

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

23 and 25 October 2012

(Extract from book 16)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

The ministry

Premier and Minister for the Arts	The Hon. E. N. Baillieu, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Bushfire Response, and Minister for Regional and Rural Development	The Hon. P. J. Ryan, MP
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Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads	The Hon. T. W. Mulder, MP
Minister for Ports, Minister for Major Projects, Minister for Regional Cities and Minister for Racing	The Hon. D. V. Napthine, MP
Minister for Gaming, Minister for Consumer Affairs, and Minister for Energy and Resources	The Hon. M. A. O'Brien, MP
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Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Technology and Minister responsible for the Aviation Industry	The Hon. G. K. Rich-Phillips, MLC
Minister for Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. R. Smith, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, and Minister for Water	The Hon. P. L. Walsh, MP
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women's Affairs and Minister for Community Services	The Hon. M. L. N. Wooldridge, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Mr D. J. Hodgett, MP

Legislative Assembly committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Barker, Mr Clark, Ms Green, Mr McIntosh, Mr Morris, Dr Naphine, Mr Nardella, Mr Pandazopoulos and Mr Walsh.

Standing Orders Committee — The Speaker, Ms Barker, Mr Brooks, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Green, Mr Hodgett, Mr McIntosh and Mrs Powell.

Joint committees

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Clark, Ms Hennessy, Mr Holding, Mr McIntosh, Mr Merlino, Dr Naphine and Mr Walsh. (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Lovell and Ms Pennicuik.

Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Battin and Mr McCurdy. (*Council*): Mr Leane, Mr Ramsay and Mr Scheffer.

Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Burgess, Mr Carroll, Mr Foley and Mr Shaw. (*Council*): Mrs Peulich.

Education and Training Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Ms Miller and Mr Southwick. (*Council*): Mr Elasmar and Ms Tierney.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Ryall and Mrs Victoria. (*Council*): Mr Finn, Mr Somyurek and Mr Tarlamis.

Environment and Natural Resources Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Bull, Ms Duncan, Mr Pandazopoulos and Ms Wreford. (*Council*): Mr Koch.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr McGuire and Mr Wakeling. (*Council*): Mrs Coote, Ms Crozier and Mr O'Brien.

House Committee — (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Ms Beattie, Ms Campbell, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Graley, Mr Wakeling and Mr Weller. (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Drum, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, and Mr P. Davis.

Law Reform Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Carbines, Ms Garrett, Mr Newton-Brown and Mr Northe. (*Council*): Mrs Petrovich.

Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Graley, Ms Hutchins and Ms McLeish. (*Council*): Mrs Kronberg and Mr Ondarchie.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Ms Hennessey, Mr Morris and Mr Scott. (*Council*): Mr P. Davis, Mr O'Brien and Mr Pakula.

Road Safety Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Languiller, Mr Perera, Mr Tilley and Mr Thompson. (*Council*): Mr Elsbury.

Rural and Regional Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Howard, Mr Katos, Mr Trezise and Mr Weller. (*Council*): Mr Drum.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Brooks, Ms Campbell, Mr Gidley, Mr Nardella, Dr Sykes and Mr Watt. (*Council*): Mr O'Donohue.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

Speaker: The Hon. K. M. SMITH

Deputy Speaker: Mrs C. A. FYFFE

Acting Speakers: Ms Beattie, Mr Blackwood, Mr Burgess, Ms Campbell, Mr Eren, Mr Languiller, Mr Morris, Mr Nardella, Mr Northe, Mr Pandazopoulos, Dr Sykes, Mr Thompson, Mr Tilley, Mrs Victoria and Mr Weller.

Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Premier:

The Hon. E. N. BAILLIEU

Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party:

The Hon. LOUISE ASHER

Leader of The Nationals and Deputy Premier:

The Hon. P. J. RYAN

Deputy Leader of The Nationals:

