

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**17 April 2007**

**(Extract from book 5)**

**Internet: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard)**

**By authority of the Victorian Government Printer**



# CONTENTS

---

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Tuesday, 17 April 2007**

1.	<i>Public transport: Southern Cross– Bacchus Marsh train .....</i>	1167
2.	<i>Public transport: Trawalla train.....</i>	1167
5.	<i>Public transport: D1 and D2-class trams .....</i>	1168
8.	<i>Public transport: V/Line internet site.....</i>	1168
53.	<i>Public transport: farebox revenue .....</i>	1169
57.	<i>Public transport: Hitachi/Comeng/Siemens/X'Trapolis three-car sets.....</i>	1169
58.	<i>Public transport: Connex three-car sets....</i>	1171
61.	<i>Community services: Eastern metro region disability services needs register .....</i>	1172
62.	<i>Community services: Yarra Ranges disability services needs register.....</i>	1173
63.	<i>Education: Manchester Primary School.....</i>	1174
64.	<i>Education: Bimbadeen Heights Primary School.....</i>	1174
80.	<i>Water, environment and climate change: bushfire greenhouse gas emissions.....</i>	1174
93.	<i>Education: Ferntree Gully electorate school upgrades.....</i>	1175
94.	<i>Education: Bulleen electorate school upgrades .....</i>	1175



**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.  
 Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Assembly.  
 Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.  
 The portfolio of the minister answering the question on notice starts each heading.*

**Tuesday, 17 April 2007**

**Public transport: Southern Cross–Bacchus Marsh train**

1. **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — on what dates was the 5.12 p.m. Southern Cross to Bacchus Marsh train cancelled in September, October, November and December to date in 2006 and for what reason was each cancellation made.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is :

<b>Service Date</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>
8/09/06	Faulty Locomotive — cracked fuel filter
21/09/06	Driver shortage
25/09/06	Driver shortage
26/09/06	Late arrival of train from Newport Workshop
29/09/06	Driver shortage
6/10/06	Person struck by train
13/10/06	Driver shortage
16/10/06	Fires on or near track
21/11/06	Faulty locomotive — air conditioning
1/12/06	Driver shortage
6/12/06	Faulty vehicle/car — defective jumper cables
18/12/06	Safeworking system/equipment failure

**Public transport: Trawalla train**

2. **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the two-car set damaged in the April 2006 Trawalla train accident —
  - (1) What is the net cost to V/Line of replacing the V/Locity car which was written off due to the accident.
  - (2) What is the net cost to V/Line of repairing the carriage which was damaged in the accident.
  - (3) When will the repaired and replacement cars be in service.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

- (1) Not known at this time as the insurance claim has not yet been finalised.
- (2) There was no carriage involved in the accident.

- (3) I am advised by the Department of Infrastructure that the repaired and replacement cars will be in service by the end of March 2008.

**Public transport: D1 and D2-class trams**

5. **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to concurrent D1 and D2 class tram repairs in 2007 and 2008 —
- (1) How many D1 class trams and D2 class trams will be withdrawn concurrently in each of 2007 and 2008 for repairs.
  - (2) How long is it expected that each tram withdrawn for repairs will be out of service.
  - (3) How much are repairs expected to cost per D1 and D2 class tram.
  - (4) How much are each of D1 and D2 class tram repairs expected to cost —
    - (a) Yarra Trams;
    - (b) the Department of Infrastructure.
  - (5) Will the Government be reimbursing Yarra Trams for any net cost of repairs; if so, what is the total cost expected to be to the Government.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is :

- (1) Not yet finalised but expected to be in the range 3 to 5 trams. The final number will be determined by availability of other trams to supply services.
- (2) Current indications are 10–15 weeks per tram.
- (3) Siemens is covering the repair cost and has not made this information available.
- (4) a) Nil.  
b) Nil.
- (5) No.

**Public transport: V/Line internet site**

8. **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the heat speed restrictions listed on the V/Line internet site at [www.vline.com.au](http://www.vline.com.au) —
- (1) Did the site still have heat speed restrictions for Thursday 7 December 2006 for the sections Bendigo to Swan Hill and Benalla to Albury displayed on its home page on Friday 8 December 2006 at 2.40 p.m.
  - (2) Is information on heat speed restrictions for individual lines updated on the site on weekends; if not, why not.
  - (3) What arrangements for updating time and date sensitive information does V/Line make when its website coordinator is not present for a normal business day.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is :

- (1) No. Heat speed restrictions were in place on 7 December and 8 December 2006, both of which were displayed on the website on the relevant days and subsequently removed prior to the next business day.

