

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

14 and 15 April 2015

(Extract from book 5)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

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Deputy Speaker:

Mr D. A. NARDELLA

Acting Speakers:

Mr Angus, Mr Blackwood, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Carbines, Mr Crisp, Mr Dixon, Ms Edwards, Ms Halfpenny,
Ms Kilkenny, Mr McCurdy, Ms McLeish, Mr Pearson, Ms Ryall, Ms Thomas,
Mr Thompson, Ms Thomson, Ms Ward and Mr Watt.

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The Hon. D. M. ANDREWS

Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Deputy Premier:

The Hon. J. A. MERLINO

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The Hon. M. J. GUY

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

The Hon. D. J. HODGETT

Leader of The Nationals:

The Hon. P. L. WALSH

Deputy Leader of The Nationals:

Ms S. RYAN

Heads of parliamentary departments

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

Council — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

Member	District	Party	Member	District	Party
Allan, Ms Jacinta Marie	Bendigo East	ALP	McLeish, Ms Lucinda Gaye	Eildon	LP
Andrews, Mr Daniel Michael	Mulgrave	ALP	Merlino, Mr James Anthony	Monbulk	ALP
Angus, Mr Neil Andrew Warwick	Forest Hill	LP	Morris, Mr David Charles	Mornington	LP
Asher, Ms Louise	Brighton	LP	Mulder, Mr Terence Wynn	Polwarth	LP
Batin, Mr Bradley William	Gembrook	LP	Naphthine, Dr Denis Vincent	South-West Coast	LP
Blackwood, Mr Gary John	Narracan	LP	Nardella, Mr Donato Antonio	Melton	ALP
Blandthorn, Ms Elizabeth Anne	Pascoe Vale	ALP	Neville, Ms Lisa Mary	Bellarine	ALP
Brooks, Mr Colin William	Bundoora	ALP	Noonan, Mr Wade Matthew	Williamstown	ALP
Bull, Mr Joshua Michael	Sunbury	ALP	Northe, Mr Russell John	Morwell	Nats
Bull, Mr Timothy Owen	Gippsland East	Nats	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ²	Gippsland South	Nats
Burgess, Mr Neale Ronald	Hastings	LP	O'Brien, Mr Michael Anthony	Malvern	LP
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Couzens, Ms Christine Anne	Geelong	ALP	Pearson, Mr Daniel James	Essendon	ALP
Crisp, Mr Peter Laurence	Mildura	Nats	Perera, Mr Jude	Cranbourne	ALP
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Dixon, Mr Martin Francis	Nepean	LP	Richardson, Ms Fiona Catherine Alison	Northcote	ALP
Donnellan, Mr Luke Anthony	Narre Warren North	ALP	Ryall, Ms Deanne Sharon	Ringwood	LP
Edbrooke, Mr Paul Andrew	Frankston	ALP	Ryan, Mr Peter Julian ¹	Gippsland South	Nats
Edwards, Ms Janice Maree	Bendigo West	ALP	Ryan, Ms Stephanie Maureen	Euroa	Nats
Eren, Mr John Hamdi	Lara	ALP	Sandell, Ms Ellen	Melbourne	Greens
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Fyffe, Mrs Christine Anne	Evelyn	LP	Sheed, Ms Suzanna	Shepparton	Ind
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Hennessy, Ms Jill	Altona	ALP	Suleyman, Ms Natalie	St Albans	ALP
Hibbins, Mr Samuel Peter	Prahran	Greens	Thomas, Ms Mary-Anne	Macedon	ALP
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Howard, Mr Geoffrey Kemp	Buninyong	ALP	Thomson, Ms Marsha Rose	Footscray	ALP
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Kairouz, Ms Marlene	Kororoit	ALP	Victoria, Ms Heidi	Bayswater	LP
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Kilkenny, Ms Sonya	Carrum	ALP	Ward, Ms Vicki	Eltham	ALP
Knight, Ms Sharon Patricia	Wendouree	ALP	Watt, Mr Graham Travis	Burwood	LP
Languiller, Mr Telmo Ramon	Tarneit	ALP	Wells, Mr Kimberley Arthur	Rowville	LP
Lim, Mr Muy Hong	Clarinda	ALP	Williams, Ms Gabrielle	Dandenong	ALP
McCurdy, Mr Timothy Logan	Ovens Valley	Nats	Wynne, Mr Richard William	Richmond	ALP
McGuire, Mr Frank	Broadmeadows	ALP			

¹ Resigned 2 February 2015

² Elected 14 March 2015

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; Greens — The Greens;
Ind — Independent; LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals.

