

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

23 October to 12 November 2015

(Extract from book 16)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

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
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Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Employment	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
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
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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
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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 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 — 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 ²	Polwarth	LP
Battin, Mr Bradley William	Gembrook	LP	Naphthine, Dr Denis Vincent ³	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
Britnell, Ms Roma ¹	South-West Coast	LP	Noonan, Mr Wade Matthew	Williamstown	ALP
Brooks, Mr Colin William	Bundoora	ALP	Northe, Mr Russell John	Morwell	Nats
Bull, Mr Joshua Michael	Sunbury	ALP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁴	Gippsland South	Nats
Bull, Mr Timothy Owen	Gippsland East	Nats	O'Brien, Mr Michael Anthony	Malvern	LP
Burgess, Mr Neale Ronald	Hastings	LP	Pakula, Mr Martin Philip	Keysborough	ALP
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Carroll, Mr Benjamin Alan	Niddrie	ALP	Paynter, Mr Brian Francis	Bass	LP
Clark, Mr Robert William	Box Hill	LP	Pearson, Mr Daniel James	Essendon	ALP
Couzens, Ms Christine Anne	Geelong	ALP	Perera, Mr Jude	Cranbourne	ALP
Crisp, Mr Peter Laurence	Mildura	Nats	Pesutto, Mr John	Hawthorn	LP
D'Ambrosio, Ms Liliana	Mill Park	ALP	Richardson, Mr Timothy Noel	Mordialloc	ALP
Dimopoulos, Mr Stephen	Oakleigh	ALP	Richardson, Ms Fiona Catherine Alison	Northcote	ALP
Dixon, Mr Martin Francis	Nepean	LP	Riordan, Mr Richard ⁵	Polwarth	LP
Donnellan, Mr Luke Anthony	Narre Warren North	ALP	Ryall, Ms Deanne Sharon	Ringwood	LP
Edbrooke, Mr Paul Andrew	Frankston	ALP	Ryan, Mr Peter Julian ⁶	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

¹Elected 31 October 2015

²Resigned 3 September 2015

³Resigned 3 September 2015

⁴Elected 14 March 2015

⁵Elected 31 October 2015

⁶Resigned 2 February 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, 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 Nardella and Ms Ryall.
(*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmar and Mr Melhem.

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

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

23 OCTOBER TO 12 NOVEMBER 2015

249.	<i>Pascoe Vale electorate</i>	4425
396.	<i>Mildura electorate</i>	4425
442.	<i>Eildon electorate</i>	4426
482.	<i>Rowville electorate</i>	4426
532.	<i>Melbourne electorate</i>	4427
535.	<i>Brunswick electorate</i>	4427
767.	<i>Bendigo West electorate</i>	4428
772.	<i>Rowville electorate</i>	4428
775.	<i>Carrum electorate</i>	4429
926.	<i>Yuroke electorate</i>	4429
929.	<i>Bass electorate</i>	4430
1083.	<i>Niddrie electorate</i>	4430
1284.	<i>Eildon electorate</i>	4431
1285.	<i>Narre Warren South electorate</i>	4432
1291.	<i>Niddrie electorate</i>	4432
1292.	<i>Evelyn electorate</i>	4432
1293.	<i>Pascoe Vale electorate</i>	4433
2116.	<i>Sunbury electorate</i>	4433
2117.	<i>Gippsland East electorate</i>	4434
2119.	<i>Ferntree Gully electorate</i>	4435
2120.	<i>Essendon electorate</i>	4435
2122.	<i>Oakleigh electorate</i>	4436
2124.	<i>Frankston electorate</i>	4436
2846.	<i>Macedon electorate</i>	4437
2847.	<i>Euroa electorate</i>	4437
2854.	<i>Broadmeadows electorate</i>	4437

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

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

23 October to 12 November 2015**Pascoe Vale electorate****Question 249**

Question asked by: Member for Pascoe Vale
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 26 May 2015

REPLY:

Melbourne Metro will increase capacity and reliability of train lines servicing Melbourne's growing north, west and south eastern suburbs, delivering more frequent train services to help meet the demands of our growing city.

