

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**3 November 1999**

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## **The Governor**

His Excellency the Honourable Sir JAMES AUGUSTINE GOBBO, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

Professor ADRIENNE E. CLARKE, AO

## **The Ministry**

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Minister for Local Government, Minister for Workcover and Minister assisting the Minister for Transport regarding Roads . . . . .	The Hon. R. G. Cameron, MP
Minister for Community Services . . . . .	The Hon. C. M. Campbell, MP
Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts. . . . .	The Hon. M. E. Delahunty, MP
Minister for Environment and Conservation and Minister for Women's Affairs. . . . .	The Hon. S. M. Garbutt, MP
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Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. . . . .	The Hon. K. G. Hamilton, MP
Attorney-General, Minister for Manufacturing Industry and Minister for Racing. . . . .	The Hon. R. J. Hulls, MP
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Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Youth Affairs and Minister assisting the Minister for Planning . . . . .	The Hon. J. M. Madden, MLC
Minister for Gaming, Minister for Major Projects and Tourism and Minister assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs. . . . .	The Hon. J. Pandazopoulos, MP
Minister for Housing, Minister for Aged Care and Minister assisting the Minister for Health . . . . .	The Hon. B. J. Pike, MP
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*Assembly* — Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

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**FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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**Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees:** The Hon. J. M. MADDIGAN

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Mrs Peulich, Mr Phillips, Mr Plowman, Mr Richardson, Mr Savage, Mr Seitz

**Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Premier:**

The Hon. S. P. BRACKS

**Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Deputy Premier:**

The Hon. J. W. THWAITES

**Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. D. V. NAPHTHINE

**Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. LOUISE ASHER

**Leader of the Parliamentary National Party:**

The Hon. P. J. McNAMARA

**Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary National Party:**

Mr. P. J. RYAN

Member	District	Party	Member	District	Party
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Andrianopoulos, Alex	Mill Park	ALP	Lenders, John Johannes Joseph	Dandenong North	ALP
Asher, Ms Louise	Brighton	LP	Lim, Hong Muy	Clayton	ALP
Ashley, Gordon Wetzel	Bayswater	LP	Lindell, Ms Jennifer Margaret	Carrum	ALP
Baillieu, Edward Norman	Hawthorn	LP	Loney, Peter James	Geelong North	ALP
Barker, Ms Ann Patricia	Oakleigh	ALP	Lupton, Hurtle Reginald, OAM, JP	Knox	LP
Batchelor, Peter	Thomastown	ALP	McArthur, Stephen James	Monbulk	LP
Beattie, Ms Elizabeth Jean	Tullamarine	ALP	McCall, Ms Andrea Lea	Frankston	LP
Bracks, Stephen Philip	Williamstown	ALP	McIntosh, Andrew John	Kew	LP
Brumby, John Mansfield	Broadmeadows	ALP	Maclellan, Robert Roy Cameron	Pakenham	LP
Burke, Ms Leonie Therese	Prahran	LP	McNamara, Patrick John	Benalla	NP
Cameron, Robert Graham	Bendigo West	ALP	Maddigan, Mrs Judith Marilyn	Essendon	ALP
Campbell, Ms Christine Mary	Pascoe Vale	ALP	Maughan, Noel John	Rodney	NP
Carli, Carlo	Coburg	ALP	Maxfield, Ian John	Narracan	ALP
Clark, Robert William	Box Hill	LP	Mildenhall, Bruce Allan	Footscray	ALP
Cooper, Robert Fitzgerald	Mornington	LP	Mulder, Terence Wynn	Polwarth	LP
Davies, Ms Susan Margaret	Gippsland West	Ind	Napthine, Dr Denis Vincent	Portland	LP
Dean, Dr Robert Logan	Berwick	LP	Nardella, Donato Antonio	Melton	ALP
Delahunty, Hugh Francis	Wimmera	NP	Overington, Ms Karen Marie	Ballarat West	ALP
Delahunty, Ms Mary Elizabeth	Northcote	ALP	Pandazopoulos, John	Dandenong	ALP
Dixon, Martin Francis	Dromana	LP	Paterson, Alistair Irvine	South Barwon	LP
Doyle, Robert Keith Bennett	Malvern	LP	Perton, Victor John	Doncaster	LP
Duncan, Ms Joanne Therese	Gisborne	ALP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	Bentleigh	LP
Elliott, Mrs Lorraine Clare	Mooroolbark	LP	Phillips, Wayne	Eltham	LP
Fyffe, Mrs Christine Ann	Evelyn	LP	Pike, Ms Bronwyn Jane	Melbourne	ALP
Garbutt, Ms Sherryl Maree	Bundoora	ALP	Plowman, Antony Fulton	Benambra	LP
Gillett, Ms Mary Jane	Werribee	ALP	Richardson, John Ingles	Forest Hill	LP
Haermeyer, André	Yan Yean	ALP	Robinson, Anthony Gerard Peter	Mitcham	ALP
Hamilton, Keith Graeme	Morwell	ALP	Rowe, Gary James	Cranbourne	LP
Hardman, Benedict Paul	Seymour	ALP	Ryan, Peter Julian	Gippsland South	NP
Helper, Jochen	Ripon	ALP	Savage, Russell Irwin	Mildura	Ind
Holding, Timothy James	Springvale	ALP	Seitz, George	Keilor	ALP
Honeywood, Phillip Neville	Warrandyte	LP	Shardey, Mrs Helen Jean	Caulfield	LP
Howard, Geoffrey Kemp	Ballarat East	ALP	Smith, Ernest Ross	Glen Waverley	LP
Hulls, Rob Justin	Niddrie	ALP	Spry, Garry Howard	Bellarine	LP
Ingram, Craig	Gippsland East	Ind	Steggall, Barry Edward Hector	Swan Hill	NP
Jasper, Kenneth Stephen	Murray Valley	NP	Thompson, Murray Hamilton	Sandringham	LP
Kennett, Jeffrey Gibb <sup>1</sup>	Burwood	LP	Thwaites, Johnstone William	Albert Park	ALP
Kilgour, Donald	Shepparton	NP	Trezise, Ian Douglas	Geelong	ALP
Kosky, Ms Lynne Janice	Altona	ALP	Viney, Matthew Shaw	Frankston East	ALP
Kotsiras, Nicholas	Bulleen	LP	Vogels, John Adrian	Warmambool	LP
Langdon, Craig Anthony Cuffe	Ivanhoe	ALP	Wells, Kimberley Arthur	Wantirna	LP
Languiller, Telmo	Sunshine	ALP	Wilson, Ronald Charles	Bennettswood	LP
Leigh, Geoffrey Graeme	Mordialloc	LP	Wynne, Richard William	Richmond	ALP

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 3 November 1999



# CONTENTS

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## WEDNESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 1999

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMISSION .....	1
SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS .....	1
ELECTION OF SPEAKER.....	2
PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER TO GOVERNOR .....	3
OPENING OF PARLIAMENT .....	3
RESIGNATION OF MEMBER .....	4
CONDOLENCES	
<i>William Laurence Floyd, OBE</i> .....	4
<i>Gordon Francis Stirling</i> .....	7
<i>Frederick Peter McLellan</i> .....	11, 17
<i>Adjournment</i> .....	26
DISTINGUISHED VISITOR .....	17
COMMISSION TO SWEAR MEMBERS .....	26
MINISTRY .....	27
SHADOW MINISTRY .....	27
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	
<i>Independents charter: ALP response</i> .....	28
<i>Rural Victoria: government policy</i> .....	28, 30
<i>Parliament: ALP commitment</i> .....	29
<i>Auditor-General: powers</i> .....	29
<i>Dairy industry: deregulation</i> .....	29
<i>Budget: ALP commitment</i> .....	31
<i>Rural Victoria: coalition policy</i> .....	31
NOTICES OF MOTION .....	33
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE	
<i>Auditor-General's office</i> .....	34
<i>Auditor-General</i> .....	34
<i>Environmental accounting and reporting</i> .....	34
ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE	
<i>Pedestrian accidents</i> .....	34
SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE	
<i>Redundant and unclear legislation</i> .....	35
BLF CUSTODIAN	
<i>44th report</i> .....	35
PAPERS .....	35
ADMINISTRATION AND PROBATE (STATUTE LAW REVISION) BILL	
<i>Introduction and first reading</i> .....	41
GOVERNOR'S SPEECH	
<i>Address-in-reply</i> .....	42
CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES .....	49
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	
<i>Adjournment</i> .....	50
<i>Proclamation dates</i> .....	50
APPOINTMENT OF SERJEANT-AT-ARMS .....	50

## ADJOURNMENT

<i>Malvern Central School</i> .....	50
<i>Drugs: Footscray methadone clinic</i> .....	51
<i>Scoresby freeway</i> .....	51
<i>Smoke alarms</i> .....	52
<i>Fishing: recreational licences</i> .....	53
<i>Electricity industry: Basslink</i> .....	53
<i>Police: Melton station</i> .....	54
<i>Responses</i> .....	54



**Wednesday, 3 November 1999**

**OPENING OF PARLIAMENT BY  
COMMISSION**

Proceedings commenced 11.00 a.m. by Clerk reading His Excellency the Governor's proclamation convoking Parliament.

Usher of the Black Rod appeared at Bar and announced that Senior Commissioner appointed by the Governor to open Parliament (the Honourable John Harber Phillips, AC, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria) requested attendance of Legislative Assembly members in Legislative Council chamber to hear commission read for commencement and holding of present session of Parliament.

Honourable members, accompanied by chief officers of house, proceeded to Legislative Council chamber.

On return of members to Legislative Assembly chamber, the Honourable Justice John Spence Winneke entered chamber and was conducted to chair by Serjeant-at-Arms.

**SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS**

Commission appointing the Honourable Justice John Spence Winneke to administer oath and affirmation of allegiance to members of Legislative Assembly read by Clerk.

Clerk announced receipt of returns of two writs issued by His Excellency for election of 88 members to serve for electoral districts set out below and endorsed to show election of following members:

District	Member
Albert Park	Johnstone William Thwaites
Altona	Lynne Janice Kosky
Ballarat East	Geoffrey Kemp Howard
Ballarat West	Karen Marie Overington
Bayswater	Gordon Wetzal Ashley
Bellarine	Garry Howard Spry
Benalla	Patrick John McNamara
Benambra	Antony Fulton Plowman
Bendigo East	Jacinta Marie Allan
Bendigo West	Robert Graham Cameron
Bennettswood	Ronald Charles Wilson
Bentleigh	Inga Peulich
Berwick	Robert Logan Dean
Box Hill	Robert William Clark

District	Member
Brighton	Louise Asher
Broadmeadows	John Mansfield Brumby
Bulleen	Nicholas Kotsiras
Bundoora	Sherryl Maree Garbutt
Burwood	Jeffrey Gibb Kennett
Carrum	Jennifer Margaret Lindell
Caulfield	Helen Jean Shardey
Clayton	Hong Muy Lim
Coburg	Carlo Carli
Cranbourne	Gary James Rowe
Dandenong	John Pandazopoulos
Dandenong North	John Johannes Joseph Lenders
Doncaster	Victor John Perton
Dromana	Martin Francis Dixon
Eltham	Wayne Phillips
Essendon	Judith Marilyn Maddigan
Evelyn	Christine Ann Fyffe
Footscray	Bruce Allan Mildenhall
Forest Hill	John Ingles Richardson
Frankston	Andrea Lea McCall
Frankston East	Matthew Shaw Viney
Geelong	Ian Douglas Trezise
Geelong North	Peter James Loney
Gippsland East	Craig Ingram
Gippsland South	Peter Julian Ryan
Gippsland West	Susan Margaret Davies
Gisborne	Joanne Therese Duncan
Glen Waverley	Ernest Ross Smith
Hawthorn	Edward Norman Baillieu
Ivanhoe	Craig Anthony Cuffe Langdon
Keilor	George Seitz
Kew	Andrew John McIntosh
Knox	Hurtle Reginald Lupton
Malvern	Robert Keith Bennett Doyle
Melbourne	Bronwyn Jane Pike
Melton	Donato Antonio Nardella
Mildura	Russell Irwin Savage
Mill Park	Alex Andrianopoulos
Mitcham	Anthony Gerard Peter Robinson
Monbulk	Stephen James McArthur
Mooroolbark	Lorraine Clare Elliott
Mordialloc	Geoffrey Graeme Leigh

District	Member
Mornington	Robert Fitzgerald Cooper
Morwell	Keith Graeme Hamilton
Murray Valley	Kenneth Stephen Jasper
Narracan	Ian John Maxfield
Niddrie	Rob Justin Hulls
Northcote	Mary Elizabeth Delahunty
Oakleigh	Ann Patricia Barker
Pakenham	Robert Roy Cameron Maclellan
Pascoe Vale	Christine Mary Campbell
Polwarth	Terence Wynn Mulder
Portland	Denis Vincent Naphthine
Prahran	Leonie Therese Burke
Preston	Michael Andrew Leighton
Richmond	Richard William Wynne
Ripon	Jochen Helper
Rodney	Noel John Maughan
Sandringham	Murray Hamilton Ross Thompson
Seymour	Benedict Paul Hardman
Shepparton	Donald Kilgour
South Barwon	Alister Irvine Paterson
Springvale	Timothy James Holding
Sunshine	Telmo Languiller
Swan Hill	Barry Edward Hector Steggall
Thomastown	Peter Batchelor
Tullamarine	Elizabeth Jean Beattie
Wantima	Kimberley Arthur Wells
Warrandyte	Phillip Neville Honeywood
Warnambool	John Adrian Vogels
Werribee	Mary Jane Gillett
Williamstown	Stephen Philip Bracks
Wimmera	Hugh Francis Delahunty
Yan Yean	André Haermeyer

Members except honourable member for Burwood, who was not present, took and subscribed either oath or affirmation of allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Commissioner withdrew.

## ELECTION OF SPEAKER

**Mr BATCHELOR** (Minister for Transport) — I move:

That Mr Alex Andrianopoulos be appointed Speaker.

I have no hesitation in recommending Alex Andrianopoulos as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I believe the nomination, if carried, would produce a very fine and impartial Speaker for this important session of Parliament.

**Mr THWAITES** (Minister for Health) — I second the motion.

**Mr ANDRIANOPOULOS** (Mill Park) — I accept the nomination and express my deep sense of honour at being proposed as Chair.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Clerk declared honourable member for Mill Park duly elected as Speaker.**

**Mr Andrianopoulos conducted to chair by proposer and seconder.**

**The SPEAKER (Hon. Alex Andrianopoulos)** — Mr Premier, Leader of the Opposition and honourable members: it is with great honour and humility that I accept your nomination as Speaker of the house. I feel I have been a blessed human being. I was first honoured when Australia accepted me as a migrant and subsequently granted me citizenship. The people of Mill Park, and prior to that the people of St Albans, saw fit to accord me a second honour by electing me as their representative in Parliament.

You, my colleagues, have today seen fit to put me in the chair. I understand the enormity of the job. I appreciate that a Speaker must be impartial at all times and uphold the traditions of the Westminster system. Another essential quality in trying to do the job, particularly now that Parliament is so evenly balanced between the parties and the Independents, is that of commonsense. A long time ago one of my school teachers, a Mr Stan Hope, dubbed me a reasonable man. I hope I can live up to the standard and to the tag that I am a reasonable man because I believe, over the coming weeks, months and years, I will be called upon many times to make a fair and rational judgment. I pledge that I will do my best to achieve that aim.

**Mr BRACKS** (Premier) — On behalf of Parliament and the Labor Party I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election. You said your schoolteacher dubbed you a reasonable man. Any honourable member who knows of your efforts and work as the member for Mill Park will agree with that comment. You have conducted yourself impartially, both in the position of Acting Speaker and in your dealings with honourable members from all sides. I have nothing but praise for your election as Speaker. You have my pledge that the

government will respect the Westminster system and adhere to the principles of your judgments. We look forward to working closely with you in the future.

**Dr NAPHTHINE** (Leader of the Opposition) — On behalf of the opposition I also congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your nomination, selection and elevation to the high office of Speaker. It is a great tribute to your personal qualities and to the electors of Mill Park. On behalf of the opposition I pledge that we will work with you in a cooperative and sensible way to ensure an effective Parliament for all Victorians.

**Mr McNAMARA** (Leader of the National Party) — I join with my colleagues the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in congratulating you on your appointment. It is a great honour to you personally and it recognises the role of migrants in the Victorian community over a long period. It was probably last century that a migrant was previously in the Chair, and most likely that person had a background similar to that of my great grandparents rather than one from another part of Europe. Honourable members recognise the work you have done as both an Acting Speaker and an Acting Chairman of Committees. They also recognise that this will be a difficult period for you because Parliament is finely balanced. It will require commonsense from the Chair to ensure that Parliament operates effectively and the views of the Victorian public are expressed fairly in the chamber.

I wish you every success in the position, a role I am sure you will fill well. On behalf of the National Party I congratulate you on your elevation to such a senior position.

**Mr COOPER** (Mornington) — Mr Speaker, I join with other honourable members in congratulating you and wishing you well in your task as Speaker in what has already been referred to as a finely balanced house. I am sure the role will be testing and one that, from time to time, you will probably wish you had not taken on. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, opposition members pledge to cooperate with you and hope your role will be a happy and fruitful one.

As you will recall, between 1992 and 1996 you and I were members of the Public Bodies Review Committee. When one is a member of a joint parliamentary committee one gets to know well people on the other side of Parliament. Mr Speaker, prior to 1992 you and I had not got to know each other well, but between 1992 and 1996 I came to appreciate what your teacher said about you — that is, that you are a fair man. I am sure you will carry that on in your role as Speaker over the next term of Parliament. I again

congratulate you and express the hope that your term as Speaker will be happy and fruitful.

**Mr BATCHELOR** (Minister for Transport) — Mr Speaker, I join with all honourable members in congratulating you on your election. I felt great pride in having the honour of nominating you for such an important position. Having an adjoining electorate and having worked closely with you, I know as well as anybody in this chamber how thorough, thoughtful and considerate you will be as Speaker. I look forward to your administering this house impartially and fairly in the years ahead. I sincerely join with everybody here in congratulating you. I am elated. It is a great result.

**Mr BRACKS** (Premier) — Mr Speaker, I have to inform the house that I have ascertained that His Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive the Speaker in the library, Parliament House, this day at 2.10 p.m. I would like as many members as possible to assemble in the library at 2.05 p.m. to accompany the Speaker.

**Sitting suspended 11.55 a.m. until 2.32 p.m.**

**The SPEAKER resumed chair and read prayer.**

## PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER TO GOVERNOR

**The SPEAKER** — I desire to inform the house that this day I presented myself to His Excellency the Governor as the choice of the Legislative Assembly and that His Excellency was pleased to address me in the following terms:

Mr Speaker,

I have pleasure in congratulating you on your election to the high and important office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

The able manner in which you have discharged the duties you have undertaken during your parliamentary career is recognised by members of the Legislative Assembly who, in their wisdom, have selected you as Speaker.

I have confidence that you will fulfil the duties of the distinguished office and hold fast to its traditions and customs.

Sir James Gobbo, AC  
Governor of Victoria

## OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

**Usher of the Black Rod brought message from His Excellency the Governor desiring attendance of honourable members in Legislative Council chamber.**

**Members, led by Speaker, proceeded to Council chamber.**

**Sitting suspended 2.38 p.m. until 5.07 p.m.**

## RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

**The SPEAKER** — Order! I advise the house that I have received a letter dated 3 November from the honourable member for Burwood, the Honourable J. G. Kennett, MLA, which states:

I wish to inform you of my decision to retire from the Victorian Parliament effective from today's date, Wednesday, 3 November 1999.

This has been a very difficult decision after 23 years of parliamentary service, while representing the citizens of my electoral district of Burwood.

My decision follows a long tradition by former Liberal premiers Bolte, Hamer and Thompson who, on identifying their successors, immediately retired from the Parliament.

I believe there is merit in that tradition being continued.

It has been a great honour to have served as a Victorian parliamentarian.

I leave having served in many positions within the Parliament, the last seven years as Premier of this great state.

I remain very proud of the new Victoria that we have all created, and hope that the confidence, quality and growth that now exists continues into the future.

To the staff of the Parliament, my electorate assistant, Sue Green, my personal staff while in office and the wonderful members of the Victorian public service I thank them for their friendship, professionalism and service over many years.

To my Liberal colleagues, former and present, I thank them for the faith that they have placed in me to lead the party for the best part of 16 years.

To all parliamentarians, I wish you the very best in your deliberations on behalf of the people of Victoria.

I leave you enormously proud of our achievements over the years, but prouder still of the state of Victoria and its people.

I remain convinced there is no greater service than public service.

For now, have a good day.

Regards,

Jeff Kennett

## CONDOLENCES

**William Laurence Floyd, OBE**

**Mr BRACKS (Premier)** — I move:

That this house expresses its sincere sorrow at the death of William Laurence Floyd and places on record its acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Williamstown from 1955 to 1973.

William Laurence Floyd, known as Larry, was born on 13 July 1908 at Broken Hill, New South Wales. Following a long illness he passed away peacefully on 6 October at the age of 92. He was the only son of William and Jessie. His father was a miner in Broken Hill. After attending Broken Hill Central School he finished his schooling at Williamstown, which became his home, and began his long association with its people. He was apprenticed as a compositor and worked for various organisations before entering Parliament.

From a young age Larry was a devoted football fan and player. In 1924 he played in the seconds for the Williamstown Football Club. His lifelong association with the club continued after his playing days — he was secretary for a total of nine years between 1935 and 1949 — and later the club named the Floyd Pavilion after him. Several times I had the privilege of visiting Larry as a former member for Williamstown at his home in Verdon Street. The meticulous records he kept on the football club were second to none — they were well kept in his lounge room, and anyone who knew him would know the detail he went into — and the club has benefited from his donation of those records, photographs and other memorabilia of his period as secretary. They are now housed at the club's headquarters. That is a lesson for all honourable members on the meticulous side of Larry Floyd's nature.

Larry's love of football led him to become the first full-time secretary of the Carlton Football Club, a position he held for five years. He also had an interest in the history of Williamstown and was the founding member and president of the Williamstown Historical Society. His desire to help Williamstown residents began long before his election to Parliament. As a Williamstown city councillor he was the first local politician to fight for a Yarra crossing. His campaign for a crossing over or under the lower Yarra River began in 1945 and eventually led to the building of the West Gate Bridge. He was once quoted as saying, 'I can look back and remember that I had something to do with it'.

In 1955 Larry was elected to the Victorian Parliament as the member for Williamstown. He continued to serve the people of the electorate in that capacity until 1973, the year he was awarded an OBE. He served as a

member of the Public Works Committee from 1964 to 1973, the Subordinate Legislation Committee from 1955 to 1961, and the House and Printing committees. He was secretary of the parliamentary Labor Party from 1961 to 1970. He retired from parliamentary life in April 1973, having served the constituents of Williamstown loyally for 18 years.

On behalf of the government, I extend my condolences to Larry's surviving family and his many friends in the Williamstown area.

**Dr NAPHTHINE** (Leader of the Opposition) — I rise to add my condolences on the passing of William Laurence Floyd, the member for Williamstown from 1955 to 1973.

Larry served Parliament as a member of many committees: the Public Works Committee from 1964 to 1973, the House and Printing committees from 1953 to 1964, and the Subordinate Legislation Committee from 1955 to 1961. He had a broad commitment to Parliament and the many aspects of parliamentary life.

As the Premier said, Larry Floyd was born on 13 July 1908 at Broken Hill, New South Wales, and died at the age of 92 — a wonderful record. He was educated first at Broken Hill Central School and later at Williamstown State School.

Prior to entering Parliament he was a compositor apprenticed to Renwick Pride. Mr Floyd came to this place from the Government Printing Office. He was actively involved as a board member of the Printing Industry Employees Union.

As the Premier said, Mr Floyd's great love was football, particularly the Williamstown and Carlton football clubs. Mr Floyd commented in the *Williamstown Advertiser* of 28 March 1984:

I love football, it's in my blood. I don't know why.

The article further states:

In 1924, wearing the colours blue and yellow, the slow half-forward (they're his words) played for Williamstown seconds ...

Mr Floyd's greatest contribution to the Williamstown Football Club was through his role as an administrator — secretary of that club and later of the Carlton Football Club.

In addition to keeping meticulous records he wrote a history of the Williamstown Football Club and the Victorian Football Association which is also a social commentary on the VFA and on Melbourne of the

period. Mr Floyd will be well remembered for his contribution.

The Premier mentioned Mr Floyd's love of research and keeping things in order. There is a story about Larry Floyd: at one stage he was doing some research in the parliamentary library and locked himself into a cubbyhole — still there today — off the stairway. He was still there some hours later when Parliament shut down and found he could not get out so had to ring for someone to come back to Parliament House to let him out. That story demonstrates his dedication and love for the research he was doing.

Larry Floyd was a traditional member of Parliament and a traditional Labor Party member — a great servant of the local community. He was involved in the local football club, the Williamstown and Footscray District Cricket Association and the Williamstown Historic Association. He was also a member of the State Relief Committee.

Before entering Parliament he was also a Williamstown councillor. Good sources have advised me that one of the reasons he joined the council was to get a better deal for the Williamstown Football Club. It was the force that drove him into local government, then to state politics. That says a lot about traditional members of Parliament from that era.

It is with regret that we acknowledge the passing of Larry Floyd. I pass on my deepest sympathy and that of the Liberal Party to his surviving family and friends.

**Mr McNAMARA** (Leader of the National Party) — I join the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in the condolence motion for Larry Floyd.

I am surprised that Larry was 92, because I can remember him coming back to visit Parliament even in recent years. He regularly attended the former members group that met here and was a great friend of people such as Carl Kirkwood, Gordon Stirling and others whom members would know well. After their meetings, if you were anywhere near them, it was pretty hard to get past without being offered a complimentary glass of port.

Mr Floyd was an affable character. His involvement with the Carlton Football Club shows that he was a person of impeccable taste in football, and I compliment him on that. As we know, he gave 18 years service to the Victorian Parliament and was a character very much of the traditional Labor school: a person from a blue-collar background who was passionate about Labor politics at the grassroots level. Some of those characters have been lost over the years.