Legislative Assembly committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Allan, Ms D’Ambrosio, Mr Morris, Mr Mulder, Ms Neville, Ms Ryan, Mr Scott and Mr Wells.

Standing Orders Committee— The Speaker, Ms Allan, Ms Asher, Mr Brooks, Mr Clark, Mr Hibbins, Mr Hodgett, Ms Kairouz, Mr Nardella, Ms Ryan and Ms Sheed.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.
(*Council*): Ms Bath, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O’Brien, Mr Pakula, Ms Richardson and Mr Walsh. (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge.

Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mr Perera and Ms Ryall.
(*Council*): Mr Elasmr, Mr Melhem and Mr Purcell.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon, Mr Northe and Ms Spence.
(*Council*): Mr Dalidakis and Ms Patten.

Environment and Natural Resources Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Battin, Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson and Ms Ward. (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Mr Young.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards, Ms Kealy, Ms McLeish and Ms Sheed. (*Council*): Ms Lovell.

House Committee — (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson. (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Assembly*): Mrs Fyffe, Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson, and Mr Wells. (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes.

Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley. (*Council*): Mr Eideh and Ms Patten.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward. (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kealy, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto. (*Council*): Mr Dalla-Riva.

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ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Tuesday, 14 April 2015

Warrandyte electorate**Question 56**

Question asked by: Member for Warrandyte
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 24 February 2015

REPLY:

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

In August 2014, VicRoads met with Victoria Police and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to discuss short-term options to improve access during an emergency in Warrandyte. Long-term options such as strengthening of the Warrandyte Bridge to increase its traffic capacity and a temporary second Yarra River crossing were also discussed.

VicRoads has developed a proposal to carry out an investigation of bridge options, which include the construction of a second bridge or the widening of the existing bridge.

I am pleased to advise that short-term solutions such as Disaster Plan boxes and folding traffic management signs were installed in late 2014 in readiness for the 2014-15 bushfire season. Improved traffic management plans developed jointly between VicRoads, Victoria Police and the CFA have also been finalised.

The traffic management signs and Disaster Plan boxes (which contain equipment needed to assist with traffic management during emergencies), were implemented as a result of a multi-agency review of how the Warrandyte Bridge might cope during an emergency evacuation.

All agencies that have been involved focussed on the safe and prompt evacuation of residents during an emergency. These traffic management signs and Disaster Plan boxes will make traffic management over the bridge much easier for Victoria Police, and for residents, the directions for evacuation will be easier to follow.

Yan Yean electorate**Question 57**

Question asked by: Member for Yan Yean
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 24 February 2015

REPLY:

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

The Victorian Government has committed \$95 million to duplicate the 3.9 km section of Yan Yean Road between Diamond Creek Road and Kurrak Road in Plenty.

VicRoads has commenced the activities associated with formal declaration of Yan Yean Road as an arterial road between Kurrak Road and Bridge Inn Road.

A joint inspection of Yan Yean Road has been undertaken by VicRoads with both the Nillumbik Shire Council and the Whittlesea City Council to address issues that require rectification to ensure Yan Yean Road meets VicRoads' requirements for its declaration.

Rectification works have been identified and are scheduled for completion by the end of June 2015.

Upon completion of all steps associated with the declaration processes, VicRoads will publish the appropriate notice in the Victorian Government Gazette transferring the management responsibility for the road to VicRoads, later in 2015.

South-West Coast electorate

Question 58

Question asked by: Member for South-West Coast
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 24 February 2015

REPLY:

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

I am aware of community requests for the installation of electronic speed limit signs on Commercial Road, Koroit in front of the Koroit and District School Primary.

VicRoads has been installing electronic school speed signs on roads which have been assessed as having a higher risk, based on the prevailing speed limit and daily vehicle volumes.

Roads with speed limits greater than 60 km/h have been treated with electronic signs. Electronic signs have also been installed on 60 km/h roads where the vehicle volumes exceed 10,000 vehicles per day. Static school speed limit signs have been installed on other 60 km/h roads with lesser traffic and 50 km/h roads.

Commercial Road near the school has a speed limit of 50 km/h and traffic volumes of about 3,600 vehicles per day. VicRoads' current guidelines for school speed zones indicate that in this case, static 40 km/h speed limit signage is appropriate.

VicRoads will continue to monitor the existing signage to see if any improvements can be made to enhance road safety for all road users.