Upon completion of Melbourne Metro, commuters on the Upfield line will enjoy more frequent and reliable services.

Melbourne Metro removes two of our busiest rail lines — Cranbourne/Pakenham and Sunbury— from the City Loop, allowing space for more Upfield line services.

Melbourne Metro will connect Upfield commuters to some of the State's key medical, education and commercial precincts via rail for the first time.

Commuters on the Upfield line will access the new Melbourne Metro services via one seamless interchange at either Flinders Street or Melbourne Central stations.

Mildura electorate**Question 396**

Question asked by: Member for Mildura
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 6 August 2015

REPLY:

There are five former school sites located in Mildura Rural City Council municipality, one at Ouyen, three in Merbein, and one at Nichols Point. The sites have all been declared surplus to educational requirements. Buildings on these sites have been subjected to vandalism and have the potential to attract other forms of anti-social behaviour so were prioritised for demolition.

I can reassure you that we are aware of community concerns with respect to local heritage at Nichols Point and I can advise that, following the community consultations, it was decided that structures with historical value at the sites will be saved when demolition works begin.

Eildon electorate**Question 442**

Question asked by: Member for Eildon
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 20 August 2015

REPLY:

I became aware of the Blackmores' matter after Murrindindi Shire Council (council) decided to refuse the permit on 24 June 2015. Mr and Mrs Blackmore subsequently wrote seeking my intervention on 5 August 2015. However, at that time there was no call in power available to me as council had made a decision on the permit and no application for a review of that decision had been lodged with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). I intervened to call in the review proceeding from VCAT within a week of Blackmore Holdings lodging the review request.

In the interest of providing a timely outcome for the review of council's decision and specific assessment of the planning permit application, on 23 September 2015 I appointed the Blackmore Holdings Wagyu Beef Farm Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee comprises Brett Davis (Chair), former President of the Planning Institute of Australia (Vic Division) and Katherine Navarro, an experienced Government Lawyer. The Blackmore Holdings Wagyu Beef Farm Advisory Committee will enable a prompt recommendation to be made to the Governor in Council for a decision on the Blackmores' proposal.

The last amendments to the Farming Zone in Victoria were undertaken by the former government. Those changes broadened the range of uses for which land in the Farming Zone may be used, including for uses that are not necessarily compatible with agriculture. This opens the way for greater conflict between agriculture and other uses.

This government is committed to growing Victoria's food and fibre industries through encouraging and protecting farming. The government recognises that an increasing number of farmers are seeking to expand their productivity by the adoption of changed farming practices. Competing land use pressures and rural residential uses can raise issues for farmers.

Jointly with my colleague the Hon Jaala Pulford MP, Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development, the Animal Industries Advisory Committee is being established to examine how the planning system can better support Victorian farmers and agriculture in the context of changing farming practices, aimed at boosting production. It is important that any recommended changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions are properly considered and thoroughly assessed to ensure we have the right laws in place to support this vital industry.

Rowville electorate**Question 482**

Question asked by: Member for Rowville
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 1 September 2015

REPLY:

VicRoads manages the arterial road network in accordance with its Road Management Plan. Regular inspections are undertaken to identify any potential hazards to road users, and appropriate maintenance is carried out to ensure that the road network is kept in a safe condition, including this section of Wellington Road in Rowville.

In addition to the regular inspections, VicRoads undertakes an annual inspection of its road network to develop its periodic road-surfacing program. This program is prioritised based on the level of urgency and availability of maintenance funding. Currently, VicRoads is conducting inspections for the 2016-17 periodic maintenance program and this section of Wellington Road will again be assessed for funding consideration.

Melbourne electorate

Question 532

Question asked by: Member for Melbourne
Directed to: Premier
Asked on: 3 September 2015

REPLY:

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring our state maintains its leadership for excellence in health and medical research, not only in Australia but internationally.

