

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 23 June 2009

(Extract from book 8)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

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Standing Orders Committee — The Speaker, Ms Barker, Mr Kotsiras, Mr Langdon, Mr McIntosh, Mr Nardella and Mrs Powell.

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Council — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr W. R. Tunnecliffe

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Dr S. O'Kane

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FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

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Lim, Mr Muy Hong	Clayton	ALP			

¹ Resigned 6 August 2007

² Elected 15 September 2007

³ Resigned 2 June 2008

⁴ Elected 28 June 2008

⁵ Elected 15 September 2007

⁶ Resigned 6 August 2007

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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, 23 June 2009

Skills and workforce participation: professional development

239(a). Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham) to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister from 1 December 2006 to 19 June 2007 —

- (1) What training has the Minister received.
- (2) What was the name of the tenderer, training organisation or entity providing the training.
- (3) What was the cost of the training.
- (4) How many training sessions were held.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) None
- (2) Not applicable
- (3) \$0.00
- (4) None

Skills and workforce participation: professional development

240. Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham) to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister for Education Services and Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs from 5 December 2002 to 30 November 2006 —

- (1) What training did the Minister receive.
- (2) What was the name of the tenderer, training organisation or entity who provided the training.
- (3) What was the cost of the training.
- (4) How many training sessions were held.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The research required to provide a response would place an unreasonable burden on the resources of the department.

Skills and workforce participation: chartered flights

328(b). Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation what are the details of all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes, used by the Minister between December 2006 and June 2007 including, for each flight, the —

- (1) Date.
- (2) Carrier.
- (3) Destination.
- (4) Cost.
- (5) Purpose.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

I did not charter any flights as Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation during that time period.

Skills and workforce participation: international travel expenses

330(b). Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation what was the cost of all international travel, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff between December 2006 and June 2007.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

I undertook no international travel between December 2006 and June 2007.

All overseas travel information is published quarterly on the Department of Innovation Industry and Regional Development.

Public transport: patronage forecasts

907. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) Has the Department of Infrastructure revised the metropolitan or rural and regional public transport patronage predictions by its Information Services, Public Transport Policy and Planning unit or other units or sources that were valid until 30 November 2007.
- (2) To the nearest tenth of a million what number of boardings is expected in each of 2007–08, 2008–09 and 2009–10 on —
 - (a) metropolitan trains;
 - (b) metropolitan trams;
 - (c) metropolitan buses;
 - (d) metropolitan trains, trams and buses in total;
 - (e) short distance country trains;
 - (f) long distance country trains;
 - (g) V/Line coaches;
 - (h) provincial city and town bus services;
 - (i) country school buses;

- (3) Have any predictions of patronage been made by the Department of Infrastructure for 2010–11, 2011–12 and 2012–13; if so, what is the number of boardings, to the nearest tenth of a million, expected in each year on —
- (a) metropolitan trains;
 - (b) metropolitan trams;
 - (c) metropolitan buses;
 - (d) metropolitan trains, trams and buses in total;
 - (e) short distance country trains;
 - (f) long distance country trains;
 - (g) V/Line coaches;
 - (h) provincial city and town bus services;
 - (i) country school buses.
- (4) What is the percentage growth rate expected in each of 2007–08, 2008–09, 2009–10, 2010–11 and 2012–13 for —
- (a) metropolitan trains;
 - (b) metropolitan trams;
 - (c) metropolitan buses;
 - (d) metropolitan trains, trams and buses in total;
 - (e) short distance country trains;
 - (f) long distance country trains;
 - (g) V/Line coaches;
 - (h) provincial city and town bus services;
 - (i) country school buses.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Yes, the Department has revised some of its public transport patronage predictions since 30 November 2007.
- (2) (a) (b) (c) (d)

	(a) Metropolitan Train	(b) Metropolitan Tram	(c) Metropolitan Bus	(d) Total Metropolitan
Financial Year	Boardings (million)	Boardings (million)	Boardings (million)	Boardings (million)
2007-08	198.2	161.1	89.2	448.5
2008-09	218.0	167.5	93.7	479.2
2009-10	235.2	174.9	97.1	507.2

- (2) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i)

	(e) (f) (g) V/Line Train and Coach	(h) Provincial City and Town Bus Services	(i) Country School Buses
Financial Year	Boardings (million)	Boardings (million)	Boardings (million)
2007-08	11.4	12.9	28.8

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

	(e) (f) (g) V/Line Train and Coach	(h) Provincial City and Town Bus Services	(i) Country School Buses
2008-09	12.5	13.3	28.8
2009-10	Not available	Not available	Not available

Notes:

- V/Line Train and Coach includes (e) short distance country trains, (f) long distance country trains and (g) V/Line coaches.
- No forecasts have been made for regional services beyond 2008-09.