The Hon. P. L. WALSH

Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. D. M. ANDREWS

Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. J. A. MERLINO

Member	District	Party	Member	District	Party
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Andrews, Mr Daniel Michael	Mulgrave	ALP	Lim, Mr Muy Hong	Clayton	ALP
Angus, Mr Neil Andrew Warwick	Forest Hill	LP	McCurdy, Mr Timothy Logan	Murray Valley	Nats
Asher, Ms Louise	Brighton	LP	McGuire, Mr Frank ⁵	Broadmeadows	ALP
Baillieu, Mr Edward Norman	Hawthorn	LP	McIntosh, Mr Andrew John	Kew	LP
Barker, Ms Ann Patricia	Oakleigh	ALP	McLeish, Ms Lucinda Gaye	Seymour	LP
Battin, Mr Bradley William	Gembrook	LP	Madden, Mr Justin Mark	Essendon	ALP
Bauer, Mrs Donna Jane	Carrum	LP	Merlino, Mr James Anthony	Monbulk	ALP
Beattie, Ms Elizabeth Jean	Yuroke	ALP	Miller, Ms Elizabeth Eileen	Bentleigh	LP
Blackwood, Mr Gary John	Narracan	LP	Morris, Mr David Charles	Mornington	LP
Brooks, Mr Colin William	Bundoora	ALP	Mulder, Mr Terence Wynn	Polwarth	LP
Brumby, Mr John Mansfield ¹	Broadmeadows	ALP	Naphine, Dr Denis Vincent	South-West Coast	LP
Bull, Mr Timothy Owen	Gippsland East	Nats	Nardella, Mr Donato Antonio	Melton	ALP
Burgess, Mr Neale Ronald	Hastings	LP	Neville, Ms Lisa Mary	Bellarine	ALP
Campbell, Ms Christine Mary	Pascoe Vale	ALP	Newton-Brown, Mr Clement Arundel	Prahran	LP
Carbines, Mr Anthony Richard	Ivanhoe	ALP	Noonan, Mr Wade Mathew	Williamstown	ALP
Carroll, Mr Benjamin Alan ²	Niddrie	ALP	Northe, Mr Russell John	Morwell	Nats
Clark, Mr Robert William	Box Hill	LP	O'Brien, Mr Michael Anthony	Malvern	LP
Crisp, Mr Peter Laurence	Mildura	Nats	Pallas, Mr Timothy Hugh	Tarneit	ALP
D'Ambrosio, Ms Liliana	Mill Park	ALP	Pandazopoulos, Mr John	Dandenong	ALP
Delahunty, Mr Hugh Francis	Lowan	Nats	Perera, Mr Jude	Cranbourne	ALP
Dixon, Mr Martin Francis	Nepean	LP	Pike, Ms Bronwyn Jane ⁶	Melbourne	ALP
Donnellan, Mr Luke Anthony	Narre Warren North	ALP	Powell, Mrs Elizabeth Jeanette	Shepparton	Nats
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Foley, Mr Martin Peter	Albert Park	ALP	Scott, Mr Robin David	Preston	ALP
Fyffe, Mrs Christine Ann	Evelyn	LP	Shaw, Mr Geoffrey Page	Frankston	LP
Garrett, Ms Jane Furneaux	Brunswick	ALP	Smith, Mr Kenneth Maurice	Bass	LP
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Graley, Ms Judith Ann	Narre Warren South	ALP	Southwick, Mr David James	Caulfield	LP
Green, Ms Danielle Louise	Yan Yean	ALP	Sykes, Dr William Everett	Benalla	Nats
Halfpenny, Ms Bronwyn	Thomastown	ALP	Thompson, Mr Murray Hamilton Ross	Sandringham	LP
Helper, Mr Jochen	Ripon	ALP	Thomson, Ms Marsha Rose	Footscray	ALP
Hennessy, Ms Jill	Altona	ALP	Tilley, Mr William John	Benambra	LP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Eltham	ALP	Trezise, Mr Ian Douglas	Geelong	ALP
Hodgett, Mr David John	Kilsyth	LP	Victoria, Mrs Heidi	Bayswater	LP
Holding, Mr Timothy James	Lyndhurst	ALP	Wakeling, Mr Nicholas	Ferntree Gully	LP
Howard, Mr Geoffrey Kemp	Ballarat East	ALP	Walsh, Mr Peter Lindsay	Swan Hill	Nats
Hulls, Mr Rob Justin ³	Niddrie	ALP	Watt, Mr Graham Travis	Burwood	LP
Hutchins, Ms Natalie Maree Sykes	Keilor	ALP	Weller, Mr Paul	Rodney	Nats
Kairouz, Ms Marlene	Kororoit	ALP	Wells, Mr Kimberley Arthur	Scoresby	LP
Kanis, Ms Jennifer ⁴	Melbourne	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Doncaster	LP
Katos, Mr Andrew	South Barwon	LP	Wreford, Ms Lorraine Joan	Mordialloc	LP
Knight, Ms Sharon Patricia	Ballarat West	ALP	Wynne, Mr Richard William	Richmond	ALP
Kotsiras, Mr Nicholas	Bulleen	LP			
Languiller, Mr Telmo Ramon	Derrimut	ALP			

¹ Resigned 21 December 2010

² Elected 24 March 2012

³ Resigned 27 January 2012

⁴ Elected 21 July 2012

⁵ Elected 19 February 2011

⁶ Resigned 7 May 2012

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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

Tuesday, 23 October 2012**Premier: Department of Premier and Cabinet — executive positions**

3493. Mr SCOTT to ask the Premier — what was the position title for each executive level position which commenced employment with the Department of Premier and Cabinet between 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012.