The Victorian Government is investing significantly to grow our state's pre-eminence as a hub for world-class medical research. The 2015-16 Victorian Budget included funding for several initiatives to support health and medical research:

- the \$200 million Future Industries Fund, which is investing in emerging high-growth sectors including medical technology and pharmaceuticals;
- \$25 million to establish a state wide genomic sequencing program to improve the diagnosis and treatment of children with rare genetic diseases;
- \$15 million to plan and commence early works for the Victorian Heart Hospital, Australia's first specialist cardiac hospital which will bring together patient care with research and training; and
- \$2 million to plan and develop a National Centre for Proton Beam Therapy.

The Minister for Health recently announced more than \$26 million this financial year from the Operational Infrastructure Support Program (OISP) to support ten of Victoria's independent medical research institutes with indirect costs of research.

The Government is also developing a Victorian health and medical research strategy, which will set out our objectives in the sector, encourage innovation, and prepare Victoria to take advantage of future opportunities. In August 2015, the Minister for Health released a discussion paper to inform development of the strategy, which highlighted funding models and sources as one of its key themes.

Brunswick electorate

Question 535

Question asked by: Member for Brunswick
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 3 September 2015

REPLY:

Speed limits are determined to provide an appropriate balance between safety and mobility, with consideration given to factors such as the number of access points and the nature of the road environment and abutting development.

Some locations experience high levels of pedestrian activity at regular and specific times of the day. Consequently, VicRoads' Speed Zoning Guidelines include a number of different low speed zones that can be implemented at locations where significant pedestrian activity occurs. These low speed areas include school speed zones, remote school crossings, 40km/h pedestrian activity precincts; 40km/h local area speed zones, and 50km/h town centre speed zones. I note that within the vicinity of the Brunswick East Primary School, a 40km/h school speed limit applies.

VicRoads will review the speed limit of Nicholson Street and Albion Street near the Brunswick East Primary School and the bend near Jones Park. VicRoads will work in conjunction with the Moreland City Council, Victoria

Police and the local community to investigate concerns regarding road safety at the intersection of Nicholson Street and Albion Street. VicRoads expects to complete its investigation by the end of 2015.

Bendigo West electorate

Question 767

Question asked by: Member for Bendigo West
Directed to: Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
Asked on: 15 September 2015

REPLY:

I would like to thank the Member for raising with me the important work undertaken by Women's Health Loddon Mallee to address gender inequality throughout this region. I would also like to thank the Member of her unwavering dedication to eradicate family violence across her electorate.

The remarkable work of Women's Health Loddon Mallee is based on an understanding of the intrinsic link between family violence and gender inequality. In conjunction with other agencies, Women's Health Loddon Mallee's 'Take A Stand' project is focused on engaging the entire community to act to address this harm. Through partnering with local workplaces the project aims to create a culture of non-violence through encouraging respectful attitudes towards women. The project provides workplaces with the tools necessary to transform workplace culture, and to provide training for employees to reduce their acceptance of violence-supportive attitudes.

In addition, Women's Health Loddon Mallee have also developed resources that will be valuable to any organisation or group wanting to discuss gender equity in a non-threatening manner. The latest resource are their Gender Equity Cards, designed to spark conversation about concepts of gender equity. Another resource for organisations are the Gender Equity Standards, which contains practices and policies that could be used to achieve more equitable workplaces.

Family violence is the number one law and order issue that we face. There is no community immune to this harm and we must ensure that everyone contributes to its eradication. I look forward to speaking at the Women's Health Loddon Mallee Gender Equity Forum and meeting members from the local community.

Rowville electorate

Question 772

Question asked by: Member for Rowville
Directed to: Minister for Industry
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 15 September 2015

REPLY FROM MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY:

The matter should be referred to the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade.

REPLY FROM MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND TRADE:

The introduction of the new public holiday provided additional coordinated leisure time for people to spend with family and friends, and resulted in increased social and community benefits for Victorians.

Furthermore, there were no trading restrictions imposed on Grand Final Friday, so business opening hours were a matter for individual owners and operators.

Carrum electorate**Question 775**

Question asked by: Member for Carrum
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 15 September 2015

REPLY:

VicRoads advises me that it is continuing work on the reconstruction of the intersection of Frankston-Dandenong Road with Wedge Road and Boundary Road in Carrum Downs. The project includes the installation of traffic signals and associated roadworks.

