

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

9, 10 and 11 June 2015

(Extract from book 8)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Employment	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Industry, and Minister for Energy and Resources	The Hon. L. D’Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. J. F. Garrett, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills	The Hon. S. R. Herbert, MLC
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Police and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. A. Somyurek, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

**OFFICE-HOLDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

Speaker:

The Hon. TELMO LANGUILLER

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, Mr McGuire, Ms McLeish, Mr Pearson, Ms Ryall, Ms Thomas, Mr Thompson, Ms Thomson, Ms Ward and Mr Watt.

Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Premier:

The Hon. D. M. ANDREWS

Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Deputy Premier:

The Hon. J. A. MERLINO

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

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
Battin, 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
Carbines, Mr Anthony Richard	Ivanhoe	ALP	Pakula, Mr Martin Philip	Keysborough	ALP
Carroll, Mr Benjamin Alan	Niddrie	ALP	Pallas, Mr Timothy Hugh	Werribee	ALP
Clark, Mr Robert William	Box Hill	LP	Paynter, Mr Brian Francis	Bass	LP
Couzens, Ms Christine Anne	Geelong	ALP	Pearson, Mr Daniel James	Essendon	ALP
Crisp, Mr Peter Laurence	Mildura	Nats	Perera, Mr Jude	Cranbourne	ALP
D'Ambrosio, Ms Liliana	Mill Park	ALP	Pesutto, Mr John	Hawthorn	LP
Dimopoulos, Mr Stephen	Oakleigh	ALP	Richardson, Mr Timothy Noel	Mordialloc	ALP
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
Foley, Mr Martin Peter	Albert Park	ALP	Scott, Mr Robin David	Preston	ALP
Fyffe, Mrs Christine Anne	Evelyn	LP	Sheed, Ms Suzanna	Shepparton	Ind
Garrett, Ms Jane Furneaux	Brunswick	ALP	Smith, Mr Ryan	Warrandyte	LP
Gidley, Mr Michael Xavier Charles	Mount Waverley	LP	Smith, Mr Timothy Colin	Kew	LP
Graley, Ms Judith Ann	Narre Warren South	ALP	Southwick, Mr David James	Caulfield	LP
Green, Ms Danielle Louise	Yan Yean	ALP	Spence, Ms Rosalind Louise	Yuroke	ALP
Guy, Mr Matthew Jason	Bulleen	LP	Staikos, Mr Nicholas	Bentleigh	ALP
Halfpenny, Ms Bronwyn	Thomastown	ALP	Staley, Ms Louise Eileen	Ripon	LP
Hennessy, Ms Jill	Altona	ALP	Suleyman, Ms Natalie	St Albans	ALP
Hibbins, Mr Samuel Peter	Prahran	Greens	Thomas, Ms Mary-Anne	Macedon	ALP
Hodgett, Mr David John	Croydon	LP	Thompson, Mr Murray Hamilton Ross	Sandringham	LP
Howard, Mr Geoffrey Kemp	Buninyong	ALP	Thomson, Ms Marsha Rose	Footscray	ALP
Hutchins, Ms Natalie Maree Sykes	Sydenham	ALP	Tilley, Mr William John	Benambra	LP
Kairouz, Ms Marlene	Kororoit	ALP	Victoria, Ms Heidi	Bayswater	LP
Katos, Mr Andrew	South Barwon	LP	Wakeling, Mr Nicholas	Ferntree Gully	LP
Kealy, Ms Emma Jayne	Lowan	Nats	Walsh, Mr Peter Lindsay	Murray Plains	Nats
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, Ms Sandell, 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, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Perera and Ms Ryall.
(*Council*): Mr Elasmarr, 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, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson, Mr Tilley 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*): Mr Finn.

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*): 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.

CONTENTS

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

TUESDAY, 9 JUNE 2015

153.	<i>St Albans electorate</i>	2001
169.	<i>Croydon electorate</i>	2001
171.	<i>Kew electorate</i>	2002
174.	<i>Narre Warren South electorate</i>	2002
180.	<i>Yan Yean electorate</i>	2002
182.	<i>Carrum electorate</i>	2003
183.	<i>Caulfield electorate</i>	2004
184.	<i>Dandenong electorate</i>	2005
187.	<i>Lowan electorate</i>	2005
194.	<i>Mildura electorate</i>	2006
195.	<i>Mordialloc electorate</i>	2006
198.	<i>Rowville electorate</i>	2006
199.	<i>Bentleigh electorate</i>	2007
200.	<i>Ringwood electorate</i>	2007

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2015

247.	<i>Yan Yean electorate</i>	2009
263.	<i>Essendon electorate</i>	2009

THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2015

178.	<i>Bendigo West electorate</i>	2011
274.	<i>Gembrook electorate</i>	2011

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

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

Tuesday, 9 June 2015

St Albans electorate**Question 153**

Question asked by: Member for St Albans
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 15 April 2015

REPLY:

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

Under the former government, Public Transport Victoria restructured the Brimbank area bus network in July 2014. In the St Albans area, bus Route 418 was realigned along Arthur Street in St Albans. I am informed that peak period patronage continues to grow on this route.