(3) (a) (b) (c) (d)

	(a) Metropolitan Train	(b) Metropolitan Tram	(c) Metropolitan Bus	(d) Total Metropolitan
Financial Year	Boardings (million)	Boardings (million)	Boardings (million)	Boardings (million)
2010-11	253.5	182.6	100.6	536.7
2011-12	273.9	190.6	104.2	568.7
2012-13	295.9	199.0	107.9	602.8

(3) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i)

The Department has not made patronage forecasts for regional public transport services beyond 2008-09.

(4) (a) (b) (c) (d)

	(a) Metropolitan Train	(b) Metropolitan Tram	(c) Metropolitan Bus	(d) Total Metropolitan
Financial Year	Annual growth (%)	Annual growth (%)	Annual growth (%)	Annual growth (%)
2007-08	11.0%	4.0%	5.0%	7.2%
2008-09	10.0%	4.0%	5.0%	6.9%
2009-10	7.9%	4.4%	3.6%	5.8%
2010-11	7.9%	4.4%	3.6%	5.9%
2011-12	7.9%	4.4%	3.6%	5.9%
2012-13	7.9%	4.4%	3.6%	5.9%

(4) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i)

	(e) (f) (g) V/Line Train and Coach	(h) Provincial City and Town Bus Services	(i) Country School Buses
Financial Year	Annual growth (%)	Annual growth (%)	Annual growth (%)
2007-08	21.0%	2.0%	Little or no change
2008-09	10.0%	3.0%	Little or no change
2009-10	Not available	Not available	Not available

	(e) (f) (g) V/Line Train and Coach	(h) Provincial City and Town Bus Services	(i) Country School Buses
2010-11	Not available	Not available	Not available
2011-12	Not available	Not available	Not available
2012-13	Not available	Not available	Not available

Sport, recreation and youth affairs: adjournment debate responses

1180(ah). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Sports, Recreation and Youth Affairs what is the usual length of time taken for the Minister to respond to matters raised during the adjournment debate in the House.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The adjournment debates in the Legislative Assembly play an important role where members raise matters for Ministers which they consider require attention.

If there is a particular adjournment debate matter which relates to my portfolio that you are seeking a response to please feel free to contact me.

Sport, recreation and youth affairs: Kilsyth electorate

1426. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs how much funding, in exact dollars, did recreational clubs and organisations in the electorate of Kilsyth receive from Sport and Recreation Victoria in —

- (1) 2006–07.
- (2) 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Data is not gathered separately for sporting clubs versus recreational clubs as they often overlap in their goals and the opportunities they provide to the community.

The electorate of Kilsyth lies within the local government areas of Maroondah and Yarra Ranges.

For these two Local Government areas combined, the expenditure was as follows:

- (1) **2006-2007** = 26 Clubs totalling \$ 25,548.80
- (2) **2007-2008** = 29 Clubs totalling \$ 28,889.00

Sport, recreation and youth affairs: Kilsyth electorate

1427. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs how much funding, in exact dollars, did sporting clubs and organisations in the electorate of Kilsyth receive from Sport and Recreation Victoria in —

- (1) 2006–07.
- (2) 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Data is not gathered separately for sporting clubs versus recreational clubs as they often overlap in their goals and the opportunities they provide to the community.

The electorate of Kilsyth lies within the local government areas of Maroondah and Yarra Ranges.

For these two Local Government areas combined, the expenditure was as follows:

- (1) **2006-2007** = 26 Clubs totalling \$ 25,548.80
- (2) **2007-2008** = 29 Clubs totalling \$ 28,889.00

Public transport: rail — delays

1656. **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport did a track circuit failure occur at Dandenong on 1 December 2008; if so —

- (1) Between what times were train services adversely affected at each location.
- (2) How many Connex Cranbourne line —
 - (a) Passenger Service Requirements were —
 - (i) cancelled;
 - (ii) delayed by more than six minutes zero seconds as a result of the failure;
 - (iii) replaced by buses;
 - (b) non-Passenger Service Requirements were —
 - (i) cancelled;
 - (ii) delayed by more than six minutes zero seconds as a result of the failure;
 - (iii) replaced by buses;
 - (c) empty car workings were —
 - (i) cancelled;
 - (ii) delayed by more than six minutes zero seconds as a result of the failure;
 - (iii) replaced by buses;
 - (d) Maryvale or Bairnsdale freight trains were —
 - (i) cancelled;
 - (ii) delayed by more than six minutes zero seconds as a result of the failure;
 - (iii) replaced by buses.
- (3) How many Connex Pakenham line —
 - (a) Passenger Service Requirements were —
 - (i) cancelled;
 - (ii) delayed by more than six minutes zero seconds as a result of the failure;
 - (iii) replaced by buses;
 - (b) non-Passenger Service Requirements were —
 - (i) cancelled;
 - (ii) delayed by more than six minutes zero seconds as a result of the failure;
 - (iii) replaced by buses;