VicRoads has acquired the land required for the project, and a significant amount of work has been underway over winter to prepare for the commencement of road construction. This includes the relocation of overhead electrical cables, lighting, telecommunications infrastructure and the protection of underground gas mains. This preparatory work has almost been completed.

I am pleased to advise that on 30 September 2015, VicRoads awarded a contract for the construction of the intersection. This construction work is expected to commence by the end of October 2015, and be completed by mid 2016.

The local community and Frankston City Council have been engaged throughout the development and pre-construction stages of the project. This engagement process will continue during the construction period.

VicRoads has conducted a community information session and installed project information signs to keep the local community informed. VicRoads will also post information about the project on its website, and will write to adjacent land owners to advise of the commencement of construction works at the intersection.

Yuroke electorate**Question 926**

Question asked by: Member for Yuroke
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 16 September 2015

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving amenities at stations across Victoria.

The demand for car parking at stations, particularly in growth areas, is very high.

The Government has committed \$20 million to upgrading station car parking in the metropolitan region, particularly in outer suburban areas.

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) has been exploring a number of options for providing additional parking at Craigieburn station and has consulted with a number of stakeholders to determine the most beneficial and cost effective way to address the commuter car parking shortage. The consultation has also included discussions with adjacent land owners on using the land for potential additional car parking.

Bass electorate

Question 929

Question asked by: Member for Bass
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 16 September 2015

REPLY:

As part of the Regional Network Development Plan, recent consultation has suggested that passengers are seeking an improved waiting environment for coach connections in South Gippsland.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving public transport in regional Victoria. The Regional Network Development Plan will set out public transport priorities for the short, medium and long term.

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) will review sites, including Wonthaggi, to identify infrastructure elements that will contribute to an improved customer experience.

This will consider improving the existing coach interchange at Wonthaggi (Biggs Drive), to provide appropriate shelter, seating and lighting and upgrading associated infrastructure to enhance safety, accessibility and amenity for the community. I have asked PTV to liaise with the local council to develop concept designs.

It is anticipated that PTV will finalise its recommendations in the coming months.

Niddrie electorate

Question 1083

Question asked by: Member for Niddrie
Directed to: Attorney-General
Asked on: 17 September 2015

REPLY:

I thank the Member for Niddrie for his question and assistance in promoting the new Powers of Attorney Act 2014, which commenced on 1 September 2015. The Act:

- clarifies and consolidates enduring Powers of Attorney (POAs) (financial) under the Instruments Act 1958 (IA) and enduring powers of guardianship under the Guardianship and Administration Act 1986 (GAA) into a new enduring Power of Attorney (POA) for financial and/or personal matters
- makes only minor amendments to general POAs previously made under the IA and changes their name to general non-enduring POAs
- does not amend enduring POAs (medical treatment) which will continue to be regulated under the Medical Treatment Act 1988
- creates the new role of supportive attorney to enable a person to appoint another person to help them make and give effect to their own decisions
- defines decision-making capacity and provides better guidance on assessing a person's decision-making capacity
- provides better protections against abuse of POAs including:
 - more stringent witnessing requirements
 - specifying the duties of enduring and supportive attorneys
 - new protective powers for the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) including ordering compensation, if an enduring or supportive attorney contravenes the Act
 - new indictable offences for dishonestly obtaining or using an enduring POA or supportive attorney appointment.

The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) provides support services, including a range of information and advice on POAs. The OPA resources available to assist Niddrie constituents to become familiar with the new laws include:

- the updated Take Control Kit, a guide for making POAs
- a new Side by Side guide to appointing supportive attorneys
- fact sheets on the new Act
- targeted activities for professional groups (e.g. legal, health and financial) and the community (e.g. seniors, culturally and linguistically diverse and Koori communities, people with disabilities) including presentations and dissemination of information on the new Act.

Information is available on OPA's website at www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au or by telephoning its free advice service on 1300 309 337.

