.

Question — That New Clause 45AA stand part of the Bill — put and agreed to.

Clause 45 — put and agreed to.

New Clauses 46AA to 46AJ — Sarah Mansfield moved amendment No. 2 *(SMA93C)*.

Question — That the Part heading preceding New Clauses 46AA to 46AJ and New Clauses 46AA to 46AJ stand part of the Bill — put and agreed to.

Clause 46 — put and agreed to.

Long title — Ingrid Stitt moved amendment No. 7 *(IS44C)*.

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

Bev McArthur moved amendment No. 5 *(BM09C)*.
Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put and agreed to.

Sarah Mansfield moved amendment No. 3 *(SMA93C)*.
Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put and agreed to.

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

Bill reported with amendments.

* * * * *

FAIR WORK (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL 2026
Committed Thursday, 10 September 2026

Clauses 1 to 45 — put and agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

AMENDMENTS CIRCULATED IN RELATION TO —

1. EDUCATION AND TRAINING REFORM AMENDMENT (APPRENTICESHIPS, TRAINEESHIPS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026

Amendments circulated by Richard Welch (RW26C)

1. Clause 9, page 18, after line 31 insert—

"(2A) An applicant is not required to pay any fee in respect of an application for an employer licence.".

2. Clause 9, page 30, line 22, omit "one year" and insert "3 years".

3. Clause 9, page 76, line 11, omit "fifth" and insert "second".

2. JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FAMILY VIOLENCE, COERCIVE CONTROL, GOOD CHARACTER, RISK ASSESSMENT AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026

Amendments circulated by Rachel Payne (RP25C)

1. Clause 1, page 3, line 29, omit "violence." and insert "violence; and".

2. Clause 1, page 3, after line 29 insert—

"(i) to amend the **Summary Offences Act 1966** to repeal the offence of begging or gathering alms.".

3. Clause 2, line 31, after "Part 9" insert ", Part 10A".

NEW CLAUSE

4. Insert the following New Part after Part 10—

'Part 10A—Repeal of offence of begging or gathering alms

93A Section 49A amended

(1) For the heading to section 49A of the **Summary Offences Act 1966 substitute**—

"**Offence to cause, procure or encourage child to beg or gather alms**".

(2) Section 49A(1) of the **Summary Offences Act 1966** is **repealed**.'.

AMENDMENT OF LONG TITLE

5. Long title, after "the **Sentencing Act 1991**" insert ", the **Summary Offences Act 1966**".

Amendments circulated by Rachel Payne (RP26C)

1. Clause 1, page 3, after line 26 insert—

"(iii) to void certain warrants to imprison made in respect of a person in default; and".

2. Clause 2, line 31, omit "3" and insert "3, 3A".

3. Clause 2, line 31, omit "and 4" and insert ", 4 and 4A".

NEW CLAUSE

4. Insert the following New Division to follow Division 3 of Part 9—

'**Division 3A—Warrants to imprison**

88A New section 171AAA inserted

After section 171 of the **Fines Reform Act 2014 insert**—

"**171AAA Historical unexecuted warrants to imprison are null and void**

Any warrant to imprison a person in default of payment of any outstanding infringement fine (however described) issued by the Magistrates' Court before the commencement of this Act under any of the following provisions, including any warrant to imprison re-issued under section 58(3) of the **Magistrates' Court Act 1989** after the commencement of this Act in respect of the same outstanding infringement fine, that has not been cancelled, executed or recalled before the commencement of this section is null and void—

(a) Schedule 7 to the **Magistrates' Court 1989** as in force immediately before its repeal;

(b) section 68 of the **Magistrates' Court Act 1989** in respect of an order of the Magistrates' Court, under Part 12 of the **Infringements Act 2006** as in force immediately before 31 December 2017, for imprisonment in default of payment of any outstanding fine.

Note

This Act came into operation on 31 December 2017."'.

NEW CLAUSES

5. Insert the following New Division to follow Division 4 of Part 9—

'**Division 4A—Person in default and imprisonment**

90A Definitions

In section 3 of the **Fines Reform Act 2014**, the definition of ***fine related sentence*** is **repealed**.

90B Powers of the Magistrates' Court

(1) Section 165(1)(c) of the **Fines Reform Act 2014** is **repealed**.

(2) In section 165(3) of the **Fines Reform Act 2014**—

(a) in paragraph (d), for "fit;" **substitute** "fit.";

(b) paragraph (e) is **repealed**.