ANSWER:

The following executive positions commenced with the Department of Premier and Cabinet between 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012:

Special Adviser, Fiscal Federalism
Assistant Director, NDIS Secretariat
Director, Corporate Relations (employment concluded 29 June 2012)

This list does not include the filling of vacancies in already existing executive level positions.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Thursday, 25 October 2012

Environment and climate change: South Melbourne District Sports Club — funding

2594. Mr FOLEY to ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change — with reference to the redevelopment of the Clarke Shields Pavilion (the pavilion) located in Albert Park Reserve and tenanted by the South Melbourne District Sports Club (the club):

- (1) What is the amount of support, in dollar terms, that Parks Victoria is bringing to the proposed redevelopment.
- (2) What support and funding are other organisations and agencies bringing to the redevelopment.
- (3) On what grounds did Parks Victoria decline the club's request for further funding so as to allow the Pavilion to be redeveloped as originally planned by the club.
- (4) Will Parks Victoria assist the club in its redevelopment plans by allowing for the club to make in-kind contributions by project managing the redevelopment.
- (5) Will Parks Victoria ensure that any in-kind contribution by the club such as project management not be deducted from the overall Parks Victoria funding to the redevelopment.
- (6) When will the redevelopment commence and when will it be completed.
- (7) Given the Parks Victoria decision to decline the full proposed redevelopment by the club will Parks Victoria agree to further funding requests for further development of the site once the current proposed development is completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Parks Victoria is contributing a total of \$497 000 to the project.
- (2) The following organisations have also confirmed funding contributions:
 - Sport and Recreation Victoria — \$205 000
 - City of Port Phillip-\$100 000
 - Australian Football League (AFL) Victoria — \$50 000
 - South Melbourne District Sports Club — \$310 000
- (3) When the plans were costed by a quantity surveyor in July 2010, the total cost for the project was estimated at \$1 250 000. The club agreed to reduce the scope of the project and revised plans. Several revised plans were resubmitted to the quantity surveyor. The revised total project cost is \$985 000 excluding project management and consultancy fees in accordance with the available budget.

Both the club and Parks Victoria have made further funding available to enable the project to proceed. Parks Victoria has also provided further funding for a contingency should it be required.

- (4) In-kind contributions are not required as the project's scope of works is fully funded.
- (5) In-kind contributions are not required as the project's scope of works is fully funded.

- (6) The project documentation has been finalised and gone to tender. A preferred contractor has been appointed and works are expected to commence week ending 7 July and be completed by Christmas 2012.
- (7) The club has full access to Parks Victoria’s Sports Grants Program at Albert Park funded by car parking revenue and a range of other state sports funding opportunities. Parks Victoria would welcome future funding applications into the grants program by the club.

Corrections: prisons — bed numbers

3132. Ms HENNESSY to ask the Minister for Corrections — at each correctional facility in Victoria:

- 1. How many beds were available for use by a prisoner on:
 - (a) 30 November 2010;
 - (b) 1 January 2011;
 - (c) 3 May 2011;
 - (d) 30 June 2011;
 - (e) 1 January 2012.
- 2. How many beds were being used by a prisoner on:
 - (a) 30 November 2010;
 - (b) 1 January 2011;
 - (c) 3 May 2011;
 - (d) 30 June 2011;
 - (e) 1 January 2012.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

(1) Number of available beds

	(a) 30/11/10	(b) 1/1/11	(c) 3/5/11	(d) 30/6/11	(e) 1/1/12
Ararat	382	382	382	382	382
Barwon	425	425	425	425	423
Beechworth	160	160	160	160	160
Dhurringile	214	214	214	214	214
DPFC	300	300	300	300	300
Fulham	795	795	820	820	820
JLTC	25	25	25	25	25
Langi Kal Kal	122	122	122	122	145
Loddon	410	410	410	410	410
MAP	286	244	249	249	285
Marngoneet	306	306	306	306	394
MRC	663	663	673	673	673
PPP	804	804	804	804	804

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	(a) 30/11/10	(b) 1/1/11	(c) 3/5/11	(d) 30/6/11	(e) 1/1/12
Tarrengower	72	72	72	72	72

(2) Number of beds utilised

	(a) 30/11/10	(b) 1/1/11	(c) 3/5/11	(d) 30/6/11	(e) 1/1/12
Ararat	368	378	376	379	378
Barwon	360	357	361	379	373
Beechworth	131	126	144	135	149
Dhurringile	205	201	207	208	191
DPFC	265	264	264	267	271
Fulham	749	753	777	808	785
JLTC	25	24	21	25	21
Langi Kal Kal	119	121	120	121	145
Loddon	403	408	397	401	401
MAP	236	174	211	231	247
Marngoneet	260	266	291	299	363
MRC	640	628	624	644	640
PPP	791	770	782	788	768
Tarrengower	45	39	52	52	52

Health: Ballarat base hospital — construction works

3298. Ms KNIGHT to ask the Minister for Ports for the Minister for Health — when will construction of the new three-storey building at the front of the Ballarat Base Hospital:

- (1) Commence.
- (2) Be completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In relation to the new three-storey building at the front of the Ballarat Base Hospital, the relocation of ambulatory care services is integrated with the acute services redevelopment and the new helipad.