The implementation of the new Act offers the community an opportunity to:

- increase awareness, use and understanding of enduring POAs. Anecdotal evidence suggests that as little as 10 percent of the population has a POA
- make POAs user friendly, by way of interactive online forms for POA appointments. The new consolidated enduring POA will enable a person to use the same form to appoint an attorney to make financial and/or personal decisions on their behalf. These forms are available from the OPA website
- appoint supportive attorneys for the first time in Australia. This innovation enables a person with decision making capacity to appoint another person to support them (for example by obtaining information) to make or give effect to some or all of their own decisions
- better protect against abuse of POAs, which is often perpetrated by close family members but is rarely detected or reported. These protections include more stringent formal requirements, as well as stronger remedies, including compensation and criminal offences.

Eildon electorate

Question 1284

Question asked by: Member for Eildon
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 6 October 2015

REPLY:

I understand the business you refer to is the Watsons Creek Antique Store on Eltham-Yarra Glen Road in Watsons Creek which is able to operate despite being a prohibited use within the Nillumbik Planning Scheme. This operation was provided individual consent via a site specific planning scheme amendment in 1991 by the former Shire of Eltham. The amendment allowed the owners to apply to Council for planning approval to operate a café within certain parameters, including restrictions on patron numbers and hours of operation.

Council recently received an application to amend the planning approval to increase the operating hours. Eight written objections were received from neighbouring residents.

Council officers advised the applicant that the potential noise impacts were of concern and did not meet the amenity considerations of the Nillumbik Planning Scheme and therefore the application was likely to be recommended for refusal.

Prior to the application being reported to Council's Planning Committee the applicant withdrew the planning application. As such, there is no current planning application with Council for consideration.

Narre Warren South electorate**Question 1285**

Question asked by: Member for Narre Warren South
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 6 October 2015

REPLY:

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 Hallam Station, which is an unstaffed station. Public Transport Victoria is leading this work so passengers can safely and securely use accessible toilets.

Further announcements on the opening date of the public toilets will be made soon.

Niddrie electorate**Question 1291**

Question asked by: Member for Niddrie
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 6 October 2015

REPLY:

In Victoria responsibility for the Disabled Persons Parking Scheme Code sits with the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. VicRoads has carriage of the Code, with Victoria's 79 local councils individually administering the scheme on their behalf.

However I am advised work is progressing on the administrative arrangements to facilitate the introduction of the national scheme. Given its complexity in Victoria, the changes required to introduce the national scheme are being carefully considered to ensure that the full benefits of the scheme are realised.

Any consideration of the need for a review should be directed to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety.

I do however note the prospects of the State Disability Plan providing a further opportunity to consider a range of systemic issues, including issues related to transport, that impinge on the rights of people with disability.

Individual concerns regarding non-compliance or eligibility of permit-holders, should be brought to the attention of the local council in which the parking space is located.

Evelyn electorate**Question 1292**

Question asked by: Member for Evelyn
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 6 October 2015

REPLY:

Returning TAFE and higher education to this fantastic campus was a key election commitment of the Andrews Labor Government and although the commitment falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Training and Skills, I have been working closely with Minister Herbert to make this happen.

Having attended the event you know that Premier Daniel Andrews, Minister Herbert and I, together with Swinburne's Vice Chancellor Professor Linda Kristjanson, had the privilege of announcing Box Hill Institute as the preferred bidder of the Request for Proposal Process. Box Hill Institute presented an innovative and exciting vision for the future of the Lilydale campus, planning a community educational precinct which will provide access to

on-site educational and training opportunities and community services across all ages for the region well into the future.

Box Hill already has a well-respected presence in the region and will be able to hit the ground running, progressively mobilising on-campus educational service delivery, together with its partners Deakin University and William Angliss, from first semester 2016.

This was a promise made and a promise kept - TAFE & higher education returns to Lilydale.

Pascoe Vale electorate

Question 1293

Question asked by: Member for Pascoe Vale
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 6 October 2015

REPLY:

I thank the member for the question. Encouraging sustainable use of resources such as water and energy is a key commitment of the Victorian Government. Sustainability Victoria works with businesses, local government, households and schools to help them use resources more efficiently to help minimise negative impacts on the environment.