Ivanhoe electorate

Question 59

Question asked by: Member for Ivanhoe
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 24 February 2015

REPLY:

I would be delighted to visit the East Ivanhoe shopping village to talk about these issues with the local community.

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

VicRoads is working with the Banyule City Council to investigate options for the implementation of speed limit changes along Lower Heidelberg Road within the East Ivanhoe Shopping Village. The speed limit on McArthur Road is also being considered as part of this investigation.

VicRoads anticipates that the investigation will be completed by mid 2015.

South Barwon electorate

Question 60

Question asked by: Member for South Barwon
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 24 February 2015

REPLY:

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

VicRoads is in ongoing discussions with the Surf Coast Shire regarding this intersection and is investigating its suitability for funding under various road safety improvement programs.

Broadmeadows electorate**Question 61**

Question asked by: Member for Broadmeadows
Directed to: Treasurer
Asked on: 24 February 2015

REPLY:

In response to the Member for Broadmeadows' constituency question raised in the Legislative Assembly on 24 February 2015, I confirm that I would be delighted to attend and address an economic and cultural development summit in Broadmeadows.

As raised in my response to the Member for Broadmeadows' adjournment matter of 11 February 2015, under coalition governments Broadmeadows has been left with an unemployment rate of 26.4 per cent — higher than that of Spain and equal to that of Greece.

I congratulate the Member for Broadmeadows for his work in advocating for jobs in his community. The Labor Government is committed to fixing the jobs crisis through our Back to Work plan which includes:

- \$100 million (over 2 years) for Incentive payments targeting young, long term unemployed and retrenched workers;
- \$500 Million for the 'Premiers jobs and investment panel'; and
- \$200 Million for Future Industries: Medical, New Energy Tech, Food&Fibre, Transport, defence and construction technology, International Education and Professional Services.

I look forward to working with the Member for Broadmeadows and his community to find more opportunities.

Ringwood electorate**Question 62**

Question asked by: Member for Ringwood
Directed to: Premier
Asked on: 24 February 2015

REPLY:

I can advise that:

The Labor Government's priority is to get Victorians back to work. Between December 2010 to November 2014, unemployment rose from 4.9% to 6.8%.

That's why the first piece of legislation introduced into Parliament was the Back To Work Act. The Back to Work Act will establish a \$100million fund for payroll tax relief for companies who hire unemployed young people, the long-term unemployed and retrenched workers.

I can also advise the Member that the Victorian Government is getting on with vital infrastructure projects to assure workers, contractors and small and medium businesses.

The Victorian government will work with the private sector to deliver:

- removing the 50 worst level crossings—creating 4,500 jobs
- Melbourne Metro Rail—creating 3,500 jobs

To see the full jobs and infrastructure plan, I encourage the Member to direct people in Ringwood to premier.vic.gov.au

Kew electorate

Question 64

Question asked by: Member for Kew
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 24 February 2015

REPLY:

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

I am pleased to advise that VicRoads is undertaking planning and early design work for the Chandler Highway project.

Ferntree Gully electorate

Question 72

Question asked by: Member for Ferntree Gully
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 25 February 2015

REPLY:

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

On 5 November 2014 the Coalition made an election promise to provide 110 additional commuter parking spaces on the western side of Ferntree Gully station.

The Andrews Labor Government took a raft of public transport commitments to the election which it will be rolling out.

The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$20 million to unlocking land at or close to train stations to create additional public car parking; to provide thousands of new parking spaces at stations across Melbourne, with a focus on outer suburbs, utilising existing Government land identified as being both available and appropriate for car parking.

Public Transport Victoria is currently preparing advice on priority stations to include in this program. Ferntree Gully station will be considered as part of this metropolitan-wide review.

Thomastown electorate

Question 73

Question asked by: Member for Thomastown
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 25 February 2015

REPLY:

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

As part of our Project 10,000 plan, the Victorian Government committed to contribute \$40.7 million toward a new 'diamond' interchange connecting O'Herns Road to the Hume Freeway in Epping, the duplication of a 1.4km section of O'Herns Road east of the interchange and construction of auxiliary lanes along the Hume Freeway

between O'Herns Road and Cooper Street. The balance of funding will be sought from the Commonwealth Government.

On behalf of the Victorian Government, VicRoads is currently preparing a Business Case to enable the project to be considered in the 2016-2017 State Budget.

Macedon electorate

Question 75

Question asked by: Member for Macedon
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 25 February 2015

REPLY:

Thank you for your question regarding Daylesford Secondary College.

This government is committed to delivering on all its election commitments and understands how important this project, which was ignored by the previous Government, is to the local community.