As we have heard, Larry Floyd's passion was football, and he particularly loved the Williamstown and Carlton football clubs. His ideal species would have been a blue seagull. He came from a strong trade union town, having been born and bred in Broken Hill, and that obviously had an influence on him, determining his politics at an early age. He proceeded to make a long contribution to this Parliament.

I do not think anyone in Parliament today served with him, but those of us who met him when he visited found him to be an affable individual who was interested in talking about the history of politics and football or about the other interests he had in life.

On behalf of the National Party I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in extending my condolences to the members of his surviving family.

**Ms KOSKY** (Minister for Post Compulsory Education, Training and Employment) — I join with other honourable members in expressing my sorrow and the sorrow of the people of Altona at the passing of Larry Floyd. Many honourable members will know that the Legislative Assembly seat of Altona was created in the 1992 redistribution and that formerly much of my electorate was represented by previous members for Williamstown.

The people of Altona speak in glowing terms of Larry Floyd. Although I did not know him personally, he is well remembered in the Altona community. As have many other members of this place, he demonstrated strong links with his local council before moving on to become a member of Parliament. He also had strong links with football.

I have a story about Larry and his interest in research. He undertook detailed research of the Williamstown Football Club and on one occasion visited the parliamentary library to type out football results from the various newspaper articles he found dealing with the club. He kept all that information under his bed because he was worried that no one else would treat it with the same respect. Just before his health deteriorated he passed on a lot of the information to Bruce Davidson, the Parliamentary Librarian, who is now considering how it should be looked after and eventually passed on to organisations that are interested in the history, such as the football club and the City of Hobsons Bay.

Along with other honourable members, I pass on my condolences to the family of Larry Floyd.

**Mr BATCHELOR** (Minister for Transport) — I join with all members of the house in expressing my

condolences to the family and friends of the late Larry Floyd on his recent passing. Larry Floyd was born on 13 July 1908 and died on 12 October 1999. He was known as Mr Williamstown. He was a councillor for the former City of Williamstown from 1945 to 1962, a total of 17 years. In 1953 he was made a justice of the peace and in 1973 he was awarded an Order of the British Empire.

As honourable members have already said, he was a fanatical football fan. He was interested in football not only at the senior level, as secretary of the Carlton Football Club, but also at the local level, as is evident from his membership of the Williamstown Football Club. He was secretary of the club in the late 1930s. He was a keen historian and was a member and secretary of the Williamstown Association during the 1940s.

Larry was a compositor by trade, worked at the former Government Printing Office and became a member of the Printing Industry Employees Union.

He was a keen fighter for the resolution of the access problems experienced in crossing the Yarra River by people living in the west of Melbourne. As early as 1945 he was instrumental in campaigning for a crossing over or under the lower Yarra River. Although the final decision was to build a bridge, Larry originally wanted a tunnel under the Yarra River because he thought it would be the best way of solving the problem. At that time the ferry was expensive to operate and as a local councillor he was acutely aware of the problem. It is interesting to reflect on whether he would still be strongly in favour of a tunnel given the success of the West Gate Bridge and the contemporary problems with other tunnels being built to alleviate traffic problems.

He supported the final recommendations of the then Public Works Committee in 1955 for a bridge across the river because it would be more economical. For many years he was proud to look back at the success of the bridge.

In conclusion, I acknowledge how close a friend and companion he was of the late Gordon Stirling.

**The SPEAKER** — I join with honourable members in expressing my sorrow at the passing of William Laurence Floyd. Although I did not know him as well as many other honourable members, I knew of him, and as a number of members have said, he was held in the highest regard by his local community. He served for a long period with distinction. I express my condolences to his family at his passing.

## Gordon Francis Stirling

**Mr BRACKS** (Premier) — I move:

That this house expresses its sincere sorrow at the death of Gordon Francis Stirling and places on record its acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Williamstown from 1973 to 1988.

Gordon Stirling was born in Geelong on 28 December 1924. He died at the Werribee Mercy Hospital on 11 June this year at the age of 74. He was the son of Gordon and Manuella. His father was a fisherman and Gordon shared his love of the sea. Given Williamstown's rich maritime history it was appropriate that he went on to represent the Legislative Assembly electorate of Williamstown.

Gordon grew up during the depression and as a teenager witnessed the strangely profound impact that the Second World War had on a country geographically distant from the conflict. Gordon was too young to serve his country at that time, and his decision to join the Royal Australian Navy would have been tied to the strong sense of patriotic duty we associate with Australians of his generation. He served in Korea, and left the navy as a petty officer after 12 years. He married Betty on 8 April 1950. They had two children, a daughter, Kay, and a son, David, who is now deceased. Following his departure from the navy he worked as an oil refinery operator. His interest in the welfare of co-workers led to his active involvement in the union movement. He became an official of the Federated Storeman and Packers Union. He was also secretary of the Altona Workingmen's Club and became a life member.

Gordon joined the Australian Labor Party in 1962. He was the classic Labor man, a true believer, whose politics was on the far left of the political spectrum. He was proud to be a member of both the Australia-USSR Friendship Society and the Congress for International Cooperation and Disarmament. He entered Parliament as the member for Williamstown in May 1973.

Gordon was an active local member who took great pride in Williamstown. He was involved in numerous local organisations, including the Williamstown Historical Society and the Williamstown branch of the Returned and Services League, and he was a member of the Williamstown Hospital board. Gordon was also a member of the Altona Historical Society and the Yarraville Club.

Gordon was regarded as a gentleman by all who knew him. However, any attempt to denigrate his beloved

Williamstown would provoke a spirited defence. He would not allow his civic pride in Williamstown to be undermined. He was indignant when, while representing the former SEC at an appeals hearing before the environment protection appeals board, Mr George Griffith, QC, described the Newport–Williamstown–Altona area as 'sordid'. Gordon responded by taking a journalist from the *Herald Sun* on an historic boat cruise around Williamstown to prove otherwise.

His depth of feeling could also be aroused whenever the union movement came under fire from his conservative opponents. On one occasion in the house Gordon was named by the Speaker for his heated response to such an attack. Fortunately he calmed down and avoided being evicted from the chamber — something you would appreciate, Mr Speaker. I am sure you will show the same tolerance.

Gordon Stirling served on the Public Works Committee from 1976 to 1982 and the Salinity and Printing committees from 1974 to 1983. Given his background, it is not surprising that he took a particular interest in water quality. He was a member of the Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences board and took part in the national marine pollution monitoring pilot program. Unfortunately the lure of the sea exacted a personal toll on Gordon when, on a sampling cruise for the program, he sustained head injuries during a bout of heavy weather.

Gordon retired from parliamentary life in 1988, having loyally served the constituents of Williamstown for 15 years. It should be noted that, as a past member of Parliament, Gordon also met regularly with Larry Floyd, to which the Leader of the National Party will attest. They were often seen in the Parliament, and they also had regular monthly meetings in Williamstown with other friends and associates. They kept up that association throughout their retirements.

On behalf of the government I extend condolences to Gordon Stirling's family, including his wife Betty and daughter Kay and her family.

**Dr NAPHTHINE** (Leader of the Opposition) — I support the condolence motion moved by the Premier. Gordon Francis Stirling served as the member for Williamstown from 1973 to 1988. He served on the Public Works Committee from 1976 to 1982, the Salinity Committee from 1982 to 1985, and the board of the Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences from 1976 to 1986. As the Premier has said, those facts highlight Mr Stirling's commitment to and understanding of issues relating to water quality, the sea and the

management of Victoria's water resources. That was appropriate, given his representation of the electorate of Williamstown.

Mr Stirling also served for 12 years in the Royal Australian Navy. In that time he undertook active duty in the Korean campaign as a petty officer. It is important that Parliament acknowledges those members who have served in the armed forces, particularly in campaigns such as the Korean War. The number of honourable members who have seen active service is decreasing. Today's honourable members are more removed than their predecessors from the contributions those people made, whether in the Second World War, the Korean War or the Vietnam War. Active service represents a high level of service to the community, and that reflects well on Gordon Francis Stirling in particular and the house in general.

Mr Gordon Stirling was born in Geelong on 28 December 1924 and died on 11 June 1999. As the Premier said, he was a quintessential member of the Labor Party in the traditional mould. He was a former official of the Federated Storeman and Packers Union and was heavily involved in a number of labour and associated organisations. As the Premier also outlined, he was named by the then Speaker when the then Minister for Labour and Industry, Mr Ramsay, attacked the trade union movement, suggesting that standover tactics had been employed in a particular activity. That riled Mr Stirling, who objected vehemently, joined by his colleague Bill Fogarty. It took some argument from Bob Fordham, the then manager of opposition business, and the Premier of the day, Sir Rupert Hamer, to have the motion to name Mr Stirling withdrawn so that his unblemished record remained intact. That incident shows that Mr Stirling was passionate about his commitment to the union movement and all the issues associated with it.

As the Premier said, Gordon Stirling was the secretary of the Altona Working Men's Club, subsequently becoming a life member. He was a member of the Australia-USSR Friendship Society. He also served on the board of the Williamstown Hospital and was a member of the Williamstown branch of the Returned and Services League, the Williamstown Historical Society, the Altona Historical Society and the Yarraville Club, which shows his broad range of community interests.

Mr Stirling served the house and his community well. On behalf of the members of the Liberal Party, I pass on our condolences to his wife, Betty, his daughter, Kay, and his two grandchildren.

**Mr McNAMARA** (Leader of the National Party) — I join with the Premier and Leader of the Opposition in supporting the condolence motion for Gordon Stirling. I served with Gordon during my first six and a half years in this place. As both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition have said, he was one of those characters with strong passions and fierce loyalties, and like those characters, if he did not get on with people he was fierce about that as well.

One group that many honourable members will remember — and Gordon was certainly one of them — included Carl Kirkwood, the then honourable member for Preston; Bill Fogarty, the then Deputy Speaker; Tommy Edmunds, the then Speaker; and Neil Trezise and Frank Wilkes, who were both Labor government ministers. They were very close, and they all had military service backgrounds, which was one of the common bonds they shared. They were a little to the right of Bruce Ruxton on many issues. While we have talked about Mr Stirling's association with the Soviet Union, the group probably had more conservative views on many social issues than Bruce might have expressed! They were all outgoing and engaging characters. Regardless of what side of the political fence you were on, once you got to know them you were welcome to join them for a cup of coffee or a social drink.

I remember on a number of evenings being invited into the Speaker's or the Deputy Speaker's chamber to discuss the events of the day or the week. In that company they would clearly put their views on either members of my side or their own colleagues in the only fashion in which they could express them! Gordon was probably one of the more moderating influences compared with the others in the group. They often sat in the dining room at a table that was meant to seat only six.

All of them were blue-collar Labor people who felt passionately about people from working-class backgrounds, because they believed those people were what Labor was all about. They often talked in disparaging terms about chardonnay socialists. All of them were people you could not help but warm to, and although we came from different backgrounds, we got on famously.

**Mr Batchelor** interjected.

**Mr McNAMARA** — It was red wine, actually. Gordon was proud of his naval background. As members have heard, he served for 12 years in the Royal Australian Navy as a chief petty officer — in fact he was a gunnery officer, as he used to tell us regularly.

He went on to become a trade union organiser with the Storemen and Packers Union, building links with people such as Bill Landeryou. Those links continued when they served in Parliament together.

He also believed in the importance of the family. I remember him telling us how he bought two blocks of land, one for his son and one for his daughter, in the hope that they would have something to start their married lives by building homes on. His son went to live in London. Before he unfortunately died about 10 years ago he used to regularly send back videos on what was happening politically in the United Kingdom so Gordon could be kept up to date. When Australian Football League games were played over there, he sent back videotapes of the action for Gordon's enjoyment.

Those members of Parliament who served with Gordon — and there are a number — will remember him fondly.

I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in extending my condolences and those of the National Party to his family.

**Ms KOSKY** (Minister for Post Compulsory Education, Training and Employment) — I, too, join with my parliamentary colleagues in expressing sincere sorrow at the death of Gordon Stirling and gratitude for the valuable services he has rendered to this Parliament.

Gordon, like Larry Floyd, was very concerned about the people of Altona, having represented a large section of the electorate now known as Altona when he was the honourable member for Williamstown. He served the Legislative Assembly in the electorate of Williamstown from May 1973 until 1 August 1988, a period of 15 years.

He was born in Geelong in 1924 and died on 11 June of this year in the Werribee Mercy Hospital. He lived in Altona and had a strong involvement with and commitment to the local community. I attended his funeral along with other honourable members, past and present, of this Parliament and parliamentary staff.

At his funeral people spoke glowingly and lovingly of Gordon and reflected on some of the antics he used to get up to. Some honourable members will know his close colleagues Joan Coxsedge and Bill Fogarty, two of the people who attended the funeral. Both of them enjoyed telling a few stories at the end of the service.

The local newspapers commemorated Gordon in the weeks following his death. They relayed quite a few stories to the people of Altona and Williamstown.

As we have heard, Gordon had a real interest in the sea. It began with his father and was reflected in his joining the navy. He had a continuing interest in maritime history as well as in the numerous organisations with which he was involved.

Gordon married Betty on 8 April 1950 and they had two children, one now deceased. At Gordon's funeral his family spoke very lovingly of him. He was a strong family man as well as a good leftie, as many of us would say.

He was on the left in politics and was a staunch unionist, becoming an official of the Federated Storemen and Packers Union. He was proud to say that he was a member of the Australia-USSR Friendship Society as well as the Congress for International Cooperation and Disarmament. He would have been significantly ribbed by others in politics for those strong associations.

He was secretary of the Altona Workingman's Club and became a life member. That club is important to the community of Altona. It links in well with the Altona community and many of us use it for a range of different functions and activities. The car park is always full on Friday and Saturday nights. Gordon had a strong involvement with the club.

He was also a member of the Altona Historical Society and was one of those who built up the written history of Altona. Prior to that the history of Altona had always been considered — with apologies to the Premier — part of the history of Williamstown. The people of Altona are proud of their own history.

I join my parliamentary colleagues in extending my condolences to the family of Gordon Stirling, his wife, Betty, and daughter, Kay, and to their families.

**Mr SMITH** (Glen Waverley) — I wish to offer my condolences to the family of Gordon Stirling.

When I entered this house in 1985 Gordon, the other honourable members mentioned earlier and Tom Austin from the Liberal side of the house were all strong in their support of returned servicemen like me. It was a bond that had built up and it went beyond politics.

All of them were extremely vocal men. Gordon Stirling, Bill Fogarty, Tom Austin and Tom Edmunds were all keen to push the idea of freedom — an idea going out of fashion at the time — and particularly the freedoms they had fought so hard to keep for Australia.

As well as that, they were men who understood. Gordon was the leader, the wise old force behind them, the one who would ensure loyalty and similar values were given back to the Parliament. They were anxious to make the point that loyalty must be given doubly from the top down; that only in that way will a person gain the respect that is necessary to give loyalty upwards.

The values Gordon espoused will make his family proud. People who knew Gordon and his team gained an affinity with him. Gordon and his group at all times stressed that it is possible for people to forget about the freedoms we have and how easily they can be forgotten.

I extend my condolences to Gordon's family and friends.

**Mr BATCHELOR** (Minister for Transport) — I join with honourable members from both sides of the chamber in expressing condolences at the death of Gordon Stirling.

Gordon Stirling was born in December 1924 and died in June of this year. I knew him when I had the honour to be secretary of the Labor Party during part of the time he was the honourable member for Williamstown.

Gordon had a reputation for being a quietly spoken man with a droll, dry sense of humour. There were, however, a number of things about which he was passionate, and several honourable members have referred to those matters.

My memory of Gordon Stirling is that he was deeply passionate about the sea. He contributed to the development of an effective national marine pollution monitoring program and also to studies of Bass Strait. He took part in a sampling cruise for the national marine pilot monitoring program in which data was collected to ensure the compilation of accurate maps — substructures were measured; textures, sediments and rocks were properly collected and stored; and the sea floor was photographed.

Because of his passion for the sea, which was so important to him as the honourable member for Williamstown, Gordon Stirling was a member of the Royal Australian Navy for 12 years, during which time he served in Korea.

He was also passionate about Labor politics and trade unions. As was said earlier, he was an official and a life member of the Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia, and he was prepared to defend trade unions in the chamber when they were under attack —

even to the extent of being threatened with being named and thrown out.

The last passion of his that I observed involved the friends he made in this Parliament. As the Leader of the National Party said, he was one of a close group of members of Parliament who socialised with and supported each other in Parliament, in the Labor Party and in the community. Personal relationships between parliamentarians are not common these days. Relationships between parliamentarians are now much more professional, so parliamentarians do not often form deep, genuine and friendly relationships. Despite being a quietly spoken man Gordon was passionate in defending the friendships he made during his time in this Parliament, and after his retirement he maintained those friendships through the former parliamentarians association.

I join all honourable members in expressing my condolences to his wife, family and friends.

**Mr COOPER** (Mornington) — I join other honourable members in expressing my condolences at the death of Gordon Stirling.

When I came to Parliament in 1985 I was confronted by an interesting group of people who took the chair, not the least of whom, of course, was the former Speaker, Tom Edmunds. The Acting Speakers, including Gordon Stirling and Carl Kirkwood, and the Deputy Speaker, Bill Fogarty, were a fearsome group. If I remember correctly my first seat in the chamber was the one in which the honourable member for Monbulk is now sitting, so I was in their firing line, and — although I am a quiet, shy and retiring type of person I tended to interject on occasion. As has been mentioned, Gordon Stirling was a gentleman, and one could honestly say that he was a calming influence on the people I have referred to. Although on occasion they may not have appreciated that calming influence, it was necessary from time to time because when people like Bill Fogarty and Carl Kirkwood get their heads together — sometimes over a drink or two — anything can happen. Some things I have witnessed inside and outside the chamber may become a chapter in my book — I am sure one of the things I witnessed will be!

Gordon Stirling was a person who never stepped out of line in the chamber, and he was a stickler for seeing that the right thing was being done. I can say that as an Acting Chairman of Committees and an Acting Speaker he upheld the dignity of Parliament, which is reflected in the remembrances of him we have heard today.

I had an interesting conversation on naval history with Gordon over a long period — it continued for several months. From time to time the new members in the house will be called upon to present the Victorian flag to institutions in their electorates, and when they do they will find that the significance of the flag lies in its history. The official history of the flag is that it was first flown on board HMVS — Her Majesty's Victorian ship — *Nelson*. As it sailed down the bay the dignitaries on board gave three hearty cheers as the flag was hauled up the flagpole and, I assume, also threw their hats in the air — as they did in those times. It all sounds very grand.

Like many honourable members I regaled various audiences in my electorate with that story. However, after I referred to the story during debate in the chamber Gordon said to me, 'That is wrong, and I can tell you why'. His knowledge of naval and maritime history was significant. When he told me that pieces of HMVS *Nelson* were still to be found in and around Williamstown I became even more interested in his re-telling of history. He told me that it was his aim to have the official history rewritten so that it was absolutely accurate.

Gordon Stirling was a man of many parts — he was a man of dignity and he was a man of culture. I extend my condolences to his family.

**Mr BRUMBY** (Minister for State and Regional Development) — I join with other honourable members in expressing my condolences to the family of Gordon Stirling.

Although I did not know him well, I first met Gordon in 1978 when I was the Labor candidate for the seat of Midlands in central Victoria. At that time a succession of members of the state parliamentary Labor team and shadow ministers visited the Midlands electorate in the hope of winning it. We did not win the seat in 1979, but we went close. Because I could not win the seat I went to Canberra! Gordon Stirling visited the electorate on a number of occasions.

He was a fine man who made a long-term contribution to the ALP. As other speakers have remarked today, he was a person with a great sense of decency; he was quiet and punctual; and he was careful with detail.

In the end I saw more of Gordon Stirling in the federal electorate of Midlands than I expected to due to the fact that Bill Fogarty used to visit the area during the time he was the shadow Minister for Agriculture. On the first visit Bill turned up at about 7.30 a.m., which was pretty early for me — I was only a young fellow at that

stage. We made a series of visits around the electorate and at about midday Bill said, 'Johnny, I've got to go down to Golden Square to catch up with a bloke there. I'll be back in an hour'. I sat at campaign headquarters and watched 2 o'clock, 3 o'clock and 4 o'clock come and go while Bill caught up with a few of his mates at the Golden Square Hotel!

The second time Bill came the same thing happened. I spoke to a few people in the Labor Party — Tom Roper and others — and they suggested I should invite Gordon Stirling along as well. After that, on every occasion when Bill Fogarty came to visit Bendigo and the Midlands electorate Gordon Stirling came with him. Under that arrangement Bill would arrive at 8 o'clock in the morning and would not catch up with his mates at the Golden Square Hotel until 4.00 p.m. I have always been indebted to Gordon Stirling for that. Like other honourable members today, I express my sincere condolences to his family and friends.

**The SPEAKER** — The Chair joins with honourable members on both sides of the house in expressing sorrow at the passing of Gordon Francis Stirling. I had the pleasure of serving with Gordon between 1985 and 1988. As was said earlier, Gordon was indeed a character, albeit the quietest of characters, in that group affectionately known as the Shellbacks. Gordon had the most admirable loyalty, particularly to his electorate, the Labor Party and his friends. Woe betide anyone who made disparaging remarks about any of the Shellbacks! Gordon served his constituency well, and he also served this country well as a serviceman. I express my condolences to his wife, Betty, and his daughter, Kay.

### **Frederick Peter McLellan**

**Mr BRACKS** (Premier) — I move:

That this house expresses its sincere sorrow at the death of Frederick Peter McLellan and places on record its acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Frankston East from 1992 to 1999.

Peter McLellan was born on 20 October 1942 and died suddenly and regrettably of a heart attack in the early hours of Saturday, 18 September 1999, the day of the Victorian state election. He was only 56 years of age.

Peter entered Parliament as the elected member for Frankston East in October 1992, and will be remembered for his integrity. Peter was a straight shooter; an honest man who became an outstanding politician. His re-election slogan, which he lived up to and which appeared around the electorate, was 'the

People's Pollie'. Peter was committed to helping people and was a tireless worker for his constituents. His demanding work regime no doubt took a toll on his physical wellbeing and contributed to his untimely death.

The son of Frederick and Catherine McLellan, Peter was raised on a housing commission estate in East Reservoir in an area known locally as Little Chicago. In his inaugural speech to Parliament, Peter recalled it as 'a rough and tumble estate where several of the residents alternated between their home addresses and the bluestone college at Coburg'!

Peter was educated at the Holy Name Catholic Primary School in East Preston and at Taylor's College. He left school at age 15 to take up an apprenticeship at the Rhodes Motor Company. He later worked as a laboratory assistant at Melbourne University before joining the army in 1961 at the age of 19. He served in Malaysia, Thailand and in 1966–67 with the 2nd Field Ambulance as a medical orderly.

After returning from Vietnam, Peter met his future wife, Trish Foley, in Queensland. When they married he left the army and drifted through a number of jobs, including being a port emergency service ambulance driver, a part-time tow-truck driver and a car repairer, before joining the RACV as an on-road patrolman — which was when I understand his association with the honourable member for Mornington started. He served in that capacity in two stints for about seven years before becoming a small businessman running wrecking and used-car yards. Peter was very proud that he was never taken before the fair trading tribunal in any matters associated with those businesses.

At home Peter was notorious for his commentaries on the state of the world when he watched the evening news. He eventually took up the challenge issued by his eldest daughter, Leanne, to do something about it and joined the Liberal Party in 1990. Peter rose through the ranks to become the vice-president of the Hastings branch of the Liberal Party from 1991 to 1992 and delegate to Flinders, Mornington and South Eastern electorate committees during the same period.

Peter was preselected for the seat of Frankston East in August 1991. He won the seat by the narrowest of margins — 0.2 per cent — in the 1992 election, and — as many members on this side of the house remember — in 1996 he increased that margin to 3.2 per cent. We felt that very keenly on election night that year. It is a credit to Peter that he was able to do that because of his significant personal support.

Although Peter was known as a bit of a loner in this place, he determined early in his parliamentary career that he would make his presence count. His interest in road safety led him to become a member of the Road Safety Committee in 1992. Peter's outlook on life was shaped by an upbringing in a socially depressed working-class area. He had great empathy with the underdog and a strong social conscience. Peter became an effective voice for the needs and concerns of the people of Frankston East.

Peter's opposition to the previous government on a number of issues ultimately led to his resignation from the Liberal Party on 24 July 1998. As honourable members know, for Peter this was a matter of conscience and a decision he never regretted taking. I remember — as many members would — the anguish Peter went through before he made that decision when he was considering the Auditor-General's legislation and the difficulty he had in accommodating the wishes of his party on that matter. I believe that led ultimately to his decision to resign from the party of which he had been a member. Peter's courageous stance garnered him a great deal of admiration and respect from a large number of fellow parliamentarians and the public at large.

Peter was also an energetic anti-drugs campaigner who opposed the harm-minimisation approach adopted by most governments and was in favour of harsher sentences for traffickers and a police crackdown.

Following his resignation from the Liberal Party, Peter immersed himself even more deeply in his electorate and in constituency matters. He was a strong supporter of the disabled and a fighter for environmental issues. Mr Frank McCrohan, president of the Vietnam Veterans Association, remembers Peter as:

... level headed, with both feet on the ground. He was big on looking after Vets and getting them involved in local community projects. He could get above politics and his arguments were always well thought out and rational. He was a man of extremely strong principles.

Peter was the foundation president of the Frankston sub-branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association. He was a Legatee, a Catholic and a Freemason. He was also a member of the Mornington Peninsula Pistol Club and a member of the committee of management and appointed delegate to the Victorian Pistol Association in 1981. Peter was the chief range officer of the Victorian Pistol Association and a member of the Frankston RSL club and the Frankston Football Club VFA. As all honourable members can attest, Peter was also a keen bowler here at Parliament House.

On behalf of the government, I extend condolences to the family of Peter McLellan, including his wife Trish, son Richard, daughters Leanne and Maree, and their families, and to the friends of Peter McLellan, who are many and spread far and wide.

**Dr NAPHTHINE** (Leader of the Opposition) — I support the condolence motion moved by the Premier. Peter McLellan was known personally to many of us in this house. His premature and sudden passing was a great shock to us all and led to a period of great sadness for all those who knew him.