The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$100 million in the 15-16 State Budget toward creating stronger bus networks. This commitment will improve and expand services and introduce new routes across Victoria, working with local communities to identify how bus services can be improved to meet demand. Routes including the 418 bus service will be considered as part of our commitment to improve Victoria's bus network.

Croydon electorate**Question 169**

Question asked by: Member for Croydon
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 5 May 2015

REPLY:

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

As the Shadow Minister for Public Transport, the Hon David Hodgett, should be well aware that it is not appropriate for the Minister for Public Transport to intervene in matters relating to individual infringement notices.

Matters pertaining to specific infringement notices need to be considered in accordance with the current regulations to ensure matters are treated equally. Constituents who feel that they should have their infringement notice reviewed should therefore follow the review process outlined on the infringement notice. All appeals are carefully reviewed on their individual merits and in the context of the entire compliance program.

The infringement notice process was established as an alternative to attending court. The oversight of an independent judicial body is an important part of the process to ensure fair and reasonable outcomes in accord with legislation.

Kew electorate**Question 171**

Question asked by: Member for Kew
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 5 May 2015

REPLY:

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

VicRoads is currently in the early stages of preconstruction for this project. This includes investigations around land acquisition and planning for community consultation, which will be undertaken in consultation with the Yarra City Council and the developers of the former Amcor site to ensure that the Chandler Highway project meets current and future transport needs.

Traffic management is a major activity that is planned, monitored and reviewed throughout the project to ensure the safety of road workers and the general public.

Preliminary consideration of traffic management plans for the Chandler Highway duplication project involves managing the existing traffic to allow the existing bridge and road alignment to remain in service until the new bridge is constructed. Traffic will be transferred to the new road alignment and then reconstruction of the existing pavement will commence.

Detailed traffic management plans will be considered for the different types of construction activities once detailed design and construction methodologies are established.

The duplication of the Chandler Highway has a project duration of four years.

Narre Warren South electorate**Question 174**

Question asked by: Member for Narre Warren South
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 5 May 2015

REPLY:

I commend Strathaird Primary School for being a SunSmart member, and their commitment to educating students on the importance of sun protection.

The Victorian Government has committed \$15.2 million in skin cancer prevention initiatives in partnership with the SunSmart Program, including SunSmart public education campaigns, and grants for shade in public places such as playgrounds, beaches and parks.

I can confirm that schools will be able to apply for a grant through this program. Implementation planning of these grants is currently underway, once this process is finalised, further information will be provided to eligible recipients regarding how these grants can be accessed.

Yan Yean electorate**Question 180**

Question asked by: Member for Yan Yean
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 6 May 2015

REPLY:

Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities in Victoria is a key aim of the Victorian Government. A range of commitments were made during the election campaign directed at achieving this objective.

I will be in a position to announce how local government authorities and community organisations can apply for funding in mid-2015. I would note however, that historically, sport facility projects are required to demonstrate a direct link to providing increased participation outcomes, supporting our objective of improving the health and wellbeing of Victorians.

Given local government authorities will be instrumental in developing and supporting projects for consideration under these initiatives, I encourage the Wallan Football and Netball Club to liaise directly with the Recreation Services Co-ordinator at Mitchell Shire Council to develop a project that may be considered for funding in the future.

Carrum electorate

Question 182

Question asked by: Member for Carrum
Directed to: Minister for Industry
Asked on: 6 May 2015

REPLY:

The Victorian Government recognises the challenges faced by automotive supply chain companies as a result of the wind down in manufacturing operations by the three major automotive manufacturers in Victoria. These challenges will be most acute in certain parts of the State—like Geelong, Melbourne's north, and Melbourne's south east.