- (c) empty car workings were —
 - (i) cancelled;
 - (ii) delayed by more than six minutes zero seconds as a result of the failure;
 - (iii) replaced by buses;
- (d) Maryvale or Bairnsdale freight trains were —
 - (i) cancelled;
 - (ii) delayed by more than six minutes zero seconds as a result of the failure;
 - (iii) replaced by buses.
- (4) How many V/Line —
 - (a) Passenger Service Requirements were —
 - (i) cancelled;
 - (ii) delayed by more than six minutes zero seconds as a result of the failure;
 - (iii) replaced by buses;
 - (b) non-Passenger Service Requirements were —
 - (i) cancelled;
 - (ii) delayed by more than six minutes zero seconds as a result of the failure;
 - (iii) replaced by buses;
 - (c) empty car workings were —
 - (i) cancelled;
 - (ii) delayed by more than six minutes zero seconds as a result of the failure;
 - (iii) replaced by buses;
 - (d) Maryvale or Bairnsdale freight trains were —
 - (i) cancelled;
 - (ii) delayed by more than six minutes zero seconds as a result of the failure;
 - (iii) replaced by buses;
- (5) What was the worst delayed scheduled passenger service and for how many minutes was it delayed —
 - (a) Connex; and
 - (b) V/Line.
- (6) What corrective action to the concerned infrastructure has occurred or will occur at Dandenong.

ANSWER:

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

A track circuit failure did occur on 1 December 2008 at Dandenong.

- (1) Between 3.40 p.m. and 5.53 p.m. on the Cranbourne and Pakenham lines.
- (2) (a) (i) 8
 - (ii) 7
 - (iii) 5
- (b) (i) 0
 - (ii) 0

- (iii) 0
- (c) (i) 0
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0
- (d) Maryvale and Bairnsdale freight trains do not use the Cranbourne line.
- (3) (a) (i) 2
 - (ii) 9
 - (iii) 0
- (b) (i) 0
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0
- (c) (i) 0
 - (ii) 1
 - (iii) 0
- (d) Maryvale and Bairnsdale freight trains are not operated by Connex.
- (4) (a) (i) 0
 - (ii) 8
 - (iii) 0
- (b) (i) 0
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0
- (c) (i) 0
 - (ii) 0
 - (iii) 0
- (d) Maryvale and Bairnsdale freight trains are not operated by V/Line.
- (5) (a) The 5.06 p.m. Dandenong to Flinders Street service by 57 minutes.
 - (b) The 12.40 p.m. Bairnsdale to Southern Cross Station service by 76 minutes.
- (6) Two new copper sashes (connections) have been installed between the rails.

Public transport: rail — North Melbourne station

- 1740.** **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — were the new passenger information display screens on platforms one, three and five at North Melbourne station instructing City Loop passengers to change at Flinders Street station rather than Southern Cross station on 28 November 2008; if so —
- (1) Does this involve extra journey time for passengers on weekday afternoons.
 - (2) Are the screens pre-programmed with the information.
 - (3) Can train controllers at Metrol manually alter incorrect or misleading information presented on the screens; if not, how long will a change to the program take and what is the anticipated cost.
 - (4) How will errors be avoided with the new screens that have started to be installed at Richmond station.

ANSWER:

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

Yes.

- (1) Journey times depend on the connection time at Southern Cross Station, the layover or connection time at Flinders Street Station, or the passenger's planned destination.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Richmond Railway Station project scope contains a review of the information to be displayed on the screen which best meets the needs of passengers and a detailed testing program will occur prior to its implementation.

Public transport: rail — Parliament station

1742. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the escalators at the Collins and Bourke Street entrances to Parliament station —

- (1) Did the westernmost escalator between the concourse and platforms one and two break down on the morning of 3 December 2008; if so, when is it expected to return to service.
- (2) How long has the centre escalator between platforms one and two, and three and four on the upper platform been out of service and when is it expected to return to service.
- (3) What service standards apply to the availability of escalators.

ANSWER:

The answer is:

- (1) Yes. It was rectified at 4.00 p.m. on the same day.
- (2) It was out of service from 12 November 2008 and returned to service on 15 December 2008.
- (3) The agreement applicable to escalator service standards relates to the response times of maintenance personnel to attend the site. The response time to call-outs at Melbourne Underground Rail Loop stations is from 15 minutes to 60 minutes.