Peter McLellan served this Parliament as the member for Frankston East from October 1992 until his untimely death on 18 September this year. He was first elected in October 1992 by a very small margin of about 129 votes — one of the smallest margins in that election. It was always considered that he would be what is called in this Parliament a *oncer* — many times people said that Peter McLellan would serve only one term in this Parliament because Frankston East was naturally more of a Labor than a Liberal constituency. But Peter McLellan won the seat again in March 1996, with an increased majority.

With due respect to the Liberal Party and the Premier at the time, that increased majority came from Peter's hard work and personal vote in the electorate. We have just spoken on condolence motions for two former members for Williamstown, who were described as typical Labor members of the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and even into the 1980s. Peter McLellan could hardly be described as a typical Liberal member of Parliament — indeed, he was atypical of Liberal Party members of Parliament. I think that was one of the keys to his success in Frankston East and in this house. He was true to himself and to his origins, and he certainly contributed in a positive way with passion and commitment to the causes he held dear.

As has been said, he was a member of the Road Safety Committee from 1992. Road safety was one of his passions. I remember well the number of lectures I got from Peter McLellan about the need to regulate the tow-truck industry — and he succeeded in that. It will be his lasting legacy that the tow-truck industry, which had been deregulated, was regulated again largely because of the work of Peter McLellan. New members of the house who sit on the back benches in government or opposition and wonder what a backbencher can do given what is often considered to be an executive-driven government can look to what Peter McLellan did to see what they can do in their local electorates and statewide to make a real difference.

Peter McLellan enlisted in the army and served in Malaysia and Thailand from 1963 to 1966 and in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967 as a medical orderly in the field ambulance division. That also says something about Peter McLellan — he was always there to help those in need.

When I was researching the history of Peter McLellan I looked at his inaugural speech in this house. It says a lot about what concerned Peter, what he was committed to and what he sought to deliver. When one reads his inaugural speech one sees that the issues he raised were based on his own history. As the Premier said, he talked about growing up in East Reservoir, going to the Holy Name Catholic Primary School in East Preston and Taylor's College and leaving school at the age of 15, when he went off to do an apprenticeship. He talked about how, through that process of growing up in East Reservoir and the Preston area, he understood and had an affinity with the people of the Pines in his electorate.

He said in his inaugural speech that when he doorknocked in the Pines he was absolutely appalled by the standard and condition of a number of the houses that were owned by the housing ministry at that time and provided for families to live in. He said that in his inaugural speech and pursued it. I know the Minister for Housing in the first Kennett coalition government, the Honourable Rob Knowles, was on a number of occasions dragged down to the Frankston East electorate, shown houses and told he had better get on and do something about them and fix the situation. The Honourable Ann Henderson, the Minister for Housing in the second Kennett coalition government, was similarly dragged down there on a number of occasions by Peter McLellan to fix what were seemingly small individual problems in houses in his electorate. He was committed to helping those in most need.

In his inaugural speech Peter talked also about education, but he talked about it in a different way from the way many people talk about it. He talked about the need to maintain good schools — with which all of us would agree — and raised particular examples of school maintenance that was needed. But he then talked about the need for education to encourage people to think of a diversity of occupations. He used his experience as an example, given that he had left school at the age of 15, had done apprenticeships and had worked in a number of occupations. In this house he said that he wanted people not to have the blinkered view that education through secondary school and into university or other forms of tertiary education was the only way we could help young people.

Peter talked about the need for education to be broad, to cater for technical skills that would encourage apprenticeships and provide people with a broad range of opportunities. He was passionate about technical education, having grown up in 'a difficult area', as he described it. Through his apprenticeship and army training he built a life for himself and his family.

Peter talked about the local economy and small business, and about being a small business operator himself. He talked about those things as being important in providing employment for the constituents of Frankston and Frankston East.

On a number of occasions in 1992 Peter expressed concern about the number of factories and small businesses that had closed in the Seaford-Carrum Downs area. He stressed the need to reopen them to get the economy moving and to provide opportunities for young people in their own local community.

As the Premier said, Peter joined the Liberal Party and got involved in politics after an incident that occurred several years ago. Peter used to get irate while watching television when various politicians — probably from both parties, knowing Peter — came on and commented on different issues. Peter, being a man of directness and action, would say, 'Why don't they do something instead of just talking about it!'. Finally his daughter said, 'Well, why don't you do something, dad? Why don't you get involved?'. So he did. Peter joined the Liberal Party, got involved in the community, won preselection and worked hard to get elected.

In his inaugural speech Peter also spoke about drugs and community violence. He was concerned about safety in the community. He wanted people to feel safe in their own homes and neighbourhoods. Peter believed that people who committed crimes should be appropriately punished by the courts and the authorities.

Peter had a firm view on the drugs issue. He was not soft on drugs. He had a strong commitment to the 'Say no' drug campaign and to vigorously prosecuting people who were peddling drugs. Peter was strongly committed to taking action against those who imported drugs into Australia and he certainly wanted to be strong in telling secondary and primary school students to 'Say no' to drugs.

Peter did not agree with the harm minimisation approach. He had great difficulty with some of the proposals of the former coalition government and the then opposition.

Peter's diverse range of interests gave him a broad base from which to represent the community. He was a former amateur boxer, a former member of the Peninsula Pistol Club, a member of the Committee of Management and appointed delegate to the Victorian Pistol Association. He was the chief range officer of the Victorian Pistol Association, a member of the Frankston RSL and the Frankston Football Club.

As the Premier has said, in Peter's campaign leading up to the election — which unfortunately had to be abandoned because of his death — he promoted himself as the people's pollie. As one of those who attended his funeral, together with members of this house and many members of the Frankston community, one could not help but be impressed by the expressions of support for Peter as an individual, as a hard-working local member, and as a person who was passionate and committed to making Frankston East and Victoria a better place.

In my former role as Minister for Youth and Community Services I recollect Peter having a great personal interest in services for people with intellectual disabilities. He often hammered on my door to ensure that Frankston East families who had children with intellectual disabilities were provided with adequate services. He was a broad-ranging, caring politician. He was truly the people's pollie.

It would be remiss of me not to comment on Peter's resignation from the Liberal Party. Peter McLellan was elected to Parliament as a member of the Liberal Party in 1992, and re-elected in 1996. He resigned from the Liberal Party in July 1998. There are several reasons for his resignation. I do not think he ever fully outlined all the reasons, but they involved the then government's position on the Auditor-General and concerns about the preselection process for Senate positions that took place at about that time.

Peter had a number of concerns about the manner and style of the former government, but it is important to record that he would not have made that decision lightly, and I, and I am sure all members of the Liberal Party, respect him for that decision even though we may have personally disagreed with it.

Through his continued representation of Frankston East as an Independent member of Parliament, Peter worked closely with various ministers to maximise the benefit for his constituents, particularly those in most need. That was always in the forefront of Peter's mind.

I pass on my condolences, and those of the Liberal Party, to Peter's parents, Frederick and Catherine, who

have both survived him; his wife, Trish; his children, Leanne, Maree, and Richard; and his four grandchildren.

**Mr McNAMARA** (Leader of the National Party) — I join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in this condolence motion to Peter McLellan. The house has heard a fair bit about his background. Peter was educated through the Catholic education system and took on an apprenticeship at what would then have been a normal age of about 15 years. Peter also had some experience as a laboratory assistant at Melbourne University and by the age of 19 he was in the Australian Army.

Peter served in a range of areas overseas, including Malaya, Thailand and Vietnam. His range of occupations after he left the army included the tow-truck industry and a second-hand car business and wrecking yard. He was always particularly proud that he had never been brought before the fair trading tribunal, and perhaps few people in that industry can claim the same.

During his time in Parliament Peter raised a number of issues with me as minister. As other honourable members have said, in 1992 he won by the narrowest of margins — 0.2 per cent — a seat he was not expected to win, and in 1996 he managed to increase that margin, again when it was not expected. In debates on firearms ownership he expressed some passionate views on the regulations that should prevail. I am sure the honourable member for Mornington was also lobbied on the same issues.

Peter was active in shooting clubs and organisations, particularly pistol shooting, but he was part of a much broader brotherhood. Equally, he had strong views on the issues that should apply to long arms.

His involvement with the RSL was an obvious one. Peter was instrumental in the establishment of a group of Vietnam veterans in his area and was the group's first president. He was very keen to ensure that those members who had seen active service overseas had a forum to go to and that they were supported by groups such as Legacy.

Peter was involved in a range of community organisations, and he was passionate about his background in boxing. He spoke fondly of his days as an amateur boxer, and I can remember discussing with him the three years that I had at Ambrose Palmers and comparing an amateur gym with a professional gym. I met some interesting people there, including a chap who worked as a human relations consultant for Steve

Crabb, Gerry Fanning, who worked with me on some contracts and has now gone on to other roles. Mr Fanning was instrumental in constructing the grand prix.

Peter had a broad experience of life. Too many people today get into a narrow rut, mix with only one group of people and do not venture out of that group into different areas. One could never say that about Peter. He had a broad range of life experiences and met with people of all sorts — from people with blue-collar backgrounds to parliamentarians. He was involved with the RSL, sporting clubs and other organisations.

Peter was passionate about issues with which he had been associated, and he won the seat of Frankston East for the Liberal Party when no other person could have done so, and not only did he win it, he built on that vote after representing it for one term.

Peter became involved in politics because he felt a sense of frustration about what he saw being done and he wanted to have a say in turning things around. He had an impact on issues with which he was concerned.

I join with the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier in extending the condolences of the National Party to his wife, Trish, and family members.

**Mr SAVAGE** (Mildura) — I contribute to the condolences to show my respect for our former colleague, Peter McLellan. Peter was the honourable member for Frankston East, and he served the Parliament well. I am sure the irony of the supplementary election at Frankston East would not have been lost on Peter. He had a strong sense of conviction and was never afraid to speak his mind or express a strong view. It was a privilege to sit in the house with Peter, and I know he agonised over the changes to the Audit Act. He abstained from the vote when there was a division.

I attended Peter's funeral, as did many of his colleagues, and I was deeply moved by the service. I am sure many of us who attended were unaware of the extent of his community involvement and the issues Peter was involved in. The honourable member for Forest Hill made a significant contribution to the eulogy. Peter's own assessment was that he was the people's pollie, and I believe that is an appropriate description. Peter served well his country, the Parliament, and the people of Frankston East.

Peter's influence was not limited to his own electorate, and most of us would be aware of the hundreds of anti-drug CDs he made available to schools and to some of his colleagues.

I join with other honourable members in expressing my condolences to Peter's family and acknowledging the service he has given this country and this Parliament.

**Mr RICHARDSON** (Forest Hill) — I commenced my remarks at Peter McLellan's funeral by saying that it was a great honour to be asked to speak about my friend, but that it was an honour shrouded in melancholy. I went on to say that my friend Peter McLellan would not have wanted us to be consumed by grief. He would have said something along the lines of, 'Forgive me for my transgressions; remember me for my achievements'.

His achievements were considerable. As has already been established, he was not born with anything resembling a silver spoon anywhere — and certainly not in his mouth. His origins were humble and he was a battler, as were many family members. Peter left school at an early age and commenced an association with the motor trade that continued on and off for most of his life.

Peter served with great distinction in the Australian Army Medical Corps. He travelled to Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam on active service, and I believe I am correct in recalling that he was one of a team of medics sent in after the battle of Long Tan to clean up the bits that were left. He often spoke to me about the horrors of that conflict.

Peter was very good at sport: he was good at running, football and cricket, and he was a very good boxer. He was also pretty good at choosing a winning racehorse. I never took his advice, which was silly of me because he was particularly good.

Peter was also a brilliant photographer; he had an artistic side that not many people knew about. Peter and I had many adventures together, and his camera was always with him. He took some marvellous photographs.

We spent time together on the Road Safety Committee, which I had the honour to chair. Because of his background knowledge of trucks, motor cars, taxis and tow trucks he brought with him a practical experience of the real world that the parliamentary committee was inquiring into. He was the only member who fully understood the reality and the practicalities of the inquiry, and his contribution was substantial.

It is important to refer to Peter's sporting interests, particularly in his electorate, where he was president of various sporting organisations. He had an interest in shooting and was a very good shot. He had a continuing interest in service to his community through the

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia, the RSL, and the anti-drug campaign that he led.

Peter gave a lot to his community, and it is for that reason that he won a seat he should not have been able to win in the first place, and it is for that reason he held it and increased his majority the second time around. The current honourable member for Frankston East might disagree with me, but I believe Peter would have won the seat this time around as well.

Peter McLellan was my friend, and I shall miss him dreadfully. I offer my sympathy to Trish, Leanne, Marie and Richard.

**Ms DAVIES** (Gippsland West) — I wish to add my condolences and note with sadness the passing of Peter McLellan, whom I knew for only a short time.

My first contact with Peter was during the November 1997 debate on the Auditor-General. It was an intense time in Parliament and a time of great community concern, and there was focused debate in the house. Intense meetings took place in corridors and corners and Peter had to make a choice at that time. He faced incredible pressure that I suggest few members in Parliament have ever had to face, and he was prepared to stand alone. I admired him for his preparedness to face that pressure.

From conversations I had with him both during that time and after he became an Independent it was obvious that Peter's war service in Vietnam was still close to him. He was marked by that service in a way that I have found many Vietnam veterans are marked. I found that very sad, as I find his early death very sad.

The third aspect of Peter that I came to know, as we sat up in the Independents corner after mid-1998, was his caninness as a politician and a community campaigner. He had some interesting notions of successful campaign techniques, not all of which were transferable to the other Independents. It was very much his own special style.

I, too, went to Peter's funeral and was moved by the funeral service and the regard in which he was obviously held by his friends, family and community. I also like the term 'people's pollie'. Peter worked hard and served his electorate well. I regard that as high praise indeed. I am sorry for his passing. Peter's children and grandchildren should be proud of his life's achievements. He left his mark, an honourable mark. He is now at peace, and I will remember him.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! It is obvious to the Chair that a number of speakers want to contribute to this

debate. The time being 6.30 p.m. it might be appropriate to adjourn for the dinner break, with debate on the condolence motion continuing at 8 o'clock.

**Sitting suspended 6.32 p.m. until 8.05 p.m.**

**Debate interrupted.**

## DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

**The SPEAKER** — Order! I advise the house that in the gallery this evening we have the Reverend Dr John Davis from St Peter's Anglican church. Members would know that he is one of the parliamentary chaplains.

## CONDOLENCES

### Frederick Peter McLellan

**Debate resumed.**

**Mr COOPER** (Mornington) — I never thought I would be making a speech on a condolence motion for Peter McLellan. I thought Peter McLellan would live to a ripe old age. It is a matter of great personal sadness that I am in this position today.

Peter died just four weeks short of his 57th birthday. That, in light of today's longevity, is far too early, but he has left behind a big family, an extended family, which certainly is grieving deeply at his loss.

I can easily lay claim to having known Peter McLellan far longer than anybody else in this house. I met Peter McLellan back in the mid-1970s, some 25 years ago, when he was an RACV patrolman. In those days my wife's car was not as reliable as the one she drives today, and Peter was a reasonably frequent visitor to our place — looking after my wife's car and getting it going. As a result, a friendship was established. He did not live far from me. He lived in Yewers Avenue in Mount Eliza. A friendship was established between Peter, my wife and me, a friendship that endured to the time of his death.

Peter was a man with no grey in his world; his world was black and white. He freely admitted to that. He had firm ideas on a range of matters, and he was not frightened to expound those views. He certainly did not seek a political career. He was content with the world he loved — a world dominated by motor vehicles — and to remain in it.

As has been said by previous speakers, in the late 1990s Peter became involved in politics. He was a small

businessman running a used car business in Hastings. He found that his business and many others were severely affected by the economic climate of those times and decided to do something about it. He spoke to me at length about the issues, and I suggested to him that, because of his political leanings and his strong views, he should join the Liberal Party. He joined the Hastings branch, one of the branches in my electorate. He sought executive positions in that branch and was elected vice-president.

Not long after that Peter decided that, while being part of a branch and being able to contribute to the party and the political life of this state was one thing, another thing would be to expand that role by going into Parliament. When he told me he was going to run for preselection for Frankston East, I said, 'Peter, there might be easier seats for you'. He said, 'I only want one seat. I am going to run for Frankston East. That is the only seat I will run for preselection for. If I get preselection, I intend to win it. If I do not, I will be content to help you in your election campaign in Mornington'.

Peter was hand made for the seat of Frankston East. He was a part of that community and was able to relate to it very well indeed.

He built up that relationship from the time he was preselected until his death, the strength of which was reflected in the enormous outpouring of grief shown by the significant number of people who attended his funeral. Peter was a man of the people and the community. All those who knew him respected him.

As earlier speakers said, he was a member of several shooting organisations. He was very interested in pistol shooting and was a very good shot. Peter was involved in a range of community organisations that reflected his background in sport. He was a good cricketer, footballer and boxer; he was a good athlete in general. With his wide-ranging interests he was very much a part of the Frankston East community.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! I advise all honourable members, particularly new members, that noisy electronic devices are not permitted in the chamber. I ask all honourable members to adhere to that ruling.

**Mr COOPER** — Apart from being an RACV patrolman, in the mid-1970s Peter decided to expand his expertise by establishing a small used-car lot at his residence. That went against all the planning scheme provisions in operation at the time, but Peter did not want to know about that! I was a councillor of the former Shire of Mornington at that time, and I did not

want to know about it either. I worked on the basis that the time to do something about it would be when someone complained. Peter and his neighbours got along very well, so no-one ever did! He was able not only to be an RACV patrolman but also to service and sell cars from his residence.

In the late 1970s he also set up a motor wrecking business on a Mornington industrial property. When I was looking for a car after I went into business on my own in the mid-1980s the first person I thought I should seek advice from was Peter McLellan. I told him that although I did not want to spend an enormous sum of money I was looking for a good, reliable car to take me on frequent trips around Victoria and into southern New South Wales. He said 'What about this car here?'. On the factory floor was a wrecked Datsun that had been in an enormous smash. The owner had not taken out insurance; Peter had bought the carcass and was rebuilding it. I said, 'What on earth will that turn out like?', and he replied, 'It will turn out to be a very good car'. When he told me the price I was immediately attracted and asked to see it when it was finished. It had turned out to be a lovely car, and I bought it.

However I had to fill the engine up with oil a couple of times after having driven it only four or five days. I returned to Peter and told him that the car was burning a lot of oil and that I thought something was wrong with it. Peter looked at it and said, 'Yes, the motor is shot. Leave it with me and I will fix it'. He put a new motor in the car at no charge, which was typical of him. There was no mucking around, no arguing the toss, no saying he was not sure. He was a man who said he should not have sold it to me in that condition and so would make it right. He made it right, and the car was still running perfectly when I sold it to a nice lady some two years later.

Peter took great pride in never having had a complaint made against him to the Office of Fair Trading. I should think that was because he was a straight-up-and-down person. What you saw was what you got. He saw things in black and white. His pride in being an honest trader was reflected in his business dealings in the motor industry and, later, as a member of Parliament. He took great pride in doing things for his constituents and his electorate.

In December 1998 Peter set out in an article in a local paper that circulated in the electorate of Frankston East some of the things which were important to him and which show the quality of the man. It states:

... unemployment in Frankston required urgent attention.

Remember, this was 1998.

'Between 1988–90, there was 1600 people listed as unemployed in Frankston', he says.

'By October 1992, it was a staggering 8500. Currently, it is somewhere around 4500'.

That shows the attention Peter gave to the important issues that affect real people in real situations. The article continues:

Mr McLellan added a couple of personal milestones that were close to his heart.

'Since assuming office, every primary school in my electorate has had an upgrade.

That's well in excess of \$100 000 and up to \$250 000 each for 17 primary schools.

And both secondary colleges — Karingal and Monterey — have had major improvements of between \$3–4 million.

It pleases me greatly that I've also played an instrumental role in an \$85 000 extension for Ballam Park Costume Museum and a total reconstruction of Frankston Hospital casualty.'

The article, which was published in the aftermath of Peter's decision to leave the Liberal Party and become an Independent, went on to say:

It might come as surprising to some, but Mr McLellan believes the Kennett government has 'done a great job from a financial perspective'.

'They've turned a "basket case" into a thriving state', he says.

'It has provided new infrastructure and given people confidence. It has put pride back into Victoria'.

That was the man who agonised over his decision to leave the Liberal Party on issues that were of great importance to him. However, he did not condemn the people he left behind. Although he left the Liberal Party because he could not bring himself to support some issues, he understood that many good things had been done. He stood for principles that he had espoused all his life, and he was prepared to be judged on those principles in the 1999 general election.

Peter McLellan was a friend of mine. Many people will miss him, including his wife, Trish, who was a loving and loyal wife; Leanne, Marie and Richard; his son-in-law, Craig, and his four grandchildren. His mother, father and four sisters will miss him. The people of Frankston East will miss him — and he will be missed by people like me.

**Ms McCALL** (Frankston) — It is never easy to stand in the chamber to talk about one of your colleagues. I shared the representation of the City of Frankston with Peter McLellan; and I shared space with him in the local newspapers. In many respects I did not share his views, but that made the sharing of our

representation more of a challenge. Peter was a maverick, a rebel and an individualist. When I became a member of Parliament he was a colleague and a member of the Chelsea Province team.

Although Peter and I agreed to differ on several things in politics, it was a healthy situation. At times it is important to agree to differ, even in your own ranks.

Peter and I were not alike, but then our electorates were very different. I have no doubt that Peter was the best person to represent an electorate such as Frankston East. He took it over after the redistribution in 1992 when it was a brand new seat. In 1996 he defended it ably, and if he had not died in such circumstances in September 1999 who knows what the outcome of that election might have been.

We will miss him. We will miss the bantering at meetings with Frankston City Council; we will miss him discussing issues such as the Frankston foreshore and women's affairs in the electorate where he and I differed dramatically. I stand proudly to say that yes, Peter was a colleague, and even though he made a decision that was difficult to make we admired him for his principles.

I feel not only for Trish, his wife, and for his family, but also for his supporters who stood by his side in 1992, helped him across the line in 1996, and who were torn in their loyalties in 1999, many of whom miss him desperately, probably as much as his family. I pass on my condolences and best wishes to Peter's supporters in Frankston East and to his family.

**Mrs PEULICH** (Bentleigh) — I also extend my condolences on the premature passing of a dinky-di Aussie bloke who represented the people of Frankston East. Peter McLellan was not only a colleague but also a friend to many of us. The sad thing is that many honourable members did not really know Peter, with the exception of perhaps a handful of members such as the honourable member for Forest Hill and me. We shared many a good time over a bad habit — smoking. Many honourable members did not get to know Peter fully until he died, after attending his funeral and hearing others speak about him today. Many people would perceive him as being one-dimensional, or black and white, but they were not in a position to appreciate the broad ranges of experiences that he brought to Parliament, his diversity of interests, the passion with which he represented his electorate, the manner in which he debated policy issues, and his proud record in representing his country.

Peter and I, like other members elected at the same time, were thrown into similar experiences in the heady days of 1992. We were both members representing marginal seats. He was a fairly straightforward man. The honourable member for Mornington referred to him as a straightshooter, which is probably a good metaphor. Peter was a strong supporter of the sport of pistol shooting.

The man was certainly politically incorrect. Peter was the first to poke fun at his own manner and his politically incorrect way. Often we would be debating the challenges of the day, of marginal seat campaigning and so on, and at the end of the day over a cigarette he would say to me, 'You know what, Inga. You're a damn good sheila'. I think he was right.

He was a practical and sensible man. The eulogy delivered by the honourable member for Forest Hill and his address today successfully evoked what Peter was about. It is a sad reflection that it took seven years and a person's death for many to appreciate what and who he was.

Peter identified with ordinary people, with workers and with families. That may have been due to the fact that he came from the 'wrong side of town', and possibly that is why we were drawn to one another as friends. Peter was comfortable with his own constituency, including the Pines. He had no time for hobnobbing or for idle chatter. As the honourable member for Mornington said, what you saw was what you got. I admired Peter's moral fortitude and I am sure he will be remembered as a decent man and a good politician.

I recall some of the hilarious stories Peter used to tell about his experiences during the war while in the service. The honourable member for Forest Hill referred to Peter's job as putting bits and pieces together. There was another aspect to the job. One of his tasks as a medical orderly was to treat soldiers for sexually transmitted diseases. Peter treated not only the soldiers but also some of the working girls, because if you did not treat the source of the problem you were chasing your own tail, so to speak. I am sure Peter would appreciate the pun because he was full of them.

He would also take great delight in so many people saying so many kind things about him in Parliament. I remember he and I laughing about what the condolence motions would be like when we carked it given that there was often no time for an adjournment. He said, 'When you and I die they will probably flash it up in lights and move on to the next item of business'. He was wrong.

Peter was passionate about the way he represented his electorate and the issues he saw as important. He was strong on law and order policy, he was a strong anti-drugs campaigner, and he was passionate about the Auditor-General reforms. I was probably one of the half dozen people he first called to notify his intention to resign from the Liberal Party.

In death he will be remembered for unleashing a sequence of events and a result that he would neither have foreseen nor wanted. My condolences go to Peter's family, Trish and his children, and may he rest in peace. He was a friend.

**Mr LEIGH** (Mordialloc) — Prior to 1992 I did not know Peter McLellan. The Leader of the Opposition referred to the then Minister for Housing being directed to go down there. The first time Peter came to my attention was when he rang up members of the coalition bills committee to find out who he should go and annoy. Most members of the bills committee will remember giving him the Minister for Housing's phone number. Peter was one of those diligent people who put people first.

I also remember the 1996 election when the Labor Party candidate was a fellow called Colin Hampton. Many Labor supporters joined Peter to ensure that gentleman was not elected because they saw Peter as the one who best espoused the interests of those who lived in Frankston and not the candidate who had been put up by the Labor Party. I recall Peter showing me a local newspaper article about someone trying to blow up Colin Hampton's factory and detailing what occurred.

I remember two things about Peter. We both had offices on the third floor of Parliament House. He was in one corner in a very small office. The honourable member for Cranbourne and a couple of others and I also had offices up there. When Peter was at home you could see the smoke coming through and past the door as you walked up and around the corridor. It amazed me that the sprinkler systems did not go off when he was up there smoking. Peter obviously smoked a great deal.