The Victorian Government has a comprehensive plan to create jobs and boost investment, including in Melbourne's south-east. Our Back To Work Plan includes a number of initiatives. These include:

- The \$100 million Back To Work Scheme that will get unemployed young people, long term unemployed and retrenched workers back into the workforce. Importantly, this will include retrenched automotive workers.
- The \$508 million Premier's Jobs and Investment panel that will bring together expertise across business, the community and industry to ensure that the Government is working with all key stakeholders on our economic growth agenda.

In addition, the \$200 million Future Industries Fund will support the development of six sectors with high growth potential. These six sectors are:

- Medical technology and pharmaceuticals;
- New energy technology;
- Food and fibre;
- Transport, defence and construction technology;
- International education; and
- Professional services.

The automotive supply sector is well-placed to diversify into some of these sectors and the Future Industries Fund will be a key enabler to do so.

The Victorian Government has made two submissions to the Commonwealth Government's Senate Economics References Committee Inquiry Into the Future of Australia's Automotive Industry to ensure that the Commonwealth Government understands the impact of their decisions on Victorian communities.

Commonwealth Government support for the automotive sector is predominantly administered through the automotive Transformation Scheme. The Commonwealth Government was intent on delivering radical cuts to the scheme, which the Victorian Government strongly opposed.

The Commonwealth Government half-heartedly walked away from those cuts but the savings are still there for all to see in the 2015-16 Federal Budget. Of the \$900 million that was initially proposed to be cut, \$795 million will be achieved by stealth.

The Victorian Government opposes this approach and has proposed a range of practical solutions to improve Commonwealth Government policies and programs relating to automotive businesses and workers.

The Victorian Government has been actively assisting automotive supply chain businesses, including those from Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs through business matching activities during Automotive Week 2015, which was part of the Victorian Invitation Program inbound mission in March this year. These business matching events connected automotive supply chain companies, of which around 30 were from Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs, with global as well as domestic non-automotive opportunities. Some of these non-automotive opportunities included the six growth sectors mentioned previously.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources has also engaged individually with south-east Melbourne automotive businesses to provide assistance through the Workforce Development Centres which offer career and re-skilling advice to affected workers.

I chaired an automotive Industry Roundtable meeting in Dandenong on 1 May 2015 that focussed on automotive supply chain businesses. It was pleasing that the Member for Carrum was able to attend that meeting and provide valuable input. Similar roundtable meetings were also held in Broadmeadows and Geelong on 15 May. These meetings were an opportunity to hear directly from stakeholders and discuss areas where Victorian Government policies could potentially be strengthened in the future.

As you can see, The Victorian Government has not been standing still. In fact, we have actively engaged with industry and will continue to do so to ensure that the effect of the wind down of passenger car manufacturing is minimised and that Victorian businesses capitalise on growth opportunities.

Thank you for raising this important matter with me.

Caulfield electorate

Question 183

Question asked by: Member for Caulfield
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 6 May 2015

REPLY:

I am advised that the Glen Eira City Council is aware of the concerns you have raised and is working with you, and with affected residents, to address them.

These are not public health matter but rather neighbourhood amenity issue that concern the permitting of small, shared accommodation businesses catering to low income people to operate in established residential areas.

Certain classes of shared accommodation, including backpackers' hostels and rooming houses, are regulated under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 for the purpose of protecting public health. Hostel and rooming house operators must register their premises with the local council and must comply with prescribed health and hygiene standards which are monitored and enforced by council Environmental Health Officers.

There are also a range of rooming house standards in residential tenancies legislation, enforced by Consumer Affairs Victoria, that protect resident safety and amenity.

The location of small rooming houses and hostels in residential areas also requires approval by councils under the applicable Building Code and Planning Scheme.

It would not be appropriate for public health or tenancy laws to be used to control the profile of housing types allowed in local communities. This is properly a matter for the local planning authority and the local community.

Dandenong electorate**Question 184**

Question asked by: Member for Dandenong
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 6 May 2015

REPLY:

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

The *Victorian Rolling Stock Strategy — Trains, Trams and Jobs 2015-2025* sets out the government's ten-year plan for 100 new metropolitan trains, 100 new metropolitan trams and a massive expansion of our regional train fleet.

In the 2015-16 budget the following funds were committed to extend the current orders with train and tram manufacturers in Victoria:

- \$90 million for five six-car X'Trapolis trains to be built by Alstom in Ballarat
- \$257 million for 21 V/Locity carriages to be built by Bombardier in Dandenong (and supporting infrastructure)
- \$295 million for 20 E-Class trams to be built by Bombardier in Dandenong (and supporting infrastructure).