Public transport: rail — Southern Cross station

1743. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the passenger information display screens on platforms nine, 10, 11 and 12 at Southern Cross station —

- (1) Were the screens displaying incomplete and jumbled information on 28 November 2008; if so, when will Southern Cross Station Pty Limited or its contractor Honeywell rectify deficiencies with the screens.
- (2) Did Connex indicate that there were problems with the screens on its website forum Meet Our Managers dated 11 July 2008.
- (3) What service standards apply to the screens.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) A fault was reported on 28 November 2008 at 5.50 p.m. A Mainco technician attended and could not clear the fault. The fault was escalated to a software technician who reset the screens via a software change and cleared the fault at 8.50 p.m. However, the fault intermittently recurred and was rectified in mid-January 2009.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The service standards that apply to PIDS faults relate to response times for a technician to attend the location. This must be within 12 hours of the fault being reported.

Public transport: train safety

- 1745.** **Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham)** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the safety feature that prevents a train from moving until all doors have been properly closed —
- (1) How many trains on the network currently have the safety feature installed.
 - (2) Will new trains that are ordered have the safety feature installed.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) All suburban trains operating on the electrified network have this safety feature.
- (2) Yes.

Public transport: shire of Yarra Ranges

- 1748.** **Mr HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the submission made by the Shire of Yarra Ranges to the 2009–10 State Budget —
- (1) Has the Minister read the submission.
 - (2) Will the Government include funding to improve railway service frequency along the Lilydale and Belgrave lines to 15 minute off-peak weekday services and 30 minute Sunday evenings in the 2009–10 Budget.
 - (3) Will the Government provide funding to extend bus services and frequencies over weekdays, weekends and evenings in the 2009–10 Budget.
 - (4) Will the Government provide funding for parking upgrades for an additional 150 cars at Lilydale and Mooroolbark railway stations in the 2009–10 Budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed, that as at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

- (1) The submission is currently under consideration, as are all budget submissions.
- (2) All budget submissions are under consideration.
- (3) Bus services are currently being reviewed as part of the Knox/Maroondah/Yarra Ranges bus service review.
- (4) The 2009/10 budget will be released on 5 May 2009.

Roads and ports: pedestrian crossings

- 1758(a).** **Mr HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports has the Government conducted a review of current pedestrian crossing facilities —

- (1) If so —
 - (a) which facilities were reviewed;
 - (b) who conducted the review;
 - (c) when was the review completed; and
 - (d) what recommendations were made.
- (2) If not, when will a review be conducted.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

VicRoads' regional offices undertake annual reviews of the road network to determine the need for new and/or improved pedestrian facilities. Priorities for pedestrian facilities are determined on an annual basis and take into account a range of factors including volumes of traffic and pedestrians, safety, planning and the road environment.

Housing: employment assistance

1781(a). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Housing what programs or facilities does the Government fund to assist recipients of public housing to participate in the workforce.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Complementing the national employment services provided by the Commonwealth Government, the Victorian Government funds the following programs that assist public housing tenants to gain employment:

Public Tenant Employment Program

The Public Tenant Employment Program has introduced social benefit clauses and embedded them in Office of Housing contracts maximising government investment in housing by linking it to employment generation.

The program is also providing accredited vocational training in all areas of skills shortage and in 2008 there were 25 dedicated courses through partnerships with 13 Training organisations and TAFES.

An estimated \$50,000 per month in additional rent revenue is being generated as a result of tenants finding employment through PTEP. The projections are that this has a compound effect for longer term and a flow on effects of a reduction in poverty related disadvantage.

Since January 2005, PTEP has enabled 700 people to gain accredited vocational training.

Since January 2005, PTEP has enabled 450 people to gain private sector, ongoing employment, of those, 70% are still employed.

Of those employed 9% are indigenous, 27% youth, and 8% are construction industry apprenticeships.

This addresses the decline in the number of trade apprenticeships being offered and impacts on the prices quoted for tenders for the cost of building and maintenance work, and puts inflationary pressure on the housing market.

PTEP hosted the first National Forum of State Public Tenant Employment Programs in 2007.

PTEP held its first PTEP awards in 2008. 300 people attended and 50 awards were presented.

Some employment program outcomes reflect supported employment where wages are subsidised by government funded programs. PTEP employment outcomes are genuine ongoing positions in private industry, non government and government agencies, and as such, PTEP is achieving genuinely sustainable employment.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Neighbourhood Renewal is narrowing the gap between 19 of Victoria's most disadvantaged communities and the rest of the State, with each of these communities having relatively high concentrations of public housing. Neighbourhood Renewal is transforming these communities by improving housing, education, employment, health, safety and making government more responsive to local priorities. Neighbourhood Renewal projects are funded for 8 years.