I also remember during the wheel-clamping inquiry undertaken by the Community Development Committee that Peter suggested some of the wheel-clamping people were crooks from the tow-truck industry and that we should drag them before the inquiry so we could find out exactly what they were doing. He motivated me to investigate some of them. One of the companies Peter said we should investigate involved a gentleman by the name of Mr Clampit. Mr Clampit resided about four floors above us in Nauru

House, where the parliamentary committees were housed at the time. The company that owned Mr Clampit was called the Beverley Hill Billies — believe it or not — which was formerly Dupes Nominees Pty Ltd. The tow-truck industry needed to be re-regulated because thugs were turning up at accidents and trying to get victims who may have been in great pain to sign on the dotted line so they could tow their cars off. A great deal of credit should go to Peter for that investigation.

Many of us will remember Peter and the paintball exercise. Peter was passionate in his defence of paintball. I believe there was a centre in his area and he was strong in its defence.

Peter also rang me the night before he resigned to find out what I was doing because I had some concerns about what had happened to the Auditor-General. We discussed it for about half an hour or so and I wished him well. At the end of the day, whether Peter McLellan was an Independent or otherwise, after he made the decision to become an Independent he could have done great damage to the government if he so chose. He chose not to damage the government but to continue to do the best he could.

When you have been in this place for a while you soon realise how many condolence motions are passed, most of which concern former members who were not known by those present in the chamber. Although I remember Gordon Stirling, I do not remember the former member for Williamstown or many of the other members who are the subjects of such motions. It is lucky so few members suffer the same fate as Peter, given the amount of travel we do and the hours we put in collectively. Statistically we are a healthy group of people and we survive through the years. Perhaps it is our commitment and our brains that keep us alive a lot longer.

I will remember Peter fondly. He was passionately committed to the things he wanted to do. He would not take a lot of rubbish from people he disagreed with, be it the Premier of the day or anybody else.

There is probably nothing worse in life than to outlive one's own children, as only a parent can understand. As a parent I feel particularly for Peter's parents and pass on to them my condolences. I wish Trish, Peter's family, and his parents all the best. Victoria is a better place because of the activities of people like Peter McLellan.

**Mr BATCHELOR** (Minister for Transport) — I offer my condolences to Peter McLellan's family — his

wife, Trish, his son, Richard, and daughters, Leanne and Marie — and to his many friends and supporters.

It has been mentioned many times that Peter was known as the people's pollie. He was truly that; as has been acknowledged by all sides of the house this evening, he was the salt of the earth and a rugged individual. He was born at Reservoir on 20 October 1942, and although my electorate covers part of Reservoir Peter's birthplace does not come within it. The qualities he espoused are popular in Reservoir and were obviously popular in the Frankston area when he was elected. He has been universally recognised as having worked hard and given much as a parliamentarian, just as he had done previously in his small business providing roadside service for the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria.

In addition to politics and helping his constituents Peter had a diverse range of interests. He was a keen sportsman and often used the bowling green at Parliament House. He was an incongruous vision wandering around in crisp bowling whites trying to encourage other members to join in the fraternity he experienced as a keen bowler at Parliament House. In the same context, he came from a diverse and active sporting background and was involved in sports ranging from boxing to shooting. He was an active member of the Victorian Pistol Association and the Peninsula Pistol Club, and he served as a range officer.

Peter was also a keen supporter of the disabled and a fighter for environmental issues, which was a recurring theme in the media reports of his political career. After growing up in the northern suburbs he joined the army and continued that association throughout his life. In his activities as a local member he was concerned about and interested in Monterey High School in the Frankston area, and about community safety in homes and on the streets. Although I was not personally aware of it, tonight he has been described as a brilliant photographer. All of those diverse characteristics reveal that behind the rugged individual was a complex person.

Liberal members have commented on both Peter's decision to resign from the party and his earlier decisions to abstain from voting. Members on both sides of the house have to acknowledge that he was aware of significant shifts in political attitudes well in advance of many others — and it stemmed from his connection to ordinary people. He was always concerned to keep up connections with people in his electorate and with community organisations with which he was associated. Although he was not seen as a high-flying star performer in Parliament, with the

benefit of hindsight and the acknowledgment of his diverse range of interests it is clear that he understood the political mood and was able to sniff the breeze well ahead of many of the other seasoned political operatives who are currently in the chamber.

I join with all honourable members in expressing condolences to Peter's family and friends. He will be a sadly missed member of this chamber.

**Mr THOMPSON** (Sandringham) — Peter McLellan was something of an Australian everyman, in part reflecting the Anzac tradition. When describing the early Australian in *Hawker, the Standard Bearer*, the Australian poet, Banjo Paterson, wrote:

'Wherever there's ever a rule to break,  
Wherever they oughtn't to be,  
With a death to dare and a risk to take,  
A track to find or a way to make,  
You will find them there', said he.

Some of those qualities are reflected in the life of Peter McLellan. He had a broad background. Starting in East Reservoir, he gained early training as a motor mechanic and was a keen athlete and sportsman. At one stage of his life he played great cricket for Northcote. He was the type of fellow that as the sun was setting on a sticky wicket would walk out to bat, ready to face the oncoming onslaught as night watchman and prepared to take on the challenge of that ordeal. He served as both an ambulance officer and a soldier in overseas countries.

Peter's life experience was broader than that of the majority of honourable members by virtue of his early beginnings, his overseas service and the way he saw his parliamentary role. He was a fighter in many different ways. He fought for his country, his constituents and his principles. In some ways he had a disregard for authority, and in that reflected the qualities of early Australian soldiers. He would assess issues on their merits. He had seen a lot of life and, perhaps through a smoky haze in the corridor, would evaluate issues on their merits. One of the great things about this house is the breadth and diversity each individual brings to it by virtue of his or her background, whether he or she started life in a butcher's shop or in the high country of Victoria.

It was marvellous to see the contribution someone like Peter made to his parliamentary committee work. With tow-truck operator legislation, for example, he was a font of knowledge. Honourable members have mentioned his work on the Road Safety Committee, to which he made a valuable contribution. He also had an interest in small business. I recall a meeting in this

building that was due to finish at 7.00 p.m. However, because they were keen to resolve the issue a number of members worked through until 11.00 p.m. Peter had a strong work ethic and focused on trying to do the best for his electorate.

His maiden speech reflected his wide range of interests — unemployment in his electorate, the condition of Monterey Secondary College, the business decline in Victoria in 1992 and law and order. If one takes each of those matters and compares the public sector resources in Peter's electorate in 1992 and 1999, one recognises the contribution he made through his representations on behalf of his constituency.

I shall give two illustrations that reflect something of his personal approach and qualities. On one occasion he told a number of honourable members in this place about how one Sunday morning while walking down to the local milk bar in his shorts and perhaps his moccasins or thongs he was asked by the local constabulary in a panel van what he was doing and where he was going. Their language was infused with a few adjectives that did not greatly impress Peter. He drew them out a little and as the language became more colourful the keener Peter became to speak with them. When he told them his mission they said he did not have to go with them. However, Peter demanded that they put him in the back of the paddy wagon and take him to the local police station because he wanted to make a complaint.

On another occasion it was reported that he was late for a meeting at which he was to speak. He arrived dripping wet. People were concerned because he arrived 45 to 50 minutes late. It became apparent after the meeting that he had seen a lady whose car had broken down. Because it was raining he decided that rather than attend the meeting and make a speech, he could make a greater contribution by repairing the lady's car so that she could go on her way. That reflected how he saw himself serving his constituency.

At Peter's funeral there was a guard of honour of perhaps 30 or 40 people outside the church. They were resolute, erect and held a respectful stance in honour of Peter. They were colleagues he had served alongside in both Frankston and overseas — the Vietnam veterans.

Peter was widely regarded by many in his electorate. He had a laconic sense of humour, a sense of moment and a sense of occasion. He was resilient with a deeply ingrained sense of service and he led by example. He was prepared to have a go. The house was well served by his contribution.

**Mr PLOWMAN** (Benambra) — I had the privilege of coming into this place in 1992 as a new member with Peter McLellan. The new members formed a large group, as is the case with the government on this occasion. The bond that formed between those new members undoubtedly will occur with the latest group. It enabled me to have a respected friendship with Peter. I took note of what the honourable member for Mildura said because I did not know Peter in his electorate at that time. When I attended his funeral I learnt a lot about him and the work he did. However, more importantly, I learnt of the respect that the community had for him. It is that respect that all honourable members honour on his departure.

Peter was a good, straight man. He was a proud ex-serviceman and, despite the fact that we had different personalities, he was a person I respected for the friendship that we developed. He impressed me in many ways but, most importantly, he developed a respect that lasted through his career. That respect did not stop after he left the Liberal Party. He will be missed for his wit and humorous interjections. Being a backbencher with Peter was enjoyable. It was a privilege to know him and to serve with him.

**Mr ROWE** (Cranbourne) — My electorate of Cranbourne abuts the electorate of Frankston East and I came to know Peter well through cross-border relationships. However, I got to know him before the 1992 election. There was a time when Peter was uncertain about whether he was making the right decision to become a member of Parliament. I remember travelling to his Hastings used car yard, come boat yard, come caravan yard. It was a Steptoe yard in those days. I remember sitting in the portable building that acted as his office. Peter apologised because the kettle was not working fast enough to make us a cup of coffee. We spoke about politics, the reason I was going into politics and why he wanted to go into politics.

After that discussion I left. Later there was some discussion about his wife's reluctance about his entering Parliament. I remember going to his house and having a fantastic night. Peter had a great selection of ports. I can only remember up until about midnight. However, I remember the headache the next day and the Panadol I had to take. Trish was a lovely lady and welcomed us into her home.

Many honourable members may not know that Peter had a disabled daughter who attended a facility in my electorate. I assisted the facility to obtain grants. At that stage I was unaware that Peter's daughter attended the facility. When I became aware that she did I mentioned

it to the CEO. She said, 'Peter doesn't come here as a member of Parliament, he attends as a dad'. That was Pete. He was a father to everybody and a mate to everyone. He was a great soldier and a serviceman in the Anzac tradition. The relationships between commissioned and noncommissioned officers is sometimes acrimonious, as was the case with former Premier Kennett.

My father was a noncommissioned officer, and he had a similar relationship with his lieutenants and captains. The NCOs, not the officers, run the armed forces. Pete believed he was wiser than the officers of the day and to some extent resented their authority.

Pete was respected by the former Premier. After Pete resigned from the Liberal Party, Jeff met with him on a number of occasions. They had a good relationship, which is why Peter was supportive of the Premier going into the last election.

My relationship with Pete was cordial and friendly, but he was parochial when it came to the interests of his electorate. Peter and I discussed Monterey Secondary College and Carrum Downs Secondary College. The Department of Education says that if a secondary college is built in Carrum Downs, Monterey Secondary College has to be closed. The Monterey Secondary College principal and school council want to close their school and move to Carrum Downs. Pete's prevailing attitude was: 'over my dead body'.

I remember talking to him about the closure of the Pines preschool because of low attendance and the garbage that was being peddled in the community that it was due to lack of government funding. I know the work that Pete put in and the number of phone calls he made to the now Leader of the Opposition about funding for the preschool. He was successful in obtaining funding for the preschool. He was a perfect local member.

During the lead-up to the supplementary election I campaigned in the Pines. Everyone loved Peter McLellan — they all wanted him to rise from the dead. He can never do that, and I think the mould was broken after he was born. He was a true Aussie and a great mate who believed in his community and related to the people. He had cups of tea in housing commission houses with gaping holes in the walls; he got the holes fixed and the people respected him for it.

The same guy could walk into a board meeting and talk with millionaires about establishing an alternative racing industry in Victoria; he could relate to diplomats on a one-to-one basis. That shows his calibre.

One of Peter's passionate hopes was to see the Scoresby bypass and the link off the Frankston Freeway completed to give the people of Frankston East an industrial base similar to that in the west following the construction of the Western Ring Road and the Western Bypass. Unfortunately that opportunity has now been denied to the people of Frankston East. Peter McLellan's dream of revitalising and stimulating an industrial area of Carrum Downs has now gone. He convinced the Frankston council, the former Minister for Roads and Ports and the former Premier of the value of the project, and it was going to happen. Unfortunately now the Minister for Transport and the parliamentary secretary have seen fit to reject the project. It is a shame the memory of Peter McLellan cannot be enhanced by the completion of a magnificent road project that would have revitalised an area of Peter's electorate and provided employment for the people he cared so much about.

Peter was a shooter. He took me to the Carrum rifle range and reintroduced me to firearms. I shot a clay target. It shot back and hit me in the head.

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**Mr ROWE** — It was the only time I have been injured in combat. Peter stood and laughed. Paintball was mentioned previously; there is a paintball facility in my electorate, and Pete had one in his. He was passionate about defending the right to enjoy a sport and was prepared to go to any length to convince others to support those rights.

Pete was supportive of every minority group in his electorate, including the RSL. I remember going to the Frankston RSL because many people from my electorate go there. They asked, 'What are you doing here? Peter McLellan is our MP'. People in his electorate held him in very high esteem.

People associated with Monterey Secondary College thought Peter was king — he brought them \$2.7 million to upgrade the secondary college. He brought rationalisations and upgrades to most of the education facilities in his electorate.

He related equally well to Labor, conservative and non-aligned councillors and CEOs. He was a great man. I will miss Pete dearly because he used to supply me with cigarettes.

My wife and I once went out for dinner with Pete. At about 4 o'clock on the day of the state election I received a phone call from a member of the Liberal Party who said that Peter McLellan had died. I said, 'You've got to be kidding. What idiot is spreading that

rumour?’ — wanting to blame the Labor Party. The member said, ‘No; the electoral office told us’. I rang people at the Liberal Party headquarters and was told they had found out about midday that Pete had passed away.

I rang Maria, my wife, whose memory of Pete was of the nice guy we had dinner with at the Spaghetti Tree. That is a great epitaph for Pete: the nice guy from the Spaghetti Tree.

To Trish and the whole family — sincere condolences from Maria, myself and my colleagues.

**Mr LUPTON (Knox)** — My contribution to the debate on the condolence motion will be short because a number of honourable members have spoken so well about Peter McLellan and referred to his total disregard for authority. That disregard will come back to haunt us when we consider the way he resigned from the Liberal Party and became an Independent member of this house. His action exemplified his total disrespect for authority; he would not wear it. He has left a legacy for Victorians, for members of this Parliament and for the electors of Frankston East.

Many honourable members have commented on what Peter did. He impressed me most with his commitment. The introduction of firearms legislation after the Port Arthur massacre has been mentioned briefly in the debate. Many people may argue about what the Prime Minister wanted to do federally, but I remember that period specifically because Peter argued the pros and cons before the parliamentary bills committee. He frequently came to my penthouse office on the third floor and bashed my ear about what was wrong with the legislation. He spoke as a practical man who knew about the practical aspects of firearms.

He taught the members of the bills committee about rifles and pump-action guns and about other aspects of firearms; he patiently demonstrated his knowledge. His contributions to committee debate and his constant nagging enabled the former government to pass legislation that Peter found to be useable and more user friendly than originally proposed — although perhaps further advances could still be made. Peter McLellan was a great man and left a legacy to the community.

**Mr PERTON (Doncaster)** — I join this debate after having heard some tremendous contributions. Not often does the house pay tribute to a sitting member, but it can regard Peter McLellan as a sitting member and somebody whose spirit is still among us, as honourable members will agree, through the moving contributions

of, particularly, the honourable members for Cranbourne, Mornington and Forest Hill.

In his inaugural speech Peter stated:

I grew up in East Reservoir, down the bottom of Tyler Street, an area given the dubious title of Little Chicago, a place where a knuckle sandwich was given or received on a regular basis. It was a rough-and-tumble estate where several of the residents alternated between their home addresses and the Bluestone College at Coburg.

It was especially daunting for me because my father was a prison officer at Coburg during those years.

I grew up in East Coburg and in the 1950s my father opened his first business in Tyler Street. I and members of my family know the area well. The people from that area came out tough. Peter and I came out of that experience with very different views. I vigorously disagreed with Peter on drug law reform, yet at the end he would come back with his CD called *The Drug Anthem* and say, ‘Can you get this out to some of your community groups?’. I was happy to help him.

Peter and I had vigorous fights over our disagreements on equal opportunity laws, but we could still talk about it over a glass of whisky. We also strongly disagreed about gun laws.

I have never been a keen bowler, but Peter could somehow persuade me to put on the whites and get out onto the bowling green. Given my girth I felt I looked ridiculous in that outfit. As the honourable member for Mordialloc says, photographs proved just how ridiculous!

Peter had a remarkable humour. He and I agreed strongly on some matters, one being appropriate law-making and regulation. I remind the house of the implementation of tow-truck regulations. The economists said the national competition policy made sense. They said, ‘Deregulate the industry; it will lead to greater efficiencies for consumers’, but Peter McLellan knew better. He could tell stories of the old days when tow-truck drivers used to carry iron bars with which to settle arguments about who should get the towing jobs. He could talk practically about the influence of criminal elements. I did not understand the tow-truck industry, but I understood about deregulation. He came to me and said, ‘How can you do it?’. He persuaded us to reverse what the economists said was rational thinking based on commonsense.

Another matter Peter and I agreed on intensely was the Auditor-General issue; we all knew about a number of intense disagreements on the issue. Peter believed

passionately in the rights of the Auditor-General, as did I.

**Mr Thwaites** interjected.

**Mr PERTON** — The honourable member for Albert Park can treat that fact with mirth, but Peter McLellan and a number of other people had to decide on the best way to deal with disagreement with the party line. Such issues often do not arise for the Labor Party because its rules are so different, but members of the Liberal Party can intensely disagree to the extent that they may decide to cross the floor or abstain from voting. In Peter's case it went further because he decided to resign from the party.

I took a different view from Peter on what to do when you disagree intensely with party policy. In that instance I voted with the party, but Peter went the other way. I respected his intensity, his passion and his beliefs; that is what the community needs. He was referred to as having black-and-white thinking. That does not describe the man as intensely as he ought to be described, because he believed with a passion and strength that is the stuff of which members of Parliament should be made. I miss him for that reason. I miss him for his intensity, his passion, his beliefs and his goodness. The community is the poorer not just for his leaving Parliament but for his passing.

**Mrs ELLIOTT** (Mooroolbark) — Between 1992 and 1996 I shared a government back bench with Peter McLellan. Peter was a most interesting person. His recounting of his experiences as a medic in the Vietnam War that so deeply divided the Australian community showed me what war could be like.

Peter had an inexhaustible supply of jokes, 100 per cent of which were too salacious to recount here! He would say to me, 'Do you want to hear a joke?', but if I said no I would end up hearing it anyway. I saw a different side of Peter when he asked me to speak at a meeting in his electorate. He asked me to dinner that night at his home, where I met his wife and family. I saw there examples of his photographic skills to which other honourable members have referred. As well as being a person who always had a good joke to tell, Peter loved beautiful things. He had an eye that could see beauty through a camera lens.

Peter lived his life and represented his electorate with a passionate intensity. He smoked cigarettes with that same intensity and, even when he decided to quit the Liberal Party and sit in this place with the Independents, he remained a true conservative. His

death was premature and sad. I also convey my condolences to Peter's parents, wife and children.

**Ms BURKE** (Pahran) — I also join debate on the condolence motion for Peter McLellan. I sat next to Peter on the back benches. I will not relate his passing comments, but it is an understatement to call Peter a character.

Honourable members have described Peter as a passionate person, and they have described him well. Peter got on well with everyone. I also learnt about some of his parliamentary and political tricks referred to by the honourable member for Gippsland West. He had a different style of politics, but one that was welcomed in his Frankston East electorate.

The last speech Peter made in this house was on 26 May this year when he talked about the medical conditions and health of the Kosovars in Portsea. That was typical of Peter McLellan. His past medical experience in the Australian Army had given him an understanding of the trauma suffered by the refugees. Although he spoke about the concerns of his constituents he also spoke about the people who were visiting our country under very traumatic circumstances.

The honourable member for Doncaster said he played lawn bowls, as I do. I also get decked out in whites, which is quite a sight. Peter was the president of the Victorian Parliamentary Bowls Club. He probably is the last president of the bowls club as the club appears to be disbanding. His role as president had to be seen to be believed. When we played in interstate bowls competitions Peter was the diplomat, which is a side of him honourable members did not see when he contributed to debates in this place.

It was a pleasure to serve with him. I pass on my condolences to his wife Trish, his children, his mother and father, who must be devastated at losing a son before themselves, and particularly to the constituents of Frankston East, who have lost a very loyal member of Parliament.

**Mr SMITH** (Glen Waverley) — Since 1985, when I entered Parliament, I believe only two serving members of Parliament have died during their term of office, Beth Gleeson and Pauline Toner. Honourable members feel differently about one of their own who has died during his or her term of office compared with others whom they do not know well.

Peter McLellan touched all our lives. I served with Peter in Vietnam in 1996 and 1997. Peter raised many of the problems faced by Vietnam veterans. He

believed the biggest problem was the way in which national servicemen were allowed to exit the army. People like Peter and I, who were in the regular army, knew their postings almost two months before they left Vietnam, but when national servicemen and women completed their postings they returned to Australia and perhaps within a few days were discharged from the army. It is easy to be wise in hindsight, but had the system found a way in which to release those people after they obtained jobs so that they could use the army as a base during the period they were looking for work, many of the problems we have today may have been resolved. Of course, that does not take into account the problems associated with Agent Orange and other issues.

Peter McLellan took up the cudgels for Vietnam veterans and was able to get the message across to the public. The welcome back many national servicemen received was less than desirable. Many of them were not welcomed in hotels or in society. The protest movement had worked so hard against them that when the servicemen returned to Australia they did not feel welcome. Those in the regular army had their messes and places where they would socialise and did not have to face the same opposition that was in the community. Peter left the army, I think in 1969. Although he moved into other areas, he made representations on behalf of Vietnam veterans, many of whom are still not employed and have a feeling of worthlessness that those who continued to serve in the regular army for some time did not experience.

When Peter McLellan was elected to Parliament he relayed many stories, to which honourable members have referred, and he stirred the consciousness of many people who did not treat properly those national servicemen who returned from Vietnam and who are still suffering terrible problems today. If Peter were here today he would be thrilled to hear that he has got across his message to the Australian people. He urged people to extend the hand of friendship and to help whenever they could.

The federal Department of Veterans' Affairs does an incredible job, but so much more can be done in extending the hand of friendship, which was Peter McLellan's message. Many honourable members on both sides of the house are widely respected, but no-one was more respected than Peter when he made his decision to resign from the Liberal Party. Some people have said that he resigned because of the former government's decision about the Auditor-General, but there were many other reasons that brought him to his decision. The bottom line is that Peter had the courage to make the decision, as he had the courage in so many

other ways. Parliament suffered a great loss when it lost Peter McLellan.

I extend my condolences to his wife Trish, his parents, his family and to all those people who respected what he stood for.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! I join with honourable members in expressing my sorrow at the passing of Peter Frederick McLellan. In the seven years that he was a member of Parliament I found him to be a man of exemplary character, of integrity and of strong opinions. He was a man who had strong passionate beliefs about many issues.

A number of honourable members described him as the people's politician. I saw him as an ordinary man who became a politician. I saw him as an ordinary man who fought for his fellow human beings to the best of his capabilities, and his capabilities were immense. Like other honourable members, I had many chats with Peter and the only annoying habit I found he possessed, as the honourable member for Bentleigh said, was smoking. If that were his only sin we can forgive him for that.

I will miss him. The people of Frankston East will miss him and the people of Victoria will miss him. To his wife Trish, his three children and his parents I convey my sincere condolences on his passing.

**Motions agreed to in silence, honourable members showing unanimous agreement by standing in their places.**

## ADJOURNMENT

**Mr BRACKS (Premier)** — I move:

That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Gordon Francis Stirling, Frederick Peter McLellan and William Laurence Floyd, the house do now adjourn until 10.15 p.m. this day.

**Motion agreed to.**

**House adjourned 9.20 p.m.**

**The SPEAKER took the chair at 10.18 p.m.**

## COMMISSION TO SWEAR MEMBERS

**The SPEAKER announced receipt from His Excellency the Governor of commission authorising him to administer oath or affirmation of allegiance to members who have not taken and subscribed same since election.**

**MINISTRY**

**Mr BRACKS** (Premier) — I advise the house of the responsibilities that will be undertaken by ministers in this Parliament. In the Legislative Assembly, I will be responsible for the roles of Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. The honourable member for Albert Park is the Deputy Premier, Minister for Health and Minister for Planning. The honourable member for Thomastown is Minister for Transport, and he will answer on behalf of the Minister for Ports in another place. The honourable member for Broadmeadows is Minister for State and Regional Development, Minister for Finance and Assistant Treasurer.

The honourable member for Bendigo West is Minister for Local Government, Minister for Workcover and Minister assisting the Minister for Transport regarding roads. He will answer on behalf of the Minister for Industrial Relations in another place. The honourable member for Pascoe Vale is Minister for Community Services. The honourable member for Northcote is Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts. The honourable member for Bundoora is Minister for Environment and Conservation and Minister for Women's Affairs. She will answer on behalf of the Minister for Energy and Resources in another place.

The honourable member for Yan Yean is Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrections. He will answer on behalf of the Minister for Small Business and Minister for Consumer Affairs in another place. The honourable member for Morwell is Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. The honourable member for Niddrie is Attorney-General, Minister for Manufacturing Industry and Minister for Racing. The honourable member for Altona is Minister for Post Compulsory Education, Training and Employment. She will answer on behalf of the Minister for Youth Affairs in another place.

The honourable member for Dandenong is Minister for Gaming, Minister for Major Projects and Tourism and Minister assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs. He will answer on behalf of the Minister for Sport and Recreation in another place. The honourable member for Melbourne is Minister for Housing, Minister for Aged Care and Minister assisting the Minister for Health.

In the Legislative Council the Honourable Monica Gould is Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister assisting the Minister for Workcover. The Honourable Candy Broad is Minister for Energy and Resources, Minister for Ports and Minister assisting the Minister

for State and Regional Development. The Honourable Marsha Thomson is Minister for Small Business and Minister for Consumer Affairs. The Honourable Justin Madden is Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Youth Affairs and Minister assisting the Minister for Planning.