I had the privilege of visiting Daylesford Secondary College a number of times last year when I was Shadow Minister for Education and Understand how strongly the school community feels about this project.

I would also like to thank the Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas for campaigning so tirelessly on this matter and seek to assure her and her constituents that the Stage 2 rebuild of Daylesford Secondary College is a high priority for this Government.

Benambra electorate

Question 76

Question asked by: Member for Benambra
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 25 February 2015

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

I am advised that the Department has worked with the school and the architects to achieve the objectives of the school and expectations of the community.

It is anticipated that the project will commence in September 2015 and will be completed well before the end of 2016.

It has been determined that the demolition of the main old block will be the first stage of the construction of the new facilities.

Bendigo West electorate

Question 77

Question asked by: Member for Bendigo West
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 25 February 2015

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The Government is rebuilding the TAFE sector with the \$320 million TAFE Rescue Fund.

I am pleased to report that we have already committed \$7.8 million in asset funding from the Government's TAFE Rescue Fund to Bendigo Kangan Institute to expand agricultural training at its Charleston Road campus. The institute is currently developing a business case for the project. There is an opportunity to align the project with the Government's Back to Work Plan.

The Government has also allocated an initial \$2 million from the Government's \$320 million TAFE Rescue Fund to support Bendigo Kangan Institute to retain and redeploy staff.

Bendigo TAFE and Kangan Institute amalgamated in 2014. Successful implementation of the amalgamation will be challenging, but with this initial support, students and staff at Bendigo Kangan Institute should start feeling more optimistic about the institute's future.

Eildon electorate

Question 78

Question asked by: Member for Eildon
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 25 February 2015

REPLY:

I thank the honourable member for responding to my statement on the impacts of cattle on Australia's high country. It is correct that Australia's first national park was established in 1879.

Nonetheless, it is a fact that scientific reports have been documenting the impacts of cattle on the high country for decades.

There are over one hundred research papers and reports published over the past fifty years about cattle grazing in high country environs. It is clear that cattle grazing causes significant negative impacts on the environment and that vegetation type, not cattle grazing, determines the severity and intensity of bushfires.

In Victoria alone, there are two recent peer reviewed reports by Williams et al (2006), and Williamson et al (2014) which demonstrate that cattle grazing does not reduce bushfire risk.

Caulfield electorate

Question 80

Question asked by: Member for Caulfield
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 25 February 2015

REPLY:

The Victorian Auditor General's office tabled a report into the Management and Oversight of the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve in Parliament on 17 September 2014, during the term of the former government.

It made a series of findings regarding the operation of the Caulfield racecourse, notably that trust hadn't effectively managed the operation of the racecourse reserve.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is working closely with the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust to improve its governance arrangements, including the development of an appropriate suite of documents that meet good governance practices for public sector entities.

Box Hill electorate

Question 83

Question asked by: Member for Box Hill
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 26 February 2015

REPLY:

Thank you for your question regarding Koonung Secondary College.

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Victorian Government and we are committed to spending \$530 million on school facilities during the period 2015–2018. This funding is the first step in addressing the chronic underfunding of school capital under the previous government.

You may be aware that Koonung Secondary College was allocated \$1.2 million for capital works in the 2014-15 State Budget. This project will enable the college to further improve and modernise its facilities.

The Department will work closely with the Koonung Secondary College to deliver its capital project, helping to ensure the best outcome for the college and local community.

Eltham electorate**Question 86**

Question asked by: Member for Eltham
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 26 February 2015

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The Government's \$320 million TAFE Rescue Fund is already flowing to TAFEs in need. Seven TAFE institutes have already received a share in the first \$20 million of the TAFE Rescue Fund.

The fast-tracked TAFE Rescue Fund grant will help TAFEs in financial turmoil to stay afloat, so they can retain staff and improve training, courses and job opportunities for students.

The Government has also committed \$10 million to re-open Melbourne Polytechnic's Greensborough campus. Discussions are underway with Melbourne Polytechnic.

Macedon electorate**Question 88**

Question asked by: Member for Macedon
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 26 February 2015

REPLY:

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

The Victorian Government is committed to reinvigorating the wind energy industry to promote renewable energy investment, support jobs and open the doors for community wind farms in the Macedon Ranges. I have asked the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning to provide advice on how to best facilitate community wind farms in the planning system, including consultation with key stakeholders. I will consider this matter in due course and advise Ms Thomas, Member for Macedon, of my decision and a timeline for the delivery of this commitment accordingly.