Neighbourhood Renewal has delivered over 5,000 employment opportunities generated via Community Jobs Program, Workforce Participation Program, Community Enterprise, the Employment and Learning Coordinator Network and Public Tenant Employment Program. A recent evaluation of Neighbourhood Renewal has identified that there has been a 12% increase in the number of residents with further education qualifications between 2001 and 2006, and during the same period, unemployment has been reduced by 4%.

Public transport: tram patronage

1783. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) How many passengers on 6 December 2007 and 4 December 2008 validated or revalidated a Metcard —
 - (a) zone one adult onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram;
 - (b) zone one concession onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram;
 - (c) seniors daily onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram;
 - (d) zone one plus two adult onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram;
 - (e) zone one plus two concession onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram;
 - (f) zone two adult onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram;
 - (g) zone two concession onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;

- (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram.
- (2) How many passengers on 6 December 2007 and 4 December 2008 purchased a Metcard —
- (a) zone one adult onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram;
 - (b) zone one concession onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram;
 - (c) seniors daily onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram;
 - (d) zone one plus two adult onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram;
 - (e) zone one plus two concession onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram;
 - (f) zone two adult onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram;
 - (g) zone two concession onboard a —
 - (i) route 6 or 7 tram;
 - (ii) route 75 tram;
 - (iii) route 72 tram.
- (3) How many validations and revalidations of Metcards were made onboard trams on 6 December 2007 and 4 December 2008.
- (4) How many purchases of Metcards were made on 6 December 2007 and 4 December 2008 —
- (a) onboard trams; and
 - (b) at ticket vending machines at tram stops.
- (5) What was the total revenue derived from —
- (a) ticket vending machines at tram stops on —
 - (i) 6 December 2007;
 - (ii) 4 December 2008;

- (b) ticket vending machines onboard trams on —
 - (i) 6 December 2007;
 - (ii) 4 December 2008.
- (6) How many Metcard ticket vending machines were out of service for any period of time —
 - (a) at tram stops on —
 - (i) 6 December 2007;
 - (ii) 4 December 2008;
 - (b) onboard trams on —
 - (i) 6 December 2007;
 - (ii) 4 December 2008.
- (7) What was the cause of each incidence for a ticket vending machine being out of service for any period of time —
 - (a) at tram stops on —
 - (i) 6 December 2007;
 - (ii) 4 December 2008;
 - (b) onboard trams on —
 - (i) 6 December 2007;
 - (ii) 4 December 2008.

ANSWER:

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

Within the question, the Member has made 57 separate requests for information. Researching and extracting the data required to respond to the question would require significant time and resources. As such, the resources required to extract the data cannot be justified at this time.

Sport, recreation and youth affairs: sports grants

1791. Mr DELAHUNTY to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs what are the details of any grants provided to local government authorities to improve sporting facilities in 2006–07 and 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

There are a number of Victorian Government funding programs that are provided through local government authorities to improve sporting facilities. In some instances projects are funded out of more than one program.

The Community Facilities Funding Program helps provide high quality, accessible community sport and recreation facilities across Victoria.

The Country Football and Netball Program provides funding to assist grass roots country football and netball clubs and umpiring organisations to develop facilities in rural, regional and outer metropolitan locations.

The Drought Relief for Community Sport and Recreation Program and Drought Relief for Country Sports Program provides grants to help local communities to maintain local community sport and develop sustainable approaches to water management of sports grounds and other sport and recreation facilities.

The Synthetic Surfaces Program funds the establishment of artificial sports surfaces in key locations across the State.

The Improving Community Access to VFL Grounds Program is a reinvestment in Victoria's State-level football facilities to ensure the ongoing viability of the States VFL clubs and to increase community access at the VFL club's facilities.

In the 2006-07 funding round over \$27M was allocated to more than 480 projects under these programs.

In the 2007-08 funding round over \$47M was allocated to more than 440 projects under these programs.

Public transport: buses — Mildura

1806. Mr CRISP to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to V/Line's contract for bus services in and out of Mildura —

- (1) Does the contract contain a no competition clause.
- (2) What is the term of the contract.
- (3) When is the contract up for renewal.

ANSWER:

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

(1) No.

(2-3)

The start dates for these contracts vary from 1992 to 2000.

The existing V/Line road coach contracts are due to expire on 30 June 2010.

The existing V/Line marketed bus services are currently operating on a month to month basis.