- (2) Yes.
- (3) Updating time and date sensitive information is attended to by the website coordinator, supported by other trained and authorised V/Line personnel rostered whenever that person is absent.

**Public transport: farebox revenue**

**53.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — what was the farebox revenue collected for each of the ticket types currently sold for each of Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3, Zone 1+2, Zone 2+3 and Zone 1+2+3, for the —

- (1) Second quarter of 2005–06.
- (2) Third quarter of 2005–06.
- (3) Fourth quarter of 2005–06.
- (4) First quarter of 2006–07.
- (5) Second quarter of 2006–07.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

The farebox revenue for the last three quarters of 2005–06 and for the first two quarters of 2006–07 for ticket types sold for each of Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3, Zone 1+2, Zone 2+3 and Zone 1+2+3 was:

(1.) 2005–06 Qtr 2	\$109,064,426.60
(2.) 2005–06 Qtr 3	\$114,376,784.70
(3.) 2005–06 Qtr4	\$118,026,403.70
(4.) 2006–07 Qtr1	\$123,185,858.60
(5.) 2006–07 Qtr 2	\$116,032,448.50

**Public transport: Hitachi/Comeng/Siemens/X’Trapolis three-car sets**

**57.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to each of Hitachi, Comeng, Siemens and X’Trapolis three-car sets —

- (1) On 13 February 2007 how many three-car sets of each type of train were owned by —
  - (a) Connex Melbourne;
  - (b) the VicTrack subsidiaries Rolling Stock Holdings companies;
  - (c) the Department of Infrastructure;
  - (d) other parties.
- (2) On 13 February 2007 how many three-car sets of each type of train were leased by —
  - (a) Connex Melbourne;
  - (b) the VicTrack subsidiaries Rolling Stock Holdings companies;
  - (c) the Department of Infrastructure;
  - (d) other parties.
- (3) On 13 February 2007 how many three-car sets of each type of train were operated through other arrangements by —

- (a) Connex Melbourne;
  - (b) the VicTrack subsidiaries Rolling Stock Holdings companies;
  - (c) the Department of Infrastructure;
  - (d) other parties.
- (4) How many three-car sets of each type of train were in service carrying commuters on 13 February 2007.
- (5) How many three-car sets of each type of train did not carry commuters on 13 February 2007.
- (6) How many three-car sets of each type of train were out of service on 13 February 2007 due to —
- (a) scheduled maintenance;
  - (b) unscheduled failure in service;
  - (c) graffiti;
  - (d) vandalism such as broken windows;
  - (e) other causes.
- (7) How many three-car sets of each type of train were unserviceable on 13 February 2007 and were receiving attention at —
- (a) Bayswater;
  - (b) Burnley;
  - (c) Epping;
  - (d) Newport;
  - (e) North Melbourne;
  - (f) Westall;
  - (g) other locations and what was the name of each other location.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is :

- 1.
- (a) 9 Hitachi three-car units
  - (b) 3 Hitachi three-car units, 187 Comeng three-car units, and 12 Siemens three-car units
  - (c) Nil
  - (d) 60 Siemens three-car units and 58 X'Trapolis three-car units
- 2.
- (a) All except for nine Hitachi three-car units owned by Connex
  - (b) Nil
  - (c) Nil
  - (d) Nil
- 3.
- (a) Nil
  - (b) Nil
  - (c) Nil
  - (d) Nil



4. 54 Siemens three-car units, 10 Hitachi three-car units, 48 X'Trapolis three-car units and 160 Comeng three-car units.
5. 18 Siemens three-car units, 2 Hitachi three-car units, 10 X'Trapolis three-car units and 27 Comeng three-car units.
6. The following includes trains out of service for part of the day:
  - (a) 23 Comeng three-car units, 4 X'Trapolis three-car units, and 4 Siemens three-car units
  - (b) 16 Comeng three-car units, 8 X'Trapolis three-car units, and 4 Siemens three-car units
  - (c) Nil
  - (d) Nil
  - (e) 12 Siemens three-car units, 2 Hitachi three-car units, and 1 Comeng three-car unit
7.
  - (a) 5 X'Trapolis three-car units and 4 Comeng three-car units
  - (b) 2 Comeng three-car units
  - (c) 7 Comeng three-car units, 3 X'Trapolis three-car units and 2 Siemens three-car units
  - (d) 12 Siemens three-car units
  - (e) 4 Comeng three-car units
  - (f) 2 Siemens three-car units and 4 Comeng three-car units
  - (g) 2 Hitachi three-car units, 2 X'Trapolis three-car units, 2 Siemens three-car units and 6 Comeng three-car units at Macaulay, Melbourne Yard, Dandenong, Lilydale, Carrum, St Albans and Brighton Beach.