Sustainability Victoria continues to deliver the ResourceSmart Schools program, and actively encourages schools to get involved in sustainable gardens by establishing vegetable and kitchen gardens, as well as planting native species to boost the biodiversity values of their school grounds and the local community.

Starting in 2008, Sustainability Victoria funded 11 Eco Living Centres across Victoria, giving community members a place to learn about sustainable living in their local area. Sustainability Victoria has also funded community garden projects, such as the one run by Gippsland Employment Skills Training, which received a grant of \$11 305 in 2015 for its Recycle, Regrow and Reconnect Project.

Sustainability Victoria offers advice to households on how to make their homes and appliances more energy efficient-to help Victorians save energy, reduce bills and make their homes more comfortable. There are videos and how-to guides on the Sustainability Victoria website on topics including energy efficiency at home, purchasing energy efficient appliances and draft proofing your home. Advice and tools are also available for people renovating their homes, to help them improve the energy efficiency and sustainability of their homes.

Sunbury electorate

Question 2116

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

REPLY:

As we discussed at my site visit in June 2015, I am aware of the community's concerns regarding this intersection. Since February 2015, VicRoads has collected necessary data, which includes observing morning and afternoon peak traffic queue lengths and recording traffic volumes. VicRoads has also met with the Hume City Council to discuss possible improvements to the intersection. VicRoads is continuing to work closely with the council to finalise design options for a future funding submission.

Gippsland East electorate**Question 2117**

Question asked by: Member for Gippsland East
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 7 October 2015

REPLY:

As part of the Target One million plan to grow recreational fishing in Victoria, the government has committed to a number of initiatives, including the banning of netting at the mouth of rivers in the Gippsland Lakes.

This election commitment is aimed at improving the protection of key recreational fish species whilst they are migrating from the Gippsland Lakes rivers system into the lakes.

Work has commenced on implementing this important election commitment.

Preliminary discussions have occurred between the Target One Million coordinator Mr Craig Ingram and representatives of both the commercial and recreational fishing sectors regarding the implementation of this commitment.

Further detailed and formal consultation on the process and potential options for improving the protection around Gippsland Lakes river mouths will occur in 2016.

In the interim, the government is working through the delivery of its Target One Million election commitments and has already delivered, or is in the process of implementing, a number of important projects, including:

- Established a Lake Toolondo Reservoir advisory group
- Opened recreational trout cod fisheries in Beechworth
- Growing the Victorian Trout Opening Festival
- Removed horsepower and boat length restrictions at Blue Rock Lake
- Halting commercial netting in Port Phillip and Corio Bays

Establishing a Better Fishing Facilities program to provide new fishing and boating facilities

- Delivering fish stocking and education programs
- Increasing fish stocks from 3 million to 5 million a year
- Implementing a marine species stocking program
- Providing \$2000 ‘Stronger Fishing Clubs’ grants to all fishing clubs
- Stocking barramundi into Hazelwood Pondage
- Establishing Fisheries Victoria as a statutory fisheries management authority
- Introducing a minimum size for trout.

Ferntree Gully electorate**Question 2119**

Question asked by: Member for Ferntree Gully
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 7 October 2015

REPLY:

In September 2012, Knox City Council (council) commenced preparation of a housing strategy in response to population growth across Melbourne and, in part, to the introduction of the reformed residential zones. Council also developed associated residential design guidelines, and a local structure plan for the Rowville Activity Centre.

Amendment C131 to the Knox Planning Scheme proposes to implement the Knox Housing Strategy 2015, the Knox Residential Design Guidelines and the Rowville Plan 2015 by introducing new residential zone schedules, new and revised overlays, and by making a number of associated supporting changes to the local planning policy.

Amendment C131 was placed on public exhibition in February and March 2014, and 400 submissions were received. The amendment was subject to an extensive consultation process which gave the community and stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback and raise planning concerns. An independent Panel considered submissions and the merits of the amendment. The Panel report recommended that the amendment be adopted subject to 25 changes.

Council adopted the amendment on 27 January 2015, with changes. In particular, council did not support a number of the Panel's recommendations relating to ResCode variations and mandatory building heights. Council submitted the amendment for approval with changes on 23 February 2015.