I also indicate to the house that the Honourable Gavin Jennings is Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet, Mr Craig Langdon, the honourable member for Ivanhoe, is the Government Whip in the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Glenyys Romanes is Government Whip in the Legislative Council and Ms Mary Gillett, the honourable member for Werribee, is the Secretary to the Parliamentary Labor Party.

**SHADOW MINISTRY**

**Dr NAPHTHINE** (Leader of the Opposition) — I wish to advise of the shadow cabinet that will represent the Liberal–National partnership. I will be Leader of the Opposition. The honourable member for Benalla is shadow Minister for Agriculture and Leader of the National Party. The honourable member for Brighton is shadow Treasurer and Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The honourable member for South Gippsland is shadow minister for rural development, shadow Minister for Police and Emergency Services, shadow Minister for Corrections and Deputy Leader of the National Party. The honourable member for Hawthorn is shadow minister for tertiary education and training. The honourable member for Prahran is shadow Minister for Local Government and shadow Minister for Women's Affairs. The honourable member for Box Hill is shadow Minister for Planning, including major projects, and shadow minister responsible for Workcover.

The honourable member for Berwick is the shadow Attorney-General, the honourable member for Malvern is the shadow Minister for Health and the honourable member for Mooroolbark is the shadow Minister for Community Services and the shadow Minister for the Arts. The honourable member for Mordialloc is the shadow Minister for Transport. The honourable member for Monbulk is the shadow minister for water resources and the manager of opposition business in the Legislative Assembly. The honourable member for Doncaster is the shadow minister for conservation and environment and the shadow minister for multimedia. The honourable member for Caulfield is the shadow Minister for Aged Care and the shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

In the Legislative Council the Honourable Mark Birrell is the shadow minister for industry, science and technology, including employment and industrial relations and the opposition leader in that house. The Honourable Bill Forwood is the shadow minister for small business and consumer affairs, the shadow minister for tourism and the shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. The Honourable Roger Hallam is the shadow Minister for Finance, the shadow Minister for Gaming and the Leader of the National Party in the upper house. The Honourable Peter Hall is the shadow minister for sport, recreation and youth affairs, the shadow Minister for Racing and Deputy Leader of the National Party in the upper house. The Honourable Bill Baxter is the shadow minister for Housing and will be assisting the shadow minister for rural health. The Honourable Geoff Craige is the shadow minister for manufacturing and regional business and the shadow Minister for Ports. The Honourable Philip Davis is the shadow minister for natural resources and energy.

In the Assembly the honourable member for Glen Waverley is the Opposition Whip and the honourable member for Rodney is the National Party Whip. In the Council the Honourable Ken Smith is the Opposition Whip and the Honourable Barry Bishop is the National Party Whip. The Honourable Ian Cover is the secretary to the parliamentary Liberal Party and the Honourable Ron Best is secretary to the parliamentary National Party.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Independents charter: ALP response

**Dr NAPHTHINE** (Leader of the Opposition) — Does the Premier stand by each and every one of his written commitments made in the Labor response to the charter of the three Independents?

**Mr BRACKS** (Premier) — I am surprised at the question of the Leader of the Opposition. I guess the opposition has not had practice questioning in the past, particularly with the past Premier. I can give an absolute assurance — as the opposition leader heard today in the Governor's speech and as was mentioned during the campaign and in Labor's response to the charter — that every clause of the charter will be adhered to. Unlike the opposition, the government will stick to its promises. The government will make sure the charter is properly implemented. In fact, it will be seen in the legislative agenda of the government — in the legislation to be introduced in the first session of Parliament, next year and during the next four years.

The government will implement every part of the charter.

### Rural Victoria: government policy

**Ms GILLETT** (Werribee) — Will the Premier advise the government's initial priorities for reviving regional and rural Victoria and promoting investment and jobs growth in country Victoria?

**An Opposition Member** — Thank you, Dorothy!

**Mr BRACKS** (Premier) — You'll be used to that! The question goes to the heart of the difference between the government and the opposition. The government has a big plan for regional and country Victoria, something that the National Party once talked about but that Labor will deliver.

I will outline some of the aspects of the plan that go to the heart of restoring infrastructure and services to regional Victoria. Labor will have a regional infrastructure development fund with total funds of \$170 million. During its election campaign the government committed more than \$100 million and there will be more to come in future years. From what it has inherited the government will create a new department of state and regional development with an office of rural affairs. The government will change the Melbourne Major Events Company to the Victorian major events company and it will plan events right around Victoria, not just in the centre of Melbourne.

The government will abolish double taxation being imposed on regional Victoria as a result of the catchment management tax and will instead fund the Department of Natural Resources and Environment with an allocation of \$11 million from general taxation.

The government will also put in place a uniform maximum electricity tariff so that regional and country Victorians will not be disadvantaged when the price cap comes off in 2000. The government will put a ceiling on the electricity tariff, which was not in place under the former Kennett government. The Kennett government was happy to let communities pay the maximum price despite their having small populations — that was its policy. The government will abolish compulsory competitive tendering and replace it with a proper best-value system that will ensure good performance standards for councils.

That is the government's agenda, which is in contrast to what the opposition proposed when it sought election to office — it proposed symbolism rather than substance. The former Kennett government proposed introducing a minister for decentralisation, but there was no

proposal to establish a department to administer decentralisation — it had no plan to restore Victoria's infrastructure.

The National Party has lost 33 per cent of its votes since 1992, and it is no wonder, because its members have been in coalition with the other mob. They are too embarrassed to enter into a coalition now, despite their talking about a sham partnership. I do not blame the National Party; I would be embarrassed and ashamed as well. The government knows the National Party will leave the partnership after a year. National Party members will maintain their distance because if they do not they are gone. Over the past seven years the National Party has been duded. I am sure the partnership will no longer be convenient after a year.

### **Parliament: ALP commitment**

**Dr NAPHTHINE** (Leader of the Opposition) — I ask the Premier whether he stands by each and every one of the Labor Party's commitments outlined in its document entitled *Making Parliament Work: Labor's plan for a harder working and more democratic Parliament*.

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**Mr BRACKS** (Premier) — The old contrived anger works well!

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his penetrating question. I give him an assurance that the government will not only restore democracy to Victoria but will go further than outlined in its policies. The government will ensure that Parliament is open and accountable. It will also ensure that more time is allowed for questions without notice and that the checks and balances are in place. The government will do what the opposition did not do when it was in government.

The government will restore the powers of the Auditor-General and ensure that the Freedom of Information Act is used in the way it should have been used in the past — to ensure that contracts entered into by government are made public and transparent. The Labor government will restore transparency and openness to the Victorian parliamentary system. It will do the opposite of what the opposition did when in government. It will put an end to the secret state created by members of the opposition, including the Leader of the Opposition.

It should be noted that the Leader of the Opposition was sitting around the cabinet table making decisions about secrecy in Victoria. The Leader of the Opposition

has not changed since his complicity in the cover-up and his role in the arrogant Kennett government.

### **Auditor-General: powers**

**Mr CARLI** (Coburg) — I ask the Premier to provide details of his plans to overturn the 1997 changes to the Office of the Auditor-General and restore the independence and powers of that office.

**Mr BRACKS** (Premier) — I thank the honourable member for Coburg for his complementary question to the question of the Leader of the Opposition.

I will make a couple of points. As the leader of both the government and the Labor Party I am proud to say that the government will restore the powers of the Auditor-General to what they were before 1997. Furthermore, the government will improve them by ensuring that the Auditor-General will be an officer of Parliament, that future appointments will be made on the recommendation of the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee and that on budget day the Auditor-General will have the power to report on the budget, the surplus and details of the financial management plans of the government of the day.

The government will increase the powers of the Auditor-General. It will change the act so that for the first time since 1997 the Auditor-General will be able to audit. The current opposition — the Liberal and National parties — made it illegal for the Auditor-General to conduct audits in his own right. It is a bit too contrite and over the top for the Leader of the Opposition now to say that somehow he has learnt and has changed his view from what he said in 1997. On 30 October 1997 he said in this place:

The independence of the Auditor-General will be enhanced under the legislation. That position was recommended by the review committee and was endorsed by the broader community. Certainly, the independence of the Auditor-General has been one of the main issues of debate and consultation.

Clearly he was part of a cabinet that decided to neuter the powers of the Auditor-General. He has not changed his view; he is pretending. He does not believe in what he is saying now. He is saying it now not because he believes it is right but because it is popular.

### **Dairy industry: deregulation**

**Mr McNAMARA** (Leader of the National Party) — I ask the Minister for Agriculture whether, given the Senate report into the dairy industry and the comments by United Dairyfarmers of Victoria, who have both said that deregulation of the dairy industry is inevitable, and

irrespective of the result of the proposed plebiscite, the government is prepared for the inevitable.

**Mr HAMILTON** (Minister for Agriculture) — The government went to the election promising it would listen to country Victorians and give every dairy farmer a vote on deregulation. It is delivering on that promise.

As honourable members would know, there is no doubt that every dairy farmer in Australia is concerned about the impact of dairy deregulation. There is not one dairy farmer in Australia, let alone in Victoria, who is not concerned about the forthcoming proposal to deregulate the dairy industry. The Leader of the National Party has still not learnt. The former government spent seven years not listening to its constituents.

**Mr McNamara** — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I ask you to direct the minister back to the question. Members on this side know the whole history of the dairy industry and do not need to hear it again. They want to know what the government will do, irrespective of the result of the plebiscite and given that the dairy industry believes deregulation will happen anyway. The Senate inquiry made it very clear that deregulation is inevitable. The UDV has also commented that it is inevitable.

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**The SPEAKER** — Order! I advise the house that when the Speaker is on his feet all members should sit down and listen. I ask the Leader of the National Party to come quickly to his point of order as this is not an opportunity to debate issues.

**Mr McNamara** — The issue is one of relevance. Mr Speaker, I request that you draw the minister back to the question and ask him to answer it.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! I believe the minister was answering the question. I draw the attention of the house to the fact that a minister may not debate the question. I do not believe the Minister for Agriculture was doing so, however, I warn him that should he stray down that track I will pull him up fairly quickly.

**Mr HAMILTON** — Obviously the former Minister for Agriculture and Resources has not learnt that he is in opposition. He obviously needs a lot more practice, which the government intends to give him.

The question referred to the plebiscite that will give each dairy farmer in this state the chance to have a say on dairy deregulation. The government believes that is a fair and proper way of doing business. I am surprised that the Leader of the National Party is against the

democratic process. The problem is that after seven years of a one-man band in this state the honourable member has not learnt anything. It is important for the government to listen and return democracy to Victorians, and it will demonstrate that it is prepared to do that. In this case the government is returning democracy to dairy farmers.

### **Rural Victoria: government policy**

**Mr LONEY** (Geelong North) — I refer the Premier to the government's commitment to listen to all Victorians in order to govern for the whole community, and that part of the listening process will be to take government directly to all regional cities. What action has the Premier taken to fulfil that promise?

**Mr BRACKS** (Premier) — I thank the honourable member for Geelong North for his question. As he said, one of the government's key commitments is to ensure that it listens to and works in partnership with all Victorians around the state and does not have exclusive relationships. As the honourable member for Geelong North well knows, as part of that commitment not only will the government hold cabinet meetings in Melbourne but it will also take what is called a community cabinet to regional and country Victoria on a regular basis.

The community cabinet proposed by the government will be modelled on the system adopted by the Beattie government, which has operated successfully in regional Queensland. I inform the honourable member for Geelong North that, as a result of his representations and those of the new member for Geelong, the government's first community cabinet will be held in Geelong.

The agenda will be long because the government has a significant plan for Geelong which includes, as the honourable members for Geelong North and Geelong will be aware, upgrading the rail track and increasing the frequency of trains from Geelong to Melbourne to ensure a 45-minute trip. The government also plans to upgrade the mall and the central part of the Geelong business district. A feasibility study will be undertaken immediately into construction of a the bypass into Geelong, and efforts will be made to ensure that the Princes Highway is upgraded as soon as possible.

I am looking forward to it, as distinct from opposition members, who do not give two hoots about country and regional Victoria. They do not listen; they have not learnt how to listen. They have not learnt how to ask questions: they did not ask one question in their own cabinet or party room. They have been so compliant

that it is no wonder they are having trouble during question time.

Before the end of the year we will have a community cabinet meeting in Geelong as part of a wide-ranging program of listening to the concerns of regional Victoria — and not just listening but acting and implementing and making sure that we deliver on those things we said we would deliver on during the campaign.

### **Budget: ALP commitment**

**Ms ASHER** (Brighton) — Will the Premier and Treasurer stand by Labor's election commitment to have operating surpluses of \$101 million, \$328 million, \$321 million and \$239 million in consecutive years over the next four financial years?

**Mr BRACKS** (Premier) — I will not be debating this intriguing and interesting question, but it reaffirms what was said by the Governor in his speech today — and that was reaffirmed during the campaign. The reference was to a surplus of \$101 million in the first year. I can give an assurance to the house and to the shadow Treasurer. We may vary that; it is a minimum figure. I expect we will go much higher. That is my aim: we will go much higher with the surplus. We will have a guaranteed — —

**Ms Asher** interjected.

**Mr BRACKS** — You'll get your answer if you are patient and wait. We will guarantee that which we have committed to — the surplus over the four years. But my aim as Treasurer and Premier is to do better on savings and on reducing the waste and mismanagement of the previous government that we have already identified — the waste in advertising, the waste in excessive consultancies, the waste in the number of senior executive service numbers, and the waste in credit cards. We will do better in cutting into the waste which the shadow Treasurer and the Leader of the Opposition were part of when in government. We will make sure not only that we deliver the surplus but that we do better in the future.

### **Rural Victoria: coalition policy**

**Mr ROBINSON** (Mitcham) — I refer the Minister for State and Regional Development to the criticism of the former government by the new member for Wimmera, who said during the recent state election campaign:

I don't think they've done enough for country people.

Does the minister agree with those comments, and will he advise the house of the latest information on the economic situation in regional and rural Victoria?

**Mr McNamara** — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, the way the question was phrased seeks an opinion of the minister. Perhaps the member should rephrase the question. I ask you to rule on that point.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! The question was seeking an opinion. When asking a question a member should seek information, not an opinion. I ask the honourable member to rephrase his question.

**Mr ROBINSON** — I am happy to rephrase the question. Will the minister inform the house of the latest information on the economic situation in regional and rural Victoria?

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**The SPEAKER** — Order! I advise the Minister for State and Regional Development that the question appears to be very broad. He should not use the opportunity to canvass a wide range of issues but rather restrict himself to answering the question.

**Mr BRUMBY** (Minister for State and Regional Development) — My attention has been drawn to comments made by the honourable member for Wimmera during the recent state election campaign. I have to say how right he was in his comments and how honest he was in his assessment of the policies of the previous Kennett coalition government.

The current facts concerning the economy in country Victoria confirm just how appallingly the previous government focused its efforts in regional Victoria. The latest employment statistics show that over the past three years to the end of the June 1999 financial year employment in Melbourne grew by around 92 000 jobs, while employment in regional Victoria grew by only 1900 jobs. Only 1900 jobs were created in regional Victoria under the former coalition government in its last three years.

The tragedy of that figure is that in country Victoria today there are still regions of our state where unemployment is at double-digit levels, despite seven years of unprecedented international and national economic growth.

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures show that in the year ending September 1999 the number of full-time jobs in regional and rural Victoria declined by 0.2 per cent. Therefore, on the policies of the previous government, not only in the long term has

there been barely any job growth at all, but in the last year immediately preceding the election the number of full-time jobs in regional Victoria declined by 0.2 per cent.

Those figures are confirmed in the recent report of the Building Control Commission, released by the previous government. The report, which provides private sector investment figures, shows that last year just 10 per cent of new commercial building investment and 16 per cent of new retail building investment occurred in regional Victoria, despite the fact that regional Victoria accounts for more than a quarter of the state's population.

The tragedy of that is totally predictable because if you close 178 schools and 12 hospitals, decimate 6 country rail lines and pour capital works funding into Melbourne with a city-centric approach, that is exactly the outcome you will get. That is the former coalition government's legacy to country Victoria.

I was amazed today to hear the new Leader of the Opposition refer to a partnership with the National Party. That partnership is a bit like Gerry Gee and Ron Blaskett. We know who is pulling the strings!

**Mr Leigh** — On a point of order, Mr Speaker — —

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**The SPEAKER** — Order! The honourable member for Mordialloc, on a point of order.

**Mr Leigh** — Mr Speaker, I suggest that you bring the honourable member for Broadmeadows back to the point. The honourable member is debating the question and referring to what the opposition was doing. Question time concerns what the government is doing, and perhaps, Mr Speaker, you could bring the minister back to the point rather than allowing him to debate the matter.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! The minister's comments were relevant, but towards the end of his contribution he was straying into debating the question. I ask the minister to come back to the answer.

**Mr BRUMBY** — The new Bracks government has to fix up the mess left by the previous government. Before I was rudely interrupted I was referring to the partnership: it is like Gerry Gee and Ron Blaskett. We know who is pulling the strings and we know who the dummy is!

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**The SPEAKER** — Order! The minister is now starting to debate the question. Unless he answers the question I will ask him to sit down.

**Mr BRUMBY** — In response to an earlier question today the Premier outlined Labor's plans to rebuild country Victoria, and they are essential plans for the future of Victoria. The government is committed to building all of Victoria: \$170 million has been allocated for the regional infrastructure development fund; an extra \$120 million has been allocated for country road black spot programs, which is something the previous government never attempted to do; and an additional \$80 million has been allocated for a provincial city rail improvement program. That represents the largest single investment in rebuilding country Victoria that has been seen for many years.

The extraordinary thing is that National Party members have come into the chamber today wearing their Victorian badges. These are the badges invented by the former Premier of Victoria, who described Melbourne as the heart of our state and the regions as the toenails.

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**Mr BRUMBY** — You are guilty by your own admission. We will fix up your mess and begin the task of rebuilding country Victoria.

**Mr McArthur** — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I seek your assistance and perhaps an explanation from you on the position the Chair intends to take during questions without notice during this session of Parliament. During the past two parliaments, of which I was a member, it has been the tradition for the Chair to restrict ministers' responses to between 3 and 4 minutes, and when ministers strayed beyond that time it was the practice of the Chair to draw that guideline to their attention. Speakers Delzoppo and Plowman did that on many occasions.

I listened carefully to your statements when you took the chair, Mr Speaker, and I welcome your appointment. I seek from you an outline of the policy you will implement on ministers who deliberately try to talk out question time. The minister who has just completed his response took more than 7 minutes and debated the question a number of times. In my view the minister deliberately attempted to talk out question time.

I seek from you, Mr Speaker, an outline of the policy you will adopt during this session of Parliament on ministers who do that type of thing and the sorts of rulings we can expect to apply in the house.

**Mr Batchelor** — On the point of order, Mr Speaker, and to assist you in your deliberations in answering this point of order, my recollection is that some eight questions were asked during a 30-minute question time. Numerous points of order were taken, including some during the last answer, thus exacerbating the situation and extending the answer. The other answers were succinct. That provided additional time within the 30-minute time limit. If our sessional orders were in place there would have been an opportunity to ask more questions.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! There is no point of order, but since the honourable member for Monbulk has asked for my guidance on this matter I point out that, as I have stated to the house today and publicly over a long period, it is my view that the time of the house could be better utilised if all members made shorter contributions. I am of the firm belief that most of us, including myself, sometimes take three to four times the length of time required to make a statement in contributing to a debate or answering a question.

It is my desire to ensure that members' contributions are brief to allow as many members as possible to participate in debates and ask questions. I see from the log I have taken that eight questions were asked in a half-hour question session. That stands up against anything the house has achieved in the past. Of course, the house is its own master in deciding how it will deal with this important matter.

## NOTICES OF MOTION

**The SPEAKER** — Order! Are there any notices of motion?

### Notices of motion given.

**Mr THWAITES** (Minister for Health) — I desire to give notice that on the next day of sitting I will move:

That this house condemns the previous government for its mismanagement of the public hospital system and its disastrous privatisation of health services and congratulates the new government for its commitment to put an end to privatisation of our health system and to improve services to ordinary Victorians.

**Mr McArthur** — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, have you called notices of motion, government business or notices of motion, general business?

**Mr Batchelor** — Clearly, government ministers are giving government notices of motion. Although some opposition members may be taking the call prematurely and being out of order that does not diminish the fact

that ministers are moving government notices of motion. I assume that opposition members are moving general business notices of motion. Those are the standing orders. If opposition members wish to wait until the notices of motion properly appear on the notice paper they should not stand up now.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! Notices given by a minister are treated as government business motions. Notices given by other honourable members are treated as general business motions.

**Mr McArthur** — On a further point of order, Mr Speaker, I ask you to look at the type of business ministers in many previous Parliaments have introduced as government business. The last two motions introduced by ministers are clearly framed and worded as general business motions and not government business motions, which normally introduce bills.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! Upon advice, the ruling from the Chair is that when a minister gives notice it is treated as government business.

**Ms DELAHUNTY** (Minister for Education) — I desire to give notice that tomorrow I will move — —

**Mr Wells** — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, this side of the house should have the call.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! Government business is normally called first and all ministers are given the opportunity to give notice. I have been calling either side of the house and have indicated that other notices will be listed under general business. If the Chair were to stick with tradition it would call government ministers first and then other honourable members.

As this appears to have caused some apprehension today, the Chair will adhere to that tradition by calling government ministers first and then other honourable members.

### Further notice of motion given.

**Mr HAERMEYER** (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) — I desire to give notice that tomorrow I will move:

That the house congratulates the Bracks Labor government for its commitment to improving community safety by increasing — —

**Mr Leigh** — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, during the time I have been a member of the house the government has introduced bills one day, read the second-reading speeches the next day, the debates are

adjourned for two weeks and the house then debates the legislation. I ask the Chair to clarify whether the house will spend the next week simply debating notices of motion or will it be debating legislation?

**Mr Batchelor** — On the point of order, Mr Speaker, ministers are indicating their desire to move government motions. I can well understand if the opposition has not prepared many notices of motion because its members have not yet learnt how difficult it is to initiate general business while in opposition. The government is indicating its desire to move motions under the standing orders. It is entitled to do it, and it is doing it.

**Mr Perton** — On the point of order, Mr Speaker, the house has clear precedents on government business, particularly relating to rulings about question time. In question time the Chair clearly rules the government is not dealing with government business if it spends its time attacking the opposition. The Chair has been clear in its rulings today, and previous Speakers have been clear about it. The business of government is legislation and administration. It is not about moving motions condemning the opposition. It is clear that this is a complete misuse of the form of the house. Through the Governor today the government indicated that it had an important legislative program. It said the fundamental task of its government program involved a commitment to deliver the promises under the charter.

So far there has not been one notice of motion in respect of a bill. The government promised the Independents it would introduce legislation with respect to the Auditor-General, freedom of information and to implement its own program. The government's actions are a flagrant abuse of the forms of the house. It is bereft of ideas. It is surprised it has been elected and does not have legislation to bring before the house. What is happening is not a proper use of government business.

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**The SPEAKER** — Order! I am prepared to rule on the point of order. The Chair is not in a position to direct government ministers on what types of notices they should give. There is ample precedent for a government minister having given notice and its being listed under government business, which covers all sorts of subject matter. There is no point of order.

**Mr Ashley** — On the point of order, Mr Speaker, standing order 62(b) states:

Any motion not seconded may not be further debated ...

The notice of motion has not been seconded.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! There is no point of order. The ministers are moving notices of motion, which will be seconded when the questions are before the house for debate.

**Further notices of motion given.**

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

### Auditor-General's office

**Mr BATCHELOR (Minister for Transport)** presented review of report on performance audit of June 1999.

Laid on table.

Ordered to be printed.

### Auditor-General

**Mr BATCHELOR (Minister for Transport)** presented review of reports nos 39 to 41 of June 1999.

Laid on table.

Ordered to be printed.

### Environmental accounting and reporting

**Mr BATCHELOR (Minister for Transport)** presented interim report of June 1999, together with minutes of evidence.

Laid on table.

Ordered that report be printed.

## ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Pedestrian accidents

**Mr RICHARDSON (Forest Hill)** presented report of June 1999, together with minutes of evidence.

Laid on table.

Ordered that report be printed.

**SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

**Redundant and unclear legislation**

**Mr BATCHELOR (Minister for Transport) presented report on Unlawful Assemblies and Processions Act, together with minutes of evidence.**

**Laid on table.**

**Ordered that report be printed.**

**BLF CUSTODIAN**

**44th report**

**The SPEAKER presented report given to his predecessor pursuant to section 7A of BLF (De-recognition) Act 1985 by the custodian appointed under section 7(1) of that act.**

**Laid on table.**

**Ordered to be printed.**

**PAPERS**

**Laid on table by Clerk:**

A.C.N. 065 325 206 Ltd (Formerly Ecogen Energy Ltd) — Report for the period 1 July 1998 to 29 June 1999

Adult, Community and Further Education Board — Report for the year 1998–99

Aluminium Smelters of Victoria Pty Ltd — Report for the period 1 July 1998 to 21 August 1998

Anti-Cancer Council — Report for the year 1998

Architects Registration Board of Victoria — Report for the year 1998–99

Audit Victoria — Report for the year 1998–99

Australian Grand Prix Corporation — Report for the year 1998–99

Australian Power Exchange Pty Ltd — Report for the period 1 July 1998 to 31 March 1999

Board of Studies — Report for the year 1998–99

Building Control Commission — Report for the year 1998–99

Cinemedia Corporation — Report for the year 1998–99

Constitution Act (Amendment) Act 1958 — Statements of functions conferred by the Electoral Commissioner, dated 10 August 1999

Country Fire Authority — Report for the year 1998–99

Docklands Authority — Report for the year 1998–99

Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 — Documents pursuant to s 12H — Poisons Code:

Amendment Nos 3 and 4 to the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons No. 13

Notices regarding the amendments, commencement and availability of the Poisons Code

Education Department — Report for the year 1998–99

Emerald Tourist Railway Board — Report for the year 1998–99

Emergency Services Superannuation Scheme — Report for the year 1998–99

Environment Protection Act 1970:

Order varying State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) (*Government Gazette No. S89, 22 June 1999*)

Order declaring Industrial Waste Management Policy (Waste Acid Sulfate Soils) (*Government Gazette No. S125, 18 August 1999*)

Financial Management Act 1994:

Reports from the Minister for Conservation and Land Management that she had received the 1997–98 Annual Reports of the:

Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group

Eastern Regional Waste Management Group

Goulburn Valley Regional Waste Management Group

North East Victorian Regional Waste Management Group

Reports from the Minister for Conservation and Land Management that she had received the 1997–98 Audit Reports of the:

Desert Fringe Victorian Regional Waste Management Group

Eastern Regional Waste Management Group

Highlands Regional Waste Management Group

Mildura Regional Waste Management Group

Mornington Peninsula Regional Waste Management Group

Report of the Minister for Finance and Assistant Treasurer that he had not received the following 1998–99 Annual Reports, together with notification of the reasons for the delays:

*Department of Human Services*

Department of Human Services

Advanced Dental Technicians Qualifications Board

Chiropractors Registration Board

Dental Technicians Licensing Committee

Infertility Treatment Authority	Kyabram and District Memorial Community Hospital
Mental Health Review Board of Victoria	Kyneton District Health Service
Nurses Board of Victoria	Latrobe Regional Hospital
Optometrists Registration Board	Lorne Community Hospital
Pharmacy Board of Victoria	Maffra District Hospital
Physiotherapists Registration Board of Victoria	Maldon Hospital
Podiatrists Registration Board of Victoria	Mallee Track Health and Community Service
Psychologists Registration Board of Victoria	Manangatang and District Hospital
Victorian Health Promotion Foundation	Mansfield District Hospital
Health Computing Service Victoria Ltd	McIvor Health and Community Services
Healthit Limited	Mercy Public Hospitals Incorporated
Ambulance Officers' Training Centre	Mildura Base Hospital
Alexandra and District Ambulance Service	Mt Alexander Hospital
Ambulance Service Victoria	Nathalia District Hospital
Metropolitan Ambulance Service	North Western Health Care Network
Alexandra District Hospital	Numurkah District Health Service
Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre	O'Connell Family Centre (Grey Sisters)
Alpine Health	Omeo District Hospital
Bairnsdale Regional Health Service	Otway Health and Community Services
Ballarat Health Services	Peninsula Health Care Network
Barwon Health	Port Fairy Hospital
Beaufort and Skipton Health Service	Portland and District Hospital
Beechworth Hospital	Queen Elizabeth Centre, The
Benalla and District Memorial Hospital	Robinvale District Hospital and Health Services
Bendigo Healthcare Group	Rochester and Elmore District Health Service
Bethlehem Hospital Incorporated	Seymour District Memorial Hospital
Boort District Hospital	South Gippsland Hospital
Caritas Christi Hospice Ltd	Southern Health Care Network
Casterton Memorial Hospital	St Vincent's Hospital (Melbourne) Ltd
Central Wellington Health Service.	Stawell District Hospital
Cobram District Hospital	Swan Hill District Hospital
Cohuna District Hospital	Tallangatta Hospital
Colac Community Health Services	Terang and Mortlake Health Service
Coleraine and District Hospital	Timboon and District Healthcare Service
Corangamite Regional Hospital Services	Tweddle Child and Family Health Service
Dental Health Services Victoria	Upper Murray Health and Community Services
Djerriwarrh Health Services	Wangaratta District Base Hospital
Dunmunkle Health Services	Warracknabeal District Hospital
East Grampians Health Services	Warmambool and District Base Hospital
Echuca Regional Health	West Gippsland Healthcare Group
Edenhope and District Memorial Hospital	Western District Health Service
Far East Gippsland Health and Support Service	Wimmera Health Care Group
Gippsland Southern Health Service	Wodonga Regional Health Service
Goulburn Valley Health	Women's and Children's Health Care Network
Hepburn Health Service	Wonthaggi and District Hospital
Hesse Rural Health Service	Wycheproof and District Health Service
Heywood and District Memorial Hospital	Yarram District Health Service
Inglewood Hospital	Yarrowonga District Hospital
Inner and Eastern Health Care Network	Yea and District Memorial Hospital
Kerang and District Hospital	
Kilmore and District Hospital	<i>Portfolio — Department of Infrastructure</i>
Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service	Met Train 1 (formerly Bayside Trains)

Met Tram 1 (formerly Swanston Trams)  
 Met Tram 2 (formerly Yarra Trams)  
 V/Line Freight Corporation  
 V/Line Passenger Corporation

*Portfolio — Justice*

Department of Justice  
 Equal Opportunity Commission  
 Legal Ombudsman  
 Legal Practice Board  
 Office of Public Prosecutions  
 Public Advocate, Office of the  
 Victoria Legal Aid  
 Victorian Electoral Commission  
 Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine  
 Queen Victoria Women's Centre Trust  
 Police Board of Victoria  
 Victoria Police

*Portfolio — Natural Resources and Environment*

Agriculture Victoria Services Pty Ltd  
 Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council  
 Australian Food Industry Science Centre  
 Bairnsdale Regional Waste Management Group  
 Barwon Region Water Authority  
 Casey's Weir and Major Creek Rural Water  
 Authority  
 Catchment Management Council  
 Central Gippsland Region Water Authority  
 Central Highlands Region Water Authority  
 Coliban Region Water Authority  
 Corangamite Catchment Management Board  
 East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority  
 East Gippsland Region Water Authority  
 Eastern Regional Waste Management Group  
 EcoRecycle Victoria  
 Emu Industry Development Committee  
 Energy Efficiency Victoria (Renewable Energy)  
 Environment Conservation Council  
 Environment Protection Authority  
 Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board  
 First Mildura Irrigation Trust  
 Gippsland and Southern Rural Water Authority  
 Glenelg Region Water Authority  
 Glenelg–Hopkins Catchment Management  
 Authority  
 Goulburn Broken Catchment Management  
 Authority  
 Goulburn Valley Region Water Authority  
 Goulburn–Murray Rural Water Authority  
 Grampians Region Water Authority  
 Lake Mountain Alpine Resort Management Board  
 Lower Murray Region Water Authority

Mallee Catchment Management Authority  
 Melbourne Parks and Waterways  
 Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort Management Board  
 Mt Buller Alpine Resort Management Board  
 Mt Hotham Alpine Resort Management Board  
 Mt Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board  
 Murray Valley Citrus Marketing Board  
 Murray Valley Wine Grape Industry Development  
 Committee  
 National Parks Advisory Council  
 North Central Catchment Management Authority  
 North East Catchment Management Authority  
 North East Region Water Authority  
 Northern Regional Waste Management Group  
 Northern Victorian Fresh Tomato Industry  
 Development Committee  
 Parks Victoria  
 Phillip Island Nature Park Board of Management  
 Portland Coast Region Water Authority  
 Royal Botanic Gardens  
 South Eastern Regional Waste Management Group  
 South Gippsland Region Water Authority  
 South West Water Authority  
 Sunraysia Rural Water Authority  
 Trust for Nature  
 Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of  
 Victoria (1/1–31/12)  
 Victorian Broiler Industry Negotiating Committee  
 Victorian Dairy Industry Authority  
 Victorian Strawberry Industry Development  
 Committee  
 Waste Management Council  
 Water Training Centre  
 West Gippsland Catchment Management  
 Authority  
 Western Region Water Authority  
 Western Regional Waste Management Group  
 Westernport Region Water Authority  
 Wimmera Catchment Management Authority  
 Wimmera–Mallee Rural Water Authority  
 Yarra Bend Park Trust

*Portfolio — Premier and Cabinet*

Department of Premier and Cabinet  
 Council of Trustees of the National Gallery of  
 Victoria  
 Office of Public Employment  
 Office of the Ombudsman  
 Victorian Arts Centre Trust  
 Victorian Multicultural Commission  
 Victorian Relief Committee

*Portfolio — Treasury and Finance*

Department of Treasury and Finance

Chief Electrical Inspector, Office of the Gascor Holdings No. 3 Pty Ltd	Notice under s 32(3)(a)(iii) in relation to Statutory Rule No. 87
Local Authorities Superannuation Board	Notice under s 32(4)(a)(iii) in relation to an Order varying State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) ( <i>Government Gazette No. 34, 26 August 1999</i> )
Office of the Regulator-General	
South East Medical Complex Ltd	Notice under s 32(4)(a)(iii) in relation to Amendment No. 4 of the Building Code of Australia 1996
State Trustees Limited	
Transmission Pipelines Australia (Holdings) Pty Ltd	Legal Practitioners Liability Committee — Report for the year 1998–99
Transport Accident Commission	
Victorian Plantations Corporation	Library Board of Victoria — Report for the year 1998–99
Victorian Superannuation Board	
Western Underground Gas Storage (WUGS Pty Ltd)	Liquor Licensing Commission — Report for period 1 July 1998 to 17 February 1999
Report from the Minister for Health that he had received the Report for the 11-month period ended 30 November 1998 of the Chiropractors Registration Board	Longford Royal Commission (Report) Act 1999 — Report of the Longford Royal Commission — The Esso Longford Gas Plant Accident — Ordered to lie on the Table and to be printed
Report from the Minister for Health that he had received the Report for the year ended 30 September 1998 of the Dental Board	Loy Yang B Power Station Pty Ltd — Report for the year 1998–99
Fisheries Co-Management Council — Report for the year 1998–99	Marine Board of Victoria — Report for the year 1998–99
Gas Release Co Pty Ltd — Report for the year 1998–99	Melbourne City Link Act 1995 — Notification from the Minister for Planning and Local Government of the following Agreements and Statements of Variation which amend the Melbourne City Link Agreement:
Gas Safety Office — Report for the year 1998–99	Sixth Amending Deed (dated 20 July 1999)
Gas Services Business Pty Ltd — Report for the year 1998–99	Seventh Amending Deed (dated 5 August 1999)
Gas Transmission Corporation — Report for the year 1998–99	Eighth Amending Deed (dated 12 August 1999)
Gascor — Report for the year 1998–99	City Link and Extension Projects Integration and Facilitation Agreement Second Amending Deed (20 July 1999)
Gascor Holdings No. 1 Pty Ltd — Report for the period 1 July 1998 to 30 March 1999	Statement of Variation No. 4/1999: Changes to the Project Scope and Technical Requirements, Request for Change No. 4 (RevA)
Gascor Holdings No. 2 Pty Ltd — Report for the period 1 July 1998 to 24 February 1999	Statement of Variation No. 5/1999: Changes to the Project Scope and Technical Requirements, request for Change No. 7 (RevA)
Gasmart (Vic) Pty Ltd — Report for the period 1 July 1998 to 31 March 1999	Statement of Variation No. 6/1999: Changes to the Project Scope and Technical Requirements, Request for Change No. 8
Generation Victoria (Ecogen Energy) — Financial Statement for the year 1998–99	Statement of Variation No. 7/1999: Changes to the Project Scope and Technical Requirements, Request for Change No. 9
Geelong Performing Arts Centre Trust — Report for the year 1998–99	Statement of Variation No. 8/1999: Changes to the Project Scope and Technical Requirements, Request for Change No. 10
Greyhound Racing Control Board — Report for the year 1998–99	Orders pursuant to s 8(4) increasing the Project Area (two orders)
Harness Racing Board — Report for the year 1998–99	Melbourne City Link Authority — Report for the year 1998–99
Hastings Port (Holding) Corporation — Report for the year 1998–99	
Heritage Council — Report for the year 1998–99	
Infrastructure Department — Report for the year 1998–99	
Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984:	

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Trust — Report for the year 1998–99

Melbourne Market Authority — Report for the year 1998–99 (two papers)

Melbourne Port Corporation:

Report for the year 1998–99

Financial Statements for the year 1998–99

Melbourne Port Corporation — Report for the year 1998–99

Melbourne Water Corporation — Report for the year 1998–99

Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978:

Summary of Returns June 1999 and Summary of Variation Notified between 27 May and 30 September 1999 — Ordered to be printed

Cumulative Summary of Returns September 1999 — Ordered to be printed

MET TRAIN 2 (formerly Hillside Trains) — Report for the year 1998–99

Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board — Report for the year 1998–99

Museums Board of Victoria — Report for the year 1998–99

National Power Exchange Pty Ltd — Report for the period 1 July 1998 to 31 March 1999

Natural Resources and Environment Department — Report for the year 1998–99 (two papers)

Overseas Projects Corporation of Victoria Ltd — Report for the year 1998–99

Parliamentary Committees Act 1968 — Response of the Minister for Finance on action taken with respect to the recommendations made by the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee's Report on the Information Technology and the Year 2000 Problem — Is the Victorian Public Sector Ready?

Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Fund — Report for the year 1998–99

Parliamentary Officers Act 1975:

Statement of Appointments and Alterations of Classifications during the year 1998–99 in the:

Department of the Legislative Council  
 Department of the Legislative Assembly  
 Department of the Parliamentary Library  
 Department of the Parliamentary Services  
 Department of the Reporting Staff of the Victorian Parliamentary Debates

Statement of Persons Temporarily Employed during the year 1998–99 in the:

Department of the Legislative Council  
 Department of the Legislative Assembly

Department of the Parliamentary Library

Department of the Parliamentary Services

Department of the Reporting Staff of the Victorian Parliamentary Debates

Planning and Environment Act 1987:

Notices of approval of the following new Planning Schemes:

Alpine Planning Scheme  
 Banyule Planning Scheme  
 Brimbank Planning Scheme  
 Cardinia Planning Scheme  
 Casey Planning Scheme  
 Colac Otway Planning Scheme  
 Corangamite Planning Scheme  
 Delatite Planning Scheme  
 East Gippsland Planning Scheme  
 Gannawarra Planning Scheme  
 Glen Eira Planning Scheme  
 Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme  
 Melton Planning Scheme  
 Moira Planning Scheme  
 Mount Alexander Planning Scheme  
 Southern Grampians Planning Scheme  
 Strathbogie Planning Scheme  
 Swan Hill Planning Scheme  
 Towong Planning Scheme  
 Whitehorse Planning Scheme  
 Whittlesea Planning Scheme  
 Wodonga Planning Scheme

Notices of approval of amendments to the following Planning Schemes:

All Planning Schemes — Nos S82, S83  
 Alpine Resorts Planning Scheme — No. C3  
 Ararat Planning Scheme — No. L5  
 Avon Planning Scheme — No. L12  
 Bacchus Marsh Planning Scheme — No. L59  
 Bairnsdale (Shire) Planning Scheme — No. L63  
 Ballan Planning Scheme — Nos L19, L20  
 Ballarat Planning Scheme — Nos C2, C3, C6, C18  
 Banyule Planning Scheme — Nos C2, L28  
 Bayside Planning Scheme — No. L22  
 Belfast Planning Scheme — No. L17  
 Berwick Planning Scheme — Nos L134, L144  
 Boroondara Planning Scheme — Nos L42, L47, L53, L54, L59, L61, L63, L64  
 Brimbank Planning Scheme — No. C2, L46, L68, L70  
 Campaspe Planning Scheme — No. C5  
 Cardinia Planning Scheme — No. C1  
 Cranbourne Planning Scheme — No. L216  
 Darebin Planning Scheme — Nos L60, L62, L66, L70, L72, L73, L74, L75

- Doncaster and Templestowe Planning Scheme — Nos L141, L142
- Frankston Planning Scheme — Nos L105, L109, L115, L116
- Glen Eira Planning Scheme — No. L37
- Glenelg Planning Scheme — No. C1
- Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme — Nos L81, L87
- Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme — No. C3
- Greater Geelong Planning Scheme — No. R236, R246, RL185, RL237
- Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme — No. L15
- Hume Planning Scheme — No. L57
- Indigo Planning Scheme — No. C2
- Kingston Planning Scheme — Nos L50, L51, L53
- Knox Planning Scheme — Nos L156, L183, L185, L187
- Maribymong Planning Scheme — No. L38
- Maroondah Planning Scheme — Nos L32, L37
- Melbourne Planning Scheme — Nos C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C9
- Mildura (Shire) Planning Scheme — No. L48
- Moe Planning Scheme — Nos L48, L49
- Moira Planning Scheme — Nos C1, L30
- Monash Planning Scheme — No. L54
- Moonee Valley Planning Scheme — Nos C2, C3, C6
- Moreland Planning Scheme — Nos L64, L65
- Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme — Nos C1, C2
- Mount Alexander Planning Scheme — No. C2
- Murrindindi Planning Scheme — No. C2
- Nillumbik Planning Scheme — Nos L20, L24, L25
- Pakenham Planning Scheme — No. L172
- Phillip Island Planning Scheme — No. L78
- Port of Melbourne Planning Scheme — No. L31
- Port Phillip Planning Scheme — No. C9
- Rosedale Planning Scheme — No. L53
- Shepparton City Planning Scheme — No. L63
- Sherbrooke Planning Scheme — No. L139
- Stawell (City) Planning Scheme — No. L34
- Stonnington Planning Scheme — Nos L39, L47 Part A, L48, L49, L50, L52, L53, L55, L78, L81, L83, L84, L91, L92
- Surf Coast Planning Scheme — Nos L57, R55, R58
- Swan Hill Shire Planning Scheme — No. L26
- Victoria Planning Provisions — No. VC7
- Warmnambool Planning Scheme — No. C1
- Whitehorse Planning Scheme — Nos C1, C5
- Woorayl Planning Scheme — No. L60
- Yarra Planning Scheme — Nos C1, C5, C7
- Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme — Nos L100, L105, L108, L111
- Plumbing Industry Board — Report for the period 1 July 1998 to 31 December 1998
- Plumbing Industry Commission — Report for the period 1 January 1999 to 30 June 1999
- Police Review Commission — Report for the year 1998–99
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986:
- Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes
  - Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Horses (Victoria)
  - Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Poultry (Victoria)
  - Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Pigs (Victoria)
  - Variation of the Code of Accepted Farming Practice for the Welfare of Livestock — Transport of Livestock (1985)
- Public Record Office — Report for the year 1998–99
- Public Transport Corporation — Report for the year 1998–99
- Quiet Life Limited — Report for the year 1998–99
- Renewal Energy Authority Victoria — Report for the year 1998–99
- Roads Corporation (VicRoads) — Report for the year 1998–99
- Royal Botanic Gardens Board — Report for the year 1998–99 (two papers)
- Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria — Report for the year 1998–99
- South East Water Limited — Report for the year 1998–99
- Stamps Act 1958 — Report of exemptions approved and refunds made pursuant to s 137R for the year 1998–99
- State Development Department — Report for the year 1998–99
- State Electricity Commission of Victoria — Report for the year 1998–99
- State Training Board — Report for the year 1998–99
- Statutory Rules under the following Acts:
- Accident Compensation Act 1985 — SR No. 91
  - Building Act 1993 — SR No. 74
  - County Court Act 1958 — SR Nos 78, 79, 114
  - Country Fire Authority Act 1958 — SR No. 92
  - Credit (Administration) Act 1984 — SR No. 105
  - Crimes Act 1958 — SR Nos 70, 113
  - Docklands Authority Act 1991 — SR Nos 73

Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 — SR No. 107	Treasury Corporation of Victoria — Report for the year 1998–99
Fair Trading Act 1999 — SR No. 103	Tricontinental Holdings Limited and Subsidiaries — Report for the year 1998
Financial Institutions Duty Act 1982 — SR No. 89	Urban Land Corporation — Report for the year 1998–99
Firearms Act 1996 — SR No. 102	Vencorp (Victorian Energy Networks Corporation) — Report for the year 1998–99
Fisheries Act 1995 — SR Nos 90, 109	Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal — Report for the year 1998–99
Friendly Societies Act 1996 — SR No. 72	Victoria Grants Commission — Report for the year ended 31 August 1999
Fundraising Appeals Act 1998 — SR No. 83	Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority — Report for the year 1998–99
Gas Industry Act 1994 — SR Nos 76, 77	Victorian Channels Authority — Report for the year 1998–99
Gas Safety Act 1997 — SR Nos 99, 100	Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal — Report for year 1998–99
Health Act 1958 — SR No. 108	Victorian Coastal Council — Report for the year 1998–99
Health Services Act 1988 — SR No. 95	Victorian Electricity Metering Pty Ltd — Report for the year 1998–99
Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 — SR No. 62	Victorian Funds Management Corporation — Report for the year 1998–99
Local Government Act 1989 — SR No. 62	Victorian Managed Insurance Authority — Report for the year 1998–99
Magistrates' Court Act 1989 — SR No. 97	Victorian Meat Authority — Report for the year 1998–99
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act 1958 — SR No. 68	Victorian Medical Consortium Pty Ltd — Report for the year 1998–99
Motor Car Traders Act 1986 — SR No. 104	Victorian Power Exchange Pty Ltd — Report for the year 1998–99
Occupational Health and Safety Act 1985 — SR Nos 84, 94	Victorian Rail Track — Report for the year 1998–99
Police Regulation Act 1958 — SR No. 101	Victorian WorkCover Authority — Report for the year 1998–99
Public Transport Competition Act 1995 — SR No. 60	Young Farmers' Finance Council — Report for the year 1998–99
Residential Tenancies Act 1997 — SR No. 88	Zoological Parks and Gardens Board — Report for the year 1998–99.
Road Safety Act 1986 — SR No. 59	
Shop Trading Reform Act 1996 — SR No. 62	
State Superannuation Act 1988 — SR No. 63	
Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — SR Nos 67, 71, 75, 82, 85, 86, 93, 98, 111, 116, 119	
Supreme Court Act 1986 — SR Nos 96, 113, 117, 118	
The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1958 — SR No. 62	
Tobacco Act 1987 — SR Nos 87, 110	
Transport Accident Act 1986 — SR Nos 64, 65, 66	
Transport Act 1983 — SR Nos 61, 112	
Travel Agents Act 1986 — SR No. 106	
Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996 — SR No. 69	
Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998 — SR Nos 80, 115	
Zoological Parks and Gardens Act 1995 — SR No. 81	
Subordinate Legislation Act 1994:	
Ministers' exception certificates in relation to Statutory Rule Nos 67, 69, 70, 71, 78, 79, 80, 81, 85, 86, 93, 96, 97, 98, 113, 114, 115, 117, 118, 119	
Ministers' exemption certificates in relation to Statutory Rule Nos 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68, 72, 73, 75, 82, 87, 89, 92, 94, 101, 102, 108, 110	
Terec Limited — Report for the year 1998–99	
Tourism Victoria — Report for the year 1998–99 (two papers)	

**ADMINISTRATION AND PROBATE  
(STATUTE LAW REVISION) BILL**

*Introduction and first reading*

**Mr BRACKS (Premier)** — In accordance with the usual practice and in order to preserve the privileges of the house, I move:

That I have leave to bring in a bill to make minor amendments to the Administration and Probate Act 1958.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Read first time.**

## GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

### Address-in-reply

**The SPEAKER** — Order! I have to report to the house that this day I attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council chamber where His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of Parliament, of which I have obtained a copy for accuracy. As the speech is printed and copies are in the hands of honourable members or are available to them, it is not necessary to read the speech.

**Ms ALLAN (Bendigo East)** — I move:

That the following address in reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor to both houses of Parliament be agreed to by this house:

Your Excellency:

We, the Legislative Assembly of Victoria assembled in Parliament, wish to express our loyalty to our Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have made to the Parliament.

I am proud to stand in this chamber today as the new member for Bendigo East and as the first Labor member to represent that electorate in the Victorian Parliament. I am also proud to be here today as the first woman to represent Bendigo in any Australian Parliament. I am delighted to enter the Victorian Parliament in a historic year in which for the first time Australians have the opportunity to vote for an Australian head of state.

I thank the people of Bendigo for electing me as their representative. I assure them that my key purpose in being a member of Parliament is to demonstrate that the best politicians are those who see themselves as true representatives of their electorates — that means caring about the people, listening to the people and speaking out for the people. I intend to listen, to discuss and to be a voice for the people of Bendigo East. I intend to make a difference for them.

Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment. I congratulate the Premier, the Honourable Steve Bracks, on forming government. The government will give a fair go to all Victorians. As a country member of Parliament I say that after seven years of city-blinkered coalition rule the government's

distinctive role will be to recognise and appreciate the people of country Victoria, to place their needs back on the political agenda and to bring them back into the decision-making process.

As the first symbol of what is important to me as the member for Bendigo East I wear on my lapel the well-recognised poppet head — the logo for Bendigo, the city I was born in, live in, work in, love and now represent. Bendigo is a city with a golden past — a past that includes at least three generations of my family. Geographically my electorate of Bendigo East includes the urban area of Bendigo, including the central business district, a number of semi-rural suburbs that lie on the outskirts of the city, and its borders stretch out to include the small towns of Axedale, Goornong, Bridgewater and Raywood. It is a regional centre that services many small towns and is recognised as the capital of its region.

Bendigo is an educational centre that boasts high-quality primary and secondary schools, a campus of La Trobe University and the Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE. It is a centre for essential health services. The Bendigo Health Care Group is Bendigo's biggest employer, and employs approximately 2200 people. Bendigo provides excellent and wide-ranging health and community services, including Loddon Mallee Women's Health, Bendigo Community Health Services and many other agencies, which provide care and support to our local and regional community.

Bendigo is a key centre for the arts, proudly boasting a magnificently restored art gallery, the historic Capital Theatre, a number of smaller regional galleries and a very talented population of musicians, dancers, singers, actors, writers and artists. It is a great sporting town. It has many premier sporting facilities and is known for developing talented sportsmen and sportswomen across every sporting field. The city is surrounded by a beautiful and unique natural environment that needs to be carefully preserved and nurtured, which is especially important given the pressures associated with development that regional centres such as Bendigo are facing.

The city is a major employment centre. Its people and its economy need more jobs. Regional development, which was just a public relations exercise under the previous administration, has to be and will be a priority of the Labor government. The former Kennett government and its federal colleagues have played havoc with jobs in the traditional areas of manufacturing, heavy engineering and the public service in the Bendigo district. The former Premier had

become so remote from the thinking on jobs of Bendigo people that he boasted during the election campaign that he was a prime mover behind the Howard government's privatisation of Australian Defence Industries — once Bendigo's biggest employer.