Victorian's rolling stock supply chain employs approximately 10,000 people. Extending these existing contracts will provide certainty for rolling stock manufacturers in Victoria and allow for projected patronage growth while the pipeline of future purchases is established and procured. In addition to the manufacturing benefits, rolling stock maintenance will also support ongoing employment across Victoria.

Any new rolling stock will contain at least 50 per cent local content, ensuring jobs are created and maintained in Victoria. A clear plan for future rolling stock orders will provide a basis for Victorian companies to plan with confidence, to invest, and to employ.

Lowan electorate**Question 187**

Question asked by: Member for Lowan
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 6 May 2015

REPLY:

I am aware that Commonwealth Government has pledged \$1 million toward the fundraising effort by Wimmera Health Care Group for the refurbishment of oncology facilities in Horsham.

I have requested that officers from the Department of Health and Human Services engage with Wimmera Health Care Group to discuss service planning work. Service planning work is required to map the needs and what possible oncology service design might look like. This process ensures consistency with regional cancer service planning and emerging models of care.

I have requested that the Department continues to work with Wimmera Health Care Group on this project and keep me informed of developments. I will also be meeting with the Chief Executive Officer in the near future.

Mildura electorate**Question 194**

Question asked by: Member for Mildura
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 7 May 2015

REPLY:

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

The Safe Driving Program was established in 2013, with an Expression of Interest process for program providers advertised widely. Potential providers were asked to identify their ability to offer this group program throughout Victoria. Two of the selected organisations indicated they could offer the program in Mildura. However, as only nine people from Mildura received Safe Driving Program court orders in 2014, it has been difficult to attract sufficient numbers to run the program there.

VicRoads will continue to consult with providers to encourage greater statewide coverage.

Mordialloc electorate**Question 195**

Question asked by: Member for Mordialloc
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 7 May 2015

REPLY:

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

The Victorian Government is committed to improving amenities at railway stations across Victoria.

As you are aware, the Government has committed to providing accessible toilets at Seaford and Hallam stations. These are both unstaffed stations. Public Transport Victoria (PTV) is currently investigating a range of issues and possible options to ensure that commuters can safely and securely use accessible toilets at these unstaffed stations.

The Government recognises that providing toilet amenities for commuters at Chelsea station will improve their public transport experience. PTV will investigate the feasibility of toilet facilities at Chelsea station.

Rowville electorate**Question 198**

Question asked by: Member for Rowville
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 7 May 2015

REPLY:

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

The Victorian Government's Cranbourne Pakenham Rail Upgrade project, a billion-dollar upgrade to the Cranbourne-Pakenham line, will transform the road and rail networks in Melbourne's south-east.

The project will remove nine level crossings and rebuild four stations within the next three years. The works, combined with the 37 new high capacity trains and significant signalling and power upgrades, will boost capacity by up to 42 per cent on the corridor every day—accommodating an extra 11,000 passengers in the morning peak—and boost capacity across the network by freeing up existing trains.

The previous market-led proposal for the Cranbourne-Pakenham line initially proposed a limited trial of high capacity signalling on a section of one of Melbourne's busiest train lines. A week before the 2014 State election

campaign the former government secretly shelved high capacity signalling and removed it from this proposal. The Victorian Government reviewed this proposal and was not willing to accept the risk of trialling new critical safety systems and infrastructure on one of the busiest transport corridors, which not only services the metro system, but also V/Line and freight.

The advice to government from PTV is that a trial of high capacity signalling technology is better suited to a rail line with a single train type with the same stopping pattern. This is best practice, and this method has been successfully demonstrated on major metro train systems across the world. With this in mind, we will now trial high capacity signalling properly on the Sandringham line, a less congested line with lower patronage. We want to ensure the infrastructure and technology is right for Melbourne's rail network before considering how it can be used on the wider network.

The Government recently allocated an unprecedented \$2.4 billion of the State Budget to kick-start the removal of the first 20 of 50 level crossings to be removed. On top of the nine level crossings on the Dandenong line, the four level crossings already out to market at Main Road in St Albans, North Road in Ormond, Burke Road in Glen Iris, and Blackburn Road in Blackburn will be removed within the next three years.

The Melbourne Metro Rail Project is also key to the future expansion of Victoria's rail network, enabling our transport system to grow as our community does. Melbourne Metro unlocks the centre of the train system, enabling major improvements in capacity, reliability and frequency of services across our busiest train lines. Delivering these important projects will remove the constraints on our public transport network.

Bentleigh electorate

Question 199

Question asked by: Member for Bentleigh
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 7 May 2015

REPLY:

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

The 40km/h zone is currently being delivered and is expected to be completed in June 2015.