Public transport: V/Line services

1811. Mr NORTHE to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to V/Line services in 2007-08 in the Eastern, North Eastern, Northern, Western and South Western regions —

- (1) How many V/Line senior tickets (as opposed to pensioner or other concession tickets) were sold in each region from Monday to Friday.
- (2) How many V/Line senior tickets (as opposed to pensioner or other concession tickets) were sold in each region from Saturday to Sunday.
- (3) How many V/Line senior tickets (as opposed to pensioner or other concession tickets) were purchased for peak services in each region from Monday to Friday.
- (4) How many V/Line senior tickets (as opposed to pensioner or other concession tickets) were purchased for peak services in each region from Saturday to Sunday.
- (5) How many V/Line senior tickets (as opposed to pensioner or other concession tickets) were purchased for off peak services in each region from Monday to Friday.
- (6) How many V/Line senior tickets (as opposed to pensioner or other concession tickets) were purchased for off peak services in each region from Saturday to Sunday.
- (7) What is the average V/Line senior ticket purchase price for each region.
- (8) What is the average V/Line full fare ticket purchase price for each region.

ANSWER:

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

(1–7)

There is no “senior” ticket type sold by V/Line. Victorian Seniors Card holders are entitled to purchase concession tickets. Other groups, such as children, students and Australian Health Care Card holders, are also entitled to purchase concession tickets. The information requested specifically in relation to senior tickets is therefore not available.

(8) Information regarding the average full fare ticket purchase price per region is not available, as this information is not captured on a region by region basis.

Public transport: rail — ticket validation

1861. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) In January 2008 how many ticket validations occurred at railway stations for —
 - (a) adult Metcard tickets; and
 - (b) concession Metcard tickets.
- (2) In January 2009 how many ticket validations occurred at railway stations for —
 - (a) adult Metcard tickets; and
 - (b) concession Metcard tickets.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) (a) 6,247,538
- (b) 2,377,952
- (2) (a) 6,299,154
- (b) 2,168,293

Public transport: rail — patronage

1862. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport what has been the percentage impact on patronage in relation to cancelled train services for January 2009 compared to January 2008.

ANSWER:

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

Patronage changes are a result of many complex factors. Information in relation to public transport performance can be viewed online at <www.transport.vic.gov.au/trackrecord>.

Public transport: rail — compensation applications

1863. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport as at 3 February 2009 how many applications for compensation have been received by Connex in relation to its January offer to holders of weekly or longer duration Metcards.

ANSWER:

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

Connex advises that as at 3 February 2009, 45 compensation claims had been processed.

Public transport: rail — metropolitan network

1873. Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham) to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) What decisions have been made by the Government and/or Connex since 1999 in relation to track maintenance or replacement which have led to the failure of the metropolitan train network at peak times.
- (2) What programs does the Government and/or Connex have in place to protect the metropolitan train network at peak times during the next spate of high temperatures.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Decisions are made in accordance with the Infrastructure Lease signed by Connex, which prescribes its responsibilities for the maintenance and renewal of the Melbourne metropolitan rail network.
- (2) Connex has undertaken works and implemented processes to minimise the risk of service disruption. One example is that trains are powered between peak times to retain their cooler air temperature, reducing service delays and cancellations due to the need to re-cool the trains.

Connex has ongoing arrangements with various bus operators for contingency transport during planned and unplanned disruptions. The complexity of these plans depend upon a number of factors including the type of contingency, event location, expected attendance, expected travel patterns of passengers, including destination and peak movement times, bus fleet availability and alternative transport options.

All transport operators work together during a disruption and may reroute trams, trains, buses or move staff to the areas of need while concurrently managing normal operation.

Education: Hurstbridge Primary School — principal

1880. Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Education with reference to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's case against former Hurstbridge Primary principal Margaret U'ren —

- (1) Does the Department have a role in mediating such cases.
- (2) What role does the Department have in communicating with the subject of a complaint regarding information relating to the process and content of the complaint.
- (3) What is the average length of time of a Department investigation of this type.
- (4) What role does the Department have in providing support to a person under investigation by the Department.
- (5) Has the manager of Northern Metropolitan Region ever spoken to Margaret U'ren regarding the case.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is following established guidelines, which have been published on the Department's website, as it endeavours to finalise this matter.

Education: Hurstbridge Primary School — enrolment

1881. Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Education how many students were enrolled at Hurstbridge Primary School in —

- (1) 2008.
- (2) 2009.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) 527
- (2) Enrolment details are not publicly available until the 2009 Census data has been uploaded.