Shepparton electorate**Question 89**

Question asked by: Member for Shepparton
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 26 February 2015

REPLY:

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

In preparing the Network Development Plan for Regional Victoria, Public Transport Victoria (PTV) will be working closely with communities to understand issues and opportunities in their local areas.

Specifically for Shepparton, PTV expects to engage the community and key stakeholders, such as the City of Greater Shepparton through its Make Shepparton Greater campaign, later in 2015.

Carrum electorate**Question 90**

Question asked by: Member for Carrum
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 26 February 2015

REPLY:

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

At the last State Election, the Government made a commitment to the duplication of Thompsons Road between Frankston-Dandenong Road and Clyde Road. This commitment will upgrade the two remaining unduplicated sections of Thompsons Road between Frankston-Dandenong Road and Clyde Road.

I am pleased to advise that a commitment of \$500,000 in funding to fast track planning and preconstruction works for Thompsons Road has already been made and has allowed these works to commence.

A business case has been prepared for consideration by Government on the detailed scope, cost and staging options for the duplication.

Preconstruction activities including survey, site investigations, design development, utility service investigations and environment studies required for permit approvals, are now underway and are progressing well.

A communications strategy is currently under preparation to ensure that the community and various interested stakeholders are informed of progress in the ongoing planning and delivery of this important project.

Dandenong electorate**Question 92**

Question asked by: Member for Dandenong
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 26 February 2015

REPLY:

The Victorian Government has made a commitment to provide \$500,000 to establish an Indian Cultural Precinct.

The Victorian Government will undertake a thorough consultative process to determine the best location for the precinct. The location will be determined in consultation with an appointed panel, which will include representatives from the Indian community, as well as local government and relevant experts. A feasibility study will also inform the choice of location for the precinct.

The Victorian Government is committed to investing in multicultural infrastructure initiatives that will help promote and support an inclusive and harmonious society.

Warrandyte electorate**Question 93**

Question asked by: Member for Warrandyte
Directed to: Minister for Youth Affairs
Asked on: 17 March 2015

REPLY:

I am informed that:

As you would be aware, the Scouts and Guides Facilities Grants Program delivered through Scouts Victoria and Girl Guides Victoria is a program that began under the former Brumby Labor Government.

As the previous Minister for Youth Affairs, you should also be aware, local scout and girl guide groups applied for this funding through Scouts Victoria and Girl Guides Victoria and applications were assessed against a range of criteria including hall condition, local scout group involvement, consultation with other local bodies, community access to the facility, youth participation in the local area and ongoing viability of the facility.

As part of the funding allocation process, Scouts Victoria was required to nominate a list of priority scout projects for funding and the 1st Warrandyte /Park Orchards scout hall was not identified as a priority project during the entire term of your Government.

I recently met with Scouts Victoria to discuss how the Andrews Labor Government can work with them in light of our vision for young people in Victoria and the strategic direction and priorities of Scouts Victoria.

The previous Coalition Government only committed funding to Scouts Victoria and Girl Guides Victoria for four years to 30 June 2015. Funding for many programs that the previous government only funded on a short term basis, without consideration of future viability or sustainability, now have to be considered across government within the context of the overall 2015-16 State Budget.

Gippsland East electorate**Question 95**

Question asked by: Member for Gippsland East
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 17 March 2015

REPLY:

At the time of the question my office had already spoken to both John Mulligan, Chairman and Margaret Stevens, Secretary of the East Gippsland Wildfire Taskforce to arrange a meeting. That meeting has been arranged with the Parliamentary Secretary, my office and the East Gippsland Wildfire Taskforce for early April.

Box Hill electorate**Question 103**

Question asked by: Member for Box Hill
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 18 March 2015

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Victorian Government and we are committed to spending \$530 million on school facilities during the period 2015–2018. As announced in the lead up to the election, Box Hill High School will share in this funding.

The Victorian Government is prioritising its school infrastructure commitments for funding in the May State Budget. The majority of these will be funded in 2015-16, and the remaining projects will be resourced in subsequent years. The Government will use all available data, including condition assessments, when allocating funding in this and future State Budgets.

The Department of Education and Training is commencing planning for all schools announced as election commitments by the Government, including Box Hill High School. I am advised that members of the school's leadership team attended a training session on 16 March 2015 to assist them in preparing a five-year Asset Management Plan for works at the school. Commencing planning now will ensure the best outcome for the school community when funding is provided in a future State Budget.

I have asked the Department to continue to work closely with Box Hill High School on its plans for capital improvement.