My electorate of Bendigo East experiences many of the social difficulties that many towns and regions in country Australia are experiencing. Conservative government slash-and-burn policies have been devastating for Bendigo, leaving the town with an unemployment level of 11.9 per cent. The figures are worse in the rural areas that bound Bendigo, including some that fall in my electorate. Youth unemployment is above 30 per cent in my region — an unacceptable level for any community.

Bendigo's traditional work force has been ravaged because of the previous government's policies of privatisation and public-sector downsizing. Labor estimates that 1800 jobs have been lost to the Bendigo district through Kennett and Howard government sell-offs and cuts to the public sector.

Country Victoria led a voting revolution at the recent election. People in my electorate said to me time and again, 'The Kennett government cares only about Melbourne. We are being forgotten and left behind'. That was not a myth. There are many symbols of the past seven years that represent the legacy of the Kennett government and its impact on country Victoria. It was not a myth that 98 per cent of all jobs growth in Victoria in the past financial year was in Melbourne. It was not a myth that all of the \$2.1 billion major government projects were located in Melbourne and that none was located in country Victoria.

Country communities lost their local councils and shires, and the related jobs were taken from their towns. It is hard to imagine a more poignant symbol than the closing of a town hall in a country town.

The symbols of the previous government's policies on country Victoria were its taxes and tolls; the closure of 176 country schools and 12 country hospitals; the closing down of five country train lines; the relentless privatisation of Victoria's public assets; and the user-pays charges that made the public pay, regardless of its ability to do so, for services that were formerly free because they had already been paid for in taxes.

The legacy of the previous government is that it has left the economy of country Victoria depressed and has driven jobs and development from the country to Melbourne. Country Victorians did not share in the much-promoted turnaround in Victoria's economy. On

the contrary, country Victorians were among the prime losers under the regime of economic rationalism that the Kennett government turned loose on the country.

Country people rejected the ethics of the philosophy behind the claimed turnaround. They saw that it was based on the slashing of services and jobs in the country and drew its revenue from closing country schools and hospitals and selling off Victoria's great public assets. The privatisation of the electricity industry is the prime example, with the resultant loss of jobs and services to country regions and the removal of the uniform electricity tariff that had protected country consumers in the past.

The second symbol I wear today is my Emily's List brooch. As I have already stated, I am the first woman to represent Bendigo in Parliament, and I thank the women of Emily's List for their support in helping me achieve that. I wear the symbol because I am committed to equality for women. Emily's List is not just an idea, it is a program for action; and it has at its helm and in its ranks committed people who have shown they get results.

Parliaments across Australia are electing women in greater numbers; however, the numbers remain far from equal. It is extremely important that the ranks of parliamentarians reflect the make-up of the society they represent, be they urban or rural, young or old, male or female, gay, indigenous or from non-English-speaking backgrounds.

I am delighted that the election resulted in women entering Parliament in record numbers. I am looking forward to working with my new colleagues to ensure that every piece of legislation has been considered for its impact on women. We will be initiating legislation to empower and assist the lives of all Victorian women.

Young people in our community are finding it increasingly difficult to have their voices heard by decision-makers and community leaders. Our youth are an amazingly diverse collection of people who are often more aware of global issues than other members of the community. The issues young people face are affected by where they live, their education and their employment situations. As the youngest member of the chamber I welcome the challenge of representing young people in all their variety and in all their diverse needs and aspirations.

In my electorate of Bendigo East I represent young people who are at school, at work, unemployed, single, married, with children, without children, on the farm, or at university or TAFE. My commitment to them is that

I will not lecture or prejudge them on what I, personally, may happen to think is important to youth, because all our experiences are different and therefore unique. What young people want, and what they have told me they want, is a member of Parliament who will listen to their concerns, understand their issues and work hard to improve their opportunities, whether they live in a regional city or a country town. I intend to do my very best to ensure their voice is heard in state Parliament.

For the record I would like to state the political and ethical values that will help direct my actions and guide me as I fulfil my role as the member for Bendigo East.

First and foremost I believe in equality: equality before the law, equality for women and equality of opportunity. I believe that no matter where they live, no matter what family they were born into or no matter what school they went to, all people must be given the same opportunities in life. In saying that I believe it is the role of government to ensure that all in our society are given equal opportunities.

I believe in a universal public health system and a public education system. I believe governments have a particular role in helping low-income people by providing services to individuals and to groups of people in our community who cannot afford them.

Governments also have a responsibility to ensure there is a fairer and more equitable outcome for its citizens than that provided under the winners-and-losers mentality of the previous government. The ideas and policies of that government were just a prescription for social vandalism. I say that because over the past seven years the prevailing philosophy was to withdraw government from the provision of basic services and to leave the task of filling that void to the blind forces of the market. It is a flawed philosophy that ignores a government's responsibilities to its community.

I am the daughter of workers. My father and mother taught me the importance of a strong union movement in protecting the wages and conditions of workers. I believe in the role of the union movement in the industrial system and I believe strongly that the rights of workers must be protected.

I believe in respect for other people — their values, their beliefs and their history — and I believe in honesty and openness, both in my own personal interactions and with my community.

I believe strongly in the role and rights of the community in the decision-making process. However, for community members to play a role we as legislators

must ensure that they have the opportunity to participate. Over the past seven years that opportunity has been taken away from communities. They were disenfranchised and robbed of a role and a real voice in the making of decisions. Communities became disenchanted and alienated from their legislators at both the state and local government levels. Local government lost its representative function and became just another agency of Spring Street.

I believe in practice the best decisions are made after members of the community have had the opportunity to participate and had their ideas and concerns listened to and given due recognition. In addition, the democratic idea of community involves consultation and participation as an essential ingredient in advancing the wellbeing of people who share common goals.

I see the election of the Bracks Labor government as a decisive rejection of Big Brother bureaucracy and as the vital restoration of the concept of community and public life in Victoria.

These values will underpin my actions as the member for Bendigo East. I recognise the privilege that position grants me. I want to make a difference in my electorate of Bendigo East, and I look forward to implementing the program of reforms endorsed by Victorians at the state election — and specifically, in the case of my electorate, the Bendigo Plan. The Bendigo Plan makes jobs and economic development its highest priority. It includes a range of developments that will enhance Bendigo's social, economic and cultural growth. It embraces the development of a high-tech, small business incubator and is designed to attract more companies to set up in Bendigo.

I look forward to helping rebuild our education and health systems, particularly in rural and regional areas. I also look forward, with my colleagues and the community, to bringing a faster train link to Bendigo and to other parts of regional Victoria.

I wish to record the anger my electorate felt at the discrimination dealt out by the previous government against motorists driving into Melbourne via the City Link from Bendigo and the Calder corridor. The City Link toll on the Tullamarine Freeway is an entry tax into Melbourne. It is an unfair Melbourne entry tax that is levied on central Victoria alone. No other country region in the state faces paying an entry tax into the capital city. The Kennett government compounded that injustice by also giving Transurban, the operators of City Link, the authority to inflict an anti-country day pass that costs country people without an e-tag a flat rate of \$7 a day to visit Melbourne and \$14 to stay

overnight. Transurban's toll system is a rip-off of central Victorians and country people and Transurban must change it. That is the clear and direct message from the election in Bendigo and central Victoria.

The catchment management tax is a powerful symbol to country Victorians of the previous government's attitude. It is levied on country people alone. It is double taxation that charges people for government functions they have already paid for. The tax makes country people foot the bill for the government's withdrawal of funding from environment works. Country people will be ecstatic at the Labor government's abolition of that tax.

During the current term of government I want to work with the community on issues that affect youth, and more specifically the employment opportunities for youth in regional Victoria. The issue needs urgent attention because in many cases employment status defines the roles of young people in our communities. When they do not have jobs their hopes fade and social problems arise. The future of regional and rural communities depends increasingly on youth finding employment in their own towns.

In looking to the future I take the opportunity to reflect on the past. I acknowledge the contribution made to the electorate by the previous honourable member for Bendigo East, Michael John. He served the Bendigo electorate for four terms — 14 years — and I wish him and his family all the very best for the future. I thank him on behalf of all the constituents of Bendigo East for the work he has done for the electorate.

The most important thankyou I have is to my parents, Glenda and Peter. They have given me love, support, guidance and a good solid Labor upbringing. My thanks go to them for working hard to provide me with educational and work opportunities and most importantly the self-belief and confidence to achieve what I set out to achieve. That is why Labor governments are important. It was successive Labor governments that confirmed for ordinary workers the belief that they were equal citizens, that regardless of family income their children could have an education, that their families would have access to a universal public health system and that their wages and conditions were secured and protected in law.

Without the reforms initiated by governments led by Gough Whitlam, Bob Hawke, Paul Keating, John Cain and Joan Kirner, and without the support of my family, I would not be here today to join the new Bracks Labor government to continue the great tradition of Labor

governments — governments that care about and understand the community.

I also thank my brother, Bradley, and his family for their support. I thank Ben for his love, support, patience and belief. There are many other people to thank for the role they played in my recent election as the member for Bendigo East. I give a very big heartfelt thankyou to my campaign team lead by my campaign director, Marty Stradbroke, and my tireless campaign worker, Peter Stevenson. In addition I thank David Kennedy, a former member for Bendigo West in this place, who retains boundless enthusiasm for politics and put great energy into assisting my campaign.

Thank you, too, to the sitting member for Bendigo West, Bob Cameron, for his guidance and advice. I take the opportunity to congratulate Bob on his appointment as minister. I also acknowledge the role of Steve Gibbons, the federal member for Bendigo; the Victorian Branch of the Australian Labor Party; and Andrew McKenzie and my entire hardworking campaign team.

Finally, I thank the people of Bendigo for their support. In the months leading up to the election I embarked on a massive program of doorknocking in my electorate. I was overwhelmed by the positive response I received from people at their front doors. Even if their political allegiances were more in line with those on the other side of the chamber I was welcomed and treated extremely well. I mention that because I believe we can have political discourse in our electorates in an open, sensible and respectful manner. Our constituents have not been duped with a 30-second television grab or a slick campaign. As I doorknocked throughout my electorate people were pleased to discuss their ideas and their concerns with someone who was prepared to listen. I intend to continue to listen to the issues and concerns of the people of Bendigo East. I am their representative in this chamber, and I will continue to work hard, talk to them and listen to what they believe is important.

As members of Parliament we are the servants of the people in our electorates. We must communicate with them in an open and intelligent manner, not isolate them from the political process or seek them out only during the four weeks of an election campaign.

With the election of the Bracks Labor government we will see more engagement with the community and a reinstatement of democracy. The Bendigo East community will be empowered by having the ear of the government, through its local member — a government which will not quash, ridicule or isolate voices of

dissent and which will give back to the community its independent watchdog, the Auditor-General.

I am excited and exhilarated about representing the people of Bendigo East, and my excitement has been sustained by the support of the community. Bendigo is a close community that takes pride in the achievements of its citizens.

Since the election people have stopped me in the street, contacted my office, my home or my parents' home, or written letters with hearty messages of congratulations, all of which has been encouraging and uplifting and shows I have the support of my electorate to assist me in my work. I want to be a member of Parliament whom people feel able to stop on the street to say hello. I want to be accessible to my constituents through my office. My electorate is looking forward to having a Labor government in office again and a Labor member representing their electorate.

The support from the Bendigo East community also indicates that we — the government and the community in partnership — will be able to work together to build on the opportunities in Bendigo and the surrounding region.

I would like to thank the people of Bendigo for their support before the election and their pleasure following my election. Although Bendigo is a large city that continues to grow, it retains the personal contact of a town much smaller. It is a unique place, one in which I love to live, and I now have pride in saying that I represent it in Parliament.

I wish to highlight the importance of democracy in our parliamentary system to our way of life as Victorians and Australians. Our democratic system is a precious inheritance that has been fought for by past generations. It is based on the principle that all people are equal, are born free and have fundamental rights. There are not many countries in the world where such liberties are recognised. In our region Indonesia is struggling to achieve such freedoms after years of military dictatorship, and East Timor has now finally and painfully won its freedom from the same tyranny. Our democracy needs to be strengthened and invigorated. Parliament must be a genuine expression of the will of the people, and it must be able to respond to change for the benefit of the whole community.

Parliament needs to deliver results to the public. It also needs to deal with the gap between the wealthy and the rest of the community, which has increased in recent years. It must cater to the grassroots, ordinary citizens who have come to feel disenfranchised and angry over

recent years, particularly country Victorians. Country Victorians believe in democracy, and they will not tolerate being taken for granted or treated as second-class citizens. That is the one big message the election sent to this Parliament. I am proud to be here today as a member of the Parliament that will listen to this message.

**Mr McNamara** — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I refrained from making any comment during the honourable member's address but I ask you whether at their briefing, new members were advised of the traditions of the house that members giving inaugural speeches are heard in silence — which was the case — and that the speeches are not party political.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! There is no point of order. However, I understand that Parliament conducted a seminar for new members at which guidelines were issued about inaugural speeches. I make the point that inaugural, or maiden, speeches are traditionally heard in silence.

**Ms PIKE** (Minister for Housing) — Mr Speaker, today the Governor in his speech outlined a program that will bring confidence to the Victorian community. It is therefore my great privilege and pleasure to make my inaugural speech by seconding the motion.

At the outset I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your elevation to the high office of Speaker. I also congratulate Steve Bracks on his election as Premier.

I thank all my friends and supporters who have assisted me in countless ways in campaigning in and winning the seat of Melbourne. I am particularly grateful to my partner, Bob, for his love, help and encouragement over many years, and to my sons Paul, Luke, and Andrew, who have supported their mother on this journey. My parents, Rod and Thelma Pike, are here from Adelaide. I thank them for creating an environment in which a young woman could develop both a personal and a social vision and in which she was encouraged to strive for worthwhile goals. They taught me that true humanity is found in relationships, in caring for others and in a commitment to reconciliation. While my actions do not always match such ideals, I am nevertheless convinced that striving for them is profoundly important.

As a new member of Parliament and a minister with the responsibilities of public office, I am acutely aware that the pace of life will now become even more frenetic. I am therefore committed to maintaining a balance between my personal and professional lives and look

forward to the foreshadowed reforms that will give Parliament more family-friendly sitting hours.

I also hope that the influx of a large number of new members, including many more women, will mark the end of the aggressive and acrimonious style of debate that has diminished public respect for Parliament and politicians. I look forward to an open climate of mutual respect in public discourse in Victoria. As one who has been on the receiving end of personal vilification for expressing a dissenting view, I trust that in the future we will not see public spokespeople described as being un-Victorian.

I am honoured to have won the support of my party and the electors of the seat of Melbourne to enter this Parliament as their representative. Under the previous government the inner suburbs of Melbourne were the focus of much development, some of which occurred with little community consultation. Consistent with the broader approach of the government I am committed to working closely with the people who live within the district of Melbourne to ensure their homes and neighbourhoods are not adversely affected but are enhanced by the major projects around them.

I pay tribute to my predecessor Neil Cole, who worked tremendously hard during his time in public office to represent the constituents of Melbourne. Neil was an excellent member of Parliament and was frequently involved in campaigns in the inner city and facilitated increased public input. He was also a great supporter of residents in public housing and victims of injustice. Neil grew up in North Melbourne and began his career as a community lawyer there. He is well known and loved in the local community and was a regular favourite at the Arden Street football ground. He has even tried to encourage me to abandon my support of Essendon in favour of North Melbourne, citing it as a prerequisite for the job as the member for Melbourne!

Members of the previous Parliament will also be aware of Neil's advocacy of mental health issues and his personal struggle to overcome his bouts of depression. His courage and commitment won the respect of people from all sides of politics, and his role as an advocate should be recognised as a trail-blazing effort. Neil was the first Australian politician to publicly acknowledge that he suffers from a mental illness, and in doing so he contributed enormously to the greater public awareness of the significance of mental illness in our community. In the long run his stand will assist all those who work to improve our understanding of and support for the many people among us who are suffering.

As the newly appointed assistant to the Minister for Health I will make it a personal priority to maintain Neil's commitment and ensure that mental health does not remain in the too-hard basket where it has sat for many decades. Australians are becoming more aware that growing numbers of people in our midst suffer from depression, and I acknowledge the desire of the former Premier to address this issue. Of profound concern to me is the number of young people who are drifting to the periphery of our community blighted by undiagnosed depression. It is a tremendous challenge not only to respond to the immediate problems of loneliness and isolation but also to transform our society, which marginalises difference and rewards only winners.

I am grateful to the people of Victoria and the Independent members in this place who have given their support to the Bracks Labor government. They want to see a new style of government and a commitment to the basic pillars of the Westminster system of government. Openness, accountability and transparency are qualities that are valued in public life and are essential ingredients of good government. They may not always be convenient but they are never dispensable. This is not to say that decisions in government are easy, particularly in a highly technical, complex and sophisticated economic and social environment.

Huge challenges lie before the new Labor government. However, it has a clear framework within which to meet those challenges, and it must rely on its commitment to careful planning, fiscal responsibility, meaningful consultation and open dialogue to make the right choices for the long-term interests of the state. I am confident the government will attract even broader support for its program and that Victoria will flourish as stronger and more inclusive partnerships are developed among all sectors of the community.

I am further honoured to have been selected by my colleagues to be the Minister for Housing and the Minister for Aged Care in this new government. I have been interested in these two portfolios throughout my working life. During my employment as Director of Justice and Social Responsibility with the Uniting Church I was constantly reminded of the extent to which social inequity persists and is growing. I have never been convinced that the gap between rich and poor will narrow if we stand back and do nothing, pretending there is a level playing field. In fact the opposite is the more likely outcome. There is a critical need, as there has always been, for government to provide assistance and to address generational poverty

so that people can overcome adversity and live comfortable and satisfying lives.

For many people public housing has historically been a basis for broader social participation. When people do not have secure housing, they often find it hard to focus on other critical life issues such as employment, education and health. For my mother and her family in the post-war period it was the means by which they could move from dilapidated inner-city housing to affordable and secure accommodation. That in turn provided stepping stones into tertiary education and employment and the capacity to contribute to the broader community.

Access to stable and affordable housing and the promise of entering old age with financial security, good health and a secure place to live are things that most of us take for granted. But many Victorians do not face the future with confidence because they are legitimately concerned that the wider community will not be there to support them in times of need.

With the honour of this office also comes great responsibility. I pledge to work diligently over the next four years to deliver what the people of Victoria are yearning for: a government that is responsible and accountable and values consultation, a government that has strong social values and understands that society is far more than a corporation in which citizens are reduced to impotent consumers without rights, and a government that believes in partnerships where each community is involved in deciding its priorities and has a say in the decisions that affect it.

I am proud to be a member of the Bracks Labor government because it is a government that believes there is a legitimate role for government and is prepared to face the challenge of reinvigorating and developing democracy. I have worked hard to enter Parliament because of the high value I place on government and because of the damage that is done to any society when government abrogates its responsibility and diminishes itself.

I believe in government for four main reasons. Firstly, government forces us to care for each other even when we do not feel like it. A government helps us channel our best instincts and check our bad ones. I believe in government because I know that selfishness and compassion compete for a place in our hearts. I know that while we are capable of great acts of altruism and self-sacrifice we are also capable of being motivated by pure self-interest.

Secondly, I believe in government because it alone can provide the space of shared disinterest that protects individual citizens from those whose primary motivation is self-interest rather than the common good. If government vacates that role, who can blame those who have other interests for taking over the abandoned territory?

Thirdly, I believe in government because if society is to function well there is always a need to balance the needs of the individual and the needs of the whole for the sake of the common good.

Fourthly, I believe in government because it is through giving and receiving in community that people find meaning and fulfilment, and that social participation must be nurtured and enhanced both for the sake of the least powerful among us and for social cohesion.

We are often told that a globalised marketplace now makes political structures and governments less relevant or less able to determine their own destiny. That message, of course, contributes to the sense of powerlessness felt by many individuals. One of the greatest challenges facing our modern world is the restoration of the primacy of democracy over the economy, so that the economy serves society and not the reverse. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have both recently asserted the need for governments to take a stronger role in regulating the excesses of the marketplace for that very reason. I believe great democracies can still create ethical, social and judicial frameworks. They can set the tone for cooperation and give priority to policies that promote social harmony and economic justice.

Janet McCalman, the well-known Victorian historian, wrote recently:

There is an element in the public life of this country that I find deeply shameful. Yes, we believe in freedom, but not if it's going to cost us money. Yes, we want an educated, skilled people with world-class health care, but only for those who can afford it.

So the role of government is to cultivate a spirit of service to others, a responsibility for the whole community and a willingness to do our bit.

This is what I understand by mutual commitment. It is not some selective, punitive expression of 'You owe us' imposed on the most vulnerable, but a shared responsibility to build a society where human worth and dignity are valued and affirmed. I am confident that the new government will repudiate policies which reward only self-interest; rather we will model reciprocity and partnership.

The electoral district of Melbourne, which I have the honour to represent, is a microcosm of the city of Melbourne — and it is also the home of many of our newest arrivals and our oldest communities. The electorate houses thousands of students and young people and it is also becoming home to more and more people who are choosing to live in the inner city, in the new developments of Kensington Banks and, in the future, the Docklands.

It is this great diversity which enriches the community and makes Melbourne so attractive. I am committed to ensuring that the inner city retains its demographic and cultural mix, which is its strength, and does not become a monoculture. To achieve that I will give high priority to affordable housing, access to quality public education, excellent health and welfare services, public transport, and community safety.

The local government areas in my electorate have a significant role in enhancing the liveability of the area — and I am pleased that the government recognises its strengths. I look forward to working with the various municipalities to maximise their expertise and resources at the different levels of government to serve the community.

Victorians do not want to see their society divided between winners and losers — an A-list of the wealthy, enjoying the spoils while the bulk of the community bears an increasing burden for an ever-reducing level and quality of service. Victorians want the community as a whole to be the winner because of our shared commitment to fairness, a commitment to educating all our children in the best possible way as an investment in the future, a commitment to ensuring that every citizen can have high-quality health services when he or she needs them, a commitment to provide opportunities for all to enjoy the fulfilment of secure work in a strong and growing economy, and a commitment to respect and care for older Victorians who are no longer able to care for themselves.

The next few days will begin the real test of where this rhetoric meets reality. Labor has a vision for the kind of community it wants to be part of, but every single policy decision along the way must bring that vision to the light of day. Good government will put in place public policy which is coherent and connected and which weaves together to create a harmonious whole.

That is the reason I chose to stand for political office, and I am grateful to the many people who have contributed to my journey — to my family and friends who have supported and encouraged me, knowing my strengths and my inadequacies; to the church which has

taught me and continues to remind me that hope is stronger than fear, that trust is more powerful than competition, and that social justice is at the heart of faith; to the Australian Labor Party, which has afforded me the distinction of being its member and in whose platform I have found sympathy with my belief that every child, woman and man is of immeasurable worth and must be given every opportunity to contribute to and enjoy the very best that life has to offer.

From Mildura to Melbourne to Mallacoota, people are reaching for a new style of government — one that affirms people before ideology; one that uses new technologies to enrich people's lives, not to debase them; a government which affirms the legitimate right of all people to be involved in decisions which affect their lives and welcomes their contributions.

My election to the Victorian Parliament has been a major turning point in my life, and one that I could scarcely have imagined a few years ago as a single mother with two young children. It is a moment that coincides with a major turning point in the political history of Victoria, and it comes on the cusp of the dawn of a new millennium. It is a promising dawn that has been brought about by an increasing dissatisfaction with purely materialistic values.

It provides an opportunity for Victoria to breathe new life into its democratic and social justice traditions. It is an opportunity for all Victorians to rebuild a sense of mutual commitment in all our communities. I am honoured to have the opportunity to be part of the rebuilding process.

**Debate adjourned on motion of Mr KOTSIRAS (Bulleen).**

**Debate adjourned until next day.**

## CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

**Mr BATCHELOR** (Minister for Transport) — I shall propose to the house that the honourable member for Essendon be appointed Chairman of Committees. I believe the honourable member, who is without doubt a lively and vibrant person, is capable of bringing appropriate values to the task. She will be more than able to fill the shoes of the immediate previous Chairman of Committees, Mr John McGrath, who was highly respected and well thought of by all honourable members. I am sure the honourable member for Essendon will be able to fulfil the functions of the office in the same fashion as Mr McGrath. Accordingly I move:

That Judith Marilyn Maddigan be appointed Chairman of Committees of this house.

**Mr THWAITES** (Minister for Health) — I second the motion.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! Does the honourable member for Essendon accept the nomination?

**Mrs MADDIGAN** (Essendon) — Yes, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! I have to announce that the time for proposals has expired. There being no further proposals, I declare the honourable member for Essendon, being the only member proposed, duly elected Chairman of Committees of the house.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

### Adjournment

**Mr BATCHELOR** (Minister for Transport) — I move:

That the house, at its rising, adjourn until tomorrow at 10.00 a.m.

Motion agreed to.

### Proclamation dates

**Mr BATCHELOR** (Minister for Transport) — By leave, I move:

That this house authorises and requires the Clerk to lay on the table copies of proclamations of His Excellency the Governor in Council fixing dates for the coming into operation of acts, as published in the *Government Gazette* from time to time.

Motion agreed to.

## APPOINTMENT OF SERJEANT-AT-ARMS

**The SPEAKER** — Order! Pursuant to the provisions of the Parliamentary Officers Act 1975, my predecessor has appointed Mr Gavin Francis Bourke to be Serjeant-at-Arms following the appointment of Mr Geoffrey Herbert Westcott as Assistant Clerk and Clerk of Committees.

Remaining business postponed on motion of **Mr BATCHELOR** (Minister for Transport).

## ADJOURNMENT

**Mr BATCHELOR** (Minister for Transport) — I move:

That the house do now adjourn.

## Malvern Central School

**Mr DOYLE** (Malvern) — I wish to raise a matter for the Minister for Education, but before I do so I congratulate you on your election earlier today, Mr Speaker. I have great confidence you will do honour to the high position with which you have been entrusted.

The matter I raise with the Minister for Education concerns a school in my electorate, the Malvern Central School, better known locally as Spring Road. It has provided education in the Malvern area for over 125 years. For the past five years, particularly the past two years, I have been working with the school community and the community at large in carefully evaluating and analysing the needs of that school. I pay tribute to the chairman of the school council, Des Baker, and the principal, Judy Gurvich.

