

PROOF

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DAILY HANSARD

Thursday, 30 May 2013

**SUGGESTED CORRECTIONS FOR THE FINAL EDITION MUST BE NOTIFIED TO THE EDITOR (ASSEMBLY) BY
12 NOON — MONDAY, 3 JUNE 2013**

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The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

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Cabinet Secretary	Mr N. Wakeling, MP

Legislative Assembly committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Barker, Mr Clark, Ms Green, Mr Hodgett, Mr Morris, Mr Nardella, Mr O'Brien, Mr Pandazopoulos and Mr Walsh.

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

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Kanis, Ms Richardson and Mr Wakeling. (*Council*): Mr O'Brien and Mr P. Davis.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Ms Asher, Mr Clark, Ms Hennessy, Mr Merlino, Mr O'Brien 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, Mrs Fyffe and Mr Shaw. (*Council*): Mrs Peulich.

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

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Ryall. (*Council*): Mr Finn, Mrs Peulich, 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, Mr Burgess, Ms Campbell, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Graley and Mr Weller. (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Drum, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, and Mr P. Davis.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Hennessy, Mr Newton-Brown and Mr Weller. (*Council*): Mr Koch and Mr Viney.

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, Mr Pakula and Mr Scott. (*Council*): Mr O'Brien and Mr Ondarchie.

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 Dalla-Riva.

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

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The Hon. E. N. BAILLIEU (to 6 March 2013)

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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Angus, Mr Neil Andrew Warwick	Forest Hill	LP	McCurdy, Mr Timothy Logan	Murray Valley	Nats
Asher, Ms Louise	Brighton	LP	McGuire, Mr Frank ⁶	Broadmeadows	ALP
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Bauer, Mrs Donna Jane	Carrum	LP	Merlino, Mr James Anthony	Monbulk	ALP
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Brumby, Mr John Mansfield ¹	Broadmeadows	ALP	Napthine, Dr Denis Vincent	South-West Coast	LP
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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
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Crisp, Mr Peter Laurence	Mildura	Nats	Pakula, Mr Martin Philip ⁷	Lyndhurst	ALP
D'Ambrosio, Ms Liliana	Mill Park	ALP	Pallas, Mr Timothy Hugh	Tarneit	ALP
Delahunty, Mr Hugh Francis	Lowan	Nats	Pandazopoulos, Mr John	Dandenong	ALP
Dixon, Mr Martin Francis	Nepean	LP	Perera, Mr Jude	Cranbourne	ALP
Donnellan, Mr Luke Anthony	Narre Warren North	ALP	Pike, Ms Bronwyn Jane ⁸	Melbourne	ALP
Duncan, Ms Joanne Therese	Macedon	ALP	Powell, Mrs Elizabeth Jeanette	Shepparton	Nats
Edwards, Ms Janice Maree	Bendigo West	ALP	Richardson, Ms Fiona Catherine Alison	Northcote	ALP
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Foley, Mr Martin Peter	Albert Park	ALP	Ryan, Mr Peter Julian	Gippsland South	Nats
Fyffe, Mrs Christine Ann	Evelyn	LP	Scott, Mr Robin David	Preston	ALP
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Gidley, Mr Michael Xavier Charles	Mount Waverley	LP	Smith, Mr Kenneth Maurice	Bass	LP
Graley, Ms Judith Ann	Narre Warren South	ALP	Smith, Mr Ryan	Warrandyte	LP
Green, Ms Danielle Louise	Yan Yean	ALP	Southwick, Mr David James	Caulfield	LP
Halfpenny, Ms Bronwyn	Thomastown	ALP	Sykes, Dr William Everett	Benalla	Nats
Helper, Mr Jochen	Ripon	ALP	Thompson, Mr Murray Hamilton Ross	Sandringham	LP
Hennessy, Ms Jill	Altona	ALP	Thomson, Ms Marsha Rose	Footscray	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Eltham	ALP	Tilley, Mr William John	Benambra	LP
Hodgett, Mr David John	Kilsyth	LP	Trezise, Mr Ian Douglas	Geelong	ALP
Holding, Mr Timothy James ³	Lyndhurst	ALP	Victoria, Ms Heidi	Bayswater	LP
Howard, Mr Geoffrey Kemp	Ballarat East	ALP	Wakeling, Mr Nicholas	Ferntree Gully	LP
Hulls, Mr Rob Justin ⁴	Niddrie	ALP	Walsh, Mr Peter Lindsay	Swan Hill	Nats
Hutchins, Ms Natalie Maree Sykes	Keilor	ALP	Watt, Mr Graham Travis	Burwood	LP
Kairouz, Ms Marlene	Kororoit	ALP	Weller, Mr Paul	Rodney	Nats
Kanis, Ms Jennifer ⁵	Melbourne	ALP	Wells, Mr Kimberley Arthur	Scoresby	LP
Katos, Mr Andrew	South Barwon	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Doncaster	LP
Knight, Ms Sharon Patricia	Ballarat West	ALP	Wreford, Ms Lorraine Joan	Mordialloc	LP
Kotsiras, Mr Nicholas	Bulleen	LP	Wynne, Mr Richard William	Richmond	ALP
Languiller, Mr Telmo Ramon	Derrimut	ALP			

¹ Resigned 21 December 2010

² Elected 24 March 2012

³ Resigned 18 February 2013

⁴ Resigned 27 January 2012

⁵ Elected 21 July 2012

⁶ Elected 19 February 2011

⁷ Elected 27 April 2013

⁸ Resigned 7 May 2012

⁹ LP until 6 March 2013

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09:30:00

Thursday, 30 May 2013

The SPEAKER (Hon. Ken Smith) took the chair at 9.33 a.m. and read the prayer.

Centrelink hubs for local people who rely on public transport;

concerned about the impact this will have on parents who now have to drive their children to school;

09:35:00

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Notices of motion: removal

The SPEAKER — Order! Notices of motion 6 to 19 will be removed from the notice paper unless members wishing their notices to remain advise the Clerk in writing before 2.00 p.m. today.

concerned that the cutting of these bus services will lead to increased congestion on already congested roads in and around Point Cook.

Petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Assembly implore the coalition government and Minister for Public Transport, the Honourable Terrence Mulder, to reverse the cuts of the 413 and 416 and the alteration to the 446 bus services.

09:40:00

PETITIONS

Following petitions presented to house:

Buses: routes 413, 414 and 416

To the Legislative Assembly of Victoria:

The petition of certain citizens of the state of Victoria draws the attention of the Legislative Assembly to the cutting of the 413, 414 and 416 bus services that previously serviced Aircraft station. Not only have these cuts limited local residents' access to transport services at Aircraft station, they are likely to lead to impacts on local businesses and traders.

Petitioners are:

concerned that these cuts are a step towards the eventual closure of Aircraft station;

concerned about the impact the cuts will have on local residents' access services and public transport options;

concerned that the cuts will result in the loss of local business and jobs.

Petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Assembly implore the coalition government and the Minister for Public Transport, the Honourable Terrence Mulder, MP, to reverse the cuts of the 413, 414 and 416 bus services that cater for Aircraft station.

By Ms HENNESSY (Altona) (105 signatures).

Buses: routes 413, 416 and 446

To the Legislative Assembly of Victoria:

This petition of certain citizens of the state of Victoria draws the attention of the Legislative Assembly to the cutting of the 413 and 416 bus services. The cutting of these services, as well as the alteration of route 446, has resulted in it being impossible to take a single bus across the suburbs of Laverton, Seabrook, Point Cook, Hoppers Crossing, Werribee South and Werribee.

Petitioners are:

concerned that this will place significant barriers in accessing local banks, post offices, pharmacies and

By Ms HENNESSY (Altona) (394 signatures).

Chandler Highway: bridge upgrade

To the Legislative Assembly of Victoria:

The petition of certain citizens of the state of Victoria who travel across the Chandler Highway bridge draws to the attention of the house the Napthine government's failure to provide funding for or a commitment to the duplication of the Chandler Highway bridge. In particular, we note:

1. 97 per cent of respondents to a local survey supported the duplication of the existing bridge;
2. Chandler Highway bridge has been identified as a major thoroughfare and traffic congestion is continuing to get worse. It also poses a threat to cyclists and pedestrians.

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Assembly urges the Napthine government to provide funding for, and give a commitment to, the duplication of the Chandler Highway bridge.

By Ms RICHARDSON (Northcote) (706 signatures).

Tabled.

Ordered that petitions presented by honourable member for Altona be considered next day on motion of Ms HENNESSY (Altona).

Ordered that petition presented by honourable member for Northcote be considered next day on motion of Ms NORTHCOTE(Northcote).

DEED OF RELEASE

Sunland Waterfront (BVI) Ltd, Sunland Group Ltd, Anthony Joseph Brearley

Mr PALLAS (Tarneit), by leave, tabled deed.

DOCUMENTS

Tabled by Clerk:

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Documents under s 16B in relation to the *Summary Offences Act 1966* — Notice of Declared Area.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Adjournment

Ms ASHER (Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business) — I move:

That the house, at its rising, adjourns until Tuesday, 11 June 2013.

Motion agreed to.

MEMBERS STATEMENTS

School Focused Youth Service: funding

Ms NEVILLE (Bellarine) — For many years the School Focused Youth Service program has provided vital support for young, vulnerable students in Bellarine, the Geelong region and across the state. Students who are vulnerable, for whatever reason, have been given support with self-esteem, wellbeing and mental health issues, so it has been particularly disturbing that this government has undermined such an important program.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development held a review of the service, and in February agencies providing the program were told that their funding would not be renewed from 30 June. Agencies were told by the department that programs must finish by 30 June, so they have spent the last five months winding down the program, and there have been inevitable staff losses. Two of the four experienced staff have been lost to the program in Barwon, and this has been replicated across the state.

Fortunately the government has now changed its view, but there is now a serious issue in relation to the process and the time lines. Invitations to reapply for funding have been issued. They were supposed to be received by 24 May, but the email only arrived yesterday.

The SPEAKER — Order! There is a lot of audible conversation in the chamber. I ask members to be a bit quiet.

Ms NEVILLE — A briefing is scheduled for Monday, and submissions for funding have to be in by 14 June, just two weeks later.

09:45:00 Agencies will not be advised until 28 June if they have been successful — two days before they are expected to start. The support many vulnerable students have

received through this service has meant they have been able to participate in and make the most of their school experience. It is vital that the government assure the community that the future of the service is secure and that appropriate funds are provided to ensure that the service can continue to provide support for vulnerable young students.

Water: eastern treatment plant upgrade

Mr DIXON (Minister for Education) — It was a real pleasure to be a guest of Melbourne Water recently to celebrate and inspect its new class A sewage treatment plant at the eastern treatment plant. The new facility, which was built at a cost of more than \$400 million, is now operational. Since the late 1990s I, along with my community, have been actively seeking to improve the end product of the treatment plant to class A water, which means that the water is good enough to irrigate leaf crops.

Effluent from the plant is discharged to Boags Rocks near Gunnamatta Beach. In the past this effluent smelt, was a shocking colour and was toxic to the nearby marine environment. A generation of surfers complained about the health effects caused by encounters with the effluent, which spread over a wide area due to wind and tide conditions. It was also a blight on the otherwise pristine surf beaches along the Mornington Peninsula National Park coastline. Now we have a discharge that is odourless, colourless and far kinder to the marine environment which is now re-establishing itself.

The campaign has been long and hard, and I commend all the tireless community activists, especially the Clean Ocean Foundation, for their work. Well done Melbourne Water on an excellent and innovative outcome that was recently recognised with an international award. It is very satisfying to see such a project and campaign through to such a positive outcome.

Port of Hastings: development

Mr PAKULA (Lyndhurst) — As members are aware, in this budget the government has committed \$110 million to the development of the port of Hastings. Members might also be aware that in a brief from February 2011 the now Premier was advised that the Bay West option had a number of advantages and was an option that warranted further investigation. That same brief outlined some of the downsides with regard to Hastings, including how many containers it could accommodate and issues with the road-rail corridor.

During the recent budget estimates proceedings the Minister for Ports produced a map detailing the likely road-rail corridor, and it will make residents in my electorate of Lyndhurst shudder. It shows the road-rail corridor running right through the heart of the suburbs of Hampton Park, Lyndhurst, Lynbrook and Dandenong South on the way to the Dandenong railway line and the M1. It will mean hundreds of extra truck and freight train movements through my electorate every day and an enormous increase in pressure on the Dandenong rail corridor.

How much consideration does the new Minister for Ports give to Bay West? He has described it as a 'dot on the map' and a 'concept'. He says it does not stack up. I advise the minister that his department says otherwise. In the interests of the quality of life of residents of Lyndhurst, Lynbrook, Hampton Park and Dandenong South I ask that the minister consider Bay West properly and not dismiss it so easily. I also ask that he release the comparative cost study, the modelling assumptions and the site selection report that his department has so far suppressed.

Ken Good

Mr WAKELING (Ferntree Gully) — I congratulate Ferntree Gully resident Mr Ken John Good, who at the age of 90 has written and launched his first novel, *Rodson*. Mr Good's novel reflects his life experiences and is an authentic portrayal of historical events over three decades. I wish Mr Good the same success when he launches his second novel, which he is currently writing.

Doreen Te Sligte

Mr WAKELING — On behalf of the Ferntree Gully community, I would like to pay tribute to Doreen Te Sligte, who sadly passed away recently. Doreen was a dedicated and active volunteer for many local disabled residents for numerous years. She went above and beyond in her service to our community. She will be sadly missed by many.

Rotary Club of Ferntree Gully: 50th anniversary

Mr WAKELING — I congratulate the Rotary Club of Ferntree Gully, which recently celebrated its 50th birthday with a 60s-themed dinner. A great night was had by all, and I was honoured to attend. Over five decades the club has tirelessly worked for the Knox community and raised significant funds for many local, national and international causes.

Bruce 'Flipper' Rogers

Mr WAKELING — I would like to pay tribute to Bruce 'Flipper' Rogers, who was recently recognised by the Eastern Football League for community service. Flipper has provided significant volunteer service to both the Eastern Lions Football Club and the Johnson Park Cricket Club for many years. Anyone who visits Fairpark Reserve will know he is always working hard for the facility. Well done Flipper on a well-deserved honour.

St Simon's Community Football Club: facility funding

Mr WAKELING — I was pleased to visit the St Simon's Community Football Club recently to recognise the financial contribution from the state government to deliver significant improvements to its important Rowville facility. The state government has provided \$30 000 in funding to provide upgrades to the cricket pitch plus improvements to the kitchen facilities. Furthermore, an additional \$10 000 was provided in state funding to provide much-needed security improvements at the club. Congratulations to David McKay and the committee on a fantastic community club.

Lions Club of Sunshine: 60th anniversary

09:50:00

Ms KAIROUZ (Kororoit) — On Friday, 10 May, I attended the 60th anniversary dinner of the Lions Club of Sunshine at the Club Italia Sporting Club. I was honoured to be invited and asked to give the annual toast to Lions Club International. The Lions Club of Sunshine had humble beginnings, starting with a small meeting of dedicated volunteers in a Sunshine house in 1953, but over the last 60 years it has grown into an active and vibrant organisation that does so much to help those in need. These amazing individuals put in thousands of hours of community work and fundraising each year.

To mark its 60th anniversary the Lions club made donations to Gellibrand Services, Helping Hands Across the Pacific, the Royal District Nursing Service and Sunshine Mission. Without organisations and people like the Lions so many Victorians and people abroad would go without the things we take for granted. I thank the president, Pam Green, and all the Lions in attendance for their kind invitation and for making me feel very welcome.

Lebanese community: La Grande Soiree Maronite dinner

Ms KAIROUZ — On another matter, on 25 May I was proud to join fellow members of Melbourne's Lebanese community at the annual La Grande Soiree Maronite dinner to raise funds for the Maronite Church in Thornbury. I would like to thank Monsignor Joseph Takchi for his kind invitation and acknowledge the La Grande Soiree committee for their dedication and hard work for Melbourne's Maronites. The community bond created through the church is truly something to behold and it is so important that we continue to work to maintain this strength across generations.

Argentine Revolution: 203rd anniversary

Ms KAIROUZ — I would also like to congratulate Riccardo Torro for his commitment to the Argentinian club and the Argentinian community and making me feel very welcome to celebrate the 203rd anniversary of the Argentine Revolution of May 1810.

Rural financial counsellors: government support

Mr WELLER (Rodney) — I would like to make the point that the Victorian coalition government has not cut any rural financial counsellors. In response to recent claims in the *Country News* that services have been cut, I would like to make it clear that the government is investing \$2.3 million over the next two years to ensure 25 full-time equivalent rural financial counsellors and two coordinators continue to deliver this highly specialised service across Victoria. It is important to note that an additional three counsellors will continue supporting our local producers until 30 June. Importantly these additional positions were created to help people deal with the drought and then the aftermath of the floods that occurred in 2011. They were never ongoing positions.

The Victorian government will monitor seasonal conditions and the demand on the service closely over the next month to determine whether there is any need for additional support. However, an examination of the service's data up until March 2013 shows that the demand for services has greatly eased. In the Goulburn-Murray region the number of clients accessing their local rural financial counsellor in March 2011 was 180. Two years later, it had dropped to 91 people. Any claims that the Victorian coalition is not supporting rural financial counsellors is untrue. We are simply directing the funding to areas where it is needed, when it is needed most. There are people in rural

Victoria doing it tough, and the government is directing services to those who need it the most.

Murrumbeena Park Bowls Club: 90th anniversary

Ms BARKER (Oakleigh) — I was pleased recently to attend the 90th anniversary of the Murrumbeena Park Bowls Club and join with the very welcoming members of this great club to celebrate this significant milestone. Murrumbeena bowls club is unique in that it is owned by the members themselves. Ninety years ago the founders of the Murrumbeena bowls club determined to find a permanent home, and one of those founders, Mr Galt, offered to purchase 140 feet of land in Blackwood Street for £770. With the appointment of a committee the members then determined to repay Mr Galt over a period of time. Later they built the pavilion for £1100. The foresight of these hardworking and dedicated people ensures that today a bowls club is still located in Murrumbeena.

Over the years the dedicated members have continued their work to maintain and upgrade their facilities with the installation of synthetic greens, water tanks, overhead lights and further improvements to their pavilion. I thank president Garry Weeks, deputy president Val Ryan, secretaries John Ward and Audrey Nelson and treasurer Barry Green and those members who are willing to give that little bit of extra time to serve in committee or operations roles to ensure that the Murrumbeena bowls club remains an integral part of their community.

I also want to thank the Murrumbeena Bendigo Bank for its sponsorship of the bowls club. Under the leadership of Sue Foley, the Murrumbeena Bendigo Bank is very active in ensuring that community is at the centre of its work. As well as its ongoing sponsorship of the Murrumbeena bowls club, which includes a 'most valuable club member' annual award, Sue brought along a very generous birthday present in the form of a \$4000 cheque. Members of the club face challenges in the future, but they will survive.

Moorabbin Primary School: Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham) — I would like to pay tribute to Simone Sullivan, a Highbury constituent and her children, Galen and Marli, on their wonderful work and fundraising towards Cancer Council Victoria through their organisation of an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea event at the Moorabbin Primary School. The event was attended by members of Parliament and local government and members of the wider

community. Galen and Marli lost their father to cancer, and the proceeds raised, which will be significant, will go towards the great work of the cancer council.

09:55:00

Hampton Life Saving Club: centenary

Mr THOMPSON — I would like to pay tribute to the Hampton Life Saving Club, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. I congratulate successive committees of the club and long-serving club member Peg Taylor and her family on their ongoing contribution to the club and the advancement of lifesaving in Victoria.

Bomber Command: anniversary event

Mr THOMPSON — I would like to pay tribute to the supporters of the Bomber Command in Melbourne, who this weekend will be holding an anniversary marking the courage and sacrifice of the Australian airmen who fought in the battle for Britain in the defence of freedom against the onslaught of an oppressor.

Beaumaris Conservation Society: 60th anniversary

Mr THOMPSON — I would also like to pay tribute to the Beaumaris Conservation Society on its 60th anniversary. Members of the society have been strong advocates for the conservation of trees in the district and also to protect the coastal zone. Their informed, intelligent advocacy has provided an important pivot for the development of government policy.

Mythri Social and Cultural Association: launch

Mr LIM (Clayton) — On 17 May I had the honour of launching the Mythri Social and Cultural Association in my electorate. This is a grouping of over 250 families from an Indian community in the state of Kerala in the south-west tip of India. I have enormous respect for Keralites, who have an impressive record of successful settlement in Australia. They are also known as the Malayalees, and they have the highest rate of literacy and academic achievement of any state in India. So it came as no surprise to me that I was also asked to launch the Mythri Social and Cultural Association Clayton school to promote the learning of Malayalam language, music and dance.

I would like to congratulate the secretary of the association, Dr Shaju Kuthanapillil, and his management team. I wish them all the success they deserve in future. In talking about the Malayalam community, it would be remiss of me not to mention

Dr Raman Marar, OAM, who is now retiring and who has been providing the most incredible, fantastic leadership in the Indian community as the president of the Federation of Indian Associations of Victoria for many years. He is very popular, highly regarded and highly respected, and the Australian honour awarded to him is most fitting. He is now retired and ailing in a — —

The SPEAKER — Order! The member's time has expired.

Whitehorse Older Persons Action Group

Ms RYALL (Mitcham) — I recently joined and spoke to the Whitehorse Older Persons Action Group, a fabulous group comprised of seniors from the many multicultural groups within my local community. They discuss areas of common interest and represent their own multicultural community groups by coming together to talk about issues and to be addressed by speakers on important matters.

Box Hill: chaplaincy committee

Ms RYALL — I recently spoke at a Box Hill chaplaincy committee breakfast. This local group of community leaders does outstanding work in the Whitehorse community, including supporting local traders as well as their own church members.

Salvation Army: Red Shield Appeal

Ms RYALL — I joined the Mitcham corps of the Salvation Army for the Red Shield Appeal on Sunday, May 26, doorknocking with my local Salvos in Mitcham to raise funds to support those who are disadvantaged, homeless or in need. It was wonderful to see such generosity within my local community for such an important cause. I thank Richard Parker and his team for the great work they do.

St John's community garden, Blackburn: opening

Ms RYALL — The Blackburn community garden recently opened at St John's. I recently visited it to see an amazing crop of vegetables being grown within the grounds. There are many units on this street, and the garden will provide those who do not have a garden an opportunity to enjoy a community space, till the soil and reap the benefits of this fine fresh produce.

Koonung Cottage Community House: yarn bombing

Ms RYALL — I congratulate Koonung Cottage Community House on its recent ‘yarn bombing’, which transformed the outside of the community house into a very colourful garden of knitted graffiti and art. Many people participated, it looked fantastic and it had great street appeal.

Castlemaine Country Women’s Association: Beanie Affair

Ms EDWARDS (Bendigo West) — I would like to congratulate the Castlemaine branch of the Country Women’s Association (CWA) for once again this year organising the very successful Beanie Affair. I was pleased to open the Beanie Affair, which was held in the Market Building in Castlemaine last Friday night, and to see the amazing display of artistic crafted and knitted beanies in all shapes, sizes and designs. The Beanie Affair was first held last year, and it proved to be a hugely successful event, with over 6000 people attending over the three days. This year’s event was also held over three days, and an extraordinary 10 000 people attended from across Victoria and Australia. I congratulate the Castlemaine CWA for its initiative in organising the Beanie Affair, and I also thank the sponsors who have supported it over the past two years. Well done to president Alison Nye and her hardworking committee on an outstanding event. Castlemaine is quickly gaining a reputation as the beanie capital of Victoria.

10:00:00

Bendigo: cancer fundraising

Ms EDWARDS — I would also like to thank the organisers and volunteers involved in this year’s Bendigo Relay for Life and Mother’s Day Classic. I was pleased to be joined at both of these events by the member for Bendigo East and the Labor candidate for the federal seat of Bendigo, Lisa Chesters.

About 1800 people walked for a cure in this year’s Relay for Life. My team once again entered the Relay for Life in Bendigo to celebrate survivors of cancer, to remember those who have lost the battle with cancer and to raise much-needed funding for cancer research. The event this year raised around \$155 000, although that figure will probably go up.

Similarly, I was pleased to join with the estimated 2000 people who participated in the Mother’s Day Classic breast cancer fundraiser on 12 May.

Murray Valley electorate: tornado damage

Mr McCURDY (Murray Valley) — It was brilliant to see the Koonoomoo community get behind Sunday’s fundraiser in aid of the recent tornado that struck the town. Nicky Goldsworthy was inspirational in her efforts to organise the show, which drew a crowd from far and wide. Lions, Apex, Kiwanis and Rotary all chipped in for a wonderful day. The master of ceremonies, Sueanne McCumstie, dragged volunteers kicking and screaming for the dunking machine, and, for the record, the water was cold.

Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program

Mr McCURDY — The Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program is a wonderful example of a locally based organisation that facilitates current and future leadership. Along with the members for Benalla and Benambra I attended the graduation ceremony in Wangaratta, and again I was impressed with the quality of the participants, particularly the strong network of past graduates. Two years ago there were 90 participants at the graduation, and this year there were around 200 — a clear sign that this program is delivering for our region. Kim Scanlon continues to impress.

Margaret Pullen

Mr McCURDY — Marg Pullen of Wangaratta continues to inspire our great rural city. National Volunteers Week recognises the sensational work that happens in and around every community in Victoria. Marg organised a celebrity spinning bike race at the centre for a bit of fun, whilst we acknowledged the great work and the contribution that volunteers make to our communities.

Rutherglen Winery Walkabout

Mr McCURDY — The Rutherglen Winery Walkabout is on again this Queen’s Birthday weekend. The fruits of our region are on display in all forms, including the quality wine that matches Rutherglen’s fine reputation. The annual grape tread is on again, and I hope to be able to out-tread the members for Carrum and Forrest Hill. As a seasoned veteran in grape stomping, I will leave no grape unstomped in my quest to win back the title in 2013.

Murray Valley electorate: ministerial visit

Mr McCURDY — The coalition government continues to demonstrate to regional Victoria that we

have not been forgotten. Visits by the Premier and the Minister for Community Services, Mary Wooldridge, over the last two weeks have endorsed their commitment.

Anzac Day: Frankston electorate

Mr SHAW (Frankston) — Anzac Day is one of my favourite days of the year. It gives us the ability to reflect on the sacrifice of many Australians and New Zealanders made in times of war, from those who went to war to those who were left behind to keep the country and families going. For the last six years I have played the solo bagpipes at the Frankston cenotaph for the RSL memorial service, which for me is a humbling experience and an honour.

Breast cancer: Pretty in Pink morning tea

Mr SHAW — I joined the federal member for Dunkley, Bruce Billson, and the member for Carrum this month for a Pretty in Pink morning tea held at the Frankston District Netball Association to raise funds for breast cancer. I congratulate the ladies who made the annual event possible and also the pink face contestants, who competed in a variety of competitions. Congratulations to my mate Gary Zeuschner and his team from Langwarrin, who took out first prize for their rendition of *Swan Lake*; they were dressed in pink tutus as well, which was quite a disturbing sight. But it was all for the love of netball and to raise much-needed cancer funds.

Kananook Creek: tree planting

Mr SHAW — I joined the member for Carrum and quite a number of mums, grandparents and their children — dressed in warm coats, beanies and gumboots — at Kananook Creek to help Narelle Debenham and her team from Natured Kids to plant saplings along the path on the banks of the creek. Narelle and her team regularly take their children out into nature to do fun outdoor activities and also learn a little along the way. Planting along the creek gives families and children a sense of community and achievement as well as getting them muddy and having fun in the process.

Labor members: conduct

Mr SHAW — It is disappointing, though not unexpected, that certain members of Labor have once again showed their contempt for Frankston. The members for Monbulk and Cranbourne, the Leader of the Opposition and Lee Tarlamis, a member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region in the Council, all

wandered into Frankston sprouting their hate and bias against my city and the people who live there. Earlier this year they spread untruths on the first day of school, when they suggested there was no school funding available for school crossings.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member's time has expired.

Health services: Lara electorate

Mr EREN (Lara) — The Napthine government needs to stop its pork-barrelling of Liberal and Nationals-held seats and start governing for the whole of the state. It needs to consider investing more money in health services in the wider Geelong region. The northern suburbs of Geelong have the highest proportion of inpatient admissions to Barwon Health. Approximately 40 per cent of people who present at the emergency department are from my electorate. Surely to ease the pressure on Geelong Hospital it would be essential to build a community health hub in the northern suburbs that can ease this pressure.

I welcome the second hospital at Waurn Ponds, which will cater for the southern population growth of Geelong, but why should the north miss out? It should be a priority to improve the availability of services to Corio Norlane and the wider Lara electorate. There should be a community health hub that is a comprehensive health clinic that will provide the area, which has a high demand for health services, with access to those services that are critically needed. The area needs access to specialist outpatient clinics, dialysis, nurse-led urgent care linked to the Geelong emergency department, community-based outreach, alcohol and other drugs services, imaging, mental health services and the list goes on.

This government needs to show support for all of Geelong, not just the Liberal-held seats. It needs to start investing and listening to what all of Geelong wants and needs. My electorate is calling for a health hub, and it needs it today not tomorrow. I plead with the Minister for Health and this government to listen to what Barwon Health requires and to take action in the delivery of health services in Geelong.

Tom Morrissey

10:05:00

Mr GIDLEY (Mount Waverley) — On 24 May I attended the funeral service for Cr Tom Morrissey, held at St Stephen's and St Mary's Anglican Church. Cr Morrissey dedicated many years of his life to public service and was involved with organisations such as Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve and

Friends of Damper Creek Reserve. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Mount Waverley and an honorary justice of the peace. He was also patron of the Monash Concert Band. As a City of Waverley and later City of Monash councillor he served his local community for decades. His family, including his wife Lorraine, remain in our thoughts and our prayers.

Anzac Day: Waverley

Mr GIDLEY — The sacrifice of servicemen and women who have served our country was recognised and commemorated at the Waverley RSL's Anzac Day commemoration services. I thank the Waverley RSL for organising such fitting commemoration services and for its continued efforts to support the families of those who have served our country.