(3) Section 165(4) and (5) of the **Fines Reform Act 2014** are **repealed**.

90C Additional powers of the Magistrates' Court

Section 165A(2) of the **Fines Reform Act 2014** is **repealed**.

90D Section 165B repealed

Section 165B of the **Fines Reform Act 2014** is **repealed**.

90E Sections 166 to 170 repealed

Sections 166, 167, 168, 169 and 170 of the **Fines Reform Act 2014** are **repealed**.

90F New section 170A inserted

Before section 171 of the **Fines Reform Act 2014 insert**—

"**170A Unexecuted warrants to imprison under this Division are null and void**

On the first anniversary of the repeal of section 165B, any warrant to imprison a person in default of payment of any outstanding infringement fine issued by the Magistrates' Court under this Division as in force immediately before the repeal of section 165B, including any re-issued warrant to imprison, that has not been cancelled, executed or recalled before that anniversary, is null and void.".'.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (STRONGER COMMUNITIES) BILL 2026

Amendments circulated by Sarah Mansfield (SMA83C)

1. Clause 1, page 2, line 21, omit "valuation." and insert "valuation; and".

2. Clause 1, page 2, after line 21 insert—

"(c) to amend the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** to reduce the entitlement of a Corporation that is an owner or occupier of rateable property to be enrolled on the voters' roll to one.".

NEW CLAUSES

3. Insert the following New Clauses to follow Clause 45—

'**45A Corporations**

In section 9C(1) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001**, for "2 people" **substitute** "one natural person".

45B Procedure in relation to representatives of corporations

(1) In section 9D(1) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001**, for "2 representatives who are" **substitute** "one representative who is".

(2) Section 9D(2) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** is **repealed**.

(3) In section 9D(3) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001**—

(a) for "any representatives" **substitute** "a representative";

(b) for "representatives of the corporation the first 2" **substitute** "a representative of the corporation the first one".

(4) In section 9D(4) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001**—

(a) for "subsections (2) and (3)" **substitute** "subsection (3)";

(b) for "those subsections" **substitute** "that subsection".

(5) In section 9D(5) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001**, for "subsections (2) and (3)" **substitute** "subsection (3)".

45C Procedure on receipt of notice of appointment under section 9C

For section 9H(2) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001 substitute**—

"(2) If the Chief Executive Officer receives a notice of appointment in respect of any rateable property in respect of which one natural person has already been enrolled, the Chief Executive Officer must enrol this person and remove the name of the person previously enrolled from the voters' list, regardless of whether or not the notice revokes the earlier appointment.".

45D Public notification

For section 11C(1)(b)(i) and (ii) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001 substitute**—

"(i) specifying the name of the existing representative under section 9C; and

(ii) advising of the right to revoke the appointment or to make a new appointment for purposes of section 9C; and".'.

AMENDMENT OF LONG TITLE

4. Long title, after "valuation" insert ", to reduce the entitlement of a Corporation that is an owner or occupier of rateable property to be enrolled on the voters' roll to one".

Amendments circulated by Sarah Mansfield (SMA85C)

1. Clause 1, page 2, after line 16 insert—

"(aa) to amend the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** to remove group voting tickets from the election of Councillors; and".

NEW CLAUSES

2. Insert the following New Clauses before Clause 45—

'**44A Section 6B substituted**

For section 6B of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** substitute—

"**6B Application of Division 7 of Part 8 of the Local Government Act 2020**

To avoid doubt, Division 7 of Part 8 of the **Local Government Act 2020** applies to the election of Councillors other than the Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor.".

44B How votes to be counted

Section 18(2) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** is **repealed**.

44C Schedules 1, 2 and 3 repealed

Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** are **repealed**.'.

AMENDMENT OF LONG TITLE

3. Long title, after "**2001**" insert "to remove group voting tickets from the election of Councillors,".

Amendments circulated by Sarah Mansfield (SMA91C)

1. Clause 4, after line 8 insert—

"***gambling industry business entity*** has the meaning given by section 305C;".

2. Clause 4, lines 9 to 10, omit all words and expressions on these lines and insert—

"***initial candidacy period*** means the period—

(a) beginning on the day a Councillor notifies the Chief Executive Officer under section 38B(1) that the Councillor has been selected by a political party as a candidate for election; and

(b) ending on—

(i) the day the Councillor ceases to be a candidate for the political party or publicly announces an intention to withdraw as a candidate for election; or

(ii) the day on which the Councillor nominates for election;".