Public transport: rail — Belgrave line

1883. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the Belgrave heavy rail line —

- (1) How many sleepers were identified as needing replacement in —
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008.
- (2) How many sleepers were replaced in —
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008.
- (3) How many crucial points and crossings (where trains switch tracks) were identified as needing replacement in —
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008.
- (4) How many crucial points and crossings (where trains switch tracks) were replaced in —
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008.
- (5) How much track ballast was identified as needing replacement in —
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008.
- (6) How much track ballast was replaced in —
 - (a) 2007;
 - (b) 2008.

ANSWER:

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

Details of the Belgrave heavy rail line have been provided from Ringwood to Belgrave. The information is collated and reported by financial year.

- (1) Sleepers identified as needing replacement in —

- (a) 2006/2007–146
 - (b) 2007/2008–26
- (2) Sleepers replaced in —
- (a) 2006/2007–340
 - (b) 2007/2008–26
- (3) Crucial points and crossings identified as needing replacement in —
- (a) 2006/2007– Full reconstruction–1
Partial reconstruction–Nil
 - (b) 2007/2008– Full reconstruction–Nil
Partial reconstruction–5
- (4) Crucial points and crossings replaced in —
- (a) 2006/2007– Full reconstruction–1
Partial reconstruction–Nil
 - (b) 2007/2008– Full reconstruction–Nil
Partial reconstruction–5
- (5) Track ballast identified as needing replacement in —
- (a) 2006/2007– 40 m³
 - (b) 2007/2008– 55 m³
- (6) Track ballast replaced in —
- (a) 2006/2007–305 m³
 - (b) 2007/2008–185 m³

Public transport: free travel

1922. Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham) to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the announcement of free public transport on 30 January 2009 what was the increase or decrease in the number of passengers who used public transport on that day.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Ticket vending machines and validators gather data on the number of passengers using the transport system. The number of passengers cannot be determined as it is normal practice to turn off the majority of these machines on free travel days so that passengers do not purchase or validate their tickets.

Health: hospitals — emergency department admissions

1926. Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health —

- (1) What is the number of patients not admitted to wards from emergency departments within 24 hours for —
 - (a) 2006–07;

- (b) 2007–08;
 - (c) July–December 2008; and
 - (d) January–February 2009.
- (2) What was the number of patients at each individual hospital with an emergency department not admitted to a ward from the emergency department within 24 hours for —
- (a) 2006–07;
 - (b) 2007–08;
 - (c) July–December 2008; and
 - (d) January–February 2009.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to emergency departments is collected in order to report publicly on a 6 monthly and annual basis.

The Your Hospitals publication gives details of the total number of emergency department attendances by individual hospitals. It also shows the proportion of admitted patients who are transferred to a bed within 8 hours.

The current report as well as copies covering previous years of Your Hospitals is available at www.health.vic.gov.au/yourhospitals.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions

- 1930.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in —
- (1) 2005.
 - (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission were

- (1) 71.9 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 68.1 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — central east area

- 1952.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Central East Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —
- (1) 2005.
 - (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Central East Adult Mental Health Service were

- (1) 84.5 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 76.9 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Dandenong area

1953. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Dandenong Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Dandenong Adult Mental Health Service were

- (1) 72.2 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 66.4 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — inner south-east area

1954. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Inner South East Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Inner South East Adult Mental Health Service were

- (1) 79.0 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 78.4 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — inner urban east area

1955. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Inner Urban East Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Inner Urban East Adult Mental Health Service were

- (1) 73.6 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 72.4 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — inner west area

1956. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Inner West Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Inner West Adult Mental Health Service were

- (1) 66.7 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 67.0 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — mid-west area

1957. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Mid West Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Mid West Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 76.9 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 64.8 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — middle south area

1958. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Middle South Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Middle South Adult Mental Health Service were

- (1) 76.3 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 79.0 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — north-west area

1959. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the North West Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the North West Adult Mental Health Service were

- (1) 73.4 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 71.2 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — north-east area

1960. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the North East Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the North East Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 85.1 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 78.7 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — northern area

1961. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Northern Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Northern Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 79.9 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 70.7 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — outer east area

1962. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Outer East Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Outer East Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 77.5 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 69.1 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — peninsula area

1963. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Peninsula Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Peninsula Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 63.3 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 62.0 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Barwon area

1965. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Barwon Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Barwon Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 55.3 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 63.2 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Gippsland area

1966. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Gippsland Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Gippsland Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 77.1 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 72.2 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Glenelg area

1967. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Glenelg Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Glenelg Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 63.5 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 55.8 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Goulburn and southern area

1968. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Goulburn and Southern Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Goulburn and Southern Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 72.8 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 67.3 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Grampians area

1969. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Grampians Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Grampians Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 59.0 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 56.6 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Loddon Campaspe-southern Mallee area

1970. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Loddon Campaspe/Southern Mallee Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Loddon Campaspe/Southern Mallee Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 72.6 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 61.3 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — north-eastern Hume area

1971. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the North Eastern Hume Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the North Eastern Hume Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 60.6 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 54.3 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — northern Mallee area

1972. **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Mental Health what percentage of acute inpatient admissions in the Northern Mallee Adult Mental Health Service Area were involuntary in —

- (1) 2005.
- (2) 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of acute inpatient admissions that had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the Northern Mallee Adult Mental Health Service were:

- (1) 55.2 per cent in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 47.8 per cent in the calendar year 2008.