**Public transport: Connex three-car sets**

- 58. Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport —
- (1) What number of three-car sets does Connex Melbourne currently require, assuming a full timetable without horse races or the Royal Melbourne Show, to operate the —
    - (a) a.m. weekday peak;
    - (b) p.m. weekday peak;
    - (c) inter-peak weekday at 1.00 p.m.;
    - (d) Saturday at 1.00 p.m.;
    - (e) Sunday at 1.00 p.m.
  - (2) Does the number of three-car sets required by Connex include non-Passenger Service Requirements ('non-PSR') trains; if so, how many in each requested period; if not, how many additional three-car sets are required to operate weekday 'non-PSR' services.
  - (3) What number of three car sets in total does Connex aim to have available for the —
    - (a) a.m. weekday peak, including spares;
    - (b) p.m. weekday peak, including spares.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is :

1.
  - (a) 280
  - (b) 272
  - (c) 115
  - (d) 74
  - (e) 74
2. No.
3.
  - (a) 290
  - (b) 278

**Community services: Eastern metro region disability services needs register**

- 61.** Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Community Services with reference to individuals on the Disability Services Needs Register in the Eastern Metro Region as at 1 February 2007 —
- (1) How many individuals were waiting for —
    - (a) share supported accommodation;
    - (b) in-home accommodation support (HomeFirst or Support & Choice packages);
    - (c) day programs;
    - (d) foster care.
  - (2) For each of shared supported accommodation, in-home accommodation support, day programs and foster care, how many individuals were classified as —
    - (a) urgent priority;
    - (b) high priority;
    - (c) low priority.
  - (3) For each of shared supported accommodation, in-home accommodation support, day programs and foster care, how many individuals were aged —
    - (a) under 18 years;
    - (b) 18 to 24 years;
    - (c) 25 to 29 years;
    - (d) 30 or more years.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register (DSR) replaced the Disability Service Needs Register for reporting disability support needs on 1 April 2006. With reference to individuals on the Disability Support Register in the Eastern Metro Region as at 31 December 2006 —

- (1) The number of individuals waiting for —
  - (a) Disability Services Supported Accommodation Options was 295;
  - (b) Support to live in the community was 227;
  - (c) Daytime Activities was 31.
  - (d) The DSR does not record foster care as a service option for Disability Services. This service is not administered by Disability Services.
- (2) The DSR does not assign an urgent, high or low priority status to people.
- (3) For each of Disability Services Supported Accommodation Options, Support to live in the community, Daytime Activities, the number of individuals in each age group is shown below —

Disability Services Supported Accommodation Options;

- (a) under 18 years — 6;
- (b) 18 to 24 years — 70;
- (c) 25 to 29 years — 46;
- (d) 30 or more years — 173.

Support to live in the community;

- (a) under 18 years — 43;
- (b) 18 to 24 years — 39;
- (c) 25 to 29 years — 16;
- (d) 30 or more years — 129.

Daytime Activities;

- (a) under 18 years — 0;
- (b) 18 to 24 years — 0;
- (c) 25 to 29 years — 1
- (d) 30 or more years — 30.

**Community services: Yarra Ranges disability services needs register**

- 62.** **Mrs FYFFE** to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Community Services with reference to individuals on the Disability Services Needs Register in the Shire of Yarra Ranges as at 1 February 2007 —
- (1) How many individuals were waiting for —
    - (a) shared supported accommodation;
    - (b) in-home accommodation support (HomeFirst or Support and Choice packages);
    - (c) day programs;
    - (d) foster care.
  - (2) For each of shared supported accommodation, in-home accommodation support, day programs and foster care, how many individuals were classified as —
    - (a) urgent priority;
    - (b) high priority;
    - (c) low priority.

- (3) For each of shared supported accommodation, in-home accommodation support, day programs and foster care, how many individuals were aged —
- (a) under 18 years;
  - (b) 18 to 24 years;
  - (c) 25 to 29 years;
  - (d) 30 or more years.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register (DSR) is administered at a statewide and regional level (using DHS regional boundaries). It is not administered at a local Government level.