Ronald McDonald House Monash: 20th anniversary

Mr GIDLEY — I was pleased to attend Ronald McDonald House Monash to celebrate its 20th anniversary. Ronald McDonald House Monash was the eighth Ronald McDonald House to open in Australia. It is now one of 14 in Australia and one of 320 in 31 countries and regions around the world. I was able to see the significant impact Ronald McDonald House Monash has made on many families, enabling them to be comfortable while remaining as close as possible to their seriously ill children. Without Ronald McDonald House many of these people would have nowhere affordable to sleep while their child was in hospital for days, weeks or even longer. Thank you to Ronald McDonald House Monash for the opportunity to attend the celebration. It is interesting to note that since 1993 the house has accommodated visits from more than 8500 families and had more than 125 000 individuals stay. I thank Ronald McDonald House Monash for everything it has achieved over the last 20 years.

Nola Raymond

Ms GREEN (Yan Yean) — It was with great sadness that I attended the funeral of a wonderful Labor Party member, Nola Raymond. Nola was very passionate about our community and about looking after people. She worked in health and safety and local government and was extremely active in her union, the Australian Services Union. She was a renowned poet in the town of Whittlesea where she lived. She was an amazing singer and she loved jazz. At one period she edited the *Town Crier* and people had the benefit of her great writing, both prose and poetry. At the funeral she would have been so proud of her beautiful granddaughter and the poem she recited. She would

also have been extremely pleased that we all gathered around and sang *When the Saints Go Marching In* as she was lowered into her grave. It was very sad that Nola died of complications from Alzheimer's disease. Although only a young woman, she went downhill very quickly after the 2009 bushfires. I will miss her deeply.

Trevor Wood

Ms GREEN (Yan Yean) — I sadly note the passing of Trevor Wood, a stalwart of Whittlesea who was well known to the Parliament. He worked with the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee. He was an auditor. He worked in the community, at Plenty Valley Community Health and the Lions club. It is Whittlesea's loss. He is survived by his widow Mary, his son Tim and other children.

Calvert Clarke

Mr McINTOSH (Kew) — I would like to pay tribute to a former constituent of the Kew electorate, Cal Clarke, who died on 26 May aged 98. Born just days before the outbreak of World War I, on 22 July 1914, Calvert Crosson Clarke served in the 2nd Australian Imperial Force and saw action in both Egypt and the Middle East. Typically of that post-war generation, on his return to Australia following the war Cal resumed his career as an estate agent and started a family with his wife Nancy. They had 10 sons — that in itself must be a record. Nancy regrettably passed away a number of years ago.

Cal Clarke was been described in a tribute in the *Herald Sun* as 'a link to Melbourne's commercial history'. His interest in public affairs led him to stand in a number of council elections during the 1960s. A devoted Catholic, he was also very active in the local Catholic community. The then member for Kooyong, Bob Menzies, asked him to join the Liberal Party, and for many years he served as secretary of the Kooyong electorate council. I was most appreciative of Cal's support, advice and regular attendance at various local functions. I would inevitably see him at the Kew RSL, even up until last year, supporting the Kew RSL and also attending the Anzac Day march and the church service that followed. Cal Clarke was a true gentleman and I extend my sincere condolences to his extensive family.

Schools: Ivanhoe electorate sites

Mr CARBINES (Ivanhoe) — I rise to raise concerns on behalf of my residents in relation to the sale of three former school sites. They are the former Bellfield Primary School site, the former Haigh Street

Primary School site and the Banksia Secondary College site. It has been revealed in the *Heidelberg Leader* that Banyule City Council has done a \$26 million deal to provide \$26 million to the state government, via a loan the council will take out, to purchase these sites from the government. My concern is that the community already owns these community assets, these school sites, and community members are now paying a further \$26 million, along with an annual interest bill on the loan of over \$1 million, through their rates to again purchase these sites for the community.

The \$26 million the government will pocket from the sale of these three school sites is not going to be returned to the Ivanhoe community; it is not going to be returned to local schools to provide the investment they need. Not only have residents in my electorate seen three schools closed and not only do they have to pay \$26 million of their own money for sites they already own as community assets, but none of that \$26 million is going to be spent upgrading local schools that are crowded and need investment and capital works. For three years this government has failed to invest money in local schools, and it needs to put this \$26 million into Ivanhoe schools.

Gippsland Sports Academy: awards dinner

Mr NORTHE (Morwell) — Last Friday evening I had the pleasure of attending the Gippsland Sports Academy 2013 annual awards dinner, and what a night it was, with over 240 people in attendance. The Gippsland Sports Academy is an important part of our local community, giving young athletes the opportunity to develop and enhance their skills and participate in regional, state and international competitions. Through the academy development is delivered in a number of sports, including football, table tennis, badminton, tennis, swimming and volleyball. Drew Ginn, OAM, was a guest speaker on the evening. As a Gippslander who has competed in the sport of rowing at four Olympic Games and nine world championships, he certainly inspired the athletes and coaches who were in attendance.

The academy acknowledged milestone years of service for three of its board members. Jackie Madden, Howard Williams and Darrell White were thanked for their 5, 10 and 15 years, respectively, of dedication to sport in Gippsland. Congratulations also go to the academy board chair, Darrell White, for winning the Phil Shelley Award for sport development, whilst swimming champions Caiden Gill and Mikaela Cornelissen were awarded the David Drane Award for encouragement and the Tim Forsyth Award for sporting excellence respectively. In closing I say well done to Judi

Buhagiar, chief executive of the Gippsland Sports Academy, for the outstanding ongoing work that she does for the organisation.

Margaret Hore

Mr NORTHE — On a sombre note, I wish to pay my respects to Margaret Hore, who passed away recently. Margaret was a wonderful contributor to our community, particularly the Traralgon Football Netball Club. I extend my condolences to her husband, Ron, and to her children Graeme, Titch, Desma and Peter and their families.

Thomastown: cultural fusion event

Ms HALFPENNY (Thomastown) — On Saturday, 18 May, I attended a really innovative and fun event, the Taste of Cultural Fusion, organised by the Cultural Bridges Community Action Group and championed by a very well-known activist, Nessie Sayar. The event, which was held in celebration of the rich multicultural diversity of Thomastown, garnered a fantastic turnout of people from the local area. There were stalls offering traditional food and other cultural items from all parts of the world. We had the infamous but beautiful selection of Aussie scones, including the pumpkin scone, and there were stalls and food from Iran, Somalia, the Caribbean, Sri Lanka, Greece, Cyprus and the Philippines, to name a few. There was henna body art being offered by women on the Somali stall and the opportunity to have your name written in traditional calligraphy offered by the Chinese stall.

The U3A showed off its members' line dancing skills, while 48 Band, a local Palestinian band, kept the crowd entertained with its musical talent. It was a great credit, as I said, to the people who organised this event from the Cultural Bridges organisation, which promotes understanding and tolerance and celebrates the rich cultures of the area.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member's time has expired, and the time set aside for members statements has concluded.

APPROPRIATION (2013–2014) BILL 2013

Second reading

Debate resumed from 29 May; motion of Mr O'BRIEN (Treasurer).

Ms BARKER (Oakleigh) — When I was speaking last night I had got to the point of talking about the Monash Children's hospital and had expressed my concern and that of many residents in the Oakleigh

electorate about a continual commitment to build this hospital and the wariness they feel about this very important project. It is absolutely clear: in 2010, when Labor committed to build the Monash Children's hospital by 2014, the then opposition leader, the member for Hawthorn, clearly stated, 'We certainly make the same commitment'.

10:15:00 We now have further commitments, and again, as I noted last night, in budget paper 4, no firm funding is allocated in the forward estimates. I understand that there is a suggestion of \$250 million for both the Monash Children's and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. However, I note there is \$29 million in 2013–14, but that is for both the Monash Children's and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. What residents in the Oakleigh electorate are saying to me is that they are very wary of this commitment, they do not want to be deceived again, and certainly we do not want to see children and their families deceived by saying one thing and doing another.

There is a lot of rhetoric from the other side on the economy, but the actual figures should be noted. There is a budget surplus forecast at \$224.5 million for 2013–14; however, in terms of the economy and the impact on people, we should also note a \$75 million rise in fees and fines. Speed camera fines are up by \$38 million, stamp duty is up by \$288 million, vehicle registration fees rise by \$56 million, and regrettably net debt is projected to increase to \$25.1 billion in 2014–15 — a tripling of net debt under this government.

The government cannot just simply go on blaming the commonwealth. GST revenue is projected to increase to an average of 6.5 per cent per year over the forward estimate, with the growth in GST revenue in 2013–14 by 2.5 per cent. So while this state budget continues to cut essential services, GST revenue is not being cut — it actually increases. Worse still is our unemployment rate. Victoria now has the highest unemployment rate on the mainland at 5.8 per cent, and for the first time in a decade Victoria has a worse unemployment rate than New South Wales. There are 34 000 more Victorians now unemployed under this conservative government. That is 34 000 men and women who do not have an income, do not know how they will feed their family, do not know how they will pay their rent or their mortgage. It is even worse when you note that the youth unemployment figure is at the heartbreaking level of 18 per cent.

Yesterday I joined with Whitelion, the Saint Kilda Youth Service, Youth Connect and the YMCA bridge project on the front steps of Parliament to condemn the

uncaring cuts to youth unemployment services, which will see these programs lose between \$150 000 and \$200 000 each year. The inevitable conclusion of these heartless cuts will see these groups either cancel or reduce their programs and reduce their ability to work with very vulnerable young people who just need some support to get their lives back on track.

These young people and the figure of 34 000 unemployed are not just statistics; they are people who have real needs. They are our people, and we still have no jobs plan in this state. What is this government going to do to determine where the future jobs will be? The closure of Ford is a terrible blow to so many people in Geelong and Broadmeadows, and we have not yet drilled down into the detail of the flow-on effect to those industries that manufacture car components, many of them being in the south-east of Melbourne. It is a very serious problem for our state and for many people, but there is time to seriously consider what industries can replace those jobs. Labor has been willing to do that. We have already consulted and worked with all sectors around the state to establish the plan for jobs and growth, and that work will continue to be developed; but nearly three years into this government there is no plan by the conservatives.

The feedback that I receive from members of my local community is that they certainly regret the decision that has been taken by Ford, but they have a real concern about where the jobs will be in the future — not just for themselves but importantly for their children. Their fear for the future is compounded by the severity and cuts made in education and training. Some \$60 million has been cut in education and now, even for those who can obtain an apprenticeship, the trade bonus that is paid to apprentices for completion is gone. Apprentices are some of the lowest paid people in the workforce. It is a very modest bonus that they were paid, but it helped cover just some of their costs in starting their trade, paying for tools or running a car.

This mere \$20 million in savings will make it very difficult for apprentices to complete a trade and at least have some chance of a future.

10:20:00

One of the most severe cuts made by this government and which has caused absolute outrage in the Oakleigh electorate is the devastation of TAFE funding. Some \$300 million of cuts to TAFE funding last year has seen campuses in Lilydale and Greensborough, among others, close, and unfortunately 2000 staff across TAFE are losing their jobs. Both Holmesglen TAFE and GippsTAFE have campuses in the Oakleigh electorate, but Holmesglen TAFE in particular has been very hard hit. These cuts are just so short-sighted it is

unbelievable. The rhetoric from the other side about putting money back into TAFE is a furphy. This funding has a lovely title — the TAFE Reform Panel package — but it does not ensure that students can enrol in classes. It is simply a fancy name for merging campuses and therefore providing further teacher cuts and less vocational education and training.

We have some really great schools in the Oakleigh electorate, but only primary schools as there are no government secondary colleges, and we certainly have growing enrolment numbers. However, the gradual work that was undertaken over a period of years to rebuild those schools has stopped. I note the recent announcement of maintenance funding and have seen the list of funded schools. I note also that in question time yesterday the Treasurer, in response to a question, made a statement in relation to commonwealth funding where he said, ‘What we want to see is fairness’. Residents of the Oakleigh electorate say the same thing: we just want some fairness. Two schools in Oakleigh and nine in Mount Waverley received maintenance funding. This announcement committed \$51.5 million, and I understand there is still some \$48.5 million to be allocated. I sincerely hope that schools such as Oakleigh Primary School and Hughesdale Primary School receive some of that funding.

I recognise that upgrading transport is very costly. There are two railway lines in the Oakleigh electorate — the Pakenham and Frankston lines — and the Dandenong–Pakenham section is very congested. I have previously recognised this government’s commitment to the Rowville rail study. It is now completed and we know that it is also very costly, and construction certainly cannot be expected to start for a long time.

The route 601 express bus to Monash University was a Labor commitment in the 2010 state election, and all credit to the government which picked up on that commitment and continued funding in the forward estimates in last year’s budget for this very busy express bus. However, we have some real problems with the Huntingdale railway station and ensuring that the at least 4000 to 5000 students per day can safely exit the train station and get on the bus.

Monash University is very supportive of the Rowville rail project but recognises the length of time it will take to build. Recognising that there has to be a better way of providing a better environment, the university has worked really hard to develop plans for a low-cost but better and safer situation at Huntingdale station. It has also continued to discuss this idea with the department, with the council and with others to make sure that it is

acceptable. It recently came up with its latest project at a costing of \$2.4 million, which is not a lot of money but it certainly is not funded in this budget. It is not only students and Monash University who are disappointed that this modest amount of money cannot be allocated but also the Huntingdale traders and community. It was a low-cost opportunity to provide an impetus to get this area cleaned up. There is a lot of graffiti and rubbish dumping around the area, and this project would have provided an impetus to provide a better, safer and cleaner environment, and would certainly enable the Monash students to exit the train and get on the bus a lot more easily.

I was in the chamber last night and listened to a number of the contributions by government members on the budget, and I certainly listen when I am in my office. I suppose that goes back to my time as Deputy Speaker where I needed to listen to the chamber all the time. Constantly you hear in this chamber members opposite bleating on about records. They need to start thinking about the record they will leave, and I think one of the most appalling things people will look at in terms of the government’s record is over 50 000 people on the hospital waiting lists, 1203 people on the elective surgery waiting list at Monash Medical Centre, and 4200 people sacked from the public sector, and I would suggest it is many more than that. Unemployment is rising and there is no plan or priority to identify where future jobs will be. Support for apprentices has been taken away. Funding for very vulnerable young people has been taken away from very dedicated and hardworking organisations like Whitelion. There is a tripling of state debt, biased priorities in funding for schools and transport, and no plan to ensure that all schools are rebuilt and modernised. There have also been protracted and nasty wage negotiations with very valuable workers in health and education. It is no budget for the future.

Mr SOUTHWICK (Caulfield) — It is my pleasure to rise to speak on the Appropriation (2013–2014) Bill 2013. It is my great pleasure to make a contribution on what is a terrific budget — a very well thought-out and conceived budget. At the outset I would like to congratulate the Treasurer, who is in the house today, on delivering his first budget, along with the Premier, who has certainly been carrying on the hard work of the former Premier and the former Treasurer to ensure that we have a stable outlook, which the document certainly talks about. It is all about building for the future and building for growth in so many of the important areas, be it the economy, employment, surpluses, or major new infrastructure. 10:25:00

That stands in stark contrast to what we have seen from former Labor governments, which were enamoured with press releases and media responses, fluoro vests and hard hats, and announcements of big projects, which were unfortunately very poorly executed, as we have heard many times in this house. It is symbolic that we have seen a state Treasurer deliver such a responsible budget, a budget surplus and a predicted strengthening outlook. The budget surplus is \$225 million, and will rise to more than \$2.5 billion in 2016–17. Contrast that with federal Treasurer Wayne Swan and Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who initially promised a surplus of \$1.5 billion but when it came to game day they delivered a deficit that was more than 12 times as big as the predicted surplus — a \$19.4 billion deficit.

When you talk about millions and billions it all just gets lost in the mix, but just think how many hospitals, schools, public infrastructure projects and roads — namely, how many big projects — we could create with the sort of money that has been effectively wasted by the federal government. Many times in this chamber we have contrasted the coalition government with Labor governments, and we have seen that only the coalition manages money, appreciates what it is to earn money and delivers by responsibly spending taxpayers money on the projects that are most immediately required. This is what this budget does.

The member for Oakleigh spoke about records. In my younger days I loved music and was a big fan of playing music. In fact I spent some time in my formative years working as a disc jockey and playing lots of music. There were many records that were familiar to me and that I enjoyed playing. When I look at the records that are in this budget, I think it is great that records continue in my life, but in a different form. Now they inhere in good, responsible fiscal management and in ensuring that we in this state have a AAA credit rating with a steady outlook from both agencies; we are the only state in Australia to have this rating from both agencies with a steady outlook.

That kicks off the first record that I want to talk about today. One of the big records that is prevalent in this budget is the record \$6.1 billion allocated to major projects. We hear members talk a lot about how we need to get major projects up, and we hear that major projects drive employment, drive growth, that they get people out and about and that they are visionary. They are the sorts of things that allow our state to look into the future and to ensure that we have all the services available that can continue to make this state a great place to live and work.

The coalition government, in delivering that record \$6.1 billion, has signalled an incredibly significant project for Victoria — the east–west link. The east–west link is the sort of vision that we have not seen for many years from any government. It is the sort of major project that has only ever been delivered by coalition governments. Stage 1 of this project is estimated to cost between \$6 billion and \$8 billion and will create 3200 project jobs. People talk about jobs. This is where we are delivering jobs, and this is vital.

The opposition does not want to even mention our excitement when we talk about jobs and the east–west link. Let me say that people who are stuck in traffic, those people who are sitting in congested traffic, know that every hour they spend in a traffic jam is an hour that they have lost with their families or in working. Certainly they could be doing those things if they had the sorts of projects such as the east-west link that this government is delivering.

In the budget there is also \$110 million in funding for the port of Hastings redevelopment and for boosting the state's freight capacity. There is \$280 million in funding to improve and maintain key parts of the road network, and these roads will all provide significant opportunities for us. Let us make a contrast for a minute. In this budget we have \$32 million set aside to strengthen and maintain a very important piece of infrastructure — again, built with the vision of a Liberal government — the West Gate Bridge. We are now spending \$32 million to make sure we strengthen and maintain this valuable asset that people use on a daily basis. What did Labor do in contrast to our spending of \$32 million? When the member for Tarneit was minister for roads, he wanted to spend \$21 million on fairy lights.

If you look at the difference in terms of money management, we have budgeted \$32 million to make sure the bridge is safe, Labor budgeted \$21 million to make sure it looked pretty. That is the contrast: prettiness versus safety. If I were sitting on the Labor benches I would be absolutely embarrassed to think that our priorities were around a pretty bridge rather than a safe one.

10:32:30

The government is delivering in so many different areas. One that is very important to me is the national disability insurance scheme (NDIS). The government is advocating for the scheme to be headquartered in Geelong, and the budget has funding of over \$300 million to launch the NDIS in the Barwon area. The scheme is so important to families who have a family member with a disability. I know that all of us have people in our lives who we meet every day or who

are part of our family who will be so happy to know that we will finally have a scheme that will support them and look out for their interests.

We talk a lot in this chamber about education. Under the previous government \$850 million was spent on the vocational education and training sector but it was \$850 million spent on a whole lot of courses that were not targeted and were not funded properly. This government has delivered another funding record with \$1.2 billion in the budget targeting areas where there are jobs and where there is demand for those jobs so those who enrol in these courses do so knowing there are job opportunities at the end of them.

Locally there are a number of great things to be had from this budget. It will be kick-starting a number of different works projects, including addressing the dangerous North Road level crossing in Ormond. There is \$52.3 million to kick-start that as part of a total investment of \$418.6 million in level crossing removal. There is \$100 million to upgrade the Frankston rail line with additional track, signalling, power and maintenance facilities. I was very happy to join my colleagues, including the members for Carrum and Bentleigh, to announce that. This is very important to commuters who use the Caulfield, Glenhuntly and Ormond railway stations and who will benefit from having a line that is more reliable.

We also see a continuing record from the government in infrastructure delivery on a number of different projects. When the Burnley and Domain tunnels were shut down for a day last October we saw what a lack of major infrastructure does to our whole traffic system. We need to be mindful of that.

The budget has a very bright outlook for the future despite predictions that we have some challenges ahead. The biggest challenge is that the Prime Minister has been relentless in her attacks on the bottom line in order to buy votes in other states. Since the coalition came to office Victoria's GST receipt forecasts have been reduced by \$7 billion over four years. In the upcoming financial year we are expected to receive \$1.2 billion less in GST. That is another record but unfortunately it is a record loss thanks to the federal government. Despite our loss of revenue and the federal government's increasing revenue the federal government has budget blow-outs while we are able to deliver surpluses by managing money properly.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has reported that Melbourne has the largest growth of all capital cities in Australia, up by 77 200 people, a large number of whom are living in the outer suburbs. We also have an

ageing population. We need to be mindful of all of these challenges ahead, but it is certainly a credit to our government that it has delivered a surplus with all of these challenges.

An important element of this budget for me as the Parliamentary Secretary for Police and Emergency Services is our focus on law and order. Another record of this coalition government is its allocation of more than \$5.1 billion to support community safety activities. These include \$78 million to construct and maintain facilities for protective services officers (PSOs) at railway stations to deliver on the 940 PSOs that we promised, \$2.2 million to provide 24-hour response police stations in Mount Waverley and Carrum Downs; \$61 million in funding to replace or upgrade 142 rural fire stations; and \$30 million for new and upgraded police stations elsewhere. These facilities will help deliver on our commitment to bring 1600 more police and 100 more transit police, totalling 1700 new police, into the force and onto the streets, ensuring that we keep our streets safe.

The coalition government has removed the unfair tax on tax created by charging GST and stamp duty on the fire services levy. It was a pleasure to do some initial work on one of the committees on developing that fire services levy. Every electorate will be able to see the savings. In my electorate of Caulfield the estimated saving on bills for households is \$66, and this is really important because it treats everybody fairly. It allows somebody to be assured that their neighbour is as insured as they are. Before we had some who were insured subsidising those who were not insured. This is a fair tax, this is historical tax reform, and again Labor had 11 years to do tax reform in this area and did absolutely nothing. We can all be proud of having a fair system that ensures that all of our homes and businesses and properties are insured. When there is an emergency, when people's lives and properties are at risk, they will not have to worry about the issue of insurance or any of that sort of thing. They can put that aside and focus on what they need to do most, which is to be with their families.

This is, as I said, a great budget. It has delivered a number of records. Other records are in health and education. There is \$197 million for the delivery of the Bendigo and Monash Children's hospitals and for the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, with a \$1 billion total for health. In education there is \$580 million in assets and output funding for the future of Victoria's education system, a total of \$11.6 billion towards education, including fixing some of the schools that were poorly maintained for years and years by the previous government. This is about the basics of

upgrading those schools. Instead of putting Building the Education Revolution halls together, we are actually fixing the classrooms and the learning centres where that is needed.

This is a good budget. It is a responsible budget. It delivers outcomes for Victoria. It shows that we have a government that cares and most importantly a government that understands how to manage money. It builds on the great work of the former Treasurer and the former Premier and ensures that we can go into coming years growing our revenues, maintaining our projects and ensuring that we have got a handle on our expenses and on our financial system.

10:40:00 **Mr WYNNE** (Richmond) — I rise to make a contribution in relation to the Appropriation (2013–2014) Bill 2013, and in doing so there are three matters I want to canvass. The first is the outcomes for the electorate of Richmond, and that will not take a particularly long time. The second is to talk about the risible outcome in terms of support for the most vulnerable in our community, and that of course is in my shadow portfolio responsibility of housing. Thirdly, I would like to spend some time in relation to a very significant major project which the government is proposing — the east–west tunnel — and to point out what I see as being many unanswered questions and issues that it is incumbent upon the government to address as we go forward.

Firstly, in relation to the budget for the seat of Richmond, I simply acknowledge, as I did last year, that in the budget outcome for my seat there are no allocations whatsoever — zero, a big fat doughnut, nothing. There is nothing for the seat of Richmond in the budget this year, which again is a particularly poor outcome when you look at the sorts of commitments that were made by successive Labor governments, specifically in my own area. I point, of course, to the reopening of the iconic Fitzroy High School, a school closed under the Kennett government and the only secondary school in the state reopened under the — —

Ms Miller interjected.

Mr WYNNE — Who is that, Acting Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The member knows he should ignore interjections.

Ms Miller interjected.

Mr WYNNE — Who is that?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The member for Bentleigh will also cease interjecting.

Mr WYNNE — Is that who it is?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The shadow minister!

Mr WYNNE — Hopefully only for another 17 months, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The member for Richmond will resume debate on the budget.

Mr WYNNE — The school was closed, of course, by the Kennett government. It is the only high school in the state that was reopened by the state Labor government, and what a fantastic educational outcome that has been for the people of my electorate. I also refer to the extraordinary amount of money that was provided to the North Richmond Community Health Centre, which was completely rebuilt under a state Labor government. It was the biggest commitment ever to the rebuilding of a community health centre. It is a magnificent facility on the North Richmond housing estate. People in fact come from throughout the country to look at this facility — a complete complex of the whole range of medical and ancillary services, including dental services, and all of the relevant community supports that that great public housing estate should enjoy.

I acknowledge the former Premier, the member for Hawthorn, who made a very significant commitment through the arts. I should in fact correct the record; there was one very significant commitment in my area, and that was the \$15 million towards the relocation of Circus Oz back to its historic home at the former Collingwood Technical School site in Johnston Street, Collingwood. It is to the great credit of the former Premier and member for Hawthorn that he put that commitment in there. He not only matched the commitment of the previous government of \$13 million but in fact increased it by another \$2 million, and I acknowledge him for that work. We know that work is progressing very well on that site, and I know many people enjoy the opportunity to be at the Circus Oz winter season, which I think is coming up in June or July this year. However, apart from that, Deputy Speaker, there is nothing I can point to by way of a financial contribution to the seat of Richmond.

The situation in relation to housing is a sad and risible story, because frankly I do not think the Minister for Housing either understands what her portfolio responsibilities are or is prepared to take up the fight to the government through its expenditure review committee process, which the minister at the table, the Treasurer, I think, chairs, or is certainly a key player in,

to ensure that there are funds allocated to the most vulnerable people in our community. Let the record show that for the last three budgets the Minister for Housing has not put one extra dollar in the budget to support the most vulnerable in our community. We have a waiting list of 37 000 people, which the minister crows about. She says, 'The waiting list is down from 41 000-odd', and says that it is due to her magnificent effort!

Let me say that the facts of this are pretty simple. The reason the waiting list is down is because of the extraordinary contribution of the Gillard federal government through the nation-building exercise, under which 4500 units of public and social housing have now been delivered on the ground. That is why the waiting list is down, but there is absolutely no doubt that it is going to blow out again. Members opposite can shake their heads, but this is a simple reality. The waiting list is going to blow out again, because if you do not provide supply, where are people going to live? This minister has failed. This minister has failed in her responsibility to stand up for the most vulnerable in our community.

10:47:30 We now have a target for housing acquisition and construction in this coming year's budget which is the lowest in more than a decade. That is a fact. The net outcome of construction versus disposals is less than 200 units net in public and social housing stock. That will be the legacy of this minister. She can go around, as she does, and bag me, saying, 'He's hopeless. He was never any good. He never knew what was going on. He ran the whole place down'. But members should look at the scoreboard and ask: what did the previous government achieve? It contributed \$500 million. I think this Treasurer has a social conscience. Perhaps in the next budget he will say — —

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr WYNNE — The Treasurer repudiates my comment that he might have a social conscience. I was going to give him a chance to at least have a go at it.

Mr Madden interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The member for Essendon will cease interjecting. I ask the member for Richmond to come back to the matter before the house.

Mr WYNNE — No wonder the Minister for Housing cannot do any good. The reality is that nobody can take back from the previous Labor government's record \$500 million contribution — the biggest contribution ever by a state government to public and

social housing. That is part of our legacy. The Gillard record amount of money — more than \$1 billion — went into our budget to achieve an extraordinary outcome of 4500 units on the ground. What is the record of this minister? Not one extra dollar going into the housing budget. That is the simple fact.

The cruellest blow of all is that in the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearings the minister could not defend the fact that this year she has cut \$2.8 million from the social housing advocacy support program (SHASP). This is going to cut a further 13 full-time staff from the front line of organisations that support the most vulnerable people in our community to maintain their tenancy. It supports them in their day-to-day lives to ensure that they undertake the normal activities of life that we all take for granted, such as shopping, looking after their health, attending medical appointments and paying rent. This program ensures that these people maintain their tenancy. What has this minister done? She has instigated a further cut of \$2.8 million in this financial year to programs supporting the most vulnerable people. What outcome are we going to get from that? Inevitably these people will fall back into homelessness. They will cycle back through the system. That is a shameful outcome.

The minister goes around blaming everybody else for everything. None of this is her fault. Here are the two take-home points from this. Firstly, in relation to SHASP, this is a shameful cut about which the minister ought to hang her head in shame. Secondly, for three budgets the minister has failed to get even one extra dollar for the building or acquisition of public and social housing. It is a risible outcome and a complete failure by this government and this minister.

In the 4 minutes I have left I want to briefly touch upon the east–west tunnel. The position of the Labor opposition is crystal clear: the tunnel should be built from the west to the east. We need a second crossing of the Yarra River not only because of traffic congestion and the demand and growth in that corridor but also because the West Gate Bridge is already over capacity and it makes good economic and social sense to ensure that the magnificent economic driver — the port of Melbourne — is further enhanced. That is our simple, sensible proposition.

The government has decided, for reasons that are entirely unclear to me — I think it is a case of, 'Look busy, for God's sake; we better have something to say' — that it is going to propose to build this east–west tunnel from the Eastern Freeway to the Tullamarine Freeway. Anybody who travels along or knows that route knows only too well that the vast

preponderance of the traffic wants to go into the city. This is not my opinion; the Eddington report states that, in effect, two-thirds of the traffic wants to go to the CBD, further south or north. Possibly a third of the traffic wants to cross the city. Some of that wants to filter further north, and maybe some of that wants to link up to the Tullamarine Freeway. There are serious questions about the demand for this project.

I point out to the government — including the Treasurer, who would be well briefed on this — that the two major tunnels on the eastern seaboard, which are in Queensland and New South Wales, have gone broke because of lack of traffic demand. There are serious questions that should be raised about that, and the minister would be well aware of that situation. I am interested in the route of this project. I point to the publication *East West Link News*, which turned up in my letterbox. The main heading is ‘We’re under way: detailed planning begins for the east–west link’. You beauty! On we go.