Narre Warren South electorate

Question 108

Question asked by: Member for Narre Warren South

Directed to: Minister for Education

Asked on: 18 March 2015

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

When acquiring new school sites, the Department endeavours to purchase properties with at least three street frontages to provide parents with a broad range of parking opportunities.

Traffic management adjacent to school sites, parking restrictions and traffic flow are the responsibility of local government and/or VicRoads. In this case, involving local roads only, the responsibility resides with the City of Casey but representatives of the Department's South-Eastern Region Office would be pleased to participate in local government and community discussions about options to address traffic concerns at schools such as Berwick Fields Primary School.

In the context of finding solutions to safety issues around schools, the Victorian Government has committed to improving pedestrian safety by establishing a pilot high-level School Safety Panel. The Panel will be piloted in the Brunswick area, an outer-suburban area and a regional area. Schools in the pilot areas will be able to bring their traffic management problems to the attention of the Panel.

Eltham electorate

Question 110

Question asked by: Member for Eltham

Directed to: Minister for Education

Asked on: 18 March 2015

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government supports a whole-school approach to building resilience and promoting respectful relationships that includes a range of initiatives and strategies to prevent and respond to bullying, cyber-bullying, abuse and unacceptable behaviour.

All Victorian schools are required to develop and implement a bullying and cyber bullying prevention policy collaboratively with staff, students, parents or caregivers and the wider school community.

The prevention of bullying is a shared responsibility and school communities are assisted by a range of staff whose role it is to implement wellbeing strategies at the whole-school level. Staff such as Primary Welfare Officers, Student Wellbeing Coordinators, Chaplains, and Student Support Service Officers provide important support in the prevention of bullying.

To further support whole school communities to effectively prevent and respond to bullying, the Department developed the Bully Stoppers initiative in partnership with national and international experts. Bully Stoppers has been in place for the past three years and has resulted in:

- The development of a nationally recognised online toolkit
- 251 Victorian schools receiving grants to implement strategies or programs that prevent and respond to bullying, and
- a series of community awareness raising campaigns.

In addition, over 1680 Victorian schools received funding to participate in eSmart Schools, which is a cyber-safety framework developed by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation to guide schools through the process of developing and implementing policies and practices that support the safe and responsible use of information and communications technology.

The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence is an annual event held in March, celebrating the work of jurisdictions across Australia to combat bullying, cyber bullying and violence.

Nationally, schools from all states register to participate in the fifth National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, and this year over 306 Victorian schools registered to participate in the 2015 NDA.

In the lead up to the 2015 National Day of Action, the Department launched the Bully Stoppers-Being Cool Online campaign. Being Cool Online activities included Bully Stoppers online netiquette quizzes for primary and secondary students and a live blog on the Herald Sun website with adolescent psychologist Dr Andrew Fuller.

The campaign culminated on the National Day of Action with Andrew Fuller making a presentation to Year 7 students at Monbulk College, and the Australian Communications and Media Authority Cybersmart Team running a virtual presentation for 1200 primary school students from 56 Victorian schools.

I attended this event at Monbulk College, and valued the opportunity to speak to young people about bullying, cyber bullying as well as the safe, smart and responsible use of social media. It is vital that young people are empowered to work together to stop bullying when they see it, and equipped with skills and strategies to do this.

I enjoyed participating in the roundtable discussion, speaking with the participating students about the impact of bullying, and listening to practical solutions they suggest may effectively address bullying.

Brighton electorate

Question 111

Question asked by: Member for Brighton
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 18 March 2015

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Victorian Government and we are committed to spending \$530 million on school infrastructure during the period 2015-18. This investment will build on the existing school capital works program.

The Victorian Government is prioritising its school infrastructure commitments for funding in the May State Budget. The majority of these will be funded in 2015-16, and the remaining projects will be resourced in subsequent years.

The Department of Education and Training is commencing planning for all schools announced as election commitments, including Elwood College. I am advised that members of the school's leadership team attended a training session on 10 March 2015 to assist them in preparing a five-year Asset Management Plan for works at the school. Commencing planning now will ensure the best outcome for the college community when funding is provided in a future State Budget.

I have asked the Department to continue to work closely with Elwood College on its plans for capital improvement.

Yan Yean electorate

Question 112

Question asked by: Member for Yan Yean
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 18 March 2015

REPLY:

I am advised that:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of volunteer and career firefighters of the Plenty Country Fire Authority (CFA) Brigade and the Wattle Glen CFA Brigade, who selflessly devote their time and skills to promote the safety and wellbeing of the community.