3. Clause 4, after line 10 insert—

'***prohibited donor*** has the meaning given by section 305A;

property developer has the meaning given by section 305B;".'.

4. Clause 8, line 10, omit "an absolute majority" and insert "a majority of at least three-quarters".

5. Clause 8, page 5, lines 9 to 10, omit all words and expressions on these lines and insert—

"(3) Section 23(5) of the Principal Act is **repealed**.".

6. Clause 13, page 9, after line 25 insert—

"(4A) A person does not commit an offence against subsection (4) if the person attends or votes in the election of the Mayor.".

7. Clause 13, page 10, line 33, omit "appropriate)." and insert 'appropriate).".'.

8. Clause 13, page 11, lines 1 to 33, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

9. Clause 13, page 12, lines 1 to 29, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

10. Clause 13, page 13, lines 1 to 32, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

NEW CLAUSE

11. Insert the following New Clause to follow clause 18—

'**18A Application for an internal arbitration process**

In section 143(3) of the Principal Act, for "3 months" **substitute** "2 years".'.

NEW CLAUSE

12. Insert the following New Clause to follow clause 20—

'**20A New section 147B inserted**

After section 147A of the Principal Act **insert**—

"**147B Review by VCAT of arbiter's decision**

(1) Subject to subsection (2), a person who is affected by the decision made by an arbiter under this Division may apply to VCAT for review of the decision.

(2) A person is not entitled to apply for review of a decision made by the Principal Councillor Conduct Registrar to dismiss the application because it is frivolous, vexatious, misconceived or lacking in substance.

(3) An application for review must be made within 28 days of the arbiter giving a statement of reasons.

(4) For the purposes of a review by VCAT—

(a) the person who applies for a review is the applicant; and

(b) any other party to the original Councillor Conduct Panel proceeding is a respondent.".'.

13. Clause 21, after line 3 insert—

'(aa) after paragraph (c) **insert**—

"(caa) publish any guidelines in relation to the matters an arbiter must take into consideration when determining whether—

(i) to make a finding of misconduct against a Councillor; or

(ii) to direct or suspend a Councillor under section 147;";'.

14. Clause 21, after line 23 insert—

'(3) After section 149(1) of the Principal Act **insert**—

"(1A) Any guidelines described in subsection (1)(caa) do not take effect until they are published in accordance with that subsection.".'.

NEW CLAUSES

15. Insert the following New Clauses to follow clause 24—

'**24A New sections 305A to 305F inserted**

Before section 306 of the Principal Act **insert**—

"**305A Meaning of *prohibited donor***

For the purposes of this Division, ***prohibited donor*** means—

(a) a property developer; or

(b) a gambling industry business entity—

and includes any industry representative organisation if the majority of its members are prohibited donors and does not include a person or entity in respect of whom a determination under section 309C is in effect.

305B Meaning of *property developer*

(1) For the purposes of this Division, ***property developer*** means—

(a) a natural person or a corporation if—

(i) the natural person or corporation carries on a business mainly concerned with the residential or commercial development of land, with the ultimate purpose of the sale or lease of the land for profit; and

(ii) in the course of the business—

(A) one relevant planning application has been made by or on behalf of the natural person or corporation and is pending; or

(B) three or more relevant planning applications made by or on behalf of the natural person or corporation have been determined within the preceding 7 years; or

(b) a person who is a close associate of a natural person or a corporation referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) Any activity engaged in by a natural person or corporation for the dominant purpose of providing commercial premises at which the natural person or corporation, or a related body corporate of the corporation, will carry on business is to be disregarded for the purpose of determining whether the natural person or corporation is a property developer unless

that business involves the sale or leasing of a substantial part of the premises.