I understand that the department and council have actively worked together to advance the amendment since submitting it. I will take all relevant matters into consideration when I make a final decision on the matter.

Essendon electorate**Question 2120**

Question asked by: Member for Essendon
Directed to: Premier
Asked on: 7 October 2015

REPLY:

Thank you for your question on behalf of Debney Meadows Primary School.

I was happy to accept your invitation to visit Debney Meadows on Tuesday 13 October. Debney Meadows is a school that students, teachers and parents can all be proud of.

As you know, we committed \$148.3 million to fund school camps, sport trips and excursions. Too many children learn about disadvantage the hard way, when they don't get to go on school camp with their mates or have to stay back at school during excursions.

It was rewarding to hear from students at Debney Meadows who told me that they enjoyed their school camp, as this camp was made possible by the Victorian Government.

It's even more pleasing that over 222 000 students across Victoria will also benefit from this program.

Oakleigh electorate

Question 2122

Question asked by: Member for Oakleigh
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 7 October 2015

REPLY:

Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities in Victoria is a key aim of the Victorian Government. Following the 2015-16 State Budget, the government has confirmed a \$100 million Community Sports Infrastructure Fund that will facilitate the upgrading of a range of community sports and recreation facilities throughout Victoria over the next four years.

The government would consider supporting scoreboards as a minor component of a much larger facility project. As a standalone facility development, scoreboards compete with a range of developments that have direct impacts on participation such as sports lights, hard courts and change rooms. The government is happy to consider how scoreboard development may be incorporated into future facility funding opportunities.

Given local government authorities are instrumental in developing and supporting projects for consideration and this initiative, I encourage your constituents to liaise directly with their relevant local council to develop a project that may be eligible for future funding.

Frankston electorate

Question 2124

Question asked by: Member for Frankston
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 7 October 2015

REPLY:

I would like to thank the Honourable Member for Frankston for his question and for raising this very important issue.

Many of us have been moved by the circumstances of Victorian families like those you mention, who for too long have been forced to make the impossible choice between saving their child's life and obeying the law. This isn't fair and it isn't right.

That is why the Andrews Labor Government committed to legalising medicinal cannabis for people in exceptional circumstances prior to the election and why we're getting on with it.

We will establish an Office of Medicinal Cannabis to oversee manufacturing, dispensing and clinical aspects of the Victorian medicinal cannabis framework. The Office of Medicinal Cannabis will also help develop new research and develop clinical guidance in consultation with the medical profession.

We will conduct a cultivation trial. This is the first step in establishing a safe, secure and reliable supply of medicinal cannabis in Victoria.

We are also working hard to establish clinical trials in Victoria and working with NSW to enable Victorians access to their medicinal cannabis clinical trials.

Under the plan we have outlined, children with severe and uncontrolled epilepsy will be the first to access safe, secure and high quality medicinal cannabis in early 2017.

As promised, we will introduce enabling legislation into the Parliament by the end of the year to establish the legal framework.

A range of fact sheets and further information about accessing medicinal cannabis products can be found on the Department of Health and Human Services website.

Macedon electorate

Question 2846

Question asked by: Member for Macedon
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 8 October 2015

REPLY:

The Romsey intersection study is an election commitment that is being put forward for funding in 2016-17, under the Road and Rail Minor Works fund submission.

The funding of \$200 000 will allow for a traffic study, including community consultation, to determine the most appropriate intersection treatment for Barry Street/Melbourne Lancefield Road, Romsey. A project scope will be developed utilising the \$200 000 allocation.

I commend you for your hard work locally to ensure that this study is delivered.

Euroa electorate

Question 2847

Question asked by: Member for Euroa
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 8 October 2015

REPLY:

On 8 October the government announced an independent investigation into the planned burn escape at Lancefield.

The investigation is being led by the Director of Western Australia's Office of Bushfire Risk Management, Murray Carter, and will examine all aspects of the planned burn, including its timing, communication with the community and the factors involved in it getting out of control.

All findings from the investigation will be made public.

Decisions about resourcing at planned burns are made locally by DELWP fire management.

Broadmeadows electorate

Question 