VicRoads expects that the pedestrian-operated signals will be installed and operational in January 2016, prior to school starting for the year.

Ringwood electorate

Question 200

Question asked by: Member for Ringwood
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 7 May 2015

REPLY:

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

Bedford Road in Ringwood is a local road managed by the Maroondah City Council. As this falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Natalie Hutchins MP, you may wish to raise this question with her in Parliament.

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

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

Wednesday, 10 June 2015

Yan Yean electorate**Question 247**

Question asked by: Member for Yan Yean
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 26 May 2015

REPLY:

I am advised that each year, with assistance from Schools and Bus Operators, the Department of Education and Training reviews school bus services in preparation for the coming school year. The Department considers the number of students accessing each service, the route design on which students travel and where possible, aims to accommodate all eligible students on its services with minimal disruption to travel times and prior year travel arrangements.

I am informed that for the 2015 school year, less than 8 per cent of the 8500 students accessing the Students with Disabilities Transport Program travel greater than 90 minutes on the morning services; that number is less than 7 per cent for afternoon services.

The services operating longer than 90 minutes often incorporate a mix of long travel distance, multiple pick up locations and services that operate within Metropolitan areas in peak travel periods.

The Department of Education and Training is actively reviewing services in conjunction with Specialist Schools and service providers to identify opportunities to reduce costs and travel times to less than the 90 minute period.

The Department continues to trial alternative travel options for students and schools; these include the Travel Education Program for students that may be able to travel independently, and a number of self-managed buses for schools to coordinate and assist with local transport provision.

Essendon electorate**Question 263**

Question asked by: Member for Essendon
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 27 May 2015

REPLY:

As you are aware, the payment of EMA was ceased by the previous Government from 1 January 2015.

The Andrews Labor Government recognises that changes to the EMA have adversely impacted low-income families who struggle to meet the costs of educational items, and is delivering on its commitment to help families manage the costs of educating a child through:

- establishing a Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund to make sure that every school and every child can participate,
- creating a partnership with State Schools Relief, which will provide school uniforms and shoes to struggling families, and free eye tests and glasses for students at 250 disadvantaged schools, and
- investing in 500 breakfast clubs at disadvantaged schools.

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

2010

ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 10 June 2015

Funding of \$148.3 million over four years has been provided in the 2015/16 state budget to implement the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. Financial assistance of \$125 per year will be paid for eligible primary school students and \$225 per year for eligible secondary school students. Payments will be made directly to the student's school with funding tied to the individual student.

Applications for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund have now opened. I encourage all eligible families to apply. Further information and the application form are available at:
www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx.

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

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

Thursday, 11 June 2015

Bendigo West electorate**Question 178**

Question asked by: Member for Bendigo West
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 5 May 2015

REPLY:

I am advised that the architect submitted a design proposal in May, which was prepared in collaboration with the school's principal, members of staff and members of the school council.

I am further advised that a meeting was held on 26 May to review and endorse the proposal. Representatives from the Department and the school, including the principal and the school council, were present at this meeting. I understand that the proposal was approved and the school and the Department have agreed to fast track the next steps in the design process.

Following the conclusion of this process, the college's stage 2 project will then move into the standard design and tender documentation process required under the Department's Capital Works Program. I am advised that the project should proceed to tender at the end of 2015, with construction expected to commence in early 2016.

Gembrook electorate**Question 274**

Question asked by: Member for Gembrook
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 28 May 2015

REPLY:

I am advised that:

The Victorian Government greatly values and the work of the Clematis Country Fire Authority (CFA) Fire Brigade and its selfless contributions to the safety and wellbeing of the community.

As communicated to the brigade previously, acquiring land for a new Clematis fire station is one of CFA's priorities in its three year capital works program. The size of the current site is not adequate for the type of fire station that is required. CFA has advised that the Cardinia Council has indicated willingness to consider providing some additional land for lease from the adjacent hall reserve to enable the redevelopment of the Clematis fire station. CFA is currently reviewing development options for the station to determine the additional site area that will be required for this purpose and will liaise with the Cardinia Council to progress the lease of additional land.

As part of emergency management reform, Emergency Management Victoria is developing a shared asset strategy that will establish a sector-wide framework for improved asset utilisation, interoperability and value for money. The strategy will consider current and future equipment and facility needs of emergency service organisations and identify shared procurement and co-location opportunities. The strategy will inform future investment decision making over the period 2015-2025.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.