The Government has committed to a range of initiatives to better support firefighters, including the recruitment of 350 CFA career firefighters; new CFA stations and upgrades; installation of toilet and washroom facilities at up to 100 rural CFA stations; delivery of 50 Medium Tankers; and expansion of the Emergency Medical Response Program.

The Government has also committed to implementing presumptive legislation for career and volunteer firefighters. The proposed new Victorian legislation will reflect the cancers covered and service thresholds in the current Tasmanian legislation. The Government is currently developing the legislation and will consult with relevant stakeholders before finalising it.

The Government has also committed and fully intends to honour its commitment of \$1.4 million to build a new fire station in Plenty and \$500,000 to upgrade of the fire station in Wattle Glen.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Euroa electorate

Question 119

Question asked by: Member for Euroa
Directed to: Minister for Ambulance Services
Asked on: 19 March 2015

REPLY:

I am informed that:

There are concerns in the Rushworth community about ambulance services in the local area. Your interest in this issue is welcome and I share your desire to have an ambulance system that responds appropriately to the needs of patients and the community.

Ambulance performance over the past four years has seen slower response times and poorer survival rates for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. I can assure you that it is a priority of this government to improve ambulance performance. When considering the allocation of new resources there are a number of factors taken into account including local demand, availability of resources in neighbouring areas and broader health system requirements. Ambulance Victoria continues to monitor response workloads to ensure its resources are most appropriately located to meet community demand.

In recent months I convened the Ambulance Performance and Policy Consultative Committee. This is a committee that brings together active paramedics together with representatives from Ambulance Victoria and other key organisations to review and consider ways to tackle long-standing problems in the ambulance service; and make recommendations to improve Ambulance Victoria's service performance and culture, including:

- improving ambulance response times
- reducing off-stretcher times at hospital emergency departments (known as 'ambulance ramping')
- a review of ambulance call-taking and despatch
- improve the management of workload and fatigue of paramedics
- resource allocation and responses to caseload growth
- alternatives to ambulance transport

An interim report of the Committee's deliberations was released in March 2015 and is publicly available. The final report is due by the end of the year.

There will be future opportunity for public input into the Committee's deliberations.

Ferntree Gully electorate

Question 125

Question asked by: Member for Ferntree Gully
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 19 March 2015

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

Knox Gardens Primary School received funding of \$336,000 for building improvements in the 2013-14 Budget and works on Buildings B, C and the Grade 6 Amenity have recently been carried out.

I am advised that while the works carried out did not include improvements to surrounding site infrastructure, such as drainage, the Department of Education and Training's Central Office and North-Eastern Regional Office are currently working with the school to obtain the necessary hydraulic engineers' reports, a recommended scope of works and indicative pricing for drainage improvements.

I am further advised that, as part of this process, various funding options will be examined, including whether the school may be eligible for funding assistance via the Department's Emergency Maintenance Program.

The Emergency Maintenance Program is a limited program targeted to address unforeseen maintenance matters which pose a risk to safety.

I have asked the Department to work closely with the school to ensure these issues are addressed as expeditiously as possible.

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Wednesday, 15 April 2015

Kororoit electorate**Question 63**

Question asked by: Member for Kororoit
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 24 February 2015

REPLY:

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

Work continues on the new Caroline Springs station. The tender process for the main station construction works opened in late 2014 and closed on 5 February 2015. A tender is expected to be awarded in May 2015 and construction on the station will commence in mid-2015. The station is expected to be completed in early 2016.

PTV will provide further information to the public, including the council and the local community, subject to tender evaluation and award timeframe. This will also include the official station name and the successful tenderer.

Nepean electorate**Question 97**

Question asked by: Member for Nepean
Directed to: Minister for Ambulance Services
Asked on: 17 March 2015

REPLY:

The Rosebud Ambulance Station commenced in March 2015, following finalisation and award of the construction tender.

Completion is scheduled for December 2015.

The Rosebud Ambulance Service is operating from Ambulance Victoria's MICA 12 Branch in Rosebud during the construction period.

Carrum electorate**Question 100**

Question asked by: Member for Carrum
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 17 March 2015

REPLY:

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

Pre-construction work has commenced for the \$8.2 million project to install traffic signals at the intersection of Frankston-Dandenong Road, Wedge Road and Boundary Road, in Carrum Downs.

The project is currently in the detailed design phase. Service relocation work will take place over the next six months.

Some land acquisition is required and this process has commenced.

VicRoads expects to publicly advertise the tender for construction work by the end of May 2015, with construction to commence in late September 2015 and be completed by the end of June 2016.