I note that the Auditor-General’s report which was published in April of this year contained some very interesting comments about congestion and the east–west link. It states that the project is likely to:

... marginally increase congestion to city bound traffic in other parts of the freeway network during peak periods;

attract new road users and, therefore, additional traffic both along the east–west corridor and wider network;

result in some reverse mode shift from public transport to cars ...

That is a terrific outcome. Is that not a winner?

What money is on the table? From the state government we have a little short of \$300 million. From Tony Abbott, the alternative Prime Minister, we have a commitment of \$1.5 billion. But here is the trick: the \$1.5 billion from Tony Abbott consists of \$1 billion for construction — this is on the public record, and the Treasurer knows this — and \$500 million for property acquisition and planning.

10:55:00 That is \$1 billion that is actually on the table for a project of \$6 billion, \$7 billion or \$8 billion — who knows?

Mr Madden — It could be \$9 billion.

Mr WYNNE — It could be \$9 billion, it could be \$10 billion — it is a massive, massive project. I simply ask the government: how do I talk to my residents about issues already flagged by Minister Guy in his most recent project design? The tunnel construction may involve blasting, tunnel boring and cut and cover.

What confidence can I provide to my constituents that their properties will not be damaged or acquired? We do not know anything. Shame on you!

Mr CRISP (Mildura) — I rise to support the Appropriation (2013–2014) Bill 2013, the bill that implements the 2013–14 state budget, which is a budget to build for growth. This budget is a responsible budget, and I want to congratulate the Treasurer, who is at the table, for preparing this sound foundation for Victoria to grow and prosper. It builds on the hard work of the previous Premier and previous Treasurer to fix the mess we inherited from Labor. While the focus is on the budget day announcements, it is important to recognise that the coalition government delivers economic initiatives as part of responsible governance 24/7, not just on one day in May.

The coalition’s approach to the budget and economic management is a sound approach to managing Victoria in the best interests of all Victorians. As we know, in this house we are delivering the legislative reform that is needed to maintain a financially sound Victoria. This is also a budget that maintains our AAA credit rating, which is extremely important. Once you have it you do your very best to make sure you do not lose it because the implications of losing it are considerable. The money that would need to be spent on additional interest if the AAA rating were lost would do a great deal of harm across all Victoria.

I will go through a number of the highlights of the budget before I finally focus on my electorate. The budget includes \$4.2 million to support Victoria’s contribution to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. That brings the total amount to over \$30 million, which will support the development of modelling to better settle down the Murray Darling Basin plan. This has been a major issue across my electorate for many, many years. It is this government that is currently bringing that to a conclusion. The money will be needed to support the implementation of the plan.

The first home owner grant is boosted to \$10 000 for newly constructed homes, and the stamp duty concessions are being brought forward for first home buyers. This will have a positive effect in my electorate and across Victoria. That has been well received across my electorate. There is also a boost to investment in Victoria’s future workforce, particularly in health. The \$3 million allocated towards the training of the future health workforce, particularly rural generalists, is a valuable initiative, and the 24 training positions for rural generalists over four years expands on the successful pilot program. We all know that when it comes to our medical and health workforce, recruiting

and retention are vitally important, and this initiative for rural generalist doctors is very important.

Roads are very important in my electorate. Following a long period of drought and then the inevitable rains that broke the drought there was significant damage to those roads. That the coalition government is delivering an extra \$170 million to fix Victorian roads is extremely important, and some of that work will be done across rural roads. This is in addition to what VicRoads already has in its forward estimates for what needs to be done. This will make a difference. The roads were badly damaged in that period. Now that the floods have subsided there has been some stabilisation of road foundations. I expect that will assist, but there is no getting away from the fact that this comes after a decade of neglect and it is something on which we are going to have to play catch-up for a long time.

Another initiative I welcome is the Services Connect model of service delivery. That provides for families accessing human services one level of access instead of a requirement for multiple assessments that duplicate each other. There will be one client records system, which is common sense, and one key worker will be the single point of contact for people with contact needs. There will be one plan to consider the full range of services. This initiative of a one-stop-shop for people with such issues is extremely important.

There is also money in the budget for housing support and for the delivery of support on an outreach basis — for a worker to visit families and residents and take an active role in assessing families with support needs. That includes coordinating visits and appointments with affordable housing providers, and the use of brokerage to flexibly and quickly meet a family's needs is helping with rent and the obtaining of bond money for private rental. This is valuable for people seeking housing, as it is now a complex world we live in and dealing in this area is very difficult. This is an acknowledgement of that difficulty. The budget also provides a boost for out-of-home care.

Mildura has a marvellous multicultural background and multicultural community, and the \$1.5 million boost for peak multicultural organisations is welcomed. In Mildura the Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council is a very active group, and it recently provided support to the Festival of Olives. This is good for Mildura. I will now focus on Mildura. Mildura is a regional city at the centre of my electorate. When I refer to Mildura I am actually talking about a very large area. It includes Mildura, Robinvale, Ouyen, Red Cliffs, Merbein, Irymple, Hopetoun, Murrayville, Beulah, Patchewollock and many other places. It is a very large

electorate. The people in my electorate have had to be resilient. We have had droughts, we have had floods and we are suffering the impact of the high Australian dollar. But I am proud of my electorate, and you will never hear me talking my electorate down.

Mildura is one of the engine rooms of Victoria, and it continues to be a factor in underpinning the future growth and prospects of the state. A modern budget sets objectives for the new financial year, it reports on the financial state of the state and it lists the priorities for all Victorians, including those in Mildura, on a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week basis.

There are a number of other initiatives that I think are worth mentioning. In the area of rail and ports, which is at page 125 of budget paper 4, we see that there is some additional money for rail. I will continue to fight for that portion to be spent on the Mildura line, along with Ken Wakefield, a significant iron horse operator out at Merbein. Mallee Family Care received 15 intervention places last year, and we are very much hoping that it will be able to access additional places from 500 more places going forward.

11:02:30

The budget has had considerable third-party endorsement from various organisations, including the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Victorian Farmers Federation, the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria and the Real Estate Institute of Victoria. Yet we have had a period where there have been those who have wanted to talk down Mildura. I am sick of the Mildura Rural City Council talking down Mildura. In particular the mayor and deputy mayor have been talking down Mildura. When we look at what Mildura has at that very local level, we see that it has done very well from this government, particularly through the Regional Growth Fund. Some \$740 000 has gone into the Mildura Rural City Council budget for the Mildura Riverfront Authority master plan. Some \$478 000 will go towards the master plan and full business case through the Mildura council budget. There is \$7 million in the Mildura council budget for the Mildura riverfront parklands project and \$500 000 to establish the Mildura Riverfront Authority. There is \$5 million for the construction of a link between Langtree Avenue and the riverfront precinct.

Through all of these projects, the council is a major beneficiary of state government funding. Council is very happy to put these projects in its capital budget, yet at the same time we get whingeing, whining and carping from some of its councillors, who have all the credentials that would make them part of the Labor Party, whose members are the experts in whingeing, whining and carping in Victoria at the moment.

Moving on to some of the other projects in the budget for Mildura, \$9 million from the Energy for the Regions program will go towards expanding Mildura's natural gas capacity, creating jobs in the region. There is a \$60 million investment by Olam Orchards to process almonds in Mildura that will create 60 jobs, with the support of about \$1.5 million from the state government. There is \$5.2 million for the Mildura Airport terminal redevelopment, which will provide a vital transport link for Mildura. But again we hear the local council talking down Mildura. In many ways the greatest impediment to Mildura is the negativity from its council. We are kicking goals everywhere in securing Mildura's future, but again we have these councillors mimicking our Labor colleagues and whingeing, whining and carping. Council is a major beneficiary of government funding and it needs to get on with some of these projects.

One cannot help but notice that the Mildura Airport terminal redevelopment is nearing completion — that was a \$5.2 million job — and council has \$7 million for the riverfront precinct. Both projects were funded at about the same time. I would be extremely embarrassed if the airport is finished before the council has started the riverfront, but I am preparing for the inevitability of that embarrassment.

The Mildura council manages a number of other great social projects for the government that benefit its communities. Some \$890 000 is under the Mildura council's control and management through the Mallee Track Cluster Advancing Country Towns project. Similarly we have a lot of flood-related activities which the rural city council has run, and it has benefited from those. We have two preschools being expanded, because we know preschool education is important. The Pasadena Preschool Centre and Mildura South Kindergarten are each receiving \$300 000. These projects will go straight onto the bottom line of council's asset register. Similarly various netball court lighting projects and projects around recreation reserves are supporting the council and its services to the community. The big beneficiary is the Cardross Community Complex. We are providing \$1.5 million for a new pavilion, replacement of the netball courts, reinstatement of the oval and playground, and so on. That major project is being delivered with \$1.5 million of state government money and \$100 000 of council money, and it is being managed by council.

I cannot help but echo concerns that have been expressed to me that the project management fees on state government projects are propping up the Mildura council. That is something that has been conveyed to me by various people in Mildura — something that I

hope is not true. We are pumping an enormous amount of dollars into the Mildura Rural City Council. It has to get on with the job, because some of this is important to Mildura's future. We want the council to work with us, not against us. The state government is not the only recipient of Mildura Rural City Council's negativity. There have been suggestions from the public that the council is actively working against Fishers, a local businessman who has planning approval but who seems to be striking undermining activity. I would have thought the council would stick up for a local business, and it should be sticking up for local businesses to allow them to get on with job.

We have been through a large number of projects, but it does not end there. I cannot end without going for a walk around some of the other areas of my electorate that have benefited from that 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week project. There are two new netball courts for Werrimull at Lake Cullulleraine, and \$480 000 for Lake Cullulleraine itself to give rural residents across a huge area west of Mildura drinking quality water through their pipeline system. At Merbein \$450 000 of government money is going into completing the library, another council asset. We put some money into the swimming pool at Irymple. We are delivering some irrigation upgrades for the recreation reserve out at Nichols Point, a car park reinstatement for the secondary school and a fire tanker at Red Cliffs, a new fire station at Nangiloc, \$5 million for the P-12 school and a \$1 million new fire station at Ouyen, and a fire station at Hopetoun West. It is the little things that count, and we are also assisting the golf club there with synthetic turf and providing a new scout hall.

And so it goes on. In Cowangie, Murrayville and Robinvale there are huge benefits to come through Advancing Country Towns. In Patchewollock, a little place, there is a fire station. Beulah has a fire station and \$100 000 for a synthetic bowling green. Even little Yaapect got a fire station. These fire stations all become community halls.

11:10:00

In all, the Mildura electorate is going well. You will never catch me talking down Mildura. It is a great place. It is being supported by this government, and we will continue to work. I encourage the council to work with me to have a future for Mildura and to continue to talk up Mildura. It is a great place to live and certainly a place I am proud to represent and support.

Debate adjourned on motion of Ms NEVILLE (Bellarine).

Debate adjourned until later this day.

JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2013

Council's suggested amendments

Returned from Council with message relating to suggested amendments.

Ordered to be considered later this day.

Message read recommending appropriation.

Message from Council relating to following suggested amendments considered:

1. Clause 1, page 2, line 16 after "absence" insert "and to amend the **Magistrates' Court Amendment (Assessment and Referral Court List) Act 2010** to extend the trial period under the Act".
2. Part heading preceding clause 6, line 2, after "**1989**" insert "**AND THE MAGISTRATES' COURT AMENDMENT (ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL COURT LIST) ACT 2010**".
3. Insert the following New Clause to follow clause 6 —

'AA Amendment of Magistrates' Court Amendment (Assessment and Referral Court List) Act 2010— trial period extended

 In the **Magistrates' Court Amendment (Assessment and Referral Court List) Act 2010** —

 (a) in section 2(4), for "1 August 2013" substitute "1 August 2015";

 (b) in section g for "1 August 2014" substitute "1 August 2016".
4. Clause 10, page 11, line 15, omit "7 and 8" and insert "8 and 9".
5. Clause 10, page 11, line 34, omit "7 and 8" and insert "8 and 9".
6. Clause 10, page 12, line 13, omit "7 and 8" and insert "8 and 9".
7. Clause 10, page 12, line 23, omit "7" and insert "8".
8. Clause 10, page 13, line 19, omit "7" and insert "8".
9. Clause 10, page 13, line 36, omit "7" and insert "8".
10. Long title, after "**1989**" insert "and the **Magistrates' Court Amendment (Assessment and Referral Court List) Act 2010**".

Mr CLARK (Attorney-General) — I move:

That the suggested amendments be agreed to.

I briefly point out to the house that these are relatively limited amendments which I believe enjoy bipartisan support. They are designed to continue the operation of the assessment and referral court (ARC) list within the Magistrates Court, which was provided with extended funding in the budget. These amendments extend the sunset clause that previously existed in the legislation. The ARC list enjoyed bipartisan support when it was enacted under the previous government, and it is to be continued with this extension under the current government.

Mr PAKULA (Lyndhurst) — As the Attorney-General has indicated, these amendments have bipartisan support, as they did in the Legislative Council. As he also indicated, the assessment and referral court list was instituted by the previous government. It plays a very important role in the management of matters before the Magistrates Court. It is my understanding from discussions with the government that this extension was not contained in the original legislation because of the need for the budget to be handed down to continue funding the list. Given that the funding was provided in the budget, these amendments are common sense. They extend an important list that operates within the Magistrates Court, and the opposition is pleased to support the amendments before the house.

Motion agreed to.

Ordered to be returned to Council with message informing them of decision of house.

APPROPRIATION (2013–2014) BILL 2013

Second reading

Debate resumed from earlier this day; motion of Mr O'BRIEN (Treasurer).

Mr MADDEN (Essendon) — This budget reminds me of two adages that I often refer to. The first one is: when you have a choice between a conspiracy theory and a stuff-up theory, always go with the stuff-up theory. That is relevant in sport, in life and in politics. The other adage this budget reminds me of is: you play as you train. I say that because this government had 11 years in opposition. It had 11 years to train for government. It now has its chance with its third budget, and it is performing the way it practised. Its execution is just as it rehearsed — sniping, undermining and ill-disciplined, and that is just the government itself. It is policy lazy, ideologically myopic, bereft of empathy and any generosity, and spiteful in government, just as it was in opposition.

This budget proves that the government is breathtaking in its incompetence. It is a reflex action, like a lab rat. I go no further than to point out that in two and a half years this government has seen two premiers, two treasurers and two major projects ministers. The irony that we have had more announcements from this government about major projects ministers than we have had about major projects is not lost on me. We have had two manufacturing ministers in that time, and I suspect they will be the last manufacturing ministers because the way manufacturing is going under this government it will not last much longer. We have had two IBAC ministers, two police and emergency services ministers and two crime prevention ministers. I am sure that if you look up ‘inept’ or ‘incompetent’ on Wikipedia, there will be a team photo of the Napthine cabinet sitting around its cabinet table. This is reinforced, more importantly, by the fact that the cornerstone of this budget is whatever the east–west thing is that the government calls a ‘link’. It will not link much at all; it is an extension of the freeway. This is a government that just makes stuff up.

I say this with all humility, but I was a minister for 11 years — sometimes lost in this place — in the Bracks and Brumby governments. I know that being a minister is not easy — it is very demanding — so I do not say this from a point of naivety. I say this to give a critique, from my experience, of where this government is on the basis of its cabinet and its cabinet’s performance.

We see a Premier who is erratic and just makes stuff up. When asked on morning radio after the budget about the east–west link and what the business case was, he could not answer. When he was asked about the cost-benefit analysis, he could not release it. When asked about detail, he could not answer. The method of delivery? He could not answer that either. It is no surprise, because when the Treasurer was asked about this he told us it was a road we need, but none of us is sure why we need it because the Treasurer will not release the business case. We need the road, but the government will not tell us why.

The government will not tell us the cost either, so we are not sure of that. It is in the budget papers as ‘to be confirmed’. Have you ever heard of a Treasurer who commits to \$6 billion to \$8 billion worth of project but the cost is to be confirmed?

11:17:30 Where are the contingencies? Where are the exigencies? What kind of Treasurer is it who says that?

I go on to the Deputy Premier. I am reminded of the old adage ‘pride comes before a fall’. He is a demoted

minister. What are his responsibilities now? He is a minister for various development roles but with virtually no legislation to back them up. This is a minister responsible for economic development across the state, but at the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC) he stated that he had not read the secret Vertigan report commissioned by this government. But that is not a surprise, because if you go back to the PAEC transcripts, the vast majority of the ministers made out that they had not read the Vertigan report. I will come back to that a bit later.

If we go to the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, when she was asked in this chamber about the grand prix she had no answers. When she was asked about the Red Bull air race she had just given up. The government has given up on the Red Bull air race, but when was the minister going to announce that? When was she going to make that public? She had been sitting on her hands, snoozing. Retailing is in a slump but the Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business allows a car parking levy increase in the CBD. She allows new planning zones instituted by the Minister for Planning to dilute the viability of main street and major centre shopping.

We see no commitment to building an extension to the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. We have taxidivers protesting at the airport, to the embarrassment of anybody who lives in Melbourne and has international visitors arriving. There will be no rail link to the airport for 15 years. There are no congestion solutions for airport traffic as it now stands. If you go to the airport of a morning, it is likely that you will get to the Essendon Airport very quickly but it will take another 40 minutes to get to Tullamarine airport from there. It is absolutely outrageous. On top of that, there is no rail link to the Avalon Airport, which this government committed to.

To make matters worse, when it comes to the training of the most vulnerable, yesterday we had a protest on the steps of Parliament by Whitelion, the St Kilda Youth Service, the YMCA and Youth Connect over the lack of funding and the funding cuts by the Minister for Employment and Trade to those organisations.

I will keep going on about each one of these ministers. The only real contribution the government has made to public transport is the fact that this budget is basically a train wreck. Whilst the Premier might be the head of steam at the front of the line, we have a whole lot of carriages careering over the top of it after a major rail disaster.

We have the likes of the Minister for Disability Services and Reform outrageously introducing fee hikes for residents in Department of Human Services-run disability supported accommodation. The most affected will see a 66 per cent hike. There has been a \$40 million cut for those living in care, and these are some of the most vulnerable people. When on *Stateline* last Friday night Guy Stayner commented that ‘a similar scheme in the private sector would be described as a scam’ the minister did not have an answer. She stammered and stuttered because she knows it is the equivalent of a scam. You could not do this in private enterprise, but she can do it.

Ms Wooldridge — They do.

Mr MADDEN — Let the record show that the Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Disability Services and Reform, who is at the table, is happy to undertake that scam as well. This is on top of an apology for past adoption practices which was compromised by the introduction of substantial fines for those who want to access information in relation to adoptions that they are not entitled to.

Let us go to no. 6 in terms of ministerial responsibilities: the Minister for Health. We saw in PAEC that he has acknowledged record waiting lists for surgery and no solutions for the ambulance crisis. It is everybody else’s fault. Not only that but he claims that he has not read the Vertigan report.

I could go on, and I will go on. I will go on about the incompetence of these ministers. An example that I love and which I find absolutely outrageous is from the Attorney-General, and he is here in the chamber now. I love this because there is no shame in it, absolutely no embarrassment. The Attorney-General has issued conclusive certificates to stop the release of documents relating to the ex gratia payments made in relation to the Simon Overland affair and the former Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). This refusal was not made to just anybody, it was to the Ombudsman. The Attorney-General, the highest law-maker in the land, would not release information the Ombudsman was seeking in relation to ex gratia payments made to Simon Overland and the former DPP. This was asked about at PAEC.

Mr Watt — On a point of order, Deputy Speaker, I understand that debate on the appropriation bill can be quite a wide ranging but I fail to see how this has anything to do with the budget.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! I will not uphold the point of order at this time. I ask the member to continue with his contribution on the budget.

Mr MADDEN — There is no embarrassment from the Attorney-General. There is a shameless lack of it. What we see here is an Attorney-General who was happy to see federal laws broken when it came to workplace laws relating to the construction guidelines. But again, no shame on the part of this government. The incompetence is breathtaking.

I move to the Minister for Planning. Let us get our heads around this for a moment. This is a Minister for Planning who is currently facing no less than three lawsuits. He is party to a coronial inquiry and there is the likelihood of an inquiry by the Ombudsman.

Mr Watt — On a point of order, Deputy Speaker, I apologise, but I fail to see how talking about the Minister for Planning has anything to do with the budget. I am not sure where the member for Essendon is at.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The member for Essendon has just started talking about it, and I was expecting him to relate it back to the budget papers as he proceeded.

Mr Wynne interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The member for Richmond! It is offensive to the Chair for the member for Richmond to speak when the Chair is speaking.

Mr Watt — On a point of order, Deputy Speaker, I realise that the member for Richmond is out of his seat, but I would still ask him to withdraw.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The member for Richmond has made a comment that has offended the member for Burwood. I ask the member for Richmond to withdraw.

Mr Wynne — I do not know what I have to withdraw, Deputy Speaker. I did not say anything offensive about the member at all.

11:25:00

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! An unqualified withdrawal.

Mr Wynne — I said nothing at all to him.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! I say to the member for Richmond that the practice of the house is that if a member is offended the member must withdraw unconditionally.

Mr Wynne — If the member is offended by something I may have said, unconditionally I would withdraw, and I said nothing about him.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! I thank the member for Richmond.

Mr MADDEN — This is a minister who has seen cuts in his portfolio of a magnitude never seen before in relation to the planning portfolio and at the same time has centralised unfettered discretionary powers more than any other planning minister in the history of this state.

Then we go to the Minister for Education, who acknowledges there is no real growth funding for education. He is not sure what his department is doing or saying publicly in relation to programs such as the School Focused Youth Service or the universal school health checks for prep students, and he is unable to inform schools when or where they are on the waiting list in relation to rebuilds and major projects.

I am only halfway through the cabinet, Deputy Speaker. I go on to the Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads. In the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC) hearings he had no idea about the east-west link river crossing. He was not sure, in a sense, where the river started and where it finished. What he did say was:

We will go to the market; we do not know what the market is going to come back to us with in terms of bids, in terms of innovation, in terms of connectivity. Who knows?

If the Minister for Roads does not know, who can know? I thought it was outrageous that that he was happy to acknowledge publicly that the government is prepared to take non-conforming bids. That is a signal to the market that you do not have to conform with the bid. 'Put in a non-conforming bid, and we'll consider it'. That is absolutely outrageous. Where is the probity in that, in having specialised treatment for somebody who presents a non-conforming bid? It is outrageous.

I can go on and on. I know there are a number of new ministers as a result of the recent reshuffle and that they struggled at PAEC. I somehow feel sorry for the Minister for Crime Prevention, because yesterday we saw in the release of the crime statistics that crime was up by 5.6 per cent. Crime against the person was up by 9.2 per cent and drug offences were up by 14.6 per cent. That continues to reflect the incompetence, the breathtaking incompetence, of this government. Do members know what reinforces that? It is the fact that none of the ministers seem to have read the Vertigan report. The draft Vertigan report says:

In the final report, the panel will identify opportunities for improving the efficiency of public service delivery which will assist the Victorian government to increase the net operating balance of the ... government sector.

That was on page 27 of the *Independent Review of State Finances*. But of course no-one will acknowledge or admit to having read it. Why would ministers not read it? That says they do not care, they are too embarrassed or they are derelict in their duties. It is a bit like a scene from *Fawlty Towers*, is it not? It is almost as if they have been told that when they go into PAEC the approach should be, 'Whatever you do, don't mention the Vertigan report!', and that, when they came out, if somebody says, 'Did you mention the Vertigan report?', the answer is, 'I mentioned it once, but I think I got away with it!'. Again I say this is a government of breathtaking incompetence. It is erratic in its behaviour, and it responds like a lab rat.

Mr KATOS (South Barwon) — It is a pleasure to rise this morning and make a contribution on the Appropriation (2013-2014) Bill 2013 relating to budget papers that are aptly entitled *Building for Growth — 2013–14 Victorian Budget*. It is always interesting to follow the member for Essendon, particularly today with his critique of cabinet. Perhaps he should look at the ministry he was in when he was Minister for Planning and recognise what a debacle that was for the state.

This budget is about strong and secure finances. It delivers an operating surplus of \$225 million, which is forecast to rise to more than \$2.5 billion by 2016–17. The economy will grow at 2.25 per cent in 2013–14; employment growth will strengthen, with the unemployment rate forecast to fall to 5.5 per cent; and net debt is forecast to be 6.4 per cent of gross state product this coming financial year and to decline to 5.4 per cent in 2016–17. One thing this budget does is to maintain Victoria's credit rating of AAA steady. I believe Western Australia is the only other state with AAA, but I believe Western Australia is AAA watch. Victoria is the only state in Australia with a AAA credit rating that is steady.

As part of our election commitment we promised to maintain at least a \$100 million surplus in each of our budgets, and so far that has been done. We have honoured that commitment. We are unlike the federal government which has not kept its commitment. On over 500 occasions the federal Treasurer, Wayne Swan, and Prime Minister Gillard promised to deliver a budget surplus in 2013–14, but the fiscal genius that is the federal Treasurer, instead of delivering a \$1.5 billion surplus, has delivered a \$19 billion deficit. That is absolutely disgraceful. That just goes to show

that the Labor Party simply cannot manage money and cannot manage major projects, as we saw with the Labor government in Victoria, which had cost overruns on capital projects of almost \$11 billion, which is absolutely disgraceful.

One of the keys is that you have to contain your expenditure growth. Under the Labor government expenditure growth averaged 8 per cent but revenue averaged 7.3 per cent, so every year we were going further backwards. We have contained that growth, and on average we are bringing expenditure below revenue, and that is how you generate a surplus. This is seen to be an excellent budget, also, when members consider that since we came to government the Gillard federal government has ripped almost \$7 billion of GST from Victoria. We started at 94 cents in the dollar, and we are now down to 90 cents. The only state worse off is Western Australia, which gets 50 cents back in the dollar. Of course this is all to prop up marginal federal seats in New South Wales and Queensland.

11:32:30 Infrastructure is extremely important, and this year's budget sees a record \$6.1 billion infrastructure spend across the state, which is extremely important, particularly in the growth areas around the South Barwon electorate and indeed Geelong. This budget also delivers on the east–west link. It delivers the start of stage 1 at an estimated cost of around \$6 billion to \$8 billion, and it will create around 3200 jobs. It is interesting to note that yesterday in the Legislative Council a motion was moved by the Leader of the Greens, Mr Barber, which stated:

That this house opposes the Naphine government's proposed east–west tollway ...

After some very vigorous debate a division took place, and the ayes were 3, being the Greens members, and the noes were 36. Interestingly every upper house Labor member voted in support of the east–west link, so it is very interesting to see where Labor members actually stand on this issue. At the time of the by-election for the seat of Melbourne they were opposed to it. Now that they are looking forward and know they have to maintain their seats in the south-east and perhaps try to pick up some of our seats in the east — which they will not — they all of a sudden support the east–west link, as is documented by the vote in the upper house yesterday.

Infrastructure spending will also occur at the port of Hastings, which is vitally important. From a roads perspective there is \$32 million for continued structural support of the West Gate Bridge, which is obviously constantly bearing a load, and that is where the east–west link is important. Stage 1 is to be constructed,

but the next stage is the one that will link it to the Western Ring Road. However, rather than wait for the whole project to be funded at once, it is sensible to start on stage 1 and construct stage 2 next.

We also have \$11.2 billion being spent on health care, which is an additional \$426 million. That includes \$420 million for an elective surgery funding pool, so that hospitals will be able to make competitive bids to help reduce waiting lists. There is also an amount of \$238 million for the training of doctors, nurses and health professionals. Our education budget is \$11.6 billion in 2013–14, which includes \$203 million in capital works for new or renovated schools.

There has also been excellent reform with regard to the fire service levy (FSL), which is something the previous government could have done but chose not to do. It is an important reform to implement that property-based levy and get away from the old and unfair insurance-based levy, which was a tax on a tax, with stamp duty and GST. It is a very important reform. It will see an average FSL reduction in the Country Fire Authority (CFA) area from \$262 in 2011–12 to an average of \$142 in 2013–14, and that is because the load will be spread fairly and evenly among members of the whole community; not just to those who are insured, as was the case under the previous system. The government will also continue to fund 22.5 per cent of the total CFA budget. The introduction of the FSL is a great outcome.

The first home owner grant for new homes will increase to \$10 000, and a 40 per cent concession on stamp duty for first home buyers will be brought forward six months to 1 July, which is excellent news for the growth areas in my electorate and also around Geelong, particularly Armstrong Creek, Torquay, and even some areas on the Bellarine Peninsula to Ocean Grove and also Clifton Springs. It is certainly encouraging people to construct new homes, but there is still a concession on stamp duty for existing homes; so again it is good news for those areas.

There is another \$170 million package to go on top of the \$45 million for additional road maintenance, which will take place over the next three years. I have seen some of that money currently being spent on the Surf Coast Highway, with an almost a \$5 million upgrade of the Surf Coast Highway pavement. So on top of the previous \$45 million there is another \$170 million to fix country roads because, let us face it, the drought certainly hid the neglect of country roads by the previous government, and when the rains came again, they highlighted the neglect of those roads.

Turning to the South Barwon electorate, I am pleased that \$50.2 million has been allocated for the Waurn Ponds community hospital. Despite the moaning by the Leader of the Opposition in a stunt aimed at scaring the Geelong community into thinking that the hospital would not go ahead, he certainly has egg on his face now because it is going ahead and we are honouring our commitment. That pledge will see a 32-bed community hospital constructed adjacent to Deakin University at Waurn Ponds. It will provide surgical, chemotherapy and dialysis services, and it will create about 150 jobs. It will have two same-day surgery operating theatres, recovery areas, an eight-chair chemotherapy service for cancer patients and also six chairs for dialysis services. This is very important because rather than Geelong people having to travel into the city — or, even worse, people having to travel into the city from the Western District — they will receive that treatment in their own community, which is very important. There will be a total health hub there. The Epworth Hospital will be constructed in the same area, where we have the Deakin University School of Medicine as well as nursing and optometry services, and it is excellent to create that health precinct. Whether for private health care or public health care, there will be allied health professionals in the same hub, as well as the teaching aspect of Deakin University. It is a very sensible proposal.