Roads and ports: Wantirna Road, Ringwood — pedestrian crossing

1976. **Mrs VICTORIA** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports will there be a pedestrian crossing installed on Wantirna Road in front of the Waldreas Lodge Retirement Village in Heathmont in order to assist those living at and visiting the Village.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Proposals for improvement projects are considered on a state-wide and region-wide basis with regard to the objectives of the Government's planning, transport and road safety strategies.

Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road, Cheltenham — red light camera

1978. **Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham)** to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to the letter dated 30 January 2009 from Brendan Facey, Director Policy and Strategic Services, Infringement Management and Enforcement Services, Department of Justice, addressed to Jean Laphorne regarding the red light camera at the intersection of Bay Road and Nepean Highway which stated that VicRoads considers the length of the amber light phase to be safe and appropriate for this intersection and is a similar arrangement to many other intersections around Melbourne — to which intersections does this 'similar arrangement' refer.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Requests for information on intersections having similar amber timing allowances fall within the portfolio of the Minister for Roads and Ports.

Roads and ports: Port of Melbourne Corporation — channel deepening project

1982. **Dr NAPHTHINE** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the advertising campaign conducted by the Port of Melbourne Corporation regarding the Channel Deepening Project — between 1 July 2008 and 31 March 2009 —

- (1) How much has been spent on radio advertising.
- (2) How much has been spent on television advertising.
- (3) How much has been spent on newspaper advertising.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This advertising campaign has been fully funded by the Port of Melbourne Corporation.

Roads and ports: Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, Park Orchards — speed limit

1985. **Mr SMITH (Warrandyte)** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports what information, data, research or advice was used to justify the lowering of the speed limit from 70 kilometres per hour to 60 kilometres per hour on the Ringwood-Warrandyte Road, between Milne Road and Falconer Road in Park Orchards.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

All speed limit changes are assessed against the Speed Zoning Guidelines prepared by VicRoads.

Changes are assessed balancing the needs of safety and mobility, taking into account the surrounding land use and other factors.

Water: Waranga Basin

2007. **Mr WALSH** to ask the Minister for Water since 1989 what were the estimated annual yields harvested out of the Goulburn River downstream of Eildon into the Waranga Basin.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The estimated annual yields harvested from the Goulburn River downstream of Eildon into Waranga Basin since 1989 are provided in the table below

Water Year	Annual Harvest (GL)
1989–90	370
1990–91	438
1991–92	588
1992–93	395
1993–94	428
1994–95	500
1995–96	662

1996–97	399
1997–98	312
1998–99	536
1999–00	515
2000–01	590
2001–02	434
2002–03	239
2003–04	614
2004–05	659
2005–06	499
2006–07	74
2007–08	174

Environment and climate change: Crown land — bee sites

2009. **Mr WALSH** to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change what are the names and locations of all bee licence sites situated on Crown land to have been cancelled by government agencies since 1990.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Sustainability and Environment’s electronic databases were in their infancy in the early 1990s and it is possible not all the public land bee sites available at that time were included into the electronic databases.

The Victorian Apiarists Association has identified in the vicinity of 400 sites that have been removed from production over the last two decades. They have agreed to provide details of these sites to the Department of Sustainability and Environment and to date have provided the details and locations of 58 sites.

I am pleased that this effort by the Association will enable the Department of Sustainability and Environment to review the sites against the relevant policy settings, with a view to reinstating sites that are or can be made to be policy compliant.

This co-operative work by the Victorian Apiarists Association and Government agencies such as the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Department of Primary Industries and Parks Victoria is very important, particularly given the losses experienced by beekeepers as a result of the major fires over recent years.

Water: Goulburn Murray irrigation system

2010. **Mr WALSH** to ask the Minister for Water with reference to water losses in the Goulburn Murray irrigation system for the 2008–09 irrigation season —

- (1) What is the cumulative total of water losses to 31 January 2009.
- (2) What were the estimated total water losses at the start of the season.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The cumulative total of Goulburn Murray Irrigation District (GMID) water losses this season up to end January 2009 was 198 930 megalitres.

- (2) The estimated total of GMID water losses for the whole season when the initial allocation was made on 15 September 2008 was 356 100 megalitres.