As the member will remember, Labor in power for 11 years failed to build a helipad and in fact Labor members in the Legislative Council disgracefully voted against the building of a helipad.

I am pleased to reconfirm the Baillieu government's commitment to these important projects at Ballarat Health Services. Construction will commence when design and architectural work is completed. Construction will finish after tenders and works are completed. These will occur as soon as is practicable following the allocation of \$46.4 million in the 2012–2013 state budget. I refer the member to the budget papers.

Public transport: rail — Caroline Springs station

3494. Ms **KAIROUZ** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — what was the advice of the Department of Transport to the Minister regarding funding for the Caroline Springs railway station in the 2012–13 budget.

ANSWER:

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

Consistent with well-established conventions adopted by successive Victorian governments, the details of the budget process is a cabinet matter.

Public transport: rail — Caroline Springs station

3497. Ms **KAIROUZ** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — when will the Caroline Springs railway station project be completed?

ANSWER:

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

The timetable for the construction of a new station at Caroline Springs is subject to the coalition government's consideration of the final cost of the electrical sub-stations to boost power supply to stations at Lynbrook and Cardinia Road, the construction of Williams Landing station and unresolved claims from the construction of Lynbrook and Cardinia Road railway stations.

Agriculture and food security: big cats — sightings

3539. Ms **KNIGHT** to ask the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security — with reference to the search for the big cat:

- (1) What criteria have been used to determine the credibility of alleged sightings of the cat prior to the commencement of the government's search.
- (2) How many credible documented sightings have there been of the cat.
- (3) What budget has been allowed or allocated toward the search.
- (4) Has the minister determined what action will be taken if the cat is found; if so what is the action.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Only primary evidence in the form of specimens of unquestioned provenance, or DNA from sources of unquestioned provenance can establish, once and for all, that a population of 'big cats' occurs in Victoria and the specific identity of the animals. High-quality photographic images provide the second best level of evidence.
- (2) On the balance of evidence available to qualified researchers, none of the sightings can be unequivocally attributed to the presence of 'big cats'. However the investigation found some evidence cannot be dismissed entirely, including preliminary DNA evidence, footprints and some behaviours that seem to be outside the known behavioural repertoire of known predators in Victoria.
- (3) The cost of the desktop study was \$15 000.
- (4) In the event that a population of 'big cats' was detected the risks and the feasible options for management would be considered as for any other invasive animal species.

Housing: Grampians region — property numbers

3543. Ms **KNIGHT** to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation for the Minister for Housing — with reference to the number of public housing properties and leases acquired and relinquished in the Grampians Region by the Office of Housing in 2011–12:

- (1) How many properties did the Office of Housing sell.
- (2) How many leases did the Office of Housing relinquish.
- (3) How many properties did the Office of Housing purchase or build.
- (4) How many leases did the Office of Housing acquire.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Stock numbers for the 2011–12 financial year are being finalised.

Housing: Ballarat office — waiting lists

3544. Ms **KNIGHT** to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation for the Minister for Housing — with reference to public housing covered by the Ballarat Housing Office:

- (1) What was the early housing waiting list as at:
 - (a) 30 June 2010;
 - (b) 30 June 2011;
 - (c) 30 June 2012.
- (2) What was the wait time waiting list as at:
 - (a) 30 June 2010;
 - (b) 30 June 2011;
 - (c) 30 June 2012.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

All waiting list data is released quarterly and made available on the housing website as has been standard procedure by successive Ministers for Housing.

Archived ministerial announcements of waiting list data is available at <http://archive.premier.vic.gov.au/newsroom/media-releases>.

Housing: Ballarat office — staffing

3545. Ms **KNIGHT** to ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation for the Minister for Housing — what was the number and cost of staff working at the Ballarat Regional Housing Office for each financial year from 2009–10 to 2011–12.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

the number and cost of staff working at the Ballarat Regional Housing Office for financial years 2009/10 to 2011–12 is as follows:

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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ASSEMBLY

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Year	Staff *	Salary Costs
2009–10	30	\$1 346 934
2010–11	30	\$1 488 160
2011–12	30	\$1 521 897

* Please note staff numbers are as at 30 June for each financial year.