The Grovedale railway station will also be constructed. An amount of \$9.4 million was set aside in last year's budget for that purpose, and a further \$15.6 million will be set aside in this year's budget for that station to be constructed, which is great news for people living in Grovedale and the southern suburbs of Geelong.

11:40:00 The new facility will obviously have a single platform to start with, with passenger amenities, on-road bus bays, bicycle storage and parking for at least 200 cars which can be expanded out to approximately 450. Land on the south side of the railway line has also been acquired as part of the acquisition process for Baanip Boulevard, which is connecting the ring-road to the Surf Coast Highway. That is the next stage of the railway station in the future, which will see the larger car park built on the southern side of the railway line. Again, that is excellent news. It is interesting to note that when the Marshall station was first built under the previous government it had 90 car parks. So we are starting with 200 car parks with capacity to go to around 450, plus we have purchased the land on the southern side of the railway line which will incorporate a much larger car park, and when Baanip Boulevard is built people will obviously have access to that section of the rail line.

There is also \$300 000 for a rail feasibility study in this year's budget. That is a rail feasibility from South Geelong railway station through to Drysdale and also from Grovedale to Torquay. What that feasibility will also look at is setting in place where the easement should go. However, there are also constraints on the Geelong rail line, as from the tunnel at Kilgore Street, where it comes through from Geelong station, there is only a single track between there, Marshall and the new Grovedale station. What that does is hamper the future capacity, so this study will look at whether that can be duplicated and when additional track can be put in there, which is sensible and which is something that the previous government also neglected to do.

I am also very pleased that there is \$300 million for the Barwon region national disability insurance scheme trial. There is an increase of another \$17 million in this year's budget, and the state government still has \$25 million on the table for the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) headquarters for Geelong. Geelong has the right fit and skills for the NDIA headquarters. That is where we need to get that in place, and I urge the Prime Minister to consider Geelong for the NDIA headquarters; Geelong is the right place for it and has the right skill sets.

I will just note a few other aspects of the budget. I am pleased to see some of the other previous election commitments have been completed, including the extension to Torquay kindergarten, as well as clubroom extensions at South Barwon Football and Netball Club, Grovedale Football Netball Club, Torquay Football, Cricket and Netball Club, and Highton Tennis Club. These have all been completed. Grovedale early learning hub and Barwon Heads Kindergarten are funded and due to commence this year. Barwon Soccer Club clubrooms are well and truly under way. Torquay Bowls Club at Taylor Park will commence this year. The Torquay Surf Life Saving Club upgrade has been completed. The Torquay community and civic sporting pavilion has been completed. This year we also see the Surf Coast Secondary College well under way, the Waurn Ponds police station and State Emergency Service complex is due to commence at the end of this year and Pioneer Road widening has been completed. Noise barriers at Wandana Heights have been completed, so we are honouring our election commitments. I commend this bill to the house.

Ms NEVILLE (Bellarine) — I rise to make a contribution on the Appropriation (2013–2014) Bill 2013. Just before I get to my substantive comments in relation to the budget, it was interesting to listen to the member for South Barwon's contribution. There were a couple of things that I thought his community and the

community of Geelong would be very interested to hear him get up and support. I just wanted to be clear that this is what he was suggesting, so that we are all clear in the community of Geelong.

It was interesting that he is supporting the ‘east-east link’ as a priority over the actual no. 1 road project, which is a second crossing. I find it extraordinary that he is saying, ‘Yes, let’s put off the second stage’. I think I remember making a comment about the so-called plan having been proposed for the second stage, which actually is not quite a second crossing anyway. But the likelihood is my son, who is 16, may in fact be married before we even see a shovel in the ground under this plan, and I can tell you that the member’s community will find that very interesting.

I was interested to hear him talk up the port of Hastings. Bay West is what the Geelong community is calling for, particularly now. I may have missed it, and my apologies to the member if I have, but he talked about how the budget is going to assist the transition that Geelong will be facing over the next few years in relation to Ford. The other interesting thing he spoke about is the first home buyers grant. I did not hear him say how disappointed he was that the government removed the additional incentive that was being provided to regional first home buyers for newly constructed homes, which would have benefited many in his community at Armstrong Creek; but now they are getting less. So they were interesting contributions, and I am sure the people of Geelong will be interested to see that the member for South Barwon has been clear on those issues, against their interests.

We have heard a lot from those opposite over the last couple of days talking about how proud they are of this budget. There has been lots of congratulations, but I think the better words are that this is a disappointing budget, a failure of a budget and a very weak budget. In fact this budget sees Victorians pay more taxes but yet get fewer services. It is a budget that does not build for our regions and does not have a focus on jobs or creating opportunities for Victorians into the future. It is a budget that will see our health services go backwards, our education and support of children in our schools go backwards, a budget that further targets some of our most disadvantaged Victorians specifically in the disability area with the increasing rent fees for people in Department of Human Services-managed supported accommodation. It is a budget that will see protection of the environment go backwards and a budget that undermines our vibrant arts sector.

It is a budget that does not in any way deliver for Victoria’s second city, nor does it provide the

infrastructure or services needed for one of the fastest-growing regions — my community of Bellarine. The *Geelong Advertiser* labelled it ‘a budget light on for big regional spending’. Of course since that budget we have had the devastating news that Ford — a critical part of the Geelong economy and one of the major employers in the Geelong region for 88 years — will cease the manufacturing of Fords in Australia, resulting in a loss of 510 jobs in Geelong.

It is true to say that people across Geelong — the workers and the broader community — were stunned by this decision. For the 510 workers who face the loss of their jobs in 2016, this decision has been devastating. Many have expressed a sense of being gutted. Many have spoken about their concerns about how they will be able to afford to put their children through school and pay their mortgages, and there is certainly huge uncertainty about their future work opportunities going forward.

11:47:30

As the member for Geelong mentioned in his statement in the *Geelong Advertiser* on 24 May, one of the workers said to him:

We don’t need sympathy, we need support.

How true is that? Geelong needs support to manage this process, support to ensure that there is work after Ford and support to ensure that its economy remains vibrant. We know that the decision by Ford will have a much broader impact. It will have an impact on the components sector, and it will have an impact on other service providers, from the local milk bar to the cleaners et cetera, who all receive income as a result of Ford. It is estimated that for every direct job at Ford seven indirect jobs in the community in some way rely on Ford.

The unemployment rate in Geelong currently sits at 6 per cent, which is up from 5.3 per cent a year ago. If you look at the March figures for job advertisements, we have seen a decline of over 26 per cent on the previous month. These are concerning statistics.

I was working in financial counselling in Geelong at the time of the Pyramid Building Society collapse. I have heard the Premier and the Deputy Premier point to how Geelong recovered from that collapse. As a worker working in that community at that time with people who had lost their life savings, I can say that it took a very long time. Much grief and loss followed. What was clear to me at the time was that without substantial government support and intervention recovery can take a very long time and many people suffer in the meantime. We cannot let that happen in this case.

It is true that Geelong is now better placed to respond to and to deal with the loss of Ford in 2016. It is better placed not by accident but because of the substantial investment made in very strategic areas during the time of the Bracks and Brumby governments. These investments saw the Geelong Ring Road upgrade, they saw an improvement in rail services between Geelong and Melbourne, and they saw Avalon Airport get up and going. Investments were also made in health services, not only for rebuilding large parts of Geelong Hospital — and thereby creating construction jobs — but also for increasing health jobs in the region.

Investments were made that saw the medical school built at Deakin University, and there were further investments in Deakin's Geelong waterfront campus. These investments also saw the Transport Accident Commission move to Geelong, which those opposite opposed, even though they now say that it is fantastic that it is down there. There were other sorts of investments like the Geelong Investment and Innovation Fund, which again the Deputy Premier and Premier continue to refer to. Investments from this period saw over 1000 jobs created and many millions of dollars leveraged off that. There were investments in schools that created a construction pipeline and investments that promoted population growth, like the first home buyers grant which had a particular emphasis on regional areas.

It is no accident that we are better placed to respond. But to not take significant action now and to fail to ensure that appropriate investment is made in the region will make it difficult to respond and will certainly cause more heartache and pain for the workers who will lose their jobs. This will impact across our economy. The \$9 million the government has announced it will contribute to the equivalent of what was the innovation fund is only \$4.5 million for Geelong. This is a very small amount and will not leverage the sort of jobs and investment that we need. It comes nowhere close to the commonwealth's investment. As an opposition, we have committed to match that commonwealth investment in that fund, because we know the value of those funds in creating new jobs, particularly in manufacturing. This fund will be critical to providing the sort of incentives we know will get new manufacturing businesses into the region.

Of course that is not all that is needed. I reviewed this budget, and it does not provide much hope that this government has a strategy to ensure that the economy of Geelong is well placed to deal with the challenges that we face as a result of Ford ceasing manufacturing. What we needed was a budget that facilitated proper transport and linkages to Geelong to encourage

population growth and encourage businesses to move to the region. What we needed was investment in roads to ensure those appropriate connections. We needed was an investment in infrastructure to ensure an appropriate construction stimulus. What we needed was investment to revitalise the centre of Geelong, as well as investment in services and infrastructure to promote quality of life across all of the electorates in the region.

The only investment in public transport made in this budget is the Grovedale railway station. There are no new trains, there is no improvement in the regularity of services and there is no investment to improve the performance of our train service. The performance of V/Line is at its lowest level. I am aware of a number of people who have had to make the decision that they cannot continue to work in Melbourne because of the poor performance of V/Line combined with the congestion that continues to increase on the West Gate Freeway. Apart from Grovedale, what we got in the budget in terms of public transport was money — I think it will be \$150 000 each — to investigate potential rail lines between South Geelong and Drysdale and one to Torquay. This is the only investment in the Bellarine electorate at all, and I will come back to that briefly. This is not going to amount to anything, although if it did work out, that would be fantastic. However, we have major issues in delivering on that because we have a rail reserve that is largely now gone and has now been replaced by a very popular tourist attraction, the rail trail.

I wish to come back very briefly to the centrepiece of this government's budget, which is the so-called east-west link. It is an 'east link'; that is what has been promised. And it is only the money for the planning. It is an 'east link'. We know that the most used and congested road is the connection from Geelong through to the Monash Freeway. Anyone who drives that road regularly knows that it is getting worse day by day. Unless there is a second crossing, and that becomes a priority, Geelong growth will be slowed, fewer businesses will move down there and people will be deterred from moving there.

We have the government announcing just this week that another 5000-odd houses are to be built in Werribee on top of the ones already announced. I can tell members that traffic will be at a standstill; you will not be able to get to Melbourne. The major economic corridor in Victoria will come to a standstill, and it will have a massive impact on Geelong.

11:55:00

What do we have for Geelong? We have a new community hospital — whatever a 'community hospital' means compared to a second hospital, which

was what was promised. An amount of \$50 million has been allocated for that, while in fact what was promised in the election was \$80 million — I am not sure what has happened to that \$30 million! — and only \$2 million of it this year. That is going to deliver a lot of jobs! There is nothing for the Geelong Performing Arts Centre (GPAC). That was another of the election commitments that were provided by each of the parties and written up by the *Geelong Advertiser*. However, according to the Minister for the Arts the *Geelong Advertiser* got it wrong. I will be letting the paper know that. Apparently the minister said to a Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearing last week, ‘We didn’t really make that promise’. Even though the parties provided the *Geelong Advertiser* with their final promises two days out from the election, she said, ‘We can just say the paper has got it wrong’. There is nothing for GPAC.

There is nothing for the revitalisation of the CBD. We have got this fund of \$11 million, which I can tell members now is going to be spent on a whole lot of things other than the revitalisation of the CBD. After all the work that was done, that project is out the window. As I said, there is nothing in the budget for the Bellarine electorate apart from \$150 000 for a study. We can see how long the Avalon rail study has been going for, so let us see what happens there. In the meantime there are no meaningful transport connections and no new bus services. There is no funding for the Portarlington Primary School, which I have spoken about numerous times. This is a school the Minister for Education and the region say is a priority, but there is no money for it in the budget. There is nothing for Shell Road, nothing for the library and community centre in Leopold, nothing for the street works in St Leonards, nothing for the Portarlington safe harbour redevelopment, nothing for sporting needs in Drysdale and nothing to deal with traffic and road issues in Drysdale-Clifton Springs.

We know that 65 per cent of the population growth in our region will be in the Bellarine and South Barwon electorates, yet there is nothing for Bellarine.

Mr Katos interjected.

Ms NEVILLE — The member for South Barwon was quoted in the *Geelong Advertiser* of 8 May, interestingly enough, saying:

You are going to have some years when South Barwon gets more money and other years when other electorates will get more money ...

Mr Northe — It’s true.

Ms NEVILLE — Since this government has come into office my electorate has received \$150 000 for the rail study; that is it. All I can say is that the other side must be very worried about the member for South Barwon’s ability to win that seat again.

Honourable members interjecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The member for South Barwon is out of his place and is disorderly.

Ms NEVILLE — And of course we still have major issues with police and ambulance services on the Bellarine Peninsula. We have police being rostered on duty in Geelong constantly. I raised the issue yesterday of ambulances not being available on Friday night. That is a consistent issue in the region. Bellarine is growing and has an ageing population. These services are absolutely critical to the safety and wellbeing of local residents. As Cameron Best, the journalist from the *Geelong Advertiser*, wrote on 8 May:

All in all, this was a budget where Melbourne was clearly the main game.

Geelong needs to be the main game. If we are to be well placed to respond to the closure of Ford, we need to be the main game. This government has not delivered in this budget for our region, which will make it more and more difficult for us to respond to the challenges ahead.

Mr BULL (Gippsland East) — I am delighted to rise to speak on the Appropriation (2013–2014) Bill 2013. This is a great budget for Victoria, for the seat of Gippsland East and certainly for rural and regional Victoria as a whole. My electorate was fortunate enough to see several major and very significant funding announcements made which will benefit our communities. The biggest of those was the \$16 million state government contribution to the upgrade of the Macalister irrigation district (MID), which when combined with the \$16 million being contributed by irrigators will constitute the single biggest investment in this area in decades. For locals in the towns of Maffra, Heyfield, Newry, Tinamba, Boisdale, Briagolong and many other small rural communities within the Macalister irrigation district it was a massive vote of confidence in their towns. The upgrade will improve water usage significantly and in turn significantly improve milk production in that area. As the member for Gembrook would know, having driven through that Macalister irrigation district last week, whole system is an enormous contributor to the community in Gippsland East.

The \$16 million contribution that was announced, combined with the contribution from the irrigators, will fund stage 1 of what is a very significant project to modernise an irrigation system that was largely put together as far back as the 1920s and 1950s. Despite support for the project being sought over many years, none was provided. It took this government coming into power to act on the MID 2030 plan, which had actually been prepared and lying on the table since 2005, with nothing going on. This very proactive coalition government has come into office and is funding the first stage, and that has been extremely well received in the Gippsland East electorate.

The \$1 million mental health initiative is another very important announcement for my region. This stemmed from a pre-election commitment and a subsequent proposal being presented to the government and the Minister for Mental Health, who is at the table, by all the local agencies with an interest in mental health. This announcement will result in more counselling resources on the ground in our region. Of course the final detail of how that will occur will be determined in the coming weeks when we again meet with all those stakeholder groups to sort out how this will be rolled out and the time frames around it. However, there is no mistake: this is a great initiative for the region and one that is very welcome.

The third budget announcement I would like to mention in relation to my region is the sealing of the remaining unsealed section of the Omeo Highway north of Omeo. This is a very important tourism and freight route between the north-east and south-east of the state, and it is very important for the townships along this route.

12:02:30 I know the member for Benambra, who lobbied with me very strongly to have this section of road sealed, is also pleased that this has been announced. As I said, it will be of great benefit to a number of townships. Omeo, Swifts Creek, Benambra, Bruthen — all the towns dotted along the Omeo Highway and indeed the Great Alpine Road will see increased traffic and increased business as a result.

I would also like to make the comment that these three very significant announcements in the budget have been made on the back of a series of announcements in my electorate that were made outside the budgetary process but which are equally important. They are significant projects that relate to infrastructure and jobs. They include \$650 000 to the Heyfield mill to allow it to expand and grow and compete in new markets; \$200 000 to the Lakes Entrance Fisherman's Co-operative Society Ltd to extend its fish processing, and hopefully that will result in local fish being

marketed under its own banner, which I believe there is a great thirst for not only in Victoria but across Australia; and \$70 000 to the J. & J. Nielsen nursery in Bairnsdale. This is a family company that has accessed new markets and is putting on new staff and increasing the scope of its business by one-third, and we are happy to contribute \$70 000 to that. And we are providing \$120 000 to VegCo for a vegetable processing expansion. VegCo is another major employer in our town, and that investment will again create more jobs.

There will also be \$500 000 for an on-water refuelling facility in Lakes Entrance. This is a very important announcement because currently an enormous number of boat operators take their boats to Lakes Entrance. To refuel the things they have to cart them out of the water, put them on their trailers and drive to the local service station, or alternatively they have to unplug their tanks and walk over the road to the service station to get fuel for their boats. We will have on-water refuelling facilities that will be credit card operated, which is going to be very much welcomed with open arms by the tourism sector and the recreational boating community.

We have had major upgrades to sporting facilities right around the electorate — in Heyfield, Coongulla, Omeo and Lakes Entrance — and I know we have more about to be announced. We have also had over \$1 million for local kindergartens in Swan's Reach, Paynesville, Bairnsdale and Stratford. There is over \$1 million to upgrade all these kindergartens and allow them to meet the forthcoming arrangement of 15 hours of universal access. We have also had firefighting vehicles delivered to a whole range of local brigades, which have of course been very welcoming of this great investment in emergency services. These are all major investments in the region, showing that this government is supporting job growth and infrastructure in rural and regional Victoria and showing also that many announcements are made outside the budgetary process on a year-round basis.

This is a great budget not only for the Gippsland East electorate but for all Victorians, and one which will ensure continued growth in this state. On top of all this wonderful news we have managed to deliver a surplus as well — \$225 million. On top of that there is a statewide infrastructure spend of \$6.1 billion. There is a record spend of \$14.2 billion in health, which is around \$2 billion more than in the previous government's last budget. We are also investing more into road improvements. There are great stories here in transport and roads. Road asset management financial expenditure in this coming financial year will be \$446 million. It will include a new maintenance

package of \$170 million to be expended over the next three years, and all this wonderful news is on the back of the state maintaining its AAA credit rating. Of course this means an enormous amount to the Victorian government and all Victorians because, quite simply, having this credit rating allows us to save money as rather than otherwise expending money on paying debt it allows us to invest more into services and jobs in this state.

In 2011–12 this government delivered its budget on target. In 2012–13 our actual expenditure was not just on budget but was \$273 million short of what was budgeted for. As the Deputy Premier pointed out in his contribution on the appropriation bill, this is a significant achievement. It was the first time this had happened since 1997–98. During its 11 years the previous government overspent on its budget expenditure every single year. Not only that but it was only saved by the fact that over that period, fortunately, income also exceeded the budget as money rolled in. However, in relation to expenditure, Labor exceeded its budget by \$15.8 billion over 10 years.

In this year's budget we are clearly continuing with the enormous and great investment we have seen in rural and regional Victoria since we came to office. As I have said, we have seen new schools in my electorate, significant road improvements after years of neglect, investment in kindergartens and disability facilities in towns in Gippsland East and improvements to our environment through the \$10 million Gippsland Lakes Environment Fund. We have worked with local government on public facility upgrades to deliver enormous benefits for our local communities and of course on various town improvement projects. We are making sure that regional Victoria will have programs that are going to deliver what is needed for future growth and certainty within our state.

In education we have \$41 million that will go to the region, and there is one project I would specifically like to refer to. As we know, in Gippsland East we have had some wonderful results in education, with new a school being built in Toorloo Arm and work on Bairnsdale Secondary College about to be commenced. I want to for a short moment talk about the new Sale Specialist School. Here is a situation where in this budget, after years and years of lobbying, there is now provision to purchase land for this new facility. Whilst the actual school is not in my electorate, it services a number of communities and townships within my electorate; all the kids in Heyfield, Maffra and Stratford who have special needs attend the Sale Specialist School. For these families this is extraordinarily welcome news.

I can remember being on the project committee to build the specialist school in Bairnsdale in 2003, 10 years ago. The Sale Specialist School was then lobbying for a new facility. What happened was that we built a specialist school at Bairnsdale, which alleviated the problem with enrolments for a very short time, but it quickly became apparent that the Sale facility had outgrown its capacity to cater for all the kids and the local communities, so very strong pushes were made by the entire school community. It has taken until now, until this year's budget, to get a way forward after the school was totally ignored and suffered through a lot of neglect and ignorance by the previous government over a long period. There is now provision to purchase land to build a new school. Finally this community has a way forward, and it is indeed terrific news for those members of my community who are affected by this.

There has also been a record investment in the disability sector, and more packages will be provided to people with 720 more individual support packages are being rolled out across the state. Of course, as we well know, this is on the back of this state signing up to the rollout of the national disability insurance scheme, which was a very significant announcement that was made just pre-budget.

In relation to policing, we are continuing to roll out the 1700 new police in this state — front-line, operational police, on the ground and having a presence. It is critical that we have these police coming into our stations. Talking to officers in Bairnsdale two months ago, they made the comment that it was fantastic to have the Bairnsdale police station fully manned for the first time in, they believe, at least a decade but more than likely two. It is a fantastic result there for the community.

To further protect our farming sector and rural communities we have provided \$4.7 million for a rapid response to deal with any outbreak of foot and mouth disease problems. In tourism there is another \$8 million to support another critically important driver of the local economy in Gippsland East. We have so many wonderful natural attractions. We need to get the message out that Gippsland East is a fantastic place not only to live but also to holiday and visit.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the Regional Growth Fund. What a great fund this has been, and what a spectacular success this has been for all of Victoria. There are over 900 projects all up and \$280 million has been injected into local communities, and, this is the important bit, this \$280 million has leveraged \$940 million worth of projects through

partnerships that have been done with private enterprise and local government.

12:12:30 This will produce enormous numbers of jobs in the construction phase and will provide many other ongoing employment opportunities. Another important reform is the fire services levy. We now have a far more equitable system than the one that was previously in place. Now everyone makes a fair contribution to our fire services, not just those who take out insurance, as was previously the case.

This budget is all about responsibility. It is about putting this state on a firm footing while delivering in important areas for the Victorian community. My electorate is extremely expansive; it is over 27 000 square kilometres in area. I note that the member for Forest Hill represents an electorate that is 22 square kilometres in area, which pales into insignificance when compared to 27 000 square kilometres. It takes a bit of looking after, this big electorate. I have every confidence that our budget this year has delivered great outcomes not just for East Gippsland but right across rural and regional Victoria. I am absolutely delighted to commend the bill to the house.

Mr DONNELLAN (Narre Warren North) — It is an honour to talk on the budget today. Members will note that there was not much in the budget for my local area, the city of Casey. For many years we were used to getting \$45 million to \$50 million per year for road funding. We have been severely let down by this government in terms of the roads that need to be funded in Casey and the growth that is occurring in this electorate. To date there has been about \$5 million to \$8 million spent in the city of Casey since this government came to power. It is pretty ordinary by comparison to what has been spent in the past.

The residents of Casey are aware that this government has taken its eyes off the area and is not funding roads that are required in the municipality, despite the fact that the growth is still there. Unfortunately most of the City of Casey councillors seem to think that is acceptable. I do not think it is acceptable, but for some reason we have a council made up of wood ducks who are happy to sit there — apart from the fact that there is a severe cloud over their leadership — and accept that they do not deserve any road funding. I am here to fight for road funding. For some reason we have a council that does not want to fight for its own residents. The council is a pack of wood ducks who think they are there to defend the Liberal Party. That is a very ordinary situation. It is tragic that we have so many wood ducks in one spot. If we had even one less wood

duck, we might actually have someone come out against the ordinary budget outcome that the city of Casey has received.

I will move on, however, because there are many things to raise concerns about in relation to this budget. One has only to look at the east–west link. It has taken the government two and a half years to work out that the 40 000 cars coming off the Eastern Freeway, some of which head a little bit north or a little bit west, do not a toll road make. The government is not going to get interest from the private sector in the east link. It is not an east–west link, because it has nothing to do with the west, where there is the pressure of 160 000 cars coming across from that direction every day. What we have is 40 000 cars, none of which is heading fully west or fully north. The government will now have to take funds from general revenue. I suspect it has secretly allocated what looks like about \$1 billion — \$294 million officially, but probably another \$700 million from its Treasurer’s advance or unallocated capital — if not more. It will find very little private sector interest in the project apart from perhaps in undertaking the maintenance and day-to-day operations.

It has taken those opposite two and a half years to work that out. They even sent out the Linking Melbourne Authority to do an assessment again. They said, ‘You did an assessment some years ago, and there were 40 000 cars. We will send you out again’. They have found out that there are fewer cars now. The chance of actually making the east–west link work have gone backwards, but the catchcry of this government is ‘Getting on with the job’. If those opposite say it enough, maybe some people will believe them. I direct members to the Treasurer’s own comments to Stephen McMahon in the *Herald Sun* of on 15 March. The conversation was about getting on with the job, of course — it is like Moby and the Marionette Ballerina:

Michael O’Brien conceded change was necessary to get Victoria moving.

That suggests the government was not actually getting on with the job but rather sitting still for at least two years until the Treasurer took on the job. The article continues:

After two days in the job Mr O’Brien said he was keen to rebuild relationships with the business community.

That suggests to me that the relationships had gone and that the government had spent two years doing nothing — a bit like the east–west link. Those opposite have spent two and a half years sitting still and trying to work out what is going on. At the end of the two and a

half years they have finally worked out that there are not enough cars involved and that we are not going anywhere. But they will just say they are getting on with the job, even though they are not doing much. This article is quite interesting. It goes on to say:

... he was upbeat that a more proactive approach under new Premier, Denis Naphthine, would pay dividends.

God bless us! Obviously he was implying that before this nothing was going on and that this government was at a standstill.

There is a most interesting article by Tim Colebatch — they are still getting on with the job, of course! — in today's *Age* headed 'Construction hit by \$1 billion slump'. It says:

Victoria also took a big hit, with engineering construction slumping 11 per cent year-on-year as the state government fell far short of its infrastructure spending target.

We know the state government is hopeless at managing contracts and actually getting them completed on time. Members need only look at what is happening with the grade separation projects in Mitcham to know that everything goes slowly. Things might start at the end of the next century! Everything is taking forever. This figure highlights that everything is subject to spin. The article goes on to say:

Residential construction took an unexpected step back ...

We should have known that that was bound to happen in Victoria because those opposite have been asleep at the wheel, even though they claim to be getting on with the job.

12:20:00 The problem is they are doing a bad job. They are not doing a job:

Residential construction activity slumped 7.4 per cent in Victoria to hit a two-year low.

God bless their souls, because there is obviously not much happening with this government. We have got the wood ducks all thinking something is happening. They say, 'If we all sing the song about getting on with the job, someone out there might actually believe we are'. But we know they are not.

Total construction in the March quarter was just 0.2 per cent higher than a year ago. It shrank by a huge 11 per cent in WA —

that is not good for Western Australia; another conservative-led government —

16 per cent in the ACT, 3 per cent in Victoria ...

You would not want to be in the construction industry in Victoria at the moment. You would be very, very worried.

If you look at the state final demand of the last two quarters you see that in September 2012 it fell by 0.5 per cent and in December 2012 by 1.1 per cent. I am so happy they are getting on with the job!

What is superbly interesting is an article about the Acting Speaker, the member for Mornington. I do not often look down Mornington way, but I noticed in the *Mornington News* an article by Mike Hast about the member for Mornington. There is a picture of the member for Mornington with Premier Naphthine. It is a nice picture down by the beach; it is a lovely spot down there at Mornington. You know it has to be a very safe seat because the headline says 'MP 'relaxed' over budget lack'. The member had a nice smile and the Premier was smiling, but there is nothing going on in Mornington. But when all else fails, 'Let's go fear, fear, fear!'. The article states:

Mr Morris said there was money for CCTV in Mount Eliza and Mount Martha shopping centres.

If all else fails, tell them, 'There's danger around the corner and we'll get a camera in and it will fix it up'. But it will not. The problem is that it does not fix the underlying problem; you actually have to deal with the underlying problem. 'We're getting on with the job' —

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr DONNELLAN — 'We're getting on with the job. We love the job'.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Morris) — Order! The member should be heard in silence.

Mr DONNELLAN — I found a marvellous thing recently. It was a reply to an FOI request. It was a reply to an email from Gary Anderton of the office of Ms Inga Peulich, a member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region in the Council. It was about the City of Casey. He wrote regarding the delays on the Monash Freeway between Berwick and Endeavour Hills, following an article in the *Berwick Leader*. He should have known that anyway. They were asking for the government to get on with the job and do something about the Monash. But it just sent them back a letter saying, 'Everything is tickety-boo. We're getting on with the job'.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr DONNELLAN — ‘We are just getting on with the job. We are doing the job’.

Mr Weller interjected.

Mr DONNELLAN — ‘We are on the job’, It is Bob the Builder and everyone else. It is the Fireman Sam team. I found another interesting one, a marvellous FOI request. It was from the member for Evelyn. She wanted to just extend the Eastern Freeway along Alexandra Parade a little bit. ‘We don’t do east-west, we don’t do a tunnel, we just do a new freeway through Alexandra Parade’. I could just see that going down an absolute treat. I can see that everyone is going to get excited by that and say, ‘This government is getting on with the job’.

I think the funniest ones are the letters I have recently seen written by the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security and the Deputy Premier. These are special letters. These are the ones you write when you do not know what you are writing and you have not read the budget. If you look at the figures for the budget, for the maintenance spend and so forth, you see that for 2011–12 it was \$493.9 million. What is the figure the government is going to spend this year? It is \$466 million. This is in the government’s own papers. It used to spend \$493 million and now an article reports that:

... Peter Walsh ... has welcomed the budget announcement that sees a radical change to road maintenance funding.

I guess that radical change must be, ‘We are going backwards; because he is excited about going backwards. I am not, and you would have thought people who live in regional Victoria would be pretty grumpy. But the Deputy Premier has written the same letter. An article reports that local MPs have:

welcomed the state government’s \$170 million package to address the condition of the state’s regional and rural ...