(3) In this section and section 305C—

close associate, in relation to a corporation, means each of the following—

(a) a director or officer of the corporation or the spouse of such a director or officer;

(b) a related body corporate of the corporation;

(c) a person whose voting power in the corporation or a related body corporate of the corporation is greater than 20% or the spouse of such a person;

(d) if the corporation or a related body corporate of the corporation is a stapled entity in relation to a stapled security, the other stapled entity in relation to that stapled security;

(e) if the corporation is a trustee, manager or responsible entity in relation to a trust, a person who holds more than 20% of the units in the trust (in the case of a unit trust) or is a beneficiary of the trust (in the case of a discretionary trust);

(f) in relation to a corporation that is a property developer, a person in a joint venture or partnership with the property developer in connection with a relevant planning application made by or on behalf of the property developer who is likely to obtain a financial gain if development would be or is authorised by the application is authorised or carried out;

close associate, in relation to a natural person, means each of the following—

(a) the spouse of person;

(b) in relation to a natural person who is a property developer, a person in a joint venture or partnership with the property developer in connection with a relevant planning application made by or on behalf of the property developer who is likely to obtain a financial gain if development that would be or is authorised by the application is authorised or carried out;

officer has the same meaning as it has in the Corporations Act;

related body corporate has the same meaning as it has in the Corporations Act;

relevant planning application means any of the following—

(a) a request to a planning authority to make or amend a planning scheme under the **Planning and Environment Act 1987**;

(b) a request to a responsible authority for a permit or an amendment to a permit under the **Planning and Environment Act 1987**;

(c) an application or request that is prescribed by the regulations to be a relevant planning application;

stapled entity means an entity the interests in which are traded along with the interests in another entity as stapled securities and (in the case of a stapled entity that is a trust) includes any trustee, manager or responsible entity in relation to the trust;

voting power has the same meaning as in the Corporations Act.

305C Meaning of *gambling industry business entity*

For the purpose of this Division, ***gambling industry business entity*** means—

(a) a corporation engaged in a business undertaking that is mainly concerned with wagering, betting or other gambling (including the manufacture of machines used primarily for that purpose) but only if it is for the ultimate purpose of making a profit; or

(b) a person who is a close associate of a corporation referred to in paragraph (a).

305D General cap on gifts

(1) It is unlawful for a person or body to make a gift to or for the benefit of a Councillor or candidate if the gift exceeds the general cap for the election period.

(2) It is unlawful for a Councillor or candidate to accept a gift from a person or body if, by itself or due to aggregation under subsection (6), the gift exceeds the general cap for the election period.

(3) Despite subsection (2), a Councillor or candidate may accept a gift that, due to aggregation under subsection (6), exceeds the general cap for the election period if the Councillor or candidate does not know, and could not reasonably have known, of the other gifts included in the aggregation.

(4) If a Councillor or candidate accepts a gift in accordance with subsection (3), the Councillor or candidate must return to the donor or forfeit to the State the amount by which the gift exceeds the general cap for the election period.

(5) In determining whether the general cap is exceeded for the election period, the following must be disregarded—

(a) a contribution made by the Councillor or candidate to their own election campaign;

(b) a minor gift made to or for the benefit of the Councillor or candidate.

(6) For the purposes of this section, a gift the value of which is equal to or less than the general cap must be treated as a gift that exceeds the general cap if the aggregate of the gift and all other gifts (excluding minor

gifts) made by the same person or body to the same Councillor or candidate within the election period exceeds the general cap.

(7) A person who knowingly makes or accepts a gift that it is unlawful for the person to make or accept under this section is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding 300 penalty units, a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or both.

(8) In this section—

general cap means the amount determined under section 305E;

minor gift means a gift the value of which is equal to or less than $50.

305E Amount of general cap

(1) The general cap, in respect of a Councillor or candidate, is—

(a) for an election period that starts before 1 July 2025, $7500; or

(b) for an election period that starts on or after 1 July 2025, the amount determined under subsection (2).

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), the amount specified in subsection (1)(a) must be varied, for the financial year beginning 1 July 2025 and each subsequent financial year, in accordance with the formula—

$$A \times \frac{B}{C}$$

where—

A is the amount specified in subsection (1)(a) or, if that amount has been varied in accordance with this section, that amount as last so varied;

B is the all groups consumer price index for Melbourne in original terms for the most recent reference period in the preceding calendar year most recently published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 15 June immediately preceding the day on which the variation is made;

C is the all groups consumer price index for Melbourne in original terms for the corresponding reference period one year before the reference period referred to in B published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as at 15 June immediately preceding the day on which the variation is made.

(3) Where it is necessary for the purposes of this section to calculate an amount, the amount is taken to have been calculated in accordance with this section if the calculation is made to the nearest whole $10.

305F Interim return by candidate

(1) No later than 14 days before election day, a person who is a candidate in the election must give an interim election campaign donation return to the Chief Executive Officer.

Penalty: 60 penalty units.