Immediately preceding the election it was announced that following a needs analysis \$1.5 million would be allocated to Malvern Central School. Honourable members may remember when central schools, which provide education from prep to year 8, were a popular part of the education system. However, there are now only two remaining in Victoria. Malvern Central School has about 31 equivalent full-time teachers and 550 pupils, 74 of whom are secondary students. The school has two campuses, one in Spring Road and one in Park Street, separated by a well-utilised park.

It is the last secondary school in the City of Stonnington. Although it offers classes to year 8, its focus is on middle schooling. In offering schooling between grades 5 and 8 it has developed considerable curriculum expertise.

As the minister would know, the most recent research shows that many educational difficulties arise when children stop learning between grades 5 and 8. Malvern Central School is keen to promote a middle-schooling concept, one that has attracted considerable interest and support from both the local and the wider community.

The work done by Malvern Central in the middle-schooling area is groundbreaking, but difficulties will arise if the funding commitment is not confirmed. Because it is an older school with a growing enrolment, the design of some areas is patently unsuitable for secondary education. The school council, the community, the principal, the staff and I all wish to keep years 7 and 8 at the school, but a gym and assembly area are needed immediately — and those could be multipurpose areas. If it rains there is nowhere for the students to play sport or for the whole school to

assemble, which is inappropriate. A library upgrade is urgently needed. The staff has done a fantastic job, but the library is barely adequate for primary school needs, much less for secondary students. A classroom rebuild and the upgrading of the administration area are needed.

Those requirements were incorporated in a needs analysis in the master planning of the school. The former government made a commitment to provide \$1.5 million. The opposition sees this not as a political matter but as one that should receive bipartisan support. We believe it would be a community and educational travesty if the new government reallocated the priorities of the Directorate of School Education.

I ask the minister to guarantee that the new government will provide this much-needed and carefully planned funding for Malvern Central School. I invite the Minister for Education to the school to examine the plans. I hope it will help her decide that the \$1.5 million will be well spent.

### **Drugs: Footscray methadone clinic**

**Mr MILDENHALL** (Footscray) — I also offer my congratulations to you, Mr Speaker, on your auspicious appointment.

I seek an undertaking from the Minister for Community Services in conjunction with the other ministers responsible for the Department of Human Services to review the situation at the Barkly Gardens supported residential units with a view to considering legislative and administrative changes given the difficulties being faced by the West Footscray community.

On 23 August uproar broke out when West Footscray residents in the heart of my electorate became aware that a private methadone clinic supervised by armed guards had begun operating at the former Barkly Gardens special accommodation facility at 633 Barkly Street. A local job seeker from my street heard that a new facility was opening. When he turned up he was told that he needed a pistol licence to get a job at a special accommodation facility.

I was alarmed to hear that the facility was being managed by Custody Control Corporation, an organisation which is represented by and whose public face is Helmut Kirsch, also known as Gregory Middap. Mr Middap has been described in the *Herald Sun* as a Neo-Nazi, a man with an extensive criminal history extending over 20 years and three states, including convictions for heroin trafficking, fraud, theft, burglary, possession of an unlicensed pistol and being an accessory after the fact to a double murder. Mr Middap

was sentenced to five years jail for the last offence and during the sentencing Justice Hampel described him as a leading member of a criminal gang involved in large-scale drug trafficking, not the type of person to be running a private methadone clinic.

In April last year the *Herald Sun* reported that Mr Middap had conned his way into the Port Phillip private prison for a 2-hour tour of the high-security prison. He was also reported as a surveillance and security systems expert, not the type of person who would enjoy a 2-hour tour of that facility. I am astonished that this type of facility could be opened without warning, some 10 weeks later still be in operation, and that a person with such a record could be so closely associated with a facility offering itself as an armed alternative to bail for juvenile and other drug offenders.

After I publicly raised the issue, a series of disgusting and offensive posters were plastered around the Footscray business district attacking my comments. Although I do not pretend that they are associated with the individual, they certainly raised concern. The Maribyrnong City Council officers quickly took out enforcement action and have a case before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, but it is of concern that the facility is still operating.

I am also principally concerned that there appears to be no mechanism available under state law to quickly close the facility. The council's view is that a requirement for a fit and proper person or proper proprietor test under the supported accommodation area in the Health Services Act would better protect and enable state authorities to prevent individuals such as Mr Middap attempting to seek proper licensing.

### **Scoresby freeway**

**Mr WELLS** (Wantirna) — I join with other speakers on the debate for the adjournment of the sitting to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your appointment. I was one of your neighbours in the last Parliament and know that you are a fair and reasonable man.

I refer the Minister for Transport to the government's decision to scrap the Scoresby freeway. What will the Labor government do as an alternative to the corridor that was designated by the previous government? The Scoresby corridor was not just a road running north-south. It was an opportunity for employment growth, industry investment, improved traffic flows, the addressing of environmental issues and the reduction of business costs.

The corridor affects not only the areas around Wantirna, Bayswater and Knox, but the entire outer eastern area. To amplify that point further I turn to the transport economics. Before industry will invest anywhere it needs to ensure it will have a certain supply of water, gas and electricity and a safe and efficient road network. Investment will not be attracted to the outer eastern area if the Labor government does not proceed with the project.

In analysing the Scoresby corridor there is a need to look at the results of the environmental effects statement that was in train for a number of years. The business benefits to Victoria in 2011 are expected to be of the order of \$31 million, the impact on the annual gross state product in 2025 is estimated to be \$200 million and the impact on the annual national gross domestic product in 2025 is expected to be \$400 million. The figures are significant and must be taken into consideration by the government.

Victoria's employment growth is an important factor. Earlier today honourable members mentioned the need to improve employment. The government cannot talk about employment but do nothing about it. Victoria needs to attract investment and industry into these areas, and the completion of the Scoresby corridor would do that. Employment cannot be improved if investors are scared off.

The environmental issues are important. The current proposed location of the Scoresby corridor will ensure noise and environmental pollution are reduced over a period in the section in the outer east that will run from north to south.

Businesses need low costs to be efficient. Road distribution accounts for 20 per cent of the cost of manufactured goods. Quick and efficient road networks would ensure reduced business costs.

I turn to some of the options being explored by the Minister for Transport. The government plans to upgrade Stud Road as an immediate priority. People living in the outer east would like to know what is meant by the words 'immediate priority'. It may interest the government to know that the upgrade of Stud Road has been taking place over the past two or three years.

Many people in the outer east think the road has reached its maximum capacity and there can be no further development. They would like to know what improvements the minister is planning, what funds have been allocated and whether he is confident that in the time frame he proposes the measures will resolve the

problem of traffic congestion in the north to south direction, especially around intersections, given that the average speed in the 80 kilometre-an-hour zone on Stud Road is now down to 51.4 kilometres an hour. That shows how bad the traffic has become.

### Smoke alarms

**Mr ROBINSON** (Mitcham) — I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your elevation to your high office. Honourable members who know you are confident you will perform the duties with which you have been charged with fairness and great honour.

I raise for the attention of the Minister for Environment and Conservation the investigation and clarification of guidelines and protocols for the disposal of smoke alarms, with a view to allaying public concern.

The matter was directed to my attention recently by a constituent of the Mitcham electorate, Val McLean, who succinctly highlighted the problem. She said in her letter that the labelling of the smoke alarms commonly available in hardware shops indicates that when they have reached the end of their working lives they should be returned to either the manufacturers or the health department. Alternative disposal is neither readily available nor permitted in some cases.

As she asks in her letter, if it is safe to install smoke alarms in homes, why is it not safe to put them in garbage bins? I do not pretend to be well versed or knowledgeable on the technical design of smoke alarms, but the point is that smoke alarms have warnings that they contain radioactive material. Val McLean telephoned her local council, the City of Whitehorse, and spoke with those involved in the waste management department. After checking with other council staff they said that nobody had ever asked them such a question. She was referred to a statutory authority, Ecorecycle, which offered to send her a list of disposal sites and times. She was pleased to receive the list, but it said the smoke alarms could be deposited at the metropolitan sites only on Saturdays. The nearest site was some considerable distance away.

The matter of smoke alarm disposal requires investigation and clarification because from February this year smoke alarms were required to be fitted to all properties in Victoria. That move enjoyed the support of all members of Parliament. However, as a consequence many more smoke alarms will have to be disposed of in the future.

My estimate, and the experience of other members, is that one may get one or two years from a smoke alarm before it must be discarded. I must confess that I have

burnt out my smoke alarm in a shorter period due to my lack of culinary skills. Because my wife is in India I was recently in charge of the children, and I confess to burning the potato gems one night. It set off the device to the point where I do not think it will last much longer. As a result, I will face the same problem Val McLean faces.

To avoid public concern about storage and disposal problems or dangers from smoke alarms honourable members may benefit if, in conjunction with the companies that manufacture them, the minister investigates and clarifies the matter.

### **Fishing: recreational licences**

**Mr PLOWMAN** (Benambra) — Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your elevation to Speaker and also pass on the congratulations of the past Speaker, who is delighted with the choice.

I direct a matter to the attention of the Minister for Energy and Resources in another place. It concerns reciprocal fishing rights, in particular in Lake Hume and Lake Mulwala. Since New South Wales introduced the inland fishing licence in 1997 Victoria has raised the issue of the reciprocal recognition of recreational fishing licences on waters along the Murray River, and in particular those two areas.

In a letter dated 27 July the former Acting Minister for Agriculture and Resources said:

Reciprocal recognition of licences is consistent with the principles and details of the draft fisheries management plans for Lake Hume and Lake Mulwala developed jointly by NSW and Victoria. These draft plans were halted by the NSW government three years ago.

... Victoria has raised the matter of reciprocal recognition of recreational licences, both on a statewide basis and in terms of fishing in and adjacent to the Murray River border. These approaches have been rejected consistently by NSW.

Victoria remains prepared to discuss reciprocal recognition of recreational fishing licences for shared inland waters.

The problem relates to the fact that the state border is the high-water mark of the south bank of the Murray River. When one is fishing on either Lake Mulwala or Lake Hume one has no idea where that high-water mark is located. The side on which one is supposed to be fishing depends entirely on the side of the border from which one launches one's boat. There are plenty of fish in the area because both the water bodies have been stocked by the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

The difficulty is that there are also different limits on the size of the fish and the bag. A person with a licence for a particular bag limit who is fishing on one side of the weir and takes a boat to the other side can be fined for having the wrong fish size or bag size.

The New South Wales fisheries minister, the Honourable Eddie Obeid, says there is no confusion about the need to have both licences and that no-one is adversely affected. An article in the *Border Mail* of 2 November states:

Last month Mr Obeid rejected a request from the North East Association of VRFish — Victoria's peak recreational fishing group — for a reciprocal licence to be implemented for Lake Hume ...

I also refer to the case of a Lavington fisherman, Mr John Landman, who was booked for failing to have a New South Wales fishing licence although he was fishing in Victoria. That is an example of the difficulties fisherman face when they fish in the area.

I ask the minister to accept the proposal by VRFish for a meeting between the ministers and, if possible, for the ministers to meet with local anglers to learn about their problems. Further, I ask that measures be introduced in both state parliaments to allow for the introduction of reciprocal rights for fishing licences in these waters.

### **Electricity industry: Basslink**

**Ms DAVIES** (Gippsland West) — I add my congratulations on your appointment, Mr Speaker. I am hopeful of a good Parliament under your guidance.

I refer the Minister for Finance, as the minister responsible for the Office of the Regulator-General, to the Basslink proposal, which aims to connect Tasmania to the national energy grid via an undersea cable that must then find its way from the coast to the main high-tension line easement that runs from the Latrobe Valley to Melbourne. South-west Gippslanders feel threatened by the prospect of high-tension powerlines marching across their landscape as part of the Basslink proposal.

Recently in Leongatha 1300 people stood up to say an emphatic and unanimous no to the prospect of high-tension powerlines across south-west Gippsland. Another 400 constituents said the same thing at a public meeting held later in Drouin, and the same message was given at two public meetings held in adjoining areas.

I have been concerned about the Basslink proposal since I first heard about it because the process outlined by the former government seems strangely skewed in

that a preferred developer is or would be selected on the basis of a tender. That preferred private developer is then supposed to select the route and the method of transmission of the powerline. That is not an appropriate order of events.

The decision on an appropriate route and method of transmission should be made before any private consortium is asked to spend its precious dollars costing and developing a proposal which may be environmentally inappropriate.

What progress has the minister made since coming to office to ascertain where the proposal stands at the moment? In what way can my local community be reassured that its strongly held views will be fully taken into consideration?

### **Police: Melton station**

**Mr NARDELLA** (Melton) — Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your elevation to the position of Speaker.

I ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to address the issue of police numbers, in this case in Melton. I ask him to assure the community that the Melton police station will be fully staffed to relieve the pressure on police officers and allow them to better serve their communities.

A number of community leaders and members of the media have commented on the need for more police at the Melton station to provide security for residents of such a large area. At least two police officers are allocated to look after prisoners on a 24-hour basis; they are taken off the beat, thereby making it difficult for the remaining police to provide security from the Melton station for my constituents. At times only one police vehicle has been on the road. Police officers have had trouble completing their paperwork.

The population is increasing by about 10 per cent a year in areas such as Caroline Springs, West Lakes, Melton South and Hillside. Police now need to deal with the increasing incidence of crime due to drug abuse and the hydroponic growing of addictive plants.

I ask the minister to consider the increasing needs of an electorate that includes locations such as Caroline Springs and to assure local communities that the Melton police station will continue to be adequately staffed.

### **Responses**

**Ms DELAHUNTY** (Minister for Education) — I congratulate you upon your elevation to the highest office in this place, Mr Speaker.

The honourable member for Malvern raised a concern about Malvern Central School. I share the member's interest in and concerns about the middle years of schooling, particularly where boys are disengaging from the important parts of their schooling.

The honourable member referred to an allocation of \$1.5 million for Malvern Central School, but he did not indicate whether the money was an election campaign lure or whether it had been ticked off in the former coalition government's forward estimates. If it had not been ticked off, from where was the government intending to get the money for the school?

Honourable members will recall a desperate Kennett government running around the state promising lots of money for upgrades, but the funds were not ticked off in the forward estimates. The bottom line indicated that the money was proposed funding for 2001–02.

The honourable member said Malvern Central School requires a new gymnasium, an urgent upgrade of the library and administration unit, and additional classrooms. I am puzzled about why the honourable member was not able to achieve those improvements for the school while the coalition was in government. I now understand why the Commonwealth Grants Commission said Victoria spends less on education than any other state or territory in Australia. That is why Malvern Central School did not get its gymnasium, extra classrooms or administration unit and library upgrade.

I will examine the matter and get back to the honourable member in due course.

**Ms CAMPBELL** (Minister for Community Services) — Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your elevation to the high office of Speaker.

I thank the honourable member for Footscray for raising an important matter that involves other ministers under the umbrella of Human Services. I am happy to take responsibility for following through with this matter.

The honourable member raised the issue of special residential units currently being operated by a person with a questionable past. That raises a question about the suitability of that person to run a methadone program. The honourable member has always had a

keen interest in supporting those in need and is also not backward in highlighting injustice and ensuring that people who require the support of the Department of Human Services are looked after.

I recall the *Herald Sun* article, and I thought the claims made about Mr Middap's extensive criminal history were of grave concern. The honourable member mentioned some young people who were out on parole being sent to that special residential unit and questioned the suitability of the bail procedure, as do I. The special residential unit was run previously as a special residential service, which comes under the provisions of the Health Services Act. My concern, which I imagine will be the concern of many honourable members, is that it is totally inappropriate for a methadone program to be operated by a person of the character outlined by the honourable member.

The former coalition government was informed of the concerns of residents and to my knowledge did nothing to address those concerns. I have ascertained that not one thing was done by the previous government about Mr Middap. The former Minister for Corrections said Mr Middap had been to Port Phillip Prison and that there was no secret of his past history.

It is important that the Department of Human Services look at the section of the Health Act relating to having fit and proper persons run such sites. I undertake to carry out a thorough investigation and to work with my colleagues in the department to ensure that the legislation adequately protects vulnerable people who are trying to get onto methadone programs.

**Mr HAERMEYER** (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) — I also congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your elevation to the highest office in the house. I take pleasure in offering you those congratulations as an electoral neighbour, a geographical neighbour and a fellow supporter of the Essendon Football Club.

The honourable member for Melton raised the issue of police numbers in his electorate, in which he has taken a strong interest. Melton is not alone in having suffered as a result of the deliberate and significant cutback in police numbers perpetrated by the previous government. That placed Victoria's wonderful police force in the precarious situation of finding it extremely difficult to do its job — although it was doing the job nonetheless. The honourable member related a story about Melton that is being repeated across the state. There is a need for more police in Melton, just as there is a need for more police across Victoria.

He also described the bizarre situation in Melton as a result of which prisoners are being kept in police lock-ups because Victoria's prisons are overcrowded. The state's highly trained police officers are being used as jailers. That is not what they are trained for and not what they should be used for, and it exacerbates the shortage of police officers throughout the state. Melton is a rapidly growing area and there is a need for increased policing.

The Bracks Labor government has made a commitment to increase the number of police on the front line by 800 over four years. Additional police numbers will start flowing through to police stations around the state promptly; and as they come through the shortages in stations such as the Melton station will be addressed.

The allocation of police to particular stations is a matter for the Chief Commissioner of Police. However, the government will ensure that he has the resources to address the shortages that exist in police stations such as the Melton station.

**Ms GARBUTT** (Minister for Environment and Conservation) — I congratulate you, Sir, on your elevation to the position of Speaker and express my total confidence in your ability to handle difficult situations well and reasonably, and to keep good order.

The honourable member for Mitcham raised a concern about the environment, and I congratulate him on his longstanding interest in environmental matters. The issue involves the disposal of smoke alarms. The honourable member has correctly pointed out that the fitting of smoke alarms will soon be required by law; however, their disposal is problematic. The honourable member raised the issue on behalf of a constituent, Ms Val McLean, who experienced some difficulty in properly disposing of a smoke alarm in accordance with the label. She found that the disposal program offered by Ecorecycle Victoria was inconvenient.

My experience with smoke alarms is that they last too long. When mine recently went off while I was cooking some toast I took to it with a hammer and knocked it clean out of its place. It is now hanging half a metre from the ceiling — and it still works! I cannot dispose of mine, no matter how hard I try. I will speak with the people at Ecorecycle and ask them to review their disposal program to make sure there is easy access to it.

The honourable member for Benambra raised reciprocal fishing rights, especially along the Murray. He mentioned Lake Hume and Mulwala and said the issue had previously been raised with the New South Wales minister. As that matter is the responsibility of

my colleague in the upper house I will ensure that she gets the details and responds to the honourable member in time.

**Mr BRUMBY** (Minister for Finance) — The honourable member for Gippsland West raised the proposed Tasmanian Basslink, an undersea cable between Tasmania and Victoria. Her question concerned planning and other regulatory approvals for the project. She referred to the widespread concern throughout Gippsland evidenced by a public meeting in Leongatha attended by 1300 people and by other public meetings throughout the area.

I am advised that the Tasmanian government has appointed a Basslink development board to recommend a developer who will build, own and operate the Basslink project. The board is scheduled to announce a final proponent in February 2000. The link is to be operational by mid-2002, subject to obtaining two kinds of regulatory approvals: a series of planning approvals and environmental approvals, and regulatory approvals from the Office of the Regulator-General.

Planning and environmental approval processes for Basslink are scheduled to commence later this year. I understand the Minister for Planning has already activated that process as part of a tripartite arrangement between the Victorian, Tasmanian and commonwealth governments to comply with the legislative requirements. I am advised that the environmental assessment is expected to include consideration of the relative impacts of above-ground and below-ground transmission to the Victorian sector of the link. I am sure honourable members throughout Gippsland will welcome that understanding.

The study will examine not only the proponent's proposal for overhead powerlines but also the relative merits of underground cabling. The Minister for Planning is, under the Environment Effects Act, the relevant Victorian decision-maker for the environmental approvals process. The minister provides his assessment advice as to whether Basslink should proceed in Victoria and, if so, on what conditions.

In addition, the final proponent of Basslink will require a transmission licence from the Office of the Regulator-General to operate in Victoria. Other requirements include connection agreements with the owners and operators of the Victorian transmission network and economic regulatory arrangements in the national electricity market (NEM).

I should point out for the benefit of all honourable members that no Victorian government, past or present,

has invested or participated in the project to date. The basis of the project is that the link will enable Tasmania to participate in the NEM and relieve constraints on the capacity of the hydro-electric system. It is argued that it may also assist in meeting peak demand in Victoria and possibly provide a source of renewal electricity to feed into the NEM.

The principal environmental issue is the merit of putting the Victorian sector of the link underground — and consulting with the people of Gippsland about it. The Minister for Planning has advised me that the issue will be considered as part of the assessment process, which, as I said earlier, he has already activated. Local residents will be welcome to participate in that environmental assessment and in the consultative committee.

Finally I should state again that the Victorian government has not contributed to the project. It is a private project, and the question of whether it will succeed is a matter for the regulatory approvals. The environmental assessment of the project will depend on the economic merits of the project. There is a long way to go and there are many considerations, including the Environment Effects Act, full public consultation and of course regulatory approvals through the Office of the Regulator-General.

**Mr BATCHELOR** (Minister for Transport) — The honourable member for Wantirna referred to the Scoresby freeway. He claimed that the Bracks Labor government had scrapped the freeway. Nothing could be further from the truth. The previous coalition government scrapped that freeway. To build a freeway along the Scoresby corridor would require funding in excess of \$800 million. The previous coalition government provided no funding, and there is no better way to scrap a project than to refuse to fund it. That is self-evident. The previous government made no funding commitment to the freeway whatsoever. The freeway was totally unfunded.

The opposition now has the audacity to come into the house and suggest that the new government, which did not make a funding commitment to the freeway in its election promises, should proceed to fund it. The government has given a commitment that it will deliver on its election promises. Those promises have been properly costed and funded. However, the government will not be pressured into funding things for which it does not have the money. The honourable member for Wantirna may find it an acceptable economic approach to promise things and have no funding for them, but that is not what the new Labor government will do. It will promise only those things it can fund. Voodoo

economics may underpin the wish list of those opposite, but the government will not be drawn into funding projects for which no funds are available.

The other part of the opposition's creative economic approach was to ask the federal government to fund the freeway. The federal government has already said it will not do so. All honourable members know that the previous government's real objective was to fund the Scoresby freeway by the introduction of tolls.

One of the advantages for an incoming government is the ability to discover the secret agendas of the previous regime. In October 1994 a report on a strategic planning investigation of the Scoresby transport corridor was prepared for the coalition government by FDF Management Pty Ltd. The report was a detailed and thorough analysis of the secret plans for the Scoresby corridor. It nominates 2001 as the best time to maximise the returns from a toll on the Scoresby freeway. That report is the smoking gun that proves the previous government was trying to fund the Scoresby freeway by the introduction of tolls. It wanted to keep it secret until after the election. The coalition thought it would get back into government and could then introduce the toll on the freeway.

When the former government commissioned the report it was told that the toll would add a charge of about \$2 to the cost of the journey. However, over time the cost of the project has increased, and it is now about \$820 million. I asked the department to carry out some calculations on the cost of funding the Scoresby freeway on the basis of the current arrangements. If the former Liberal government had been returned to office at the election tolls would have been introduced to fund the Scoresby freeway, and the toll would have been \$8 a journey! That was what the opposition was planning.

The report outlines lots of interesting information about the plans for the toll. I am surprised that the honourable member for Wantirna fell for the trick of being asked to raise the issue, given that the shadow Minister for Transport was not prepared to raise it himself. The shadow Minister for Transport was gutless. He should have had the courage to ask the question, but he was obviously aware of the former government's plan to introduce tolls.

But, it is worse than that. The analysis and advice given to the former government indicated that if tolls of that magnitude were introduced the number of vehicles using the freeway would be affected — and I refer to the part of the report that appears under the interesting heading 'Optimal toll'. The former government was not seeking to introduce just any kind of toll; it was

carrying out sensitivity analyses and planning to work out ways and means of introducing not only tolls but the maximum tolls possible to get the revenue flowing in to fund the freeway, which the government regarded as a tollway.

The analysis in the report on maximising tolls in 2001, the post-election period, shows that the number of vehicle-kilometres travelled on the Scoresby freeway would have been reduced by about 55 per cent. A 55 per cent reduction! That traffic would not have just disappeared, would it? It is logical that vehicles would have been forced off the tollway and into surrounding suburban streets, which is what the report states.

You do not have to be a genius to understand that. You do not even need to be like the honourable member for Mordialloc to understand that if tolls were introduced motorists who did not wish to pay — the economic rationing impact of the market — would be forced into surrounding streets, which would become clogged. The Liberal Party's secret agenda for when it came into office was not only to introduce tolls but to do so in a way that would force cars into surrounding streets. The honourable member for Wantirna thinks the surrounding streets are suffering now, but it would have been diabolical — it would have been murder — if this proposal had been commissioned by the former government.

The secret plans the former government intended to implement following the election do not make economic sense because the diversion of traffic into the surrounding streets, which is an obvious outcome, would also produce a net loss of some \$50 million a year to the economy.

Tolls and a huge diversion of traffic into surrounding streets were a function of the secret state that existed prior to the election, and they would have produced a net economic loss. I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to — —

**Mr Wells** — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I do not think the minister was listening to my concern. Although I raised the matter of the Scoresby freeway, I asked what money the — —

**The SPEAKER** — Order! What is the point of order?

**Mr Wells** — It is about the relevance of the minister's reply to the concern I raised.

**The SPEAKER** — Order! There is no point of order. I ask the minister to conclude his reply.

**Mr BATCHELOR** — The government will not introduce tolls in the way the previous government intended — it will not drive cars into the surrounding residential and suburban streets, it will not produce an economic loss of \$50 million a year and it will not practise voodoo economics. The government will not be economically irresponsible, which was the assumption underpinning the issue raised by the honourable for Wantirna. The government will be economically responsible and will pay for the things it builds. Unlike the previous government and the secret proposals it wanted to inflict on Victorians, the government will build lots of things and will pay for them. The opposition has asked what the government will do. It will not do the things the previous government intended to do.

**Motion agreed to.**

**House adjourned 1.26 a.m. (Thursday).**