The problem is that if you start off at \$493 million and you go to \$466 million, you are going downwards — it is less. Somehow or other someone sold two senior ministers a real wood duck. They told them that they were going to get a roast and they actually got just a pie. Road funding is going backwards, and The Nationals are trying to pull the wool over people’s eyes. If this happened in business we would call it fraud. If you start off at \$493 million and you go down to \$466 million but you tell everybody it is going up, that is false and misleading advertising, I would suggest. That is what we have here from the two senior Nationals. This is bizarre.

We had to send a letter in response to all the regional papers, because we are most concerned that The Nationals are not doing the right thing by their own punters — telling them wicked fibs, I might add. They even got a VicRoads person, one of the regional managers, to come out and say, as reported in an article, that:

he supported the increase in funding —

he obviously did not look at the figures, because \$493 million to \$466 million is down. That is not an increase —

and looked forward to devising a plan for south-west Victoria.

That must be the Woolsthorpe-Heywood Road in the Premier’s electorate, which is just falling apart before your eyes. The B-double trucks must get very excited when they get to that part of his electorate.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DONNELLAN — Yes, the dark years of neglect are riding our way, because at the end of the day the funding for Victorian roads was higher under Labor. Let us look at road resurfacing. This is hysterical. Someone should have shown this to the Deputy Premier and Minister Walsh. If you look at the pavement resurfaced in regional towns in terms of thousands of metres squared, in 2011–12 it was 11 038 000 square metres, but the target for next year is 6 900 000 square metres. That is less in anybody’s language. Even in the language of Minister Ryan and Minister Walsh that is less. So they are spending less money, they are doing less resurfacing, but they are out there writing these very silly letters. They are going to be very embarrassed when I write letters back with basic facts saying, ‘You got it wrong’. There are two senior Nationals people who cannot count. That is a tragedy. I would have thought that if you got into Parliament you could count basic figures, do your figures properly and get it right.

Mr Weller interjected.

Mr DONNELLAN — We always do numbers well on this side. We count well. But I should ignore those interjections and move on to something else.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Morris) — Order! You should.

Mr DONNELLAN — I did enjoy an article in the *Age*, and I will go back briefly to a little bit of the east–west link, where the minister — —

An honourable member — Or west–east.

Mr DONNELLAN — West–east, or just east. The minister that the east link will somehow or other fix Hoddle Street and it will fix problems on the West Gate Bridge. He thinks there is nothing this road will not fix, but unfortunately we all know that you can only go one way or the other way on this road; it will not fix everything. At the end of the day there will be very little interest in this road from the private sector, the superannuation industry and the like. Every time we hear members opposite talk about it, they say, ‘We’ve got interest from Spain, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, China, Canada and the UK’, but I have a funny feeling there is a bit of the fibs in that as well. I have a funny feeling that most of the money will come out of general revenue of this state government. With that, I do not commend the bill to the house.

Mrs BAUER (Carrum) — It is an absolute pleasure to be able to speak on the Appropriation (2013–2014) Bill 2013 and to follow the former speaker to set the record straight on what we are doing as a coalition government. I am certainly very proud to be the member for Carrum and to represent the electorate that I do and the communities of Aspendale through to Seaford. My community in the electorate of Carrum will certainly benefit from the decisions of the coalition government that it is not only making today but will make in the future. It is certainly a pleasure to speak on this bill. The Treasurer, the Premier and their teams are to be congratulated for delivering a budget that is built on sound financial foundations.

12:30:00 The budget has clear plans, a vision and solutions for our state of Victoria, and it reflects good financial management. We have heard previous members of the coalition mention that it is in our DNA to manage the budget and to manage money, and this, I believe, is something the opposition cannot relate to. The budget helps build Victoria’s social fabric, and it assists people in our communities to lead decent lives — not just those who live in metropolitan areas but also those in rural communities. We are governing for and our budget caters to all Victorians.

I have spoken to people in my community of Carrum, and they have mentioned to me that it is good to see revenue and expenditure being kept in balance. Sound fiscal foundations are very important to them because they result in surpluses to fund future infrastructure. You have to live within your means, and I certainly think this budget is a very good example of that. The Treasurer has delivered a vision for Victorians today and well into the future. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Treasurer and the Premier for visiting the Carrum electorate in recent weeks. They were made very welcome.

Infrastructure is at the heart of the vision of our budget. When we look at the budget and the infrastructure investment, we see that there is a record \$6.1 billion investment in infrastructure. This a key priority in a \$50 billion budget. Infrastructure investment increases our opportunities and our capacity for trade across Victoria and internationally. Investing in infrastructure means that we have better road linkages across the state, and it also improves productivity for future economic growth. An example of this will certainly be stage 1 of the east–west link. This is definitely what Victoria needs to meet the growing demand of our population right across Melbourne. The port of Hastings redevelopment is a visionary, transformational project. This is exactly what Victoria needs. Premier Napthine will be leaving a legacy with the east–west link. When we look back over history, we will see that other Victorian Premiers have done similar things. Premier Kennett built CityLink, and Premier Bolte built the West Gate Bridge and the airport. Premier Napthine will certainly be leaving a terrific legacy with the east–west link.

The budget also invests heavily in new health and educational facilities, in roads and public transport, and also in our emergency services. The government’s ability to invest in this infrastructure adds to our livability in Victoria and in our communities, and it adds to the state’s productivity. It improves services for our community and delivers the critical infrastructure that we need. For my constituents this means more efficient roads, public transport and services, which means they will have more time to spend doing what they want to do and being with their families.

Why are we able to do this as a government? We have a strong commitment to strong financial management, and we need strong finances to make these investments in our roads, schools and hospitals. As we have seen, in the past Labor has proven that it cannot manage money. Under Labor we actually had expenditure at 7.3 per cent and revenue at 6.9 per cent. What we saw was an unsustainable budget. We have been left with a huge mess to try to fix. Some examples of this include the \$1.8 billion desalination plant and the \$3 billion of wasted gaming licences. Labor could not manage major projects. Several examples of its unsustainable budget include the Melbourne Markets redevelopment, myki, HealthSMART, the synchrotron and vocational training. These are just a few examples to highlight the point I made that we are doing the right thing for the state’s finances. That is fundamental in everything we do. We are proud of our AAA credit rating, and to have a \$225 million surplus in a \$50 billion budget is commendable. We are fixing the problems that we have

inherited, and we continue even now to be sorting out Labor disasters.

But, given that we are sound economic managers, we also have the ability to build future projects like the east–west link, the Dingley bypass, the port of Melbourne and Peninsula Link. Better transport is certainly a part of the budget that I am very proud of. For example, we have had to invest more to fix Labor’s neglect of rail maintenance. There is \$179 million going into eight new trains and also \$100 million for the Frankston line, which commuters in my electorate will certainly benefit from. There is \$52 million for level crossing upgrades, which include the removal of the Springvale crossing and the extension of Edithvale Road. This is on top of a \$349.8 million investment in last year’s budget.

We are investing in safer communities by upgrading vital facilities. We are continuing to roll out protective services officers (PSOs) and 1700 more front-line police. We will deliver 940 protective services officers by 2014. They have already arrived and are based at Carrum and Chelsea railway stations. When I am on the trains and when my children are coming home from university or from a late-night game of football we feel a lot safer. People in my community are saying that they feel a lot safer and local businesspeople are saying that PSOs have been effective in reducing antisocial behaviour around the area. I take this opportunity to ask what the Victorian Labor members think of protective services officers. We have not heard from them. They are now calling to have PSOs at their stations but we have not heard if they will be staying under Labor. I would love to know how Labor members value protective services officers, because we are hearing that they have been very welcome in our communities.

We have seen sentencing reforms. I commend the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and the Attorney-General for their work in this area of sentencing reforms and police reforms. We have strengthened the corrections system. We have increased funding to sexual assault and family violence services. The Minister for Mental Health, who is also the Minister for Community Services, should be commended for her commitment to the national disability insurance scheme to support people and families with significant disabilities. I also commend the Minister for Health. We have seen record health funding, with an extra \$426 million in the 2013–14 budget and \$1.8 billion being delivered over four years.

12:37:30 This includes a new 230-bed paediatric hospital at the Monash Medical Centre, which will be of regional benefit for my community of Carrum. We also continue

to expand Frankston Hospital’s services and facilities, which is something I am very proud of.

We continue to support business by cutting red tape by 25 per cent. The fire services levy reform is significant and historic. We have had some of the largest trade missions to China, India, the Middle East and Japan. We are also looking at measures to address the cost of living. There is \$55 million over four years to help low-income families with the costs of energy, property rates and water, and we are supporting families with another \$152 million over four years to protect vulnerable children. This is on top of \$336 million from last year’s budget. We are also increasing the first home owner grant for newly constructed properties to \$10 000. This will not only support people to build their first homes but will also help to drive jobs in the construction industry. In addition, stamp duty will be reduced by 40 per cent from 1 July.

Locally it has been and continues to be a busy year in my electorate of Carrum. As the local member I am proud to continue delivering for my community. We have close to 61 000 constituents living in the suburbs of Carrum, and they will benefit not only from local initiatives but also from some of the statewide initiatives I have just outlined that the budget delivers and from the commitments we have promised that I am delivering locally.

I touched on the Frankston railway line. With 60 000 commuters a day using the Frankston line, the significant upgrades for maintenance of tracks and signals, for disability access, for new CCTV cameras and equipment, and for weather protection will allow the X’trapolis trains to travel on the Frankston line, which will mean there will be a much faster commute to the city for people in my electorate. I am proud that under the coalition government service punctuality on the Frankston line is now at 91.2 per cent, which is a significant increase from the line’s poor performance under the previous government when punctuality was at only 65.5 per cent.

The communities of Frankston and Carrum have welcomed the commitment to dredge the silt from Kananook Creek. This will mean that recreational boating can return to the lower reaches of Kananook Creek. This week we heard the minister for fisheries, the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, say that snapper breeding in Port Phillip Bay last year was the best recorded in eight years, which equates to more demand for boating in Port Phillip Bay, of which Kananook Creek is a part. Many trailered boats launch from there, and local fishermen are telling me that this

is fantastic. It has been neglected for decades, and we are coming in to fix it up.

There is \$2 million for Aspendale Primary School, and principal Phil Anthony and I met with the Premier. Aspendale Primary School was neglected by the former government. It will celebrate its 90th anniversary next year. It is now getting the attention it deserves, and I am very proud to be delivering a \$2 million commitment to Aspendale Primary School. This will cater for a junior school rebuild as well.

Whilst just out of the Carrum electorate, Parkdale Secondary College has 1300 students, of which 650 — that is, 50 per cent — are from the Carrum electorate. The member for Mordialloc and I, and the coalition government, have now delivered \$7.5 million to rebuild neglected school facilities. There is \$2 million in this budget to provide a new Victorian certificate of education centre. It was terrific to meet with principal Greg McMahon and the school captains.

I would also like to mention how thrilled I am that the Seaford and Seaford North primary schools, with commitments in last year's budget of \$875 000, are currently being built or are soon to be occupied by students. I toured the Seaford Primary School facility several weeks ago with Michael Browne, and he is very excited to have the building works begin. Lee Murnane from Seaford North Primary School is delighted with the new facilities they have. Children and furniture are very close to moving into those facilities, if they have not already.

I have already mentioned Kananook Creek, and the coalition put in \$6 million to dredge the silt and heavy metals from Mordialloc Creek. The Mordialloc Creek community, the City of Kingston and people from right across Melbourne are delighted with that because the neglect had continued over many years, and now we have come in and managed to de-silt the creek and take out the heavy metals. That was a \$6 million commitment.

Yarrabah School, under principal Judy White, and Nepean Special School also received \$100 000 in last year's budget, and they are delighted with the new kitchen and new facilities for children with special needs and disabilities at their schools. The Chelsea Sportswomen's Centre redevelopment, where we made a \$200 000 investment, means more than 61 teams in the Chelsea district netball competition and the local calisthenics girls and boys can enjoy new and revitalised facilities. Also, the Dingley bypass will be very welcome in the community. I commend the bill to

the house, and I am delighted to have been able to provide this for my community.

Ms GRALEY (Narre Warren South) — I think it was when I heard the new, unelected Premier being referred to as a 'back to the future' Premier that I contextualised the 2013 budget as being one delivered by the Dodgy Brothers. I am sure all members remember the Dodgy Brothers. There was the loud, brash show pony who was Arthur, a sure fit for our Premier, and the younger, flashier and equally dubious Wayne, a perfect fit for our ambitious new Treasurer. With their fast-moving dialogue, they would go out and try to sell all sorts of dodgy things to all sorts of unsuspecting people, which is exactly what this budget is like.

But do you know what? Victorians are not suckers. They know a dodgy deal when they see one. If you spend a little time looking through the budget papers, rather than reading the handouts you are given by the Treasurer or the spin doctors, you cannot help but see that this is a budget brought to you by the Dodgy Brothers. We have had government members talking about how bad debt is, yet debt is up. We have gobbledygook that describes cuts as 'unspecified reprioritisation adjustments'. That is gobbledygook for cuts. There are promises made on the never-never. I have never seen budget papers more littered with 'to be confirmed' — it is everywhere in these budget papers. In other words, nothing in these budget papers has money beside it and nothing will be delivered on a lot of the things talked about in the budget.

In true Dodgy Brothers fashion, there are no guarantees, and we know about that out in the south-east because there have been lots of things promised to people. Liberal Party people have gone out and promised all sorts of things like upgrades to the Monash Freeway with ramps here and there, but there are absolutely no guarantees that anything will happen in the south-east, especially around road infrastructure. At least the Dodgy Brothers threw in a free motivational tape with their stuff to get everybody a little excited.

I think it was the member for Mildura who I heard say that just a few little things count. Do members know what we wanted in the seat of Narre Warren South? We wanted a public toilet at Hallam railway station. That is what we wanted, but, as the shadow Minister for Public Transport, the member for Northcote, said, there is no dunny money coming our way in this budget. It is a poor reflection on the government that it cannot find just a little money, as the member for Mildura said, to

assist people to go to the toilet when they are busily going about their day on the way to work.

12:47:30 Let us have a look at what this budget really does. There is not a single cent in this budget for the extra 800 hospital beds that this government promised. There is not one extra bed for Casey Hospital. The Minister for Health is out there saying that Casey Hospital is at capacity. He acknowledges that it is a busy hospital that people like to use. It has got a very busy emergency department and people like to have their treatments close by. It is a good little hospital for a growing community. But one of the things that happens in my office every week is that somebody rings up and says they are on the waiting list for surgery. Let us have a look at the surgery waiting lists in the south-east. In the first three months of this year only 36 per cent of category 2 elective surgery patients and just 54 per cent of category 3 patients received their surgery on time. Yet here we have a budget that does not provide any assistance to reduce those waiting lists and provide extra beds at Casey Hospital.

As for the Monash Children's hospital, that was an election promise that both sides of politics made in good faith to the people of the south-east. What do we see in this lot of budget papers? Very little. The government is saying, 'Just throw them a little bit of money, keep them happy, make it look like we are doing something when we are not doing very much'. It is in typical Dodgy Brothers fashion. The estimated time to deliver is now 2017. This is something that was going to happen in this term of office. I am going to keep this government accountable about even this 2017 delivery date, because the people in the south-east are not sure it is going to happen.

Let us have a further look at this budget. Victorians will be paying more in taxes and fines than at any time in the past, and that is a fact. As Arthur used to say in the Dodgy Brothers, 'Your money is my money'. You have to say he was absolutely right where this government is concerned. I do not approve of speeding, I do not like hoons, and I want our police to catch people who speed and hoon. Speed does kill. But in this budget speed camera fines will be up by a whopping \$38 million. Vehicle registration fees will go up by an extraordinary \$56 million. We all know that people in the outer suburbs, especially those in the south-east, have a high level of car ownership — multiple car ownership. They spend more time in their cars than most people in Melbourne because they are stuck on congested roads. The likelihood of them having to swallow these increased fines and costs in a disproportionate manner — —

Ms Ryall — I assume this is speeding fines.

Ms GRALEY — It is not just about speeding, it is about vehicle registration fees. There are many people in my electorate who have three or four cars in their household and this is going to have a real impact on their cost of living situation. Talking about roads, I had a real giggle, I must admit, about this east–west link. The shadow Minister for Roads calls it the 'just east link'. I understand that at the current rate of funding you will not be able to drive to work until 2067. This is a headline project for this government. We have got the Premier out there with his hard hat on pretending he has got a shovel and is digging up the earth, but this project is a big con. My locals look at it and say, 'Yes, there is promised money going off to "just east link" and what about us? What about what is happening in the city of Casey?'. It is one of the fastest growing areas in Melbourne and there is not an extra cent, no new money, for road infrastructure.

I have heard people in the chamber — I think it was the member for Caulfield — talking about the fact that time spent sitting in cars is a loss of productivity, that it is not good for your family life and all that sort of stuff. Out our way people are going to be stuck in traffic longer and longer because there is no new road funding for the city of Casey. I have raised this issue with the Minister for Roads a number of times. I refer to an article by Catherine Watson from the *Casey Weekly Cranbourne* entitled 'Residents demand action at Pound and Shrives roads intersection'. She writes:

Despairing Hampton Park residents say someone will die before action is taken over one of Casey's most notorious corners.

I fear that this may be the case. As I said, I have raised it a number of times. There is also Thompsons Road between the South Gippsland Highway and the Western Port Highway. Thompsons Road, which was last upgraded by Labor, is a key arterial road and a really important east to west link for local residents and businesses. There are now 24 000 vehicles using this section of Thompsons Road each and every day, and that is well in excess of traffic volumes that would normally trigger a duplication. We have also seen a worsening safety record on this section of the road with 48 casualty collisions in the five-year period to 31 December 2011. This includes two fatal and 18 serious injury collisions.

This section of the road really needs to be upgraded. The government needs to continue, as Labor was doing, to upgrade, duplicate and improve major road infrastructure. Every year in the budget there was a new road project and there was a continuous stream of

activity. It was good for local jobs as well. What is happening with this Dodgy Brothers budget is no money for new roads, no shovels hitting the ground and very poor outcomes for the people who do, as I said, spend a lot of time in cars in my electorate.

12:55:00 I would like to finish by talking about the fact that education is a really important issue in my electorate. When Labor was in office we built nine new schools in my electorate. It is very disappointing to see the cuts, the delays, the playing of favourites and the rolling out of excuses around education.

There is no funding in this budget for the much-needed Casey central east primary school. I have primary schools in my electorate with over 1000 students in them, but this government could not find the heart to establish a new school to relieve some of the overcrowding in these local schools. In budget paper 3 there is usually a section on existing projects, finished projects and new schools; I notice that is missing this year. It is not there.

As the local council has had to do, as developers have had to do and as schools have had to do, I had to access the Twitter feed of a member for South Eastern Metropolitan in the Council, Mrs Peulich, to find out that there was going to be a new school in Cranbourne East, I think it was. I had to read the press releases of the member for Gembrook to find out there was going to be some funding — albeit a small amount of funding — for a new school in Officer. If those opposite are going to have an open and transparent government, not a dodgy one, they should have a list of the new schools so that we can all find them where it is supposed to be, in budget paper 3, meaning those who need to access that information can find it.

As we know, there was a cut to education funding of \$69 million, as part of a total of \$625 million since this government came to office. One of the things that has hit people in my electorate very hard is that the completion bonus for apprentices has been cut. That is just not fair. Many kids in my electorate want to take up apprenticeships, they want to go to TAFE and do some further study, and some of them want to go on to university also. But those dreams parents have had for their children are at risk.

This is a budget that is just not fair on so many families. There is more. There are cuts to sporting facilities, and people in Narre Warren South love their sport. And what about that cruel increase in the fees applying to people living in disability housing? That is a very callous thing to do to people. I tell you what: I have had people ringing my office saying they cannot believe a

minister would do that to such disadvantaged people. As the Dodgy Brothers said, ‘You’ll go crazy’. Well, this budget is one that will send people in the outer suburbs crazy with disbelief and despair. It is a cruel and callous budget. It is a budget that does not deliver for the people of the outer suburbs. As the local paper said, it is a slap in the face for the people of Casey.

While we wait for new road infrastructure, the people of Brighton get moved up that list — —

Honourable members interjecting.

Ms GRALEY — You’ve moved no. 223 to the top. They get their problems fixed, and the people of the outer suburbs are getting left behind. Where is our new school? Where is our share of the pie? Where is our new road? Where, the people of the outer suburbs are asking, are our hospital beds? This is a Dodgy Brothers budget, but in this case it is no laughing matter for the people of the outer suburbs. They are not chuckling as I used to when I used to watch the Dodgy Brothers.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The SPEAKER — Order! Before calling the next speaker I would like to acknowledge in the gallery today three important members of our consular corps: Mr Ghassan El Katib, the Consul General of Lebanon; Mr Khaled Rizk, the Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt; and His Excellency Dr Hamed Ali Al Alawi, Consul General of the Sultanate of Oman. I extend to you an extremely warm welcome to the Parliament of Victoria.

Sitting suspended 12.59 p.m. until 2.02 p.m.

14:00:00

Business interrupted under standing orders.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Ambulance Victoria: response times

Mr NOONAN (Williamstown) — My question is to the Premier. I refer to revelations on 3AW this morning and to the experience of Sarah McNally from Caroline Springs. Sarah and her family were told they would have to wait 30 to 40 minutes for an ambulance to attend their son, Aidan, who was choking on a coin, because Aidan had not turned blue, and I ask: what action has the Premier taken to ensure that no other families are forced to experience the consequences of this ambulance crisis?

Dr NAPHTHINE (Premier) — I thank the honourable member for his question. His question goes to a particular case, which we are happy to investigate,

but it also goes to the general issue of resources for ambulances across the state of Victoria. I can advise the house that in the 2013–14 budget we have provided \$662 million for Ambulance Victoria, which is a \$21.6 million increase on the past year and a \$120 million — or 17 per cent — increase on the last Labor budget. We are putting into Ambulance Victoria a record level of funding.

I can advise the member that from 2009–10 to 2013–14 we have increased the number of branches from 253 to 255, and the number of professional paramedic ambulance officers has increased from 2559 under the previous Labor government to 2882 now. In two and a half years under a coalition government an additional 323 ambulance officers have been stationed across the state, with a 13 per cent increase in the number of ambulance officers at the same time as the population has increased by 1.5 per cent.

Indeed, if you look across the state, there has been increases in ambulance officers right across the state. In Geelong there are 12 — —

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Kororoit!

Dr NAPTHINE — In Caroline Springs there is a new 12-hour peak period unit, which means six additional officers in Caroline Springs under this government.

We have to look at it in the context of the ambulance service we inherited from the Labor government. Reluctant as I am to do this, I would suggest that people have a look at the Auditor-General's report from October 2010 titled *Access to Ambulance Services*. The report says — —

Mr Noonan — On a point of order, Speaker, I think it is a predictable point of order. The Premier is debating the question. We are not talking about 2010 or before; we are talking about these cases that are occurring every day.

The SPEAKER — Order! I do not uphold the member's political point of order.

Dr NAPTHINE — I am putting it in the context of the ambulance service we inherited, which was having great difficulties, and indeed — —

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! Again I have to get to my feet and ask for some quiet in the place. I would ask members to be quiet so we can hear the answer the Premier is giving.

Dr NAPTHINE — Indeed the *Age* of that day said:

... the number of paramedics in country Victoria had failed to keep pace with the increasing number of emergency cases.

And this report is, cover-to-cover, an indictment of the previous minister responsible for ambulance services — a minister who should hang his head in shame at the way he left ambulance services. We have put in more money, more staff and more equipment for ambulance services.

Geelong: government initiatives

Mr KATOS (South Barwon) — My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier advise the house of any forthcoming events which will benefit the community of Geelong?

Dr NAPTHINE (Premier) — I thank the member for South Barwon for his question and his ongoing interest in the community of Geelong and South Barwon. I can advise the house that the first regional cabinet meeting of my government will take place in Geelong on Monday. This will be a full cabinet meeting taking place at Deakin University's waterfront campus. Prior to the cabinet meeting there will be a presentation from Deakin University vice-chancellor, Professor Jane den Hollander, who will outline the success and growth of Deakin University, at both Waurn Ponds and the waterfront campus. I am also sure she will highlight the success of the medical degree which is now being delivered through Deakin University, through the agency of former Prime Minister John Howard, who had involvement in introducing that course.

We will also hear a presentation from the directly elected mayor of the City of Greater Geelong, Cr Keith Fagg.

Cr Fagg will outline the challenges and opportunities facing Geelong, and the cabinet will discuss with Cr Fagg the recent decision by Ford and the actions being taken to assist the Ford workers, to grow new jobs and to grow opportunities in the economy of the Geelong region. I am sure there will also be discussion of the need for the national disability insurance agency headquarters to be located in Geelong and the advantages this will deliver. After the cabinet meeting, there will be a meeting between the cabinet members and a wide range of community leaders from Geelong. Ministers will then visit local areas in Greater Geelong, 14:10:00

Bellarine, Golden Plains and Surf Coast municipalities, and that evening there will be a public forum in the Geelong City Council to which all Geelong and district residents are invited.

Prior to that, on Saturday, 1 June, will be the first game at the redeveloped Simonds Stadium. This will be a game between the Geelong Cats and Gold Coast Suns.

Mr Wynne interjected.

Dr NAPTHINE — The member for Richmond may scoff, but it is very important for Geelong, the Geelong community and the Geelong economy. There will be the opening of the new southern stand and the switching on of the new lights that will allow night games at Kardinia Park. I am pleased to say that the state government provided \$26.5 million to assist with construction of the stand, the federal government provided \$10 million for the lights and the Geelong Football Club — —

Ms Neville — On a point of order, Speaker, the Premier is not being factual. The redevelopment of that stand was funded by the Brumby government.

The SPEAKER — Order! I do not uphold the point of order.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Kororoit will not be warned again.

Dr NAPTHINE — Geelong Football Club put in \$4 million, the Greater Geelong City Council put in \$3 million and the AFL put in \$3.25 million. The new stand, which was funded by the state government, will be called the Players Stand, to recognise all the past players of the Geelong Football Club. There is a long list of players who have served that club with distinction. This will create a 30 000 capacity ground, and the benefit to the local community from every home game — that is, into local shops and into local businesses — has been estimated at \$3 million. That will be a \$50 million return to the Geelong community over 10 years, creating local jobs and building the local community.

I am campaigning with the Minister for Sport and Recreation and the member for South Barwon to utilise this ground even more by having a Twenty20 cricket team located in Geelong. A Twenty20 team playing in Geelong would be a great use of the ground over the summer and a further boost to Geelong. What I can say is that we are visiting Geelong on Saturday and again

on Monday — and with respect to Saturday night, can I say: Go Cats!

Ambulance Victoria: response times

Mr ANDREWS (Leader of the Opposition) — My question is to the Premier and I refer him to the case of Dorothy Bredle. Ms Bredle was ordered straight to hospital by her doctor after suffering an acute thrombosis, but she was told that an ambulance would not be available for at least 90 minutes. Ms Bredle emailed the Minister for Health about her experience but was told that the minister's office would not investigate her complaint without her first providing a residential address. One week after providing that address, Ms Bredle is still waiting to receive even an acknowledgement from the Minister for Health, and I ask: will the Premier direct the Minister for Health to immediately respond to specific incidents of unacceptable delays that are raised with him about our ambulance service, one that is in crisis?

Dr NAPTHINE (Premier) — I have been in Parliament a fair while and I spent 11 years in opposition, and I think I am still waiting for a number of answers from the former ministers on the other side.

Mr Andrews — On a point of order, Speaker, this constituent, this patient with an acute clinical need, is waiting. If the Premier thinks his wait is comparable — —

The SPEAKER — Order! I do not uphold the point of order.

Mr Andrews interjected.

The SPEAKER — Order! I will not warn the Leader of the Opposition again either. I do not want to have to toss him out, but he never stops and is consistently at it.

Dr NAPTHINE — Under my government, every Victorian will be treated with respect and with dignity. I will investigate the matter and get a response for the person concerned. But with respect to ambulance services, I think the contrast between what this government is doing with respect to ambulance services and what the previous government did is chalk and cheese. Under this government we are putting in a record level of funding.

Mr Merlino — On a point of order, Speaker, comparing this government to the previous government is in no way relevant to the question. This question was about a specific patient and a failed response from the Minister for Health, his minister.

Ms Asher — On the point of order, Speaker, the point of order raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is not a point of order; it is simply a combination of a speech and a restatement of the question, and I ask that you rule it out of order. The member is a serial offender on this issue.

14:17:30 **Ms Hennessy** — On the point of order, Speaker, the content of the Premier's answer was offending against standing order 58 on the basis of relevance. I also direct you to page 154 of *Rulings from the Chair*, which makes it clear that in answering questions only a passing reference to activities of the previous government may be made. This was a question about responsiveness to complaints, and I ask that you direct the Premier back to answering the question.

The SPEAKER — Order! I do not uphold the point of order, but I do ask the Premier to return to answering the question.

Dr NAPTHINE — As I understood the question — and I stand to be corrected — it was about ambulance services and dealing with a patient and the response to that patient from the Minister for Health.

Ms Hennessy — On a point of order, Speaker, under standing order 58 I raise again the issue of relevance. To refresh the Premier's memory, this was not a question about ambulance responsiveness, it was about the responsiveness of the Minister for Health.

The SPEAKER — Order! In fact it was in regard to ambulance response times. I do not know how many times I have to explain to the house that the preamble becomes part of the question. Anything in the preamble is part of the question, so I have often said members should check their questions before they ask them. I do not uphold the point of order.

Dr NAPTHINE — With respect to ambulance services, as I was saying — —

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Albert Park! Do you want to go out again? You will.

Dr NAPTHINE — As I was saying, we have to look at the ambulance services we inherited from the previous Labor government and the efforts we have made to improve ambulance services. Indeed the best report and the best analysis of the ambulance services just prior to the change of government was the *Access to Ambulance Services* report by the Victorian Auditor-General. And that report from cover to cover — —

Ms Thomson — On a point of order, Speaker, the Premier is in fact debating the issue. This was a very narrowly cast question about the responsiveness of the Minister for Health and about — —

The SPEAKER — Order! This is not a chance to ask the question again; it is not an opportunity to ask the question again.