(2) An interim election campaign donation return must—

(a) be in the prescribed form; and

(b) contain the prescribed details in respect of any gifts received since the beginning of the donation period by or on behalf of the candidate, to be used for or in connection with the election campaign, the amount or value of which is equal to or exceeds the gift disclosure threshold.

(3) Despite subsection (2), a candidate is not required to specify the prescribed details of an amount in an interim return if—

(a) the amount was a gift made in a private capacity to the candidate for the candidate's personal use; and

(b) the candidate has not used, and will not use, the gift solely or substantially for a purpose related to the election.

(4) A reference in subsection (2) to a gift made by a person includes a reference to a gift made on behalf of the members of an unincorporated association.

(5) For the purposes of this section, 2 or more gifts made by the same person to or for the benefit of a candidate are to be taken to be one donation.

(6) A person who—

(a) gives an interim return that contains particulars that the person knows are false or misleading in a material particular; or

(b) provides information that the person knows is false or misleading in a material particular to a person required to give an interim return under this section—

is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding 60 penalty units.

(7) If a person is found guilty or convicted of an offence under subsection (6), a court may make an order that the offender give an interim return under subsection (1) that is not false or misleading in a material particular.

(8) If no details are required to be included in an interim return under this section in respect of a candidate, the interim return—

(a) must be given; and

(b) must include a statement to the effect that no gifts of a kind required to be disclosed were received.".

24B Responsibilities of Chief Executive Officer

Before section 307(1) of the Principal Act **insert**—

"(1AA) The Chief Executive Officer must ensure that, no later than 7 days before election day, a summary of each interim election campaign donation return given to the Chief Executive Officer under section 305F is made available on the Council's Internet site.".

24C Other matters relating to summaries of returns

(1) In section 308(3) of the Principal Act, for "it is given under section 306" **substitute** "the return is received by the Chief Executive Officer".

(2) After section 308(3) of the Principal Act **insert**—

"(4) In this section—

election campaign donation return includes an interim election campaign donation return under section 305F.".

24D Certain gifts not to be accepted

In section 309(1) of the Principal Act, for "It" **substitute** "Subject to section 309A, it".

24E New sections 309A to 309E inserted

After section 309 of the Principal Act **insert**—

"**309A Gifts from prohibited donors unlawful**

(1) It is unlawful for a prohibited donor to make a gift—

(a) during the donation period, to a candidate or for the benefit of a candidate; or

(b) to a Councillor.

(2) It is unlawful for a person to make a gift on behalf of a prohibited donor—

(a) during the donation period, to a candidate or for the benefit of a candidate; or

(b) to a Councillor

(3) It is unlawful for a candidate or a person acting on behalf of a candidate to accept a gift during the donation period that was made (wholly or partly) by a prohibited donor or a person on behalf of a prohibited donor.

(4) It is unlawful for a Councillor or a person acting on behalf of Councillor to accept a gift that was made (wholly or partly) by a prohibited donor or a person on behalf of a prohibited donor.

(5) It is unlawful for a prohibited donor to solicit another person to make a gift—

(a) during the donation period, to a candidate or for the benefit of a candidate; or

(b) to a Councillor.

(6) It is unlawful for a person to solicit another person on behalf of a prohibited donor to make a gift—

(a) during the donation period, to a candidate or for the benefit of a candidate; or

(b) to a Councillor.

(7) In this section—

gift means a gift the amount or value of which is equal to or exceeds the gift disclosure threshold.

309B Offence relating to gift from prohibited donor

A person who does any act that is unlawful under section 309A is guilty of an offence if the person was, at the time of the act, aware of the facts that result in the act being unlawful and is liable to a fine not exceeding 400 penalty units or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 2 years.

309C Making of determination that person is not a prohibited donor

(1) A person may apply to the VEC for a determination that the person, or another entity, is not a person or entity specified in section 305A(a) or (b).

(2) The application must be written and supported by enough information to enable the VEC to decide the application.

(3) If the VEC is satisfied the person or entity to whom the application relates is not a person or entity specified in section 305A(a) or (b), the VEC must make the determination sought by the applicant.

(4) If the VEC is not satisfied the person or entity to whom the application relates is not a person or entity specified in section 305A(a) or (b), the VEC must—

(a) decide not to make the determination; and

(b) give the applicant an information notice about the decision.

(5) A determination made under this section has effect for 1 year unless it is earlier revoked.