Yan Yean electorate

Question 102

Question asked by: Member for Yan Yean
Directed to: Minister for Ambulance Services
Asked on: 17 March 2015

REPLY:

The Wallan Ambulance Station project was funded in the 2010-11 State budget.

The project was delayed by the previous Government.

In August 2014, land was compulsorily acquired at a site on the main road leading in to Wallan and adjoining the new Wallan GP Superclinic.

Construction commenced in December 2014 and the project is progressing well to a scheduled completion in May 2015.

Macedon electorate

Question 104

Question asked by: Member for Macedon
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 18 March 2015

REPLY:

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

I am pleased to advise that I have asked Public Transport Victoria (PTV) to commence planning for the implementation of a community bus service in Woodend during this term of government.

PTV will consult with the community in the development of the Woodend Community Bus service.

Prahran electorate

Question 109

Question asked by: Member for Prahran
Directed to: Minister for Mental Health
Asked on: 18 March 2015

REPLY:

I am informed that:

Prahran Mission has significant experience in engaging and working with vulnerable and disadvantaged Victorians, many of whom have an identified mental illness and psychiatric disability and an experience of long-term or recurring homelessness.

The organisation works with clients to address the factors that drive the cycle of entrenched homelessness and disadvantage and provide permanent pathways out of homelessness.

Government funding for mental health service delivery is targeted to meet the needs of people with severe mental illness and the programs delivered through restoring this funding must deliver community support and recovery outcomes.

We will work with Prahran Mission to design programs to directly support recovery outcomes for local constituents with mental illness.

Niddrie electorate

Question 118

Question asked by: Member for Niddrie
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 19 March 2015

REPLY:

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

The Taxi and Hire Car Ministerial Forum was announced on Thursday 19 March 2015, with the first Forum to be held on 27 April. The Forum will be chaired by out-going Taxi Services Commission CEO, Marnie Williams.

Members include representatives from the taxi and hire car industries including the Victorian Taxi Association, Victorian Taxi Families, Victorian Hire Car Association and Uber Black. Key community stakeholders such as Victoria Police, the Victorian Council of Social Services and the Victorian Human Rights Commission have also been invited to participate.

The Forum, which will meet quarterly, will consider ways to reform the industry, reduce red tape, deliver a first-rate Multi-Purpose Taxi Program and wheelchair accessible taxis and other matters including the Knowledge Test and the emergence of ride-share activities.

Geelong electorate

Question 120

Question asked by: Member for Geelong
Directed to: Minister for Ambulance Services
Asked on: 19 March 2015

REPLY:

The Andrews Government values the important work that paramedics do. We've moved quickly to resolve the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement dispute, referred the issue of pay rates to Fair Work and released response time information. We've also established the Ambulance Performance and Policy Consultative Committee, so we can work directly with paramedics to improve ambulance services, as they know the system best.

As Chair of this Committee I am keen to ensure that the Committee's work is well informed by those on the front line. I was delighted to attend the consultation forum on the Ambulance Performance and Policy Consultative Committee's Interim Report in Geelong on Thursday 9 April 2015.

Yan Yean electorate

Question 122

Question asked by: Member for Yan Yean
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 19 March 2015

REPLY:

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

The Andrews Labor Government is aware of the demand for car parking at Wallan station and other stations across the network. Expanding car parking availability and capacity across the network is a priority.

The provision of additional car parking at Wallan station will be considered when determining future priorities for railway station upgrades and as additional funding becomes available.

Narre Warren South electorate**Question 124**

Question asked by: Member for Narre Warren South
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 19 March 2015

REPLY:

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

The Narre Warren Cranbourne Road duplication project is approximately six months ahead of schedule and is expected to finish in mid 2015.

I am also pleased to advise that \$1million from the project budget will be utilised upgrading capacity at the busy Pound Road/Greaves Road intersection on this project. This important additional work is expected to be complete by the end of 2015.

Oakleigh electorate**Question 126**

Question asked by: Member for Oakleigh
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 19 March 2015

REPLY:

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

The Victorian Government remains committed to the \$5 million plan to improve train, bus, car, taxi and bicycle connections to Monash University's Clayton campus through an upgrade to the Huntingdale station bus interchange.

Consistent with Huntingdale station's status as a critical gateway to Monash University, the Clayton Innovation Precinct and the Monash Employment Cluster, Public Transport Victoria will continue to work closely with Monash University, Monash City Council and other government agencies to ensure an integrated and considered design is delivered.