Ms Campbell interjected.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Pascoe Vale will come to order. I do not uphold the point of order.

Dr NAPTHINE — In summary, the Auditor-General found that Victoria's ambulance services had delivered the worst response times in six years, that the number of paramedics was insufficient to meet the growing demand, that the minister at the time — whoever it was — should hang their head in shame — —

Mr Merlino — On a point of order, Speaker, there have been three health budgets under this government — —

The SPEAKER — Order! I have hit the dump button again. I asked you for your point of order. You gave me no point of order. I ask you to resume your seat.

Mr Merlino interjected.

The SPEAKER — Order! I asked you for your point of order, and you did not give it to me. You started to make a speech. This is not a chance to make a speech.

Dr NAPTHINE — The report is replete with criticism of the former government. It said that more resources were needed for ambulances. What we have delivered, in our three budgets, is more resources for ambulances. We have provided \$662 million, which is a record level of funding for ambulances. Indeed we made a commitment of \$151 million to recruit an extra 340 ambulance officers across the state. Already, in two-and-a-half years, we have recruited and put on 323 additional ambulance officers. We have more vehicles, more ambulance officers, more funding and more branches. We inherited a system that was broken, a system that was mismanaged, a system that was facing real challenges under the previous minister and the previous government. What we have done is invest in ambulance services, invest in more staff and invest in more equipment, so that we can provide our highly

qualified, highly skilled ambulance officers every opportunity to do their life-saving job across the state.

Marysville: government support

Ms McLEISH (Seymour) — My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional and Rural Development. Can the minister update the house on how the Victorian coalition government's regional investment in Marysville is helping to build economic activity and create more jobs for local communities affected by the 2009 bushfires?

Mr RYAN (Minister for Regional and Rural Development) — I thank the member for her question, and I might say that the member is doing a great job on behalf of her community, particularly the fire-affected communities that were ravaged in her area as a result of the terrible events of Black Saturday.

The government, of course, remains absolutely committed to the economic recovery of these bushfire-affected communities, particularly, if I may say, Marysville. I only use that example because of the absolutely appalling damage and the extensive nature of it that was done to that beautiful town. But of course, to greater and lesser degrees in many senses, the same situation applies across so many other areas of the fire-affected communities.

We understand that the economic heart has been torn out of Marysville as a result of the fires, and that therefore the great reputation of this town for accommodation, for conference establishments such as the Cumberland Resort, for enabling the tourism industry to flourish in the region — all of that was swept away as a result of the terrible events of that day. We pledged \$19 million to develop a new hotel and conference centre in Marysville and to do so in partnership with the private sector. The establishment of the new hotel and conference centre has involved very significant community consultation. The government has strongly driven the attraction of private sector interest. We have done that through the work of Regional Development Victoria, which was appointed as the lead government agency to deliver the project. The project partners include Tourism Victoria and the Murrindindi Shire Council.

14:25:00 The government has been very pleased to see the execution of a development agreement with the project consortium. That was done in October 2012. Last week, in company with the local member, the member for Seymour, I was absolutely thrilled to be in Marysville with so many people from in and around that beautiful town and the region generally to undertake the turning

of the sod on what will be a great development in Marysville. I did so in the circumstances where we will see the construction of the Vibe hotel, which will be a minimum 4-star rated conference centre with capacity for up to 300 people, two new dining spaces, a spa, health and wellbeing centre and all the other accoutrements that go with a facility such as this. There will also be a small chapel to accommodate weddings on site, and there will be a provision of 200 car spaces.

I am pleased to say the project partners include the ANZ banking group as the consortium's project financier. H. Troon Pty Ltd, a Ballarat-based building company, has been engaged by the project consortium to construct the facilities. I am also very pleased to say that a local builder, Steve Hedger, has been contracted as part of the consortium involved in the construction of this facility, and that will ensure that as many local contractors and subcontractors as possible are able to participate.

Construction time I am told will be 14 to 16-odd months. The group hopes that it will have the facility ready to be opened in about spring next year. This will bring enormous benefits for the region. It will mean that those who want to come to Steavensons Falls, to Gallipoli Park or up to Lake Mountain, or who just want to come to the region generally from a tourism point of view, will have a first-class facility to attract them to this glorious town of Marysville. It is anticipated something like 85 jobs will be created during the construction phase, and there will be about 60 full-time jobs once the facility is up and running. I know all members of the Parliament will be delighted to know this great initiative is going ahead, and that we will all come together to support Marysville in this important initiative.

Ambulance Victoria: response times

Mr NARDELLA (Melton) — My question is to the Premier. I refer to the experience of paramedic Amanda Treloar, who last Thursday night was dispatched to attend a code 1 emergency car crash in Melton West, 42 kilometres away. Despite having to travel 42 kilometres under lights and sirens Ms Treloar was judged to be the closest paramedic to this life-threatening accident. I ask: will the Premier finally acknowledge that when the closest metropolitan ambulance is 42 kilometres away Victoria is clearly in the midst of an ambulance crisis?

Dr NAPHTHINE (Premier) — I thank the honourable member for his question. What I can say with respect to ambulance services in that region is that

we have increased staffing for ambulance services in that region.

Honourable members interjecting.

Dr NAPTHINE — The Leader of the Opposition interjects. He interjects on the basis that he was the health minister under the previous government when the Auditor-General — —

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! I ask the member for Williamstown and the rest of the house to come to order so we can hear the answer from the Premier. I ask the Premier not to wave that book around.

Dr NAPTHINE — The context is that when we came to government we inherited an ambulance service that was facing significant challenges from the botched amalgamation of Rural Ambulance Victoria and the Metropolitan Ambulance Service (MAS). Indeed the Auditor-General's summary at page 8 says:

... it is clear that amalgamation has not yielded the expected improvements in service response times.

It also says:

Performance data shows that ambulance response times have worsened in both metropolitan and regional areas over the last six years —

under the Labor government. The Auditor-General's first recommendation fundamentally was that there needed to be increased funding for ambulance services in Victoria. That was the context in October 2010, just prior to us coming to government. When we came to government we promised additional resources for our ambulance services in Victoria, and we are delivering on those additional resources. We have provided in the last budget \$662 million. We have provided 323 additional staff — a 12.6 per cent increase in staff. That includes a new 12-hour peak period unit (PPU) at Caroline Springs, an additional six-unit night shift at Melton and an additional PPU in Werribee — to be called Tarneit — of six. In that area we have put in additional staff, additional units, additional funding and additional resources.

Honourable members interjecting.

Dr NAPTHINE — We keep getting interjections from opposition members who are attacking the quality of our ambulance services, attacking the work of our hardworking, dedicated ambulance officers. I will say that I am very proud of the work of our ambulance officers. Indeed I can proudly say that Victoria has the

best cardiac arrest survival rate of anywhere in Australia because of their great work. I would say that is working. The source of that information is the union website. I say well done! Because the union represents good hardworking, dedicated ambulance officers who are doing a good job. They do not deserve to be attacked by the opposition, and they do not deserve to have their clinical skills attacked, because those officers are working hard and delivering good results.

Ms Hennessy — On a point of order, Speaker, under standing order 58 the Premier is required to be relevant to the question. The question was about what occurred last Thursday night and what action was going to be taken to address it. We would be grateful if you would direct him back to providing the house with information as to what specific steps he is taking.

The SPEAKER — Order! The question actually related to the delivery of ambulance services and the fact that the nearest ambulance was 42 kilometres from the incident. The Premier is in fact explaining the reasons it was 42 kilometres from the incident. I do not uphold the point of order.

Dr NAPTHINE — What we are saying is that we inherited a mess. We are fixing a problem, and we are building for the future with more resources, more staff, more ambulance officers and more equipment. 14:32:30

National Reconciliation Week

Mrs BAUER (Carrum) — My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Can the minister advise the house what commitments the Victorian government has made to build respect and understanding of Aboriginal culture and heritage?

Mrs POWELL (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) — I thank the member for Carrum for her question and for her strong interest in Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal people. As members may know, this week is National Reconciliation Week. It provides an opportunity for all of us to celebrate Victoria's diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and Victoria's Aboriginal heritage. This year's theme is 'Let's talk recognition'. This is an important and busy week for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but it is also an opportunity for all of us to celebrate the country's rich Aboriginal heritage and pay our respects to the oldest living culture in the world.

Reconciliation Week is celebrated right across Victoria in many ways, including flag-raising ceremonies, cultural displays, art exhibitions and social events, which gives the community an understanding of

Aboriginal culture. During Reconciliation Week I had the privilege to attend events and have enjoyed widespread support from all sectors of the community and all sides of politics. For me, this highlights how important recognition is to the Aboriginal people.

On Saturday, 25 May, in the lead-up to Reconciliation Week, the Premier, along with AFL legend Michael Long, joined in the Long Walk from Federation Square to the MCG. The walk symbolises all sections of the community walking together in solidarity. That evening I had the opportunity of attending the Dreamtime at the G match between Richmond and Essendon, and for those who are interested, Essendon won! I congratulate the AFL for its support of Indigenous players.

On Sunday I joined hundreds of people, including a list of leaders, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal and from both sides of politics, at the Journey to Recognition launch at Federation Square. I thank Reconciliation Victoria for the work it has done in supporting the events, for making sure that they are more inclusive and that more people can go and for putting on the events so that all people can enjoy them. On Monday I was also pleased to participate in the Victorian launch of National Reconciliation Week at Federation Square.

Tomorrow is an important and significant event. Tomorrow is the eighth annual remembrance service to honour Indigenous servicemen and women. It will be held at the Shrine of Remembrance. The service is to honour those Indigenous servicemen and women who have served or are currently serving in all branches of the Australian defence forces. In addition to making an address to honour and recognise those soldiers, both those who lost their lives and stayed over there — those who did not come back to their families — and those who have come back, I will be laying a wreath on behalf of the Victorian government. I will be joined by the shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the member for Richmond, who will lay a wreath on behalf of the opposition.

I acknowledge the great contribution of Aunty Dot Peters and the Victorian Indigenous Remembrance Committee for their contribution and for making sure that we never forget those Aboriginal soldiers who fought for this country when they could not even have the vote. Many of them died over there. Many of them were heroes. Many go unrecognised. Tomorrow is an opportunity for this state and this country to recognise those fallen heroes and those who have never been acknowledged, and tomorrow they will be.

The efforts to achieve recognition must not stop once this week ends. I acknowledge the bipartisan support for Indigenous Victorians and the protection of their culture.

Ambulance Victoria: response times

Ms EDWARDS (Bendigo West) — My question is to the Premier. Leaked Ambulance Victoria logs reveal that on Monday, 27 May, there were no ambulance vehicles available from Kangaroo Flat to Melbourne, further revealing the extent of the ambulance crisis in Victoria, and I ask: will the Premier guarantee that this appalling collapse in ambulance coverage will not occur again?

Dr NAPHTHINE (Premier) — I thank the honourable member for her question. The situation is that we inherited an absolute mess in ambulances when we came to government. The Auditor-General's first recommendation in his report fundamentally said that the Department of Health — in other words, the government — needed to provide more funding for ambulance services across the state and that we needed to fix the problem we had inherited because of the mismanagement by the previous Minister for Health and the Labor government. What we have done is put in — —

Ms Edwards — On a point of order, Speaker, the Premier is debating the question. People from Kangaroo Flat to Melbourne deserve an answer to this question.

The SPEAKER — Order! I ask the Premier to return to answering the question.

Dr NAPHTHINE — We have put in more resources in terms of record levels of funding. We have put in a 17 per cent increase in funding since we came to government from the Labor government. We have put on additional staff in our paramedics, who are hardworking, dedicated, committed paramedics. Indeed we have put in two additional new crews at Bendigo. We have put in an additional night shift at Woodend. We have put in additional resources throughout the length and breadth of the state of Victoria.

The other thing we are seeking to do is improve the operation of our ambulance services and the efficiency of our ambulance services.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Macedon!

Dr NAPTHINE — As I outlined yesterday in the house, one of the issues that makes it difficult for ambulance services is dropped shifts. This is where ambulance officers, for whatever reason, are unable to work that night, whether they are sick or for some other reason —

Mr Merlino interjected.

Dr NAPTHINE — No, this happens in all walks of life. The ambulance service has to cater for those dropped shifts. What we have to do is manage dropped shifts, and if we can reduce the number of dropped shifts, then we can provide a better, more effective service. That is good management. What we have done since we inherited the ambulance service from the previous minister and the Labor government is that we fundamentally, significantly reduced the number of dropped shifts, and indeed —

Mr Merlino — On a point of order, Speaker, under standing order 58, this in no way is answering the question that was asked. Under standing order 58 the Premier should be brought back to answering the question. No coverage, Speaker.

The SPEAKER — Order! I do not uphold the point of order.

Dr NAPTHINE — As I was explaining, if we reduce the number of dropped shifts, then we will provide a more effective and more efficient ambulance service. That is what we have done. In the five months prior to the previous government leaving office there were over 1000 dropped shifts. In 2012 under us there were 1000 dropped shifts in the whole 12 months. That is a significant improvement which effectively puts more ambulances on the road.

As I said before, we have put additional ambulance officers in Bendigo. We have put additional ambulance officers in Woodend and additional ambulance officers in Castlemaine, and we are delivering the results. The results are, as I outlined previously, that Victoria proudly has Australia's best cardiac arrest survival rate because of the good, professional work of our ambulance officers, who are able to get to patients and assist them using their professional skills and abilities and get them to our hospitals, where patients who in other circumstances would have died are surviving. It is a great credit to the ambulance officers and Ambulance Victoria that they have that great track record, and I am very proud of that.

We want to work with our ambulance officers and Ambulance Victoria to continue to improve the service, so we are putting in more funding, more vehicles, more

staff and more branches to deliver better ambulance services in this state.

Schools: funding

Ms WREFORD (Mordialloc) — My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister update the house on the Victorian government's position on the federal government's proposal to change schools funding?

Mr DIXON (Minister for Education) — I thank the member for Mordialloc for her question and her interest in education. The national school funding reform really did start with great promise; there was a promise of full engagement and there was also a promise of recognition of the state's role in managing education. But unfortunately the process has gone downhill since then. One of the worst examples of that is the confidentiality agreement that we were all required to sign up to. The federal government has absolutely abused this. 14:42:30

I will give the house a few examples of it. We had to read in the media about the link between teaching an Asian language in schools and funding. It was in the media; we were not told about this. The funding split and the funding quantum came out in the media three or four days before the Council of Australian Governments meeting. We were not told; we had to read it in the paper. In relation to the federal government's numerous threats to Victoria if we did not sign up, again we have had to read about these in the media.

Just yesterday we found out through the media that the Prime Minister has gone behind the backs of the very bodies that the federal government is negotiating with — the independent schools and the Catholic schools — and emailed them asking them to lobby us. We had to find out from the media about that. Even worse is that yesterday we found out the location loading and the size loading on the funding formula from the media. The federal government did not have the good grace to come and see us. My office is next door to the Prime Minister's Melbourne office. Last week she would not come in and talk to me about funding. She went out to schools and said, 'If Victoria signs up to Gonski, you'll get a brand new building in your school'. Capital works have got nothing to do with this new funding agreement. It just shows you what they are doing.

The process has been a farce and a sham. The funding debate has been reduced to a puerile political debate; that is all it is. It is not a policy debate anymore.

Funding reform is far more important and complex than simply signing up or not signing up to Gonski, or ‘giving a Gonski’. It is far more complex than that. I can tell members that this government is not going to sign up to a slogan. We want a real funding deal. If members look at the federal budget, they will see that of the \$2.8 billion worth of new funding, \$2.1 billion is made up of cuts to the national partnership. If you take out the cuts to the university sector, it is evident there has been a net reduction in education funding from the federal government. That is hardly a way for us to be negotiating. It is a pale imitation of the original \$6.5 billion that the federal government was saying it had on the table. It is nothing like that. Even its six-year projection of \$9.8 billion is three federal elections away. It is irrelevant and does not count.

But there is one way forward. If the Victorian and federal governments can sit together with the independent and Catholic schools in the one room so that the government is not playing one team off against the other, we will have some transparency and openness and a restoration of the trust that has been completely lost in the federal government by every other stakeholder in this debate. That is the way forward. The biggest threat to funding reform is the federal government and the unrealistic political time lines that it is imposing. We are not going to sign up to a slogan; we are going to sign up to what is best for every Victorian student, school, family and taxpayer.

Ambulance Victoria: response times

Mr ANDREWS (Leader of the Opposition) — My question is to the Premier, and I refer the Premier to the crisis in our ambulance service and to the fact that on Monday of this week a 94-year-old Hampton woman was left to rely on passers-by to hold her broken leg in place for 1 hour while she waited for an ambulance to arrive. This was publicly reported on Tuesday. I ask: will the Premier inform the house what action he has taken since that public report to deal with this shocking incident — one of so many that define the crisis in our ambulance service?

Dr NAPHTHINE (Premier) — I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. Any such incident is a serious incident and needs to be thoroughly and properly investigated. We do need to investigate these matters. While I do not doubt in any way, shape or form what the Leader of the Opposition has presented to the house, I advise the house that in an earlier question the Leader of the Opposition referred to Mrs Dorothy Bredle and said she had not received a response from the minister. But I have a copy in my hand of a

response to her, dated 20 May, from the Department of Health addressing the issue she raised. Here it is.

Honourable members interjecting.

Ms Thomson — On a point of order, Speaker, that was an outrageous — —

Honourable members interjecting.

Questions interrupted.

SUSPENSION OF MEMBER

Member for Gembrook

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Gembrook can leave the chamber for an hour.

Honourable member for Gembrook withdrew from chamber.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Ambulance Victoria: response times

Questions resumed.

Ms Thomson — Speaker, the Premier was asked a specific question. He is now responding to a different question that was asked earlier. He should in fact be brought back to answer the question he was asked.

The SPEAKER — Order! I uphold the point of order. I ask the Premier to get back onto answering the questions before the house.

Dr NAPHTHINE — I do apologise to the house. When I make the occasional mistake I do apologise in the way normal people do in society. I apologise for alerting the house to what was an error in an earlier question.

As I was saying with respect to this person, this is a serious assertion which will be properly and thoroughly investigated. But what I can say is that since coming to government we have worked with Ambulance Victoria to provide it with a record level of resources, with the resources it needs to deal with — — 14:50:00

Ms Thomson — On a point of order, Speaker, the question was very narrow in focus. The Premier is debating the issue. This was about what he would do at this point, in this instance, this case only.

The SPEAKER — Order! The answer that was being given by the Premier was in fact relevant to the question that was asked. I have said before: members

should look at the preambles that they put before their questions.

Dr NAPHTHINE — We have increased ambulance resources by 17 per cent. We have increased the workforce by nearly 13 per cent. But we know that Ambulance Victoria faces over 800 000 calls per year. The 000 people do a commendable, outstanding job of dealing with those calls, triaging those calls and providing assurance and assistance to the people who ring up in those circumstances where their health is at risk. They do a terrific job. On top of that, those calls are passed on to our ambulance officers — highly skilled, dedicated, trained, committed ambulance officers — who are, 24/7, out there saving lives. They respond to over 800 000 calls each and every year. Each and every year they go out there and they save lives. We know they are saving lives because the record shows that we have the best response rate and outcome rate for cardiac arrest. Our ambulance officers are working hard, working in a skilled way to deliver the best outcomes possible in these emergency situations and in responding to over 800 000 calls each and every year.

How we support them as a government is by providing a record level of funding and by providing a record level of number of ambulance officers. We are providing additional vehicles and additional bases for them to operate out of so that we can improve our services. More funding, more staff, more branches, more equipment to respond to the 800 000-plus calls per year. That is what we are doing. We are doing what we can to assist our Ambulance Victoria to deliver life-saving services across the state.

Fire services levy: reform

Mr MORRIS (Mornington) — My question is for the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer update the house on the implementation of the fire services property levy, which is a major economic reform initiated by this coalition government?

Mr O'BRIEN (Treasurer) — I thank the member for Mornington for his question and his interest in economic reform. All Victorians benefit from our world-class fire services. They protect this state and its people 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our fire services deserve fair and proper funding. A key finding of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission was that the current model of funding our fire services, which is a levy charged on insurance premiums for building and contents insurance, is flawed, unfair and in need of reform.

The royal commission echoed what Victorians have been saying for decades. Under the current system those who choose not to insure or who underinsure or self-insure pay no or an inadequate contribution towards funding our fire services. People or businesses who properly insure are forced to overpay to make up the difference. That is unfair. We have accepted the royal commission's recommendation, and we are moving, from 1 July this year, to a property-based levy service to make sure our fire services are properly funded.

This is major tax reform. This will see the abolition not just of the levy on insurance premiums but the stamp duty on the levy and the GST on the stamp duty on the levy. We had a tax on a tax on a levy on a premium. We are getting rid of the tax and the tax and the levy. This will save Victorians over \$80 million a year.

Also, under the system we inherited there were no concessions for pensioners or war veterans. We are accepting the recommendation of the royal commission and introducing a concession for 400 000 Victorians. Pensioners and war veterans will, under the coalition, get a concession for the very first time, a concession of \$50. As a result of these reforms the average household in a Country Fire Authority (CFA) area can expect to go from paying \$262 a year to \$142 a year — a \$120 a year saving. The average household in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) area will go from paying \$193 a year under Labor's system to \$143 a year under us, being \$50 a year better off.

This has been welcomed. The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) said:

We congratulate the government on taking on one of the toughest reforms in politics.

...

The VFF has spent the past 15 years arguing past governments to deliver this reform, using a fair and equitable model. We thank the Napthine government for stepping up to the mark ...

VCOSS, the Victorian Council of Social Service, said:

The introduction of the fire services levy is a step forward for equity, as it no longer penalises people who purchase property insurance on the family home ...

The Council on the Ageing (COTA) said:

COTA welcomes the state government's announcement today on the arrangements for the new fire services property levy.

...

We also welcome the concession announced by the government as this recognises the need for additional support for pensioners and veterans.

The Australian Industry Group also supports it. When you have the VFF, VCOSS, the Council on the Ageing and the Australian Industry Group all supporting it, who would be opposed? One commentator feared, and I quote, ‘asset-rich but income-poor property owners could be hit hard’. It is extraordinary to see the member for Tarneit standing up for the asset rich!

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order!

Ms Green — On a point of order, Speaker, the Treasurer is misleading the house because the facts are — —

The SPEAKER — Order! That is not a point of order. It is not a point of order.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! It is not a point of order.

Ms Green interjected.

The SPEAKER — Order! It is not a point of order, and the Treasurer has already sat down. Everybody will be absolutely delighted to know that that was the last question.

APPROPRIATION (2013–2014) BILL 2013

Second reading

Debate resumed.

Ms RYALL (Mitcham) — I am very pleased to rise to speak in support of the Appropriation (2013–2014) Bill 2013 and the budget for the 2013–14 financial year. This budget is aptly named *Building for Growth*. It is another responsible budget that delivers and builds on the coalition government’s strong financial management at a time when all Victorians are aware of the tough times we have had from a national perspective with national pressures and international pressures, and certainly from a state perspective as well with significant financial pressures. Victorians know, particularly as they have seen the federal Labor government and they have seen the state Labor government live beyond their means, that expenditure was outstripping revenue.

15:00:00 We know that in Victoria we have seen around about a \$7 billion drop in GST receipts, and we have heard

many contributions from those opposite saying that we should have been doing more and spending much more than we did. We know that in the decade up to 2010–11 expenditure growth was at 7.3 per cent. Based on the trajectory of spending under the former Labor government, if Labor were to continue on in office, given its exorbitant spending and given the fact that we have heard so many of its members say that spending should actually be increased to accommodate all the things they have said should be added to the budget, then our GST net debt would actually be over \$15 billion by the 2015–16 financial year. In this context that is exorbitant, and it is an indication of what we all know — that Labor cannot manage money. Labor members are poor financial managers and that level of spending would have huge implications for the state of Victoria.

In my speech on the appropriation bill for the last financial year I spoke about what the foundations of a budget include, and I included spending on infrastructure. In the 2012–13 financial year we had a record \$5.8 billion allocated for infrastructure. In this budget we see a further record spend on infrastructure to the tune of \$6.1 billion. I am delighted that that \$6.1 billion includes stage 1 of the east-west link, the port of Hastings expansion, investment in roads, freight and public transport — —

Mr Bull — All very important stuff.

Ms RYALL — Absolutely, it is very important stuff. Within public transport we are delivering eight new X’trapolis trains on top of the seven that were delivered under the 2011–12 budget, 40 new V/Line carriages and 50 new trams, which are on order. We see \$426 million being added to our health system, with spending in acute health increasing to a record level of \$11.2 billion, and total spending on education of \$11.6 billion. Gross state product is expected to grow by 2.25 per cent this year.

I am delighted to say that this budget completes the funding of all the election commitments made for the Mitcham electorate. I am so proud to be part of a government that actually delivers. One thing I noticed in the decade preceding the election of this government was that in the electorate of Mitcham things were left to deteriorate. Schools were left to rot and no funding commitments were made that actually made a difference to the community in Mitcham. There was a cloud over open space and recreation areas. The Mitcham electorate benefits significantly from this funding.

I just want to talk a little bit about the east-west link. The time spent on the Eastern Freeway, sitting in heavy traffic when you are trying to get to the west, to the airport or to the city is not only frustrating but a nuisance. It takes people away from time that could be spent doing other things, whether it be with their families or in their businesses. I am not the only one who has missed a flight heading to the airport as a result of congestion on the east-west route. I am not the only one who has missed or been late to business appointments because I had trouble getting over to the west via the Eastern Freeway.

I am not the only one who has been late to appointments in the city. I know so many people who have had these problems. The issue is that it causes our productivity as a state to drop. When people are sitting on roads they are not engaging in business; when people are sitting on roads they are not engaged in their workplace; when people are sitting on roads they are not with their families. There is a whole range of aspects of our economy, our way of life and our livability that are destroyed when we are sitting on roads on the Eastern Freeway. For so many years people have said, 'When are they going to do something about this?'. Finally, we have a government that will actually act and do something about this.

We have a very proud history in Victoria, certainly on this side of the house, of delivering infrastructure projects. Look at Melbourne Airport, the West Gate Bridge and CityLink. CityLink is interesting. We all take CityLink for granted now, but Labor actually opposed it. Where would we be now if we did not have CityLink? In the same way, many members opposite — except for Cesar Melham, a new member for Western Metropolitan Region in the Council — have actually opposed the east-west link as well. If we left it to those on the other side of the house, we would end up gridlocked and with lower productivity, less time with our families, less time doing the things we like and less time committed to boosting the economy within this state, and we would all be going nowhere. The investments in infrastructure and the commitments that this government is making are really important. They are game changers. They increase productivity within the state and they increase the contributions that people are able to make and the time they are able to spend with their families by getting them off the roads and into where they want to be, instead of sitting frustrated in annoying traffic. I know that so many people in the Mitcham electorate have been sitting in traffic on this route, as I have at times, and they cannot wait for action to be taken.

In addition to that, we see a commitment to the 10-kilometre shared bike path from Box Hill station to Ringwood station, which essentially goes right through the Mitcham electorate. This is something that Whitehorse Cyclists has advocated very strongly for, and I am absolutely delighted that we are able to fund that shared bike path. It will bring people out of their homes. I have had families say to me that they have to take their kids to the local school to ride their bikes, but now they will not have to. They will be able to take them to an area that is dedicated to both walking and cycling and where there are people around. People will be able to use it for recreation as well as commuting to work. There are 20 schools within 1 kilometre of this shared path, and that creates a great opportunity for kids to ride their bikes to school or ride around after school. It is very significant for my community to have that path. Even people who want to go down to the shops can use that path.

I have to talk about Blackburn Primary School. As I said, the previous government did not invest in schools in the Mitcham electorate. It went into a tender process with Blackburn High School that ended up being drawn out and botched. I went to that high school, and it had been drawn out. Not only that, but the building of stage 1 started in this term. There was nothing in the 11 years under Labor in the electorate of Mitcham. What is fantastic to see is that Blackburn Primary School will receive \$5.2 million, and it is great to have the Minister for Education in the house right now. That school had been left wanting. When we first came to government it had one of I think three remaining World War II Bristols, and the school had been asking for 10 years to get rid of it, and we got rid of that pretty well straightaway.

New double classrooms, fantastic new learning spaces, a resource centre and administration facilities will be built at that run-down school, and the school community is absolutely rapt. The principal said in an email to me:

On behalf of the Blackburn school community I would like to acknowledge the work of Dee Ryall, member for Mitcham, in taking forward our case for the modernisation of Blackburn Primary School. Established in 1889 this school has a proud 125-year history of service to children in the local community.

Nine new classrooms and a centralised library/learning centre and new administration centre will make a world of difference to our styles of pedagogy and morale and allow the learning process to become more exciting for our children. The future is now assured and our children will learn in world-class facilities. Thank you from the principal, teachers, children and parents at BPS.

This is a fantastic result for the school, and I am thrilled that we are able to provide it with the infrastructure it needs.

I want to come back to deal with Blackburn High School and note that the Labor government not only did not invest in schools in the electorate but did not even approve or fund the second stage of Blackburn High School. Not only did it neglect everywhere; it did things by halves. We know that it did things by halves. We have seen it. We see the federal government do things by halves. We heard the minister during question time talking about the funding arrangements and how things are not done properly, and we certainly saw that under the Labor government.

In addition to that, Box Hill Hospital will receive 200 additional beds. The electorate of Mitcham is a large part of the catchment area for Box Hill Hospital. I was at a community event last week or the week before, looking at the amazing work that is being done at this hospital. State-of-the-art facilities are going in. Here is something you have never heard of under a Labor government: under time, under budget, one extra floor added. Someone said to me the other day, 'I don't think I've ever heard of a Labor government being able to add things because it was well within time and within budget'. It is fantastic. What this means is that, instead of having inpatients in some of the wards in the old part of the hospital, they will all be in the new part of the hospital. It is fantastic news for the Mitcham community. A brilliant job has been done by the project team.

In addition, there is the Blackburn level crossing, which is just outside my office. In the last budget we saw funding for the Mitcham and Rooks roads level crossing, and it is fantastic that the tender has been let. It was great to see in this budget funding for preconstruction works for the Blackburn level crossing. As I said before, the issue of road congestion is enormous in the electorate of Mitcham. It is not just about getting to the west, the city or the airport but about being able to get across the electorate or drive through it. Removing the massive congestion that occurs at Mitcham and Rooks roads by planning for the Blackburn level crossing is sensational news for our electorate. I congratulate both the Premier and the Treasurer on a fantastic budget that will see great works for the community of Mitcham and for the state of Victoria. On that note, I commend the bill to the house.

Ms KAIROUZ (Kororoit) — I rise in condemnation of the Liberal-Nationals government and its 2013–14 budget. This year's budget reveals many things on many levels across multiple areas. It reveals how

Victoria and Victorians will be hurt. The budget reveals the depressing state of Victoria's economy. It reveals the morbid state of Victoria's health system. It reveals the failed state of Victoria's education system. It reveals the slug state of Victoria's transport system and the depleted state of Victoria's roads. It also reveals the deteriorating rate of Victoria's infrastructure funding. It reveals the abandonment of Victoria's manufacturing industry, and it reveals the absence of a jobs plan.

The budget also reveals the unforgivable and shameful funnelling of funds to projects in safe Liberal seats of highly ranked government members. It reveals that this government simply does not care about Victoria's most disadvantaged and vulnerable people. It reveals that this government is simply not doing anything; it is doing nothing. It reveals how this government, day by day, is basically trying to conceal the controversy, infighting and backstabbing that plague it. What we have is a government that is fixated on pursuing its plans to savagely cut services and rip the guts out of communities across the state, no matter what the price may be.

Since winning office in 2010 this government has stifled innovation, set back many advances in social justice, lowered living standards and set back Melbourne's reputation for being the world's most livable city. With net debt of \$23 billion, a jobs growth forecast of 0.5 per cent and plans only for infrastructure projects, it is clear that this government has failed Victorians and failed the economy. State taxes have increased by \$833 million. Speed camera fines have increased by \$38.3 million, taking revenue to \$3.25 billion. Vehicle registration has increased by an extra \$60 million to \$1.24 billion, and stamp duties have increased by \$290 million, taking total revenue to \$3.46 billion. Victorians are currently paying the highest taxes, fines and fees in our state's history.

Over \$1 billion has been cut from services, taking the total cuts to \$8.7 billion since this government took office in 2010. A further \$567 million has been cut in departmental adjustments. Of that \$1 billion in cuts, \$825.6 million has been cut in health alone, which should explain why we have 50 000 Victorians on the waiting list for surgery and why this waiting list is growing by 125 names per week.

These cuts should explain the ambulance crisis. These cuts should explain the closure of hospital beds across the state and explain why people in my electorate of Kororoit have to wait up to three years to have surgery. 15:17:30

I would now like to turn to the devastating cuts in the education system. This year's budget identifies a further

\$70 million in cuts in education, taking it to a total of \$625 million since this government took office, compared with the \$470 million that was spent each year for the last four years of the Labor government. Labor invested \$3.7 billion in 553 schools. The \$1.2 billion in cuts to TAFE are the biggest one-off cuts in Victoria's history. These cuts were so drastic that the Minister for Education himself was ashamed of them.

What about the axing of the apprenticeship completion bonus and the cruel elimination of the highly regarded and much-needed School Focused Youth Service? This was a Labor program designed to prevent kids from disengaging from school and other parts of their lives, which in turn prevents issues such as substance abuse, homelessness and suicide. It says a lot about this government, which has also made the cruel and deliberate choice to scrap the School Start bonus and slash the education maintenance allowance (EMA), which goes to up to 40 000 disadvantaged and vulnerable families across the state. Many of these unfortunate families are in my electorate. The slashing of the EMA has touched many members of my community. It has made life much more difficult for them. It has made it very difficult for them to pay for their children's books, uniforms and excursions.

The most offensive part of this budget is that this government campaigned on promises to fix the problems but has instead created a big mess. It has made a mess of our road networks and our public transport system by cutting \$1.5 billion for public transport projects since Labor's last budget.

There are other issues of particular concern to me and to my electorate, such as the St Albans rail crossing and the Caroline Springs railway station. The farce that is the St Albans rail crossing saga is a perfect example of how this government is prepared to ignore real need and punish those who are most disadvantaged across the state. Just recently the federal government offered \$90 million towards the much-needed and much-awaited grade separation in St Albans. But the state government rejected the \$90 million, saying, 'No, thank you, we do not need the \$90 million; we do not want it'. Instead it funnelled or directed funds towards the Brighton crossing, which is ranked no. 223 on the independent priority list.

It is quite surprising to me that the government was able to find more funds and direct the money towards the crossing at Brighton but was unable to find a cent to start the project in St Albans, which is ranked no. 3 on the priority list by the same experts. The most offensive part of the level crossing saga was a huge announcement made by the government with drums,

trumpets, pompoms, the works, for \$52 million to be directed towards a campaign for level crossings. That is all — a campaign and a plan to start planning to fix the level crossings. That \$52 million is to be shared amongst six level crossings. How much will St Albans get? We do not know. It may get 1 per cent, 10 per cent or half of the \$52 million. The Minister for Roads is not able to give us any answers.

This display of arrogance by the government did not go down well with the people of Kororoit. The traders, commuters and residents are well aware that this government tried to dupe them into believing that they were being listened to. The people of Kororoit are well aware that a particular level crossing in a particular Liberal safe seat of a particular Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party received additional money for construction, and they are well aware that the Brighton level crossing is ranked no. 223 on the independent expert priority list while St Albans is ranked no. 3.

It is obvious that the Liberal-Nationals government has put politics ahead of safety and need. They are treating the people of the west with contempt and snobbery. That leads me to the Caroline Springs station. In 2009 the Brumby Labor government announced \$220 million towards four new stations. Of the four new stations that were announced by Labor, three are now complete and functional. The only one that is not complete and functional is the Caroline Springs station. The only thing that we have at the moment in Caroline Springs is a road to nowhere, and that is thanks to this government and thanks to the Minister for Roads himself.

Freedom of information documents show that this minister intervened personally to ensure that the station would not go ahead. He did this by instructing his department to remove the funds and direct them towards other projects. That is why we do not have a station in Caroline Springs. I searched this year's budget papers and found no reference to Caroline Springs in any of them. I did find a reference to Clifton Springs but not to Caroline Springs. The only mention I saw of Caroline Springs by any member of this government was in the *Brimbank Weekly* of 7 May. In an article titled 'Fix Melton Highway, says MP', Mr Elsbury, a member for Western Metropolitan Region in the other place, states that he would:

... like to see more funding allocated for law and order in the region with more protective service officers allocated at train stations, particularly in the Caroline Springs area.

I would also like to see protective services officers allocated to Caroline Springs, but there is no station there. The only thing we have is the infamous road to

nowhere. But I do agree with Mr Elsbury when he says that more funding needs to be allocated for law and order in the region, particularly when crime in Kororoit has increased significantly. This shows that the Napthine government's so-called tough-on-crime stance is in absolute tatters.

15:25:00 Victoria Police statistics show jumps in crime, and families have every right to be concerned. Under Labor Victorians saw 10 years of reduced crime rates, but the Napthine government has managed to unravel that good work in just 2½ years. Cutting the Victoria Police budget by \$100 million and slashing 350 staff is having a significant impact on tackling crime. This did not happen by accident; this was planned. The government made a conscious decision to reduce the budget for police by \$100 million.

My electorate does not fair favourably in terms of advantage. Members have heard me speak many times about how disadvantaged members of my constituency are and how the cost of living is putting pressure on their daily lives. Many people in Kororoit and indeed across the western suburbs rely on concessions to make ends meet, and this government has curbed concessions for gas, electricity, water and rates. These curbed concessions will only exacerbate the cost of living pressures experienced day after day by many members of my community.

This budget does absolutely nothing to improve the circumstances of people who live in my electorate and who I represent in this house, particularly those who live with a disability. This year's budget callously increased the fees applying to people living in state-run residential units. The Napthine government budget revealed fees for supported accommodation increased by up to 63 per cent. This callous and heartbreaking fee increase will force people with a disability to spend the vast majority of their income on rent. They will not be able to spend any spare money they have on the simple things we enjoy, such as a cup of coffee.

Since taking office, as I said, this government has cut \$8.7 billion in services. It has been making these hasty and thoughtless cuts to hospitals, to schools and to TAFEs, which are all local employers. They all employ people, particularly people who live in the regions. This will set Victoria's workforce back many years. Unfortunately what we have seen in Victoria is an increase in unemployment. It went up from 5.7 per cent to 5.8 per cent just in the last month. Youth unemployment is at 21 per cent. In my electorate alone unemployment went up from 6.5 per cent in December 2010 to 8.02 per cent in December 2012. This 1.5 per cent increase in unemployment represents real people,

real families and the real lives on the margins, yet this government does absolutely nothing to stimulate investment or to increase jobs across the state.

It would be remiss of me not to point out that this government is experiencing a heightened jobs crisis as well. We need a government that cares. We need a government that builds for the future. We need to have a jobs plan for all Victorians. We need to have a jobs plan to make sure that members of families are able to look after one another. We need a jobs plan to make sure that people are able to give their children money to go to school and to enjoy the simple things in life, such as school excursions.

I have just highlighted a few of the most damning aspects of this budget, but I should also take the opportunity to say to The Nationals, the culpable allies of this government, that they should have a very hard and cold look at themselves, because they are also part of the problem.

Mr MORRIS (Mornington) — It is a pleasure to rise this afternoon to address the Appropriation (2013-2014) Bill 2013 and to support the whole budget. This is of course an integral part of the process we go through in considering the appropriation bills. As members are aware, I have just had the interesting experience of spending a little over two weeks in the budget estimates hearings of the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC), together with the members for Forest Hill, Altona, Lyndhurst and Preston as well as Mr Ondarchie, a member for Northern Metropolitan Region, and Mr O'Brien, a member for Western Victoria Region, in the other place.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr MORRIS — It certainly was interesting. I would suggest that all of us are now exceptionally well informed. There were some 50 sessions, and every portfolio was considered. We are now, I think, as informed as it is possible for members to be on the relevant perspectives of the budget. I must say that from my perspective it is indeed an excellent budget, and I suggest that that is a reasonably informed perspective.

And we know from experience with Canberra, simply producing a good budget does not mean you are going to get good outcomes. That is an important consideration. I would suggest, though, that the experience in this state is quite different — based on the experience of recent years. PAEC recently tabled the outcomes reports — in other words, the other end of the process; you have the budget and then you have the reports at the other end to see how you went against the

budget — so we know that those outcomes were pretty consistent with what the government said it was going to achieve. I therefore think we can be pretty confident of the outcomes in this case.

It is important, of course, for the state government to provide leadership. That is a key role of any government. I think we have more than provided that leadership, and we have provided a pretty clear statement of where we want the state to be. Much of a state budget is about service delivery. You need to have the right level of services, and to be able to have the right level of services you have to have a strong budget. Services do not exist in isolation. You need to be able to pay for them and fund them appropriately. Over time we have learnt that we need to govern in the interests of the state and that we need to have sustainable service delivery. The sad thing is that for most of the first decade of this century expenditure growth in the state of Victoria exceeded growth in revenue.

15:32:30 That is unsustainable. Of course in coming to office we, as a government, determined that we needed to tackle that problem. Too often governments at all levels, whether it been federal, state or local, are not prepared to take the hard decisions, but the fact is that every government initiates programs. They are there to serve a purpose. Sometimes they succeed and are deemed worthy of continuation — and that goes into base funding — while others either complete the process and achieve the tasks they set out to achieve or their time is completed. Too often it is politically painful to make a decision to do away with those programs even if you cannot afford to keep them, and governments at all levels have been guilty of that. But this government has a view that we need to match our spending with the resources available.

We have heard much about a lack of revenue growth, particularly in the context of the commonwealth budget, and I wanted to contrast the situation in Victoria with that of the commonwealth. In 2011–12 commonwealth revenue grew by around 9 per cent, and in Victoria it grew by about 4 per cent. This year commonwealth revenue will grow by more than 6 per cent, and revenue for the state of Victoria will grow by less than 1 per cent. Revenue for the next budget year in the commonwealth will grow just a tad less than 8 per cent, and in this state it is a better figure than the current year — a little over 4 per cent. But whichever way you look at it, growth in revenue for the commonwealth is substantially above growth in revenue for this state. It far exceeds the growth in revenue in this state, yet the contrast is that in Victoria we have a sustainable surplus, and of course nationally we are in deficit. We have been in deficit for the last umpteen years. Since

the 2008 budget the debt accumulation has continued and it continues at an alarming rate. The fact is that when you have more debt, you pay more interest; and if you pay more interest, you can afford fewer services.

Ms Miller — That is right. It's basic economics.

Mr MORRIS — Exactly right. If you keep spending and running up debt, it is inevitable that your credit rating will be assessed and you will then be paying even more in terms of money that is available. The sound financial position that we are in owes a great deal to the efforts of the former Premier, the member for Hawthorn, and the former Treasurer, now the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Together they made an enormous contribution to this state, along with the whole team. But the fact is we were at a tipping point in 2010 — a little like 1988 all over again. It could have gone either way. Had Labor been returned I have no doubt which way it would have gone. We would have seen a re-run of the shambles that was the early 1990s and all that pain that endured for so many people through no fault of their own.

However, because the government was prepared to take tough action when it was elected we are now in a very different situation. Our spending is able to grow at an appropriate rate in line with growth of revenue, and we can indeed lift the pace of investment further. There has been substantial investment already. The year we are in had record investment in infrastructure in the state next year it will be even more so and we will be able to engage again, with renewed vigour, in building for growth. The budget that has been delivered by the Treasurer, together with the Premier, does exactly that. It starts the process of building for growth and reinvigorates the process.

It has been an interesting debate. As my knowledge and experience of the budget has grown over the years, I have become more and more aware of the whole thrust of the arguments advanced by members opposite. It has not mattered which side of the chamber I have been sitting on — those opposite have had empty arguments. It has been the same again with their arguments in this debate. I have listened to a lot of the debate. I do not want to single any individual out because it has been a widespread occurrence, but contributions from members of the opposition do not reflect reality. They do not reflect the work that has been done and they do not reflect the budget that is under consideration today.

Through the budget we are growing the Victorian economy. We are growing employment and surpluses and we are investing in major new infrastructure. We have a \$225 million operating surplus. Of course there

have been adjustments to the Australian accounting standards, which means that getting to that surplus was a lot harder than it should have been otherwise. I certainly do commend the Treasurer and the whole cabinet for the work they did to get to that point because that surplus is an important part of the equation.

There is an infrastructure investment program of some \$6.1 billion, including investments in the east-west link, the port of Hastings, road freight projects, the new Bendigo Hospital, the Monash Children's and the redeveloped Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. Some \$197 million will be provided in 2013–14 and more than \$1 billion in total for these hospitals. They are significant investments in that area. Of course history tells us that whatever the project, when you look back over the history of Victoria, whether it is a road project or a rail project — the Melbourne Metro tunnel or the underground rail loop — whether it is CityLink or the east–west link, it takes a Liberal-Nationals government to get it done. The figures speak for themselves. The average investment in government infrastructure for the period from 2000–01 to 2009–10 was about \$3.3 billion a year. The figure for 2010–11 through to 2014–15 and beyond is almost \$5.5 billion. That is close to 60 per cent higher in terms of investment than we saw for the 10 years before that, and it is a very necessary level, given the population growth in this state.

Of course all that is able to be achieved despite the challenges we have with GST relativities. We do not get a fair share, we have not got a fair share for a very long time and we are getting an even lesser fair share than ever before. It is down to 90 cents in the dollar, which can be contrasted with South Australia, which gets about \$1.25; Tasmania, \$1.60; and the Australian Capital Territory, \$1.20. How can you justify giving the Australian Capital Territory, lovely place though it is, \$1.20 for every dollar when their costs are clearly substantially lower than a place like Victoria?

I want to talk very briefly about the health budget. An amount of \$14.3 billion has been allocated in this budget for health and hospital services. Despite what the opposition says, that is a \$661 million increase for health services in 2013–14. It is a \$2 billion increase in investment since we have come to government. We have made a \$629 million investment in capital projects; a \$504 million increase in 2013–14 in acute health, which is up \$1.45 billion since coming to government; \$282.6 million to secure our health system for this year, and \$1.2 billion over four years; and it goes on and on. But, sadly, we are not getting support from the commonwealth. We had a cut of \$107 million midway through the current financial year. After

carrying on and making all sorts of justifications about population increases and other clearly fatuous arguments, the federal government eventually restored the \$107 million for the 2012–13 year, but of course it has done nothing about the \$360 million it cut through to 2015–16. That money is simply gone.

Another point that has been frequently raised in this debate is the investment in education and training. An amount of \$855 million was invested in the last year of the former government. This year that amount is \$1.2 billion; yet the other side tries to characterise that as cuts. In my book it is close to a 50 per cent increase. You only need to look at the way the enrolments are going — up 22 per cent in the last 12 months — to see that. There is more money, more enrolments, real jobs. That is the record in terms of our TAFE funding investment.

In terms of local government, there is \$187.3 million more in government grants in 2013–14 than in 2010–11.

There has been an increase in state and federal funding from \$672 million to \$859.5 million, which is a 27.9 per cent increase. The state government's share of that is \$109.4 million, up 54.1 per cent. When we came to office rates and charges comprised 69 per cent of local government total revenue. It is now down to 62 per cent, which clearly shows a dramatic shift in funding from local government to the state government in terms of local government investments. 15:42:30

The member for Narre Warren North sought to verbal me while I was in the Chair and unable to respond. The member selectively quoted from a newspaper article, and I just want to refer to some of the things that were also in that newspaper article that he did not refer to. I will just say that the CCTV issue he referred to is very important even though he sought to trivialise it. He neglected to mention \$1.5 million for wave screens on Mornington Pier and \$15 million to complete the pier project the Labor government left half done — it just left the old pier sitting out in the bay. There is the commitment to extend the Frankston rail line to Baxter, which is something I have been working on for 20 years, and recently \$211 000 for Mornington Volunteer Marine Rescue for a new boat. There is \$325 000 for the Mornington Racing Club, a \$718 000 investment in South East Water and \$110 million for the port of Hastings development, which is an incredibly important project.

There is a big investment in Frankston Hospital of \$75 million overall and \$24 million this year in terms of the emergency department. There is \$100 million for

works on the Frankston rail line. Peninsula Link is a great road, but it is now up to us as a government to pay for it: the other mob built it, and we will pay for it. The Peninsula has done exceptionally well out of this budget. I commend the budget to the house.

Ms KANIS (Melbourne) — I rise to make a contribution on this government's Appropriation (2013–2014) Bill 2013. One of the things that is really very important to the people in my electorate of Melbourne is education. It is something they all aspire for their children to excel in, and they all want their children to be able to go to local schools. We have some terrific schools in Melbourne, some schools that demonstrate great multicultural education, a great diversity of education and a great diversity of experiences. Unfortunately there is one community in my electorate that does not have a primary school and it does not look like it is going to be getting a one in the foreseeable future, and that is Docklands.

This budget shows no commitment to a school in Docklands, and yet we know from the census data and the Docklands consultations that this government has participated in with the Docklands community that there is a need for a school in Docklands and that there are families in Docklands who have to travel from Docklands past two schools to get to a school that their children can go to in Carlton. It is not really a viable option for children in Docklands to travel to a school in Carlton; it is something that makes families consider whether they can live in Docklands once they have children.

The Minister for Education was on the radio recently saying that there was no need for a school in Docklands, that there are no children in Docklands. There are families in Docklands. There are couples in Docklands who have young children and couples who want to have families and do not want to move out of Docklands but if this government does not make the commitment to spend some money on a school in Docklands, they are going to have to move out of the area. That would be a great loss for Docklands because what we would like to see in Docklands is a diverse community. We want to see mums, dads, single people, families and older people. We want to see a great diversity of people living in Docklands, and without a school that is just not going to happen, so I call on this government to reassess its decision to not build a school in Docklands and to commit to building a school in Docklands.

The government's planning authority, Places Victoria, does not agree that there is no need for a school in Docklands. It has got so sick of this government not

committing to a school in Docklands that it has gone out to tender and is seeking expressions of interest from independent schools to locate in Docklands — such is its belief that there is a need for a school in Docklands. There is land available right now for a school in Docklands, and this government will be wasting an opportunity if it does not commit to building a school there.

What we are also seeing in this budget is a flow-through of the education maintenance allowance cuts. Some of the most disadvantaged students in Victoria live in my electorate. What I am seeing as I go around to the schools in my electorate, and I go to their fetes and I go to their trivia quizzes — all those fundraising things that school communities participate in — is that fundraising is now going to support the students who were previously supported by the education maintenance allowance. It is a real indictment of our community that this government is not looking after our most disadvantaged students in their quest to get an education.

I am also very disappointed to see no reinvestment in TAFE in this budget. Many students in the electorate of Melbourne seek an education through TAFE at higher education institutions or through their secondary school education, and it is a shame to see the opportunities for those students become less and less.

One of the biggest issues that comes through my electorate office door is housing. I have people coming into my office on a daily basis seeking my assistance in obtaining public housing. This budget is disappointing for the lack of real initiative or any plans on public housing. Under the Labor government we saw a systematic improvement, rebuilding and increasing of the public housing stock in Melbourne. We saw great developments in both Kensington and Carlton, but for the last two and a half years this has been at a standstill. This budget shows that there are no plans to improve housing for public housing tenants.

We are in desperate need of upgrades, maintenance and rebuilding. We have in Melbourne some large families of seven living in two-bedroom units. This is really not acceptable. The other day I had a family come through my door that has five children living in a three-bedroom unit. One of those children is severely autistic and does not like going up in the lift, so this family has to walk up 16 storeys to get to their apartment. They cannot get public housing accommodation anywhere else. They are willing to move out of Melbourne, but there is nowhere available. 15:50:00

I think that we will really let down some of the most vulnerable people in our society if we do not continue to invest in housing. Also, it really is a basic human right that people should have appropriate shelter. It does not need to be anything luxurious, but it needs to be appropriate and comfortable. It needs to be a home where children can come home and do their homework; it needs to be a home where families are safe.

We continue to see this government investing in its so-called tough-on-crime policy, but what it is not investing in is really good crime prevention. We are not seeing any real investment in crime prevention. The police statistics released yesterday show some alarming trends in Melbourne. We are seeing huge increases in drug offences: the statistics released yesterday show an increase of 22.8 per cent in drug offences in Melbourne. Total crime has increased by 12.8 per cent. Crimes against the person have increased by 2.5 per cent. Crimes against property have increased by 30.9 per cent. I call on this government to really invest in crime prevention to make a difference to our society in relation to crime.

Yesterday some people attended a rally on the steps of Parliament House. That rally was against the cruel cuts to job services in this budget. I attended that rally, and I spoke to a number of young people. These are young people who have often had very difficult starts in life — young people who have had difficulties at school, young people who have had difficulties with their family situations and young people who have not had the start in life that we would like our children to have. But these young people have been able to make a go of things because they have been participating in job programs. These job programs get them ready for work and get them emotionally ready as well by helping them with things like housing and some of those issues. At the rally I spoke to a lady who, with her husband, has been a benefactor of the St Kilda Youth Service. Before her husband died, they made a significant contribution to the St Kilda Youth Service because they believed in the services that that organisation was providing. However, some of these services are going to have to close because of these shameful funding cuts.

During the budget speeches we have heard this week, government members have been trumpeting some of the things the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) has been saying about the budget. I note that VCOSS has come out very strongly today against the cuts to the employment programs. It says:

Victorian government cuts to employment programs that have helped hundreds of disadvantaged young people find jobs and stay in the workforce will hurt some of the state's most disadvantaged youth.

It questioned Minister Asher's assessment that the money will be better spent on a new program. VCOSS says that the measure the minister has used to make this determination is a very blunt tool of assessment. The VCOSS analysis is that the investment in these targeted employment programs is very cost effective, in both the short and long terms. The young people who go through these programs are not only getting jobs, they are staying in jobs — and staying in jobs long term.

Unfortunately, although this budget has provided an extra investment of \$54.5 million in youth justice, we have cuts to programs that are effective, successful and really positive. These are programs that have had the support of a number of high-profile Melbourne businesspeople because they see that they are of real benefit to both the young people involved and to their businesses as well.

What this budget does deliver to the electorate of Melbourne is a giant tunnel, which the government says will begin in 12 months. It says that in 12 months it will have things signed and ready to go. But there are many unresolved issues in relation to this tunnel. People have been contacting me in relation to their homes. One family has purchased an off-the-plan apartment in Parkville. It appears that when they settle their apartment purchase in November, they may be able to live in it for only a very short time. This is a family that has been saving up for this apartment for a long time, yet it appears that they may really have trouble with it. We also see that communities may potentially be ripped apart. We have some very strong communities in the area, yet we have no idea what is going to happen there. We have no answers in relation to Royal Park. The park is not only a huge asset for the electorate of Melbourne but also a huge asset for the whole of Victoria. However, when I look at the maps that have been released for this tunnel, I see it appears that Royal Park is going to be one of the casualties.

It appears that all the people who currently use Royal Park for recreation or use the sports grounds there are going to pay a very heavy price for this. We have a lot of costs yet no business case on any of the benefits. It appears to me that this government is determined to build this tunnel without proper analysis, and it is a shame to see so many questions unanswered. There are so many questions about what is going to happen to the environment and so many questions about the cost and very few answers on the potential benefits.

In the last few seconds of my contribution I would like to mention the University of the Third Age. We have a very active University of the Third Age system in Melbourne yet what we have seen in the budget is a cut

to its funding. The University of the Third Age has seen its funding cut by a massive 36 per cent. This program is of real benefit to seniors in our community. It is an organisation run by volunteers, an organisation that keeps people involved in the community, and I think it is a great shame that its funding has been cut.

Mr McCURDY (Murray Valley) — I am delighted to begin my contribution to the debate on the Appropriation (2013–14) Bill 2013. I begin by congratulating the Premier and the Treasurer, in fact all of the cabinet ministers, for the leadership they have shown in producing this budget. They have shown the courage to look forward as they continue to be responsible with Victoria’s finances. That is what we need to keep our AAA rating in shape.

Running the state involves the same fundamental principles as running any business. Rule no. 1 is that you do not spend more than you can afford, rule no. 2 is to be realistic and rule no. 3 is to be prepared to modify your plans along the way. I am absolutely delighted with the way this budget is unfolding. Clearly Victoria is building for growth. If you look at the investment in the ports and the east–west tunnel and the investment we are making in health, you see that those are exceptional measures and certainly responsible. We are accountable, and we know that we cannot please everyone.

The SPEAKER — Order! The time set down for consideration of items on the government business program has expired, and I am required to interrupt business. The member for Murray Valley will have the call when this item is next before the Chair.

**PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL 2013**

Second reading

**Debate resumed from 29 May; motion of
Ms ASHER (Minister for Innovation, Services and
Small Business).**

Motion agreed to.

Read second time.

Third reading

Motion agreed to.

Read third time.

**MARINE (DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL
VESSEL NATIONAL LAW APPLICATION)
BILL 2013**

Second reading

**Debate resumed from 28 May; motion of
Mr HODGETT (Minister for Ports); and
Ms HUTCHINS’s amendment:**

That all the words after ‘That’ be omitted with the view of inserting in their place the words ‘this house refuses to read this bill a second time until the Victorian regulations have been formulated, following appropriate consultation with stakeholders’.

**House divided on omission (members in favour vote
no):**

Ayes, 44

Angus, Mr	Mulder, Mr
Asher, Ms	Naphine, Dr
Baillieu, Mr	Newton-Brown, Mr
Battin, Mr	Northe, Mr
Bauer, Mrs	O’Brien, Mr
Blackwood, Mr	Powell, Mrs
Bull, Mr	Ryall, Ms
Burgess, Mr	Ryan, Mr
Clark, Mr	Shaw, Mr
Crisp, Mr	Smith, Mr R.
Delahunty, Mr	Southwick, Mr
Dixon, Mr	Sykes, Dr
Fyffe, Mrs	Thompson, Mr
Gidley, Mr	Tilley, Mr
Hodgett, Mr	Victoria, Ms
Katos, Mr	Wakeling, Mr
Kotsiras, Mr	Walsh, Mr
McCurdy, Mr	Watt, Mr
McIntosh, Mr	Weller, Mr
McLeish, Ms	Wells, Mr
Miller, Ms	Wooldridge, Ms
Morris, Mr	Wreford, Ms

Noes, 43

Allan, Ms	Hutchins, Ms
Andrews, Mr	Kairouz, Ms
Barker, Ms	Kanis, Ms
Beattie, Ms	Knight, Ms
Brooks, Mr	Languiller, Mr
Campbell, Ms	Lim, Mr
Carbines, Mr	McGuire, Mr
Carroll, Mr	Madden, Mr
D’Ambrosio, Ms	Merlino, Mr
Donnellan, Mr	Nardella, Mr
Duncan, Ms	Neville, Ms
Edwards, Ms	Noonan, Mr
Eren, Mr	Pakula, Mr
Foley, Mr	Pallas, Mr
Garrett, Ms	Pandazopoulos, Mr
Graley, Ms	Perera, Mr
Green, Ms	Richardson, Ms
Halfpenny, Ms	Scott, Mr
Helper, Mr	Thomson, Ms
Hennessy, Ms	Trezise, Mr
Herbert, Mr	Wynne, Mr

Howard, Mr

That the house now adjourns.

Amendment defeated.

Buses: Altona electorate

Motion agreed to.

Ms HENNESSY (Altona) — I rise to raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Public Transport, and the action I seek is that the minister attend a community forum in my electorate to discuss the impact of the recent bus changes. The government has implemented a range of changes to bus services in my electorate that have affected both the Wyndham and Hobsons Bay local government areas. Those changes took effect on 28 April. I raised concerns about those changes prior to them taking effect in the Parliament, and now that they have taken effect my local community has certainly expressed its disquiet. Earlier today I tabled a petition on this matter with over 700 signatures. Neither the government nor Public Transport Victoria engaged any local community in any consultation before implementing these changes, and many residents have contacted my office to indicate they are now worse off.

Read second time.

Third reading

Motion agreed to.

Read third time.

16:05:00

BUILDING AND PLANNING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (GOVERNANCE AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2013

Second reading

**Debate resumed from 28 May; motion of
Mr CLARK (Attorney-General).**

Motion agreed to.

Until recently residents relied on the 413, 414, 416 and 446 bus services to access Aircraft station, workplaces, banking, post facilities, shops, schools, hospitals, community services and other transport to commute locally and across the region. People are now no longer able to travel right across the region on one bus; it now requires at least two buses, or a bus and a train and perhaps then another bus — for example, some people living in Sanctuary Lakes or Truganina now advise me that they are significantly worse off. In the case of Sanctuary Lakes many people are now more than 3.5 kilometres away from their nearest bus stop.

Read second time.

Third reading

Motion agreed to.

Read third time.

ENERGY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FEED-IN TARIFFS AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2013

Second reading

**Debate resumed from 28 May; motion of
Mr KOTSIRAS (Minister for Energy and
Resources).**

Motion agreed to.

Whilst additional services to enable people to access the new Williams Landing railway station, a project that was started by the former Labor government, are indeed welcome, cutting existing services that people rely on is not. We have spoken many times in this house about the growth in the western suburbs. What we require is an increased number of services, not cutting one set of services to provide that to other communities. There are concerns about these cuts in terms of the fact that there is now no longer a bus that goes to Aircraft station, leaving it completely unserved by buses.

Read second time.

Third reading

Motion agreed to.

Read third time.

Business interrupted under sessional orders.

There were also a number of teething issues that were encountered when the Williams Landing railway station was opened. Myki was not working early on, and the security cameras were not yet commissioned. As is an all-too-often occurrence along the Werribee line, there were a range of cuts to the services, both on day three and in the afternoon of day four. There was

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER — Order! The question is:

poor public advice provided to bus commuters in terms of advising them of changes to routes and timetables; indeed bus stops were not updated or removed where necessary, including at Laverton station. Many people were left waiting, stranded and unknowingly waiting for buses that were never going to arrive.

I call on the minister to undertake a proper consultation process with local people to develop a more commuter friendly set of changes that actually provides people with the services that take them where they want to go.

Rowville Secondary College: facilities

Mr WAKELING (Ferntree Gully) — I rise to raise a matter with the Minister for Education, and the action I seek is for the minister to visit Rowville Secondary College to view the current college facilities and to discuss the future needs of the college. Rowville Secondary College commenced operation in 1990 with 180 students, offering classes in years 7 and 8 only. The college has now grown to over 1800 students, from year 7 to year 12, across two campuses. Both campuses cater to students from year 7 to year 12 in the general excellence program. In addition the western campus houses the college's maths and science academy and an indoor pool, which is extensively used by not only the school community but the broader Rowville and Lysterfield communities. Meanwhile the eastern campus houses the college's sports academy, which comprises a gym, and the Rowville Institute of the Arts within the performing arts centre.

Rowville Secondary College has continued to provide excellent education for our local students and over the past 20 years has managed to keep up with growing demand; however, future needs, facility improvements and the inclusion of innovative programs must be considered to enable the college to continue to provide such a valuable educational facility for its current and future students. I would appreciate the Minister for Education touring the school and meeting with the college principal, Mr Glenn Fankhauser, in order to see the college's current programs and discuss future improvements the college will require to keep up with demand and to retain its position as a local secondary college of choice.

As the college's two campuses fall in two different electorates, the college principal has been working closely with me and the honourable member for Scoresby, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, to ensure that we have a solid understanding of the college's future plans and needs. Many Rowville and Lysterfield residents benefit from having a secondary college of choice located within their area.

Improvements to the current college facilities and ensuring future needs are met through its innovative programs, which engage the students, will ensure that these benefits continue into the future years whilst also ensuring that college students have every opportunity to achieve their educational goals and work towards their future careers or study aspirations.

I have had the opportunity to meet with many students over my time as a member of this house. The school has produced many great leaders, and it provides a range of important programs for young people. I know it works closely with the local primary schools, and it is seen as a fantastic educational facility. However, as you would appreciate, Speaker, many schools across the state have been neglected for many years by the former Labor government, which chose not to invest in local education. I am pleased to see that this government is investing in a number of schools, many of which are in my own electorate. I call upon the Minister for Education to visit Rowville Secondary College, and the action I seek is for the minister to meet with representatives of Rowville Secondary College and talk about its future needs.

Country Fire Authority: Pomonal brigade

Mr HELPER (Ripon) — The matter I wish to raise is for the attention of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. However, before raising my matter I wish to again acknowledge the fantastic efforts of our emergency services, none more so than the 72 members of the Pomonal Country Fire Authority (CFA) brigade. These hardworking volunteers make a real difference to the safety of not only their own community, but they also often turn up for neighbouring brigades, like Halls Gap. Of course when the call comes for brigades to — —

The SPEAKER — Order! The adjournment matter is for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. What is the member requesting from him?

Mr HELPER — I am getting to that, Speaker.

The SPEAKER — Order! Members are supposed to do that when they get to their feet.

Mr HELPER — I will come to it. When the call comes for brigades to assist across the state to help communities often hundreds of kilometres away, Pomonal volunteers are ready to serve.

Pomonal is located at the foot of the Grampians, with a population of 362, give or take a few. Around holiday times this population sometimes swells to over 2000. As honourable members can imagine, residents of

Pomonal, and in particular those in the brigade, were pleased to receive the news that they would have a new fire shed built.

16:15:00 They were particularly pleased to be informed that it would be what is classified as a 1B class shed. This class of shed would have included separate toilet facilities for the 58 male and 14 female volunteers as well as a modest meeting and training room.

Disappointment echoed across the Grampians when the government got the terrific staff of district 16 to break the bad news to the Pomonal volunteers that they would get only a 1A class shed. With only one toilet and no meeting room, it would not be much bigger than their current shed. This was despite earlier assurances that a 1B class shed would be provided. Is it any wonder that at the brigade's annual general meeting on the 22 May a unanimous call was made for the brigade to leave no stone unturned to get the government to change this short-sighted decision?

I join the Pomonal brigade in calling on the minister to reverse this penny-pinching decision and ensure that the volunteers of Pomonal get a shed which provides them with the facilities to serve our community with dignity, encourages more locals to join the brigade and makes brigade-based training a rewarding experience for people with a determination to help others. A smaller 1A class shed would fail to provide even the most basic facilities for volunteers who give hours of their time to attend the station, as they are increasingly asked to, on high fire-risk days. The government's failure to provide these CFA volunteers with the most basic considerations is shameful, and again I implore the minister to ensure that the original commitment made to Pomonal is honoured.

The SPEAKER — Order! Before I call the next member I remind members in this house that the first two things they must do when they get to their feet are address their adjournment matter to a minister and then ask the minister what they want to ask. Members are not to give a speech beforehand. If it happens again, members will be sat down and they will not get a chance to make their request.

People trafficking: sex slaves

Mr McINTOSH (Kew) — I raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Community Services. I note that the minister is leading the government's response in relation to violence against women. The matter I raise with the minister relates to another form of violence against women — that is, the evil and growing trade in trafficked women in Australia and

Victoria. Most trafficked women are from South-East Asian countries and are brought here to perform sex work in brothels. The action I seek is for the minister is that she work with these women and their supporters to help them remove or liberate themselves from this evil servitude and that she assist them to rebuild their lives, whether in Victoria or elsewhere.

Victorians should be aware that right now in Victoria many women are imprisoned, in effect, in brothels as sex slaves. These women are enticed to travel to Australia either by paying their own way or receiving a loan. They are met by members of international crime syndicates, who whisk them away to brothels and take away their passports. They are imprisoned because of real or fraudulent debt bondage. They are told they have debts, real or fabricated, which they are obliged to work off. While some girls agree to come to Australia for sex work, they do so without the knowledge of the servitude this will involve. Others are tricked by agents in Asian countries and believe they are coming here to study English, for example, but are then forced to work as prostitutes. Many women have little or no English and are left with no means of support.

In a recent media report one young woman spoke of having only a towel for bedding, sleeping where she worked because she had no accommodation and being given only one meal a day. Another young woman paid \$8000 to an agent in Asia believing that she was travelling here to undertake further education. On arrival she was taken to a Melbourne apartment and not allowed to leave. She was informed she had a \$20 000 debt and would have to pay it off by engaging in sex work.

The recent inquiry by the Law Reform Committee into people trafficking certainly advanced our understanding of this matter. However, concrete examples of this evil problem show that people with Asian language and cultural skills are not accompanying police or other authorities when they deal with these women, who are unable to express their concerns. Human trafficking in Victoria is a matter that needs to be dealt with. This evening I request that the minister work with these women to help them remove themselves from this servitude and to rebuild their lives based upon their own aspirations.

Metropolitan Fire Brigade: enterprise bargaining agreement

Ms HUTCHINS (Keilor) — I rise to raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Finance. The action I seek is for the minister to meet with corporate and technical staff employed by the Metropolitan Fire

Brigade (MFB) across Victoria to explain why his department has interfered in the agreed terms of the current enterprise bargaining agreement (EBA) negotiated by the parties in the workplace. After two years of negotiations and three months of drafting, the EBA agreement was reached between the parties. However, in January this year the MFB and the government sought to renege on the agreement that was reached with the parties and with the negotiating committee of the corporate and technical staff represented by the United Firefighters Union (UFU). Some of the clauses that the government has intervened in relation to and reneged on were discussed and settled over a year ago. The enterprise agreement negotiations have involved compromise from both sides over a long period of time. Why is the agreement not being honoured by this government? Why are the instructions to the MFB on how to proceed with this matter now in the government's hands? Why is the government pulling the rug from under the parties who had reached agreement?

Is the minister confusing the parameters of his current portfolios? Whereas previously the MFB negotiators were given authority to reach agreement, the government has now taken that authority away. These people are good, hard workers in our community. They support the administration needs of the MFB. They implement community safety programs. They are the IT workers, and they manage the maintenance of our MFB operations. They are good, hardworking Victorians, but unfortunately they are being used as pawns by this finance minister to play out his industrial agenda in this state.

There have been moves by this minister to hide behind the Re AEU principles, but it is really about undermining the job security of these workers and trying to interfere with safe staffing levels and a safe workplace for these workers. I think the minister owes these workers an explanation and should meet with them as soon as possible to progress their EBA and give them the pay and conditions they are entitled to.

16:22:30

Marine industries: regulation reform

Mr BULL (Gippsland East) — The matter I raise today is for the attention of the Minister for Ports, who I see is in the chamber. The action I seek is for him to visit my electorate of Gippsland East to discuss the implications of the Marine (Domestic Commercial Vessel National Law Application) Bill 2013. I raise this matter because this is a very important bill for the on-water commercial operations in my electorate of Gippsland East, most specifically the Gippsland Lakes.

One of the industries that will be most affected by this is the commercial fishing sector at Lakes Entrance, which is a key driver of not only the local East Gippsland economy but also the wider Victorian economy. The Lakes Entrance fishing industry, through the Lakes Entrance Fishermen's Co-operative, has become a key player in the Australian fishing industry. It is one of the largest cooperatives in Australia in relation to both the fishing fleet that it oversees and the volume of fish that goes through the cooperative. As we know, the purpose of the bill is to provide for a national scheme in relation to the regulation of commercial vessels.

It should also be noted in relation to the Gippsland Lakes that a number of commercial operations exist outside of the fishing fleet. We also have a number of trading boats on the Gippsland Lakes, and we have houseboats, both motor and sail houseboats, day boat hire, which is very important, and some of the smaller operations like smaller yacht hire and paddleboat operations. The implementation of a national scheme has been strongly supported by the commonwealth government, as we heard in the debate on the bill. While such a move to a national law in any regard is never completely seamless, there are certainly many benefits.

As we have been made aware, the criteria encompassing commercial operations and commercial vessels is much wider under the commonwealth scheme than it is under the Victorian scheme. This government is to be applauded for its very active representations in the national scheme negotiations, which have seen the scope of the implications here appropriately confined and significantly reduced, to the stage where it is not envisaged that there will be any significant increase in administration or red tape for operators. I call on the minister to come to my region and discuss this in person.

Clayton South Primary School: redevelopment

Mr LIM (Clayton) — The matter I raise is for the attention of the Minister for Education. The action I seek is for the minister to visit Clayton South Primary School with me to inspect the school, to meet the staff and students, and to view firsthand the condition of the school.

Clayton South Primary School is a school with a diverse mix of students from 40 nationalities. Many students come from very disadvantaged backgrounds. Student numbers have decreased in recent years. However, the school is taking a proactive approach by working with the City of Kingston to build and

establish a kindergarten on the site, which will ensure an increase in student numbers in future years. It has a vision of becoming a 0 to 12-years-old college.

In 2008 the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development completed a comprehensive report on the Building Futures program for education facilities in the region, which included Clayton South Primary School. That program was about the regeneration of education facilities and the provision of a renewed focus for parents to be part of their school communities. The rebuilding of Clayton South Primary School would see the transformation of current learning classrooms into flexible learning areas and activity zones. The rebuilding would transform teaching and provide personalised learning pathways for students.

In terms of the current facilities, many are dilapidated. The buildings are of a light timber construction and they date back 50 or 60 years. It has been confirmed that there is asbestos in the roofs of the buildings, and just based on this fact our duty of care to the children and staff is paramount. The art room was built in the 1930s, and I thank the minister for the grant of \$55 000 from the maintenance budget for an upgrade of this room, which is in a poor condition. But this is a bandaid situation.

In the 2008 report Clayton South Primary School was clearly assessed as meeting every educational criterion for rebuilding. Recent reports rate many of the buildings as in poor or worn condition. An appraisal of the rebuilding plans from the school continued during 2009 and 2010, and considerable money was spent having detailed plans completed, costed and ready for tender. I am extremely concerned that these plans will be abandoned and that the money previously spent will go to waste. I raised the condition of this school in June 2011, and in response the minister advised that he had read about the school in the local papers. He said in relation to the school buildings that there were —

The SPEAKER — Order! The member's time has expired.

Ashburton Primary School: ministerial visit

Mr WATT (Burwood) — I raise a matter on the adjournment for the Minister for Education. I ask the minister to come to Ashburton Primary School. The government has put \$6 million into the redevelopment of Ashburton Primary School and the construction is expected to finish later this year. Works have begun on the main building, with a number of other new buildings already having been built, and the end is not too far off. I know the minister has come to my

electorate on a number of occasions and has done a tour of schools with me. He came out to Solway Primary School late last year, and he also went to Hartwell Primary School to open the new development that was completed there. In addition, just this year he popped out to Ashwood College for a tour. The government has put in \$10.5 million to redevelop Ashwood College, and that will be a great development.

The \$6 million the government has put into Ashburton Primary School is absolutely fantastic. It goes hand in hand with the some \$3 million it put into Wattle Park Primary School. I understand the minister's commitment to education and especially his commitment to education in the Burwood electorate. I rise to ask him to visit Ashburton Primary School when the school is finished. It is a very exciting development which will enhance educational outcomes for all students in my electorate, specifically those in the south.

I note the great commitment of this government to schools and education. In the budget just brought down there is funding of \$11.6 billion towards providing education for all, with \$203 million for capital works in schools. Ashburton primary is one of those schools that is being redeveloped. As I said, I call on the minister to come out to Ashburton Primary School when the school is ready to be opened. I know that the principal there, Natalie Nelson, will welcome him with open arms. I was there only a couple of weeks ago doing a tour with Julie Gilbert, the deputy principal, who showed me around the great new facilities that are being built. I am sure they will be more than happy to receive the minister when the school is ready to be opened.

Planning: Broadmeadows super-clinic

Mr McGUIRE (Broadmeadows) — The matter I raise is for the attention of the Minister for Planning. The action I seek is that the Minister for Planning stop blocking the deal to deliver a super-clinic critically needed for the people of the Broadmeadows electorate. In March I called on the Victorian government to cut the bureaucratic red tape threatening to sabotage this deal in one of the areas of Victoria that needs health services the most and to stop denying the people of Broadmeadows the full benefit of the millions of dollars they raised decades ago by themselves for better health services. I was informed that the government land monitor's intervention was jeopardising the deal.

The commonwealth government has committed \$7 million and Dianella Community Health has committed a further \$2.5 million to provide medical

and allied health services in an area that the Victorian government's own health plan identifies as having the greatest growth and the greatest need. The intervention by the government land monitor stalled the multimillion-dollar, time-critical deal to the detriment of the people of Broadmeadows in Melbourne's north.

I have been informed that the land monitor's issues have been resolved but the final signature required is that of the Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy. The Minister for Planning has gone into the public domain recently saying that he represents the people of Broadmeadows. I am calling him to account. I want him to sign off on this deal. The government does not have one dollar in this deal. All the minister has to do is cut the red tape and get out of the way so we can make it happen. That is what I am calling on him to do.

16:32:30 If he wants to boast about representing the people of Broadmeadows, it is time to deliver something. He does not have to pay for it, just get out of the way. That is the situation.

The Victorian government's health plan was released in the shadows of its first budget. The coalition had previously walked away from health services in the northern region. This year it failed to invest \$11 million to close a \$50 million deal to expand the Northern Hospital, and in this year's budget there is a larger amount committed financially for beds in prisons than for Melbourne's north. This is a critical issue. We need to put the beds in the north. This is one of the key growth areas for the state of Victoria; it is identified in the government's own metropolitan health plan. The Minister for Planning says he represents the people of Broadmeadows. It is time for him to actually deliver something. He has already taken \$75 million out of Broadmeadows for the community activities district and shunted it down the train line to buy the tainted vote of the member for Frankston.

Can we actually get something done on this? I am asking the minister to sign off on it. That is all he has to do to deliver for the people of Broadmeadows, for this area that raised millions of dollars decades ago when the amount was even more significant. This is what has to be done in this area, so can the minister please just sign off on this so we can get on with it, get the super-clinic and deliver health services for the benefit of the people who need it most in the area of greatest growth and greatest need.

Sport and recreation: Sandringham electorate infrastructure

Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham) — The matter I wish to raise is for the attention of the Minister for Sport and Recreation. I seek a visit by the minister to the Sandringham electorate to review sporting infrastructure there, noting the pockets of greatness that the Sandringham electorate represents on not only a national scale but also an international scale, — to the wider global community. If you were to name a sport, you would find there has been a champion of that sport from Sandringham. If it were test cricket, you would find test fast bowlers, test spin bowlers and test openers. If you named football, you would find a Brownlow medallist, an AFL captain or a champion of champions. There is one person who walks regularly through the Sandringham electorate and who represented Golden Square in country football and kicked 1500 goals. He is regarded by some as one of the greatest footballers ever to play VFL football. You could even find someone who played on the fields of Mentone in yesteryear.

There is this aggregation of sport-related involvement in the Sandringham electorate. You could take an Olympic sport and name medallists such as Herb Elliott or people such as Cathy Freeman and Debbie Flintoff-King, who have trained along the Sandringham foreshore. It is a place of residency of champions; it is a place of training of champions. We could choose another sport, such as yachting, and find the team that won the America's Cup or the 470 class championships at the Olympics and the world titles. There are gold medallists and world champions from Sandringham in the mighty sport of yachting.

Then we could turn to the sport of golf. Over the last 60 years Royal Melbourne golf course — the east and west courses and the composite course — has consistently been rated amongst the best golf courses in the world. Even American presidents have visited the electorate to watch the Presidents Cup when it was held at Sandringham, and we had the announcement only a couple of weeks ago that the World Cup of Golf is being held, I believe for the third time, within the Sandringham electorate. It is infrastructure that provides the springboard and the training ground for future champions. There is the Sandringham Athletics Club, just north of the Sandringham electorate, where Roy Boyd trained, an Order of Australia recipient and the famous coach after whom the training clubrooms have been named. Kyle Vander Kuyp, Debbie Flintoff-King, Malcolm Baird and others are people who have been influenced by outstanding coaches.

What I seek from the minister is that he take a tour not only through the history of sport as represented by the test cricketers, the Brownlow medallists, the yachting gold medallists and world champions who have graced the Sandringham electorate or who reside there, but also to gain a clear understanding of the important future infrastructure needs as we tour the coastline and the sports fields of the district.

Responses

Mr HODGETT (Minister for Ports) — The member for Gippsland East asked me to go to his electorate to discuss any implications for operators in his region of the Marine (Domestic Commercial Vessel National Law Application) Bill 2013 that passed the house today. I am pleased to inform the hardworking member for Gippsland East that I would be delighted to visit his electorate. I will ask my office to schedule a visit as soon as possible. I noted the member's comments that the Lakes Entrance commercial fishing fleet is a key driver of the local and Victorian economies. Gippsland Lakes is a great part of the world, and I look forward to going down to visit his electorate and doing as he has asked.

I take this opportunity to make a few comments on the Marine (Domestic Commercial Vessel National Law Application) Bill 2013. I listened to the contributions of those opposite. It is a pity that today opposition members totally misunderstood the purpose of the bill. If they had bothered to read my second-reading speech, they would understand the background to this bill. It was not an initiative of the Victorian coalition government. Basically, the bill has come in response to the commonwealth using its constitutional powers to take over the regulation of commercial vessels in 31 days time. The bill will not impact on recreational vessels. Those opposite were either too lazy to read the bill or they just do not understand it. The bill that was before us today will cover around 100 commercial vessels that the commonwealth act will not. If this bill is not passed, then we will end up with an administrative and bureaucratic nightmare for the operators of these vessels.

The opposition claimed that we must explain the impact of this bill on stakeholders. That is exactly what we have been doing for the past two years. Victoria is the only jurisdiction to have stood up to the commonwealth. We forced it to wind back the original proposal and minimise the reach of the national law. In fact, the previous Premier raised this at Council of Australian Governments and reached agreement with the Prime Minister to limit the scheme's reach. The

previous Minister for Ports also had success on several ministerial — —

Mr Helper — The point of order I raise, Speaker, is one of relevance. I question whether the minister is actually addressing in his reply the request the member for East Gippsland made of him during the adjournment debate. He seems to be revisiting the history of a debate that occurred earlier in this chamber, and I suggest that it is not appropriate for him to debate that on the adjournment.

Ms Asher — On the point of order, Speaker, the minister was asked a specific question relating to visitation to discuss certain policy matters, and the minister is responding to that adjournment request.

16:40:00

The SPEAKER — Order! I believe the minister was referring to the matter by giving some detail with regard to the bill that was passed by the house today and is relevant to the matter that was raised in the adjournment debate, but I ask the minister to move towards winding up.

Mr HODGETT — The previous Minister for Ports also had some success at several ministerial council meetings in ensuring that the commonwealth and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) modified many of their original proposals so that the national bill would not have many of the impacts that were originally proposed. All through this, where was the Victorian opposition? It was missing in action — MIA.

The national regulations have been developed by AMSA in consultation with stakeholders. The consultation was widely publicised. In fact last year the former Minister for Ports wrote to over 3000 vessel owners and encouraged them to participate. The opposition claims that the bill will impact on recreational boating and boatbuilding — —

The SPEAKER — Order! Does this relate to the request of the member? Does this relate to the vessels that are being used on the Gippsland Lakes?

Mr HODGETT — Yes, there are commercial vessels up there.

The SPEAKER — Please continue.

Mr HODGETT — The opposition claims that the bill will impact on recreational — —

Mr Helper — On a point of order, Speaker, I think the minister's interpretation that he is responding to the adjournment request of the member for Gippsland East

is a generous interpretation of what he is actually talking about. I would have thought it continues to be a quite detailed critique of the debate on a bill that passed the this house earlier today, as opposed to the request made by the member for Gippsland East to visit his electorate and discuss those very same matters with the community of East Gippsland. I do not know why the debate has to be had twice. If the minister wishes to talk to the community of East Gippsland about that, that is terrific. He should be in the community and do it there, rather than in this chamber.

The SPEAKER — Order! I uphold the point of order. I think the minister has deviated a little from the adjournment request that was put to him.

Mr HODGETT — I will talk about a couple of other things affecting vessels in Gippsland East. To be clear, this will have no impact on recreational boating. The bill transfers responsibility for commercial vessels, not recreational vessels, from the state to the commonwealth. There will be no changes to commercial vessel standards, so there is no impact on boatbuilders. The member for Gippsland East also mentioned increasing fees under the bill. Again, that is wrong. The coalition has included the current fee structure as a schedule to the bill to demonstrate its intent that fees will remain unchanged. Someone claimed that this will impact on commercial operators of small hire-and-drive vehicles —

The SPEAKER — Order!

Mr HODGETT — in Gippsland East.

The SPEAKER — In Gippsland East? Go on. The minister is pushing it.

Mr HODGETT — That might have been the shadow minister. Some members were so confused about this bill. The member for Eltham thinks the bill gives powers to the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. He cannot even get that correct.

I will make one final point. Some claimed — it might have been the opposition; I do not think it was the member for Gippsland East — that the Boating Industry Association of Victoria was opposed to the bill that passed the house today, but it is not. It is supportive of the Marine (Domestic Commercial Vessel National Law Application) Bill 2013. They could not get it any more wrong. I am happy to go to Gippsland East to further discuss this with the hardworking member.

The SPEAKER — Order! I am sure the people in Gippsland East are thrilled that the minister will go there and give them the same as he gave us. It is just as

well the discussion did not move into West Gippsland; there are no lakes there.

Ms WOOLDRIDGE (Minister for Community Services) — I am pleased to join the adjournment debate tonight in response to the thoughtful contribution from the member for Kew on the very serious issue of women who have been sex trafficked and the challenges they face as a result of that experience, which is abhorrent and one that I know all in this chamber are very much against and is one that we need to work hard to stamp out and address for those who are experiencing it.

Sex trafficking, as one of many forms of violence against women and children, is an issue we addressed under our action plan to address violence against women and children. We know there are women in Victoria who have been trafficked for sexual purposes, but it is hard to determine the official statistics, so it is difficult to know the extent of the problem. Often it is hidden because women who have been trafficked fear disclosure. They fear the police and they fear retribution from those who have trafficked them. I am pleased to inform the member for Kew that as part of our action plan we are taking a number of initiatives in relation to preventing, intervening in and responding to this act of violence against women, and for the benefit of the member I would like to touch on a few of those initiatives.

We have the Resourcing Health and Education in the Sex Industry program, which works to prevent violence and encourage increased reporting and identification of perpetrators of violence against sex workers, and it provides support for sex workers as they report assaults to police. We also have the sex industry coordination unit, which sits within Victoria Police, that monitors legal and illegal brothels and develops intelligence capabilities around human trafficking, including sexual servitude. In December 2011 the coalition government responded positively to the parliamentary Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee's inquiry into people trafficking for sex work. A number of initiatives addressing many issues have been supported as part of that work.

The member for Kew raised a number of important concerns but was particularly concerned about women who are in sexual servitude, about support for their capacity to be liberated and also about working with them to rebuild their lives. I am pleased that as part of the action plan we have committed to undertaking further work, particularly with culturally and linguistically diverse women who have been trafficked — they have the additional barrier of

language in this community — to work with them to identify options for leaving the sex industry. Work is happening in relation to those issues.

I very much want to commend the member for Kew for his interest. He has a longstanding interest in the issue of violence against women and has been an incredibly strong advocate for many years in relation to this issue. This is a very specific issue that has a dramatic effect of a legal nature that we all collectively need to work to stamp out. Importantly we need to work with the women to make sure they can get their lives back on track.

Mr DIXON (Minister for Education) — The member for Ferntree Gully asked me to visit Rowville Secondary College. What a great advocate for education he is. Previously I went out there with the Premier announcing funding for four schools. I am more than happy when I am in the outer east to visit Rowville Secondary College, which I understand is a very good school.

The member for Burwood asked whether I would come out and open Ashburton Primary School. There is a major refurbishment going on there. It is always a pleasure to be in Burwood with the member for Burwood, who is in the chamber. He is a great advocate for government school education in his electorate, and I am more than happy to organise a time that is mutually convenient.

The member for Clayton asked me to visit Clayton South Primary School, which I think is one of the 200 schools that were told to produce a master plan for their school and that there would be a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, which was not there. We are working our way through those schools that were led to believe that once they had planned their school they would get their refurbishment or rebuild, depending on the issue. When I am in the Clayton area again, I will organise a visit to that school.

Mr DELAHUNTY (Minister for Sport and Recreation) — I am responding to a matter raised by the member for Sandringham, who I know is a very active member in his community. He spoke about sporting champions, whether they be on the land or on the sea. He talked about yachting and golfing. I have the Minister for Major Projects beside me, and we are both rapt to have the World Cup of Golf coming back to Victoria. It will be held in the Sandringham electorate. It is a great thing that we are the sporting capital of Australia.

We have five key objectives under sport and recreation. They include building active and healthy communities and delivering facilities for active communities. I would love to have a tour with the member for Sandringham to look at what is there, what could be provided and the infrastructure and facilities that are needed to make sure we have facilities for an active community in Sandringham. 16:50:00

The reality is that the coalition government is working with its stakeholders, whether it be local government or sporting groups, and there are many sporting groups right across the state. We are doing that in a strong partnership to develop facilities and increase participation in sport. I would love to talk with coaches or administrators and the member for Sandringham in relation to what we can do in his electorate. I look forward to going there with him. I would ask him to work with my office in relation to a date for a tour of the Sandringham electorate.

Ms ASHER (Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business) — The member for Altona raised a matter for the Minister for Public Transport. The member made a request for the minister to attend a community forum regarding buses in her electorate. I will pass that on to the Minister for Public Transport.

The member for Ripon raised an issue for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services regarding the type of shed that he wishes to see constructed for the Pomonal Country Fire Authority brigade volunteers. I will pass that matter on to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services for his consideration.

The member for Keilor raised an issue for the Minister for Finance and requested that he meet with Metropolitan Fire Brigade staff to discuss industrial matters. I will pass that on to be Minister for Finance.

The member for Broadmeadows raised an issue for the Minister for Planning. I think in the end the member for Broadmeadows wanted a document to be signed and I will pass that matter on to the Minister for Planning.

The SPEAKER — Order! I thank members for being here. I hope they have had a pleasant week. I look forward to coming back in a fortnight's time. The house is now adjourned.

House adjourned 4.51 p.m. until Tuesday, 11 June.