309D Revocation of determination

(1) If, at any time, the VEC ceases to be satisfied that the person or entity in respect of whom a determination under section 309C relates is not a person or entity specified in section 305A(a) or (b), the VEC may revoke the determination by giving a written notice of revocation to the person or entity and, if the person or entity was not the applicant for the determination, the applicant.

(2) The notice of revocation given to the person or entity must include, or be accompanied by, an information notice about the decision to revoke the determination.

309E Register of determinations

(1) The VEC must keep a register of determinations made under section 309C.

(2) The register must include any revocations made under section 309D.

(3) The VEC must make the register available for public inspection without fee.".

24F Certain gifts not to be accepted

In section 310(1) of the Principal Act, after "section 309" **insert** "or 309A".

24G New section 310A inserted

After section 310 of the Principal Act **insert**—

"**310A Exception for membership subscriptions**

An annual or other subscription paid to a party by a natural person as a member of the party or for the person's affiliation with the party is not a gift for the purposes of this Division unless it is above the gift disclosure threshold.".'.

16. Clause 25, page 23, line 13, omit "Sections 38B and 38C," and insert "Section 38B,".

17. Clause 25, page 23, line 14, omit "do not" and insert "does not".

18. Clause 29, lines 25 to 31, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

19. Clause 29, page 27, lines 1 to 4, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

Amendments circulated by Sarah Mansfield (SMA93C)

1. Clause 1, page 2, before line 17 insert—

"(ab) to amend the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** to reduce entitlement to be enrolled on the voters' roll without application; and".

NEW CLAUSES

2. Insert the following New Part after Part 4—

'Part 4A—Further amendment of City of Melbourne Act 2001

46AA Persons entitled to be enrolled without application

Section 9A(3), (4), (5) and (6) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** are **repealed**.

46AB Persons entitled to be enrolled

(1) In section 9B(2) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001**, **omit** "section 9A(3) and".

(2) In section 9B(3) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001**, **omit** "section 9A(5) and".

46AC Section 9D repealed

Section 9D of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** is **repealed**.

46AD Limitations on right of entitlement

In section 9E(1) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001**, **omit** "9A(3), 9A(5),".

46AE Section 9F repealed

Section 9F of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** is **repealed**.

46AF Request that address not be shown

In section 10(1) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001 omit** "9A(3), 9A(5),".

46AG Chief Executive Officer to prepare voters' list

In section 11A(2) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001 omit** "9A(3), 9A(5),".

46AH Public notification

Section 11C(1)(b)(iii) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** is **repealed**.

46AI Preparation of voters' rolls

In section 11D(4)(b) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001**, for "9A(3), 9A(5), 9B, 9C or 9D" **substitute** "9B or 9C".

46AJ Compulsory voting

Section 19(5) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** is **repealed**.'.

AMENDMENT OF LONG TITLE

3. Long title, before "and for other purposes" insert ", to reduce entitlement to be enrolled on the voters' roll without application".

Amendments circulated by Bev McArthur (BM01C)

1. Clause 1, page 2, lines 3 to 14, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

2. Clause 1, page 2, line 15, omit "(v)" and insert "(ii)".

3. Clause 2, line 23, omit "Division 1 of".

4. Division heading preceding clause 4, omit this heading.

5. Clause 4, line 6, omit "definitions" and insert "definition".

6. Clause 4, line 8, omit "38A(1);" and insert '38A(1);".'.

7. Clause 4, lines 9 and 10, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

8. Clause 12, page 8, line 4, omit "premises." and insert "premises, other than in a personal or private capacity.".

9. Clause 13, page 9, line 24, omit "premises." and insert "premises, other than in a personal or private capacity.".

10. Clause 13, page 10, line 15, omit "Councillor." and insert 'Councillor.".'.

11. Clause 13, page 10, lines 16 to 33, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

12. Clause 13, page 11, lines 1 to 33, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

13. Clause 13, page 12, lines 1 to 29, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

14. Clause 13, page 13, lines 1 to 32, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

15. Clause 25, page 23, lines 13 to 17, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

16. Clause 25, page 23, line 18, omit "(5)" and insert "(4)".

17. Clause 25, page 23, line 24, omit "(6)" and insert "(5)".

18. Clause 25, page 23, line 30, omit "(7)" and insert "(6)".

19. Clause 25, page 24, line 5, omit "(8)" and insert "(7)".

20. Clause 25, page 24, line 11, omit "(9)" and insert "(8)".

21. Division heading preceding clause 26, omit this heading.

22. Clause 26, omit this clause.

23. Clause 27, omit this clause.

24. Clause 28, omit this clause.

25. Clause 29, omit this clause.

26. Clause 30, omit this clause.

27. Clause 31, omit this clause.

28. Clause 32, after line 2 insert—

'(a) in paragraph (a), before "disclosure" **insert** ", as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the conflict of interest,";'.