**Education: Manchester Primary School**

- 63.** Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment for the Minister for Education — what are the long-term enrolment figures for Manchester Primary School.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

As there are no current or recent capital works projects for Manchester Primary School, no up to date long-term enrolment figures have been calculated for this school. As with all schools, long-term enrolment figures are calculated in the context of a capital works project or a local area planning exercise.

**Education: Bimbadeen Heights Primary School**

- 64.** Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment for the Minister for Education — what are the long-term enrolment figures for Bimbadeen Heights Primary School.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

As there are no current or recent capital works projects for Bimbadeen Heights Primary School, no up to date long-term enrolment figures have been calculated for this school. As with all schools, long-term enrolment figures are calculated in the context of a capital works project or a local area planning exercise.

**Water, environment and climate change: bushfire greenhouse gas emissions**

- 80.** Mr CLARK to ask the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change — how many tonnes of greenhouse gases were released to the atmosphere from the Victorian bushfires of December 2006 and January 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Approximately 1 million hectares of forest was burnt in the 2006/07 fires.

According to agreed international greenhouse gas measurement protocols, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from bushfires are offset by the CO<sub>2</sub> absorption that results from the regeneration of forests.

The net effect of fire events across the entire forest area — taking regrowth into account — is thus likely to be neutral in the long term.

**Education: Ferntree Gully electorate school upgrades**

**93. Mr WAKELING** to ask the Minister for Skills, Education and Employment for the Minister for Education with reference to Kent Park Primary School, Ferntree Gully North Primary School, Mountain Gate Primary School and Fairhills Primary School, located in Ferntree Gully, Lysterfield Primary School located in Lysterfield and Karoo Primary School, Parkridge Primary School, Rowville Primary School, Heany Park Primary School, Rowville Secondary College (Eastern Campus) and Rowville Secondary College (Western Campus) located in Rowville —

- (1) Does each school qualify for an upgrade or redevelopment as part of the Government’s 2006 election policy commitment under the Victorian Schools Plan; if so —
  - (a) what will be undertaken as part of the redevelopment;
  - (b) when will the upgrade/redevelopment commence;
  - (c) when will the various stages of the process be completed.
- (2) If each school does not qualify for an upgrade or redevelopment under the Victorian Schools Plan, please explain why.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

The Bracks Government’s Victorian School Plan is a ten year plan which will deliver the largest school building program in Victoria’s history.

Education is this Government’s number one priority. The Bracks Government has committed a massive \$1.9 billion over this term, which will see another 500 schools being built or modernised.

All schools will participate in the Building Futures framework which provides the conceptual framework that puts improved educational outcomes for students at the core of all planning and investment decisions.

I find your interest in this issue fascinating given the Liberal Party’s track record on Education. When last in Government, your party cut funds to education, closed schools, sacked teachers and increased class sizes. More than 300 public schools were closed, 9000 teachers were sacked.

I welcome your renewed interest.

**Education: Bulleen electorate school upgrades**

**94. Mr KOTSIRAS** to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment for the Minister for Education with reference to Manningham Park Primary School, Templestowe Valley Primary School, Templestowe Heights Primary School, Serpell Primary School, Bulleen Heights Primary School, Templestowe Park Primary School and Templestowe College located in the electoral district of Bulleen —

- (1) Does each school qualify for an upgrade or redevelopment as part of the Government’s 2006 election policy commitment under the Victorian Schools Plan; if so —
  - (a) what processes will be undertaken as part of the redevelopment;
  - (b) when will the upgrade/redevelopment commence;
  - (c) when will the process or various stages of the process be completed.

- (2) If each school does not qualify for an upgrade or redevelopment under the Victorian Schools Plan, why not.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

The Bracks Government's Victorian School Plan is a ten year plan which will deliver the largest school building program in Victoria's history.

Education is this Government's number one priority. The Bracks Government has committed a massive \$1.9 billion over this term, which will see another 500 schools being built or modernised.

All schools will participate in the Building Futures framework which provides the conceptual framework that puts improved educational outcomes for students at the core of all planning and investment decisions.

I find your interest in this issue fascinating given the Liberal Party's track record on Education. When last in Government, your party cut funds to education, closed schools, sacked teachers and increased class sizes. More than 300 public schools were closed, 9000 teachers were sacked.

I welcome your renewed interest.