29. Clause 32, line 3, omit "(a)" and insert "(b)".

30. Clause 32, line 5, omit "(b)" and insert "(c)".

31. Clause 33, omit this clause.

32. Clause 34, omit this clause.

33. Clause 35, omit this clause.

34. Clause 36, omit this clause.

35. Clause 37, omit this clause.

36. Part heading preceding clause 38, omit this heading.

37. Clause 38, omit this clause.

38. Clause 39, omit this clause.

39. Clause 40, omit this clause.

40. Clause 41, omit this clause.

41. Clause 42, omit this clause.

42. Clause 43, omit this clause.

43. Clause 44, omit this clause.

44. Part heading preceding clause 45, omit "**4**" and insert "**3**".

45. Part heading preceding clause 46, omit "**5**" and insert "**4**".

AMENDMENT OF LONG TITLE

46. Long title, omit "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 insert "Councils".

Amendments circulated by Bev McArthur (BM09C)

1. Clause 1, page 2, line 21, omit "valuation." and insert "valuation; and".

2. Clause 1, page 2, after line 21 insert—

"(c) to amend the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** to enable a vacancy in the office of Deputy Lord Mayor to be filled by appointment.".

3. Clause 2, line 23, omit "Part and Division 1 of Part 2" and insert "Part, Division 1 of Part 2 and section 45AA".

NEW CLAUSE

4. Insert the following New Clause before clause 45—

'**45AA Filling of vacancies**

(1) In section 24(1) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001 omit** "or Deputy Lord Mayor".

(2) After section 24(1) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001 insert**—

"(1A) If the office of Deputy Lord Mayor becomes vacant 6 months or more before a general election is due, the Council must appoint a Councillor to fill the vacancy.

(1B) If the Council appoints a Councillor to fill a vacancy under subsection (1A), an extraordinary vacancy occurs in the office of the Councillor on the date

of the appointment and section 259 of the **Local Government Act 2020** does apply.".'.

AMENDMENT OF LONG TITLE

4. Long title, after valuation insert ", to enable a vacancy in the office of Deputy Lord Mayor to be filled by appointment".

Amendments circulated by Ingrid Stitt (IS44C)

1. Clause 1, page 2, after line 16 insert—

"(aa) to amend the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** to remove group voting tickets from the election of Councillors; and".

NEW CLAUSES

2. Insert the following New Clauses to follow Clause 18—

'**18A Internal arbitration process**

After section 141(2)(d) of the Principal Act **insert**—

"(da) any requirements of guidelines published under section 149(1)(ca);".

18B Application for an internal arbitration process

In section 143(3) of the Principal Act, for "3 months" **substitute** "6 months".'.

3. Clause 21, after line 3 insert—

'(a) after paragraph (c) **insert**—

"(ca) publish any guidelines in relation to the interpretation and application of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct for the purposes of internal arbitration process applications that the Principal Councillor Conduct Registrar has determined to be necessary;".'.

4. Clause 21, line 4, omit "(a)" and insert "(b)".

5. Clause 21, line 10, omit "(b)" and insert "(c)".

NEW CLAUSES

6. Insert the following New Clauses before Clause 45—

'**44A Section 6B repealed**

Section 6B of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** is **repealed**.

44B New section 7A inserted

After section 7 of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001 insert**—

"**7A Application of Divisions 6 and 7 of the Local Government Act 2020**

(1) To avoid doubt, Division 6 of Part 8 of the **Local Government Act 2020** applies to the election of a single Councillor.

Note

See also section 18 in relation to the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor.

(2) To avoid doubt, Division 7 of Part 8 of the **Local Government Act 2020** applies to the election of 2 or more Councillors, including for the purposes of a general election.".

44C How votes to be counted

Section 18(2) of the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** is **repealed**.

44D Schedules 1, 2 and 3 repealed

Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to the **City of Melbourne Act 2001** are **repealed**.'.

AMENDMENT OF LONG TITLE

7. Long title, after "**2001**" insert "to remove group voting tickets from the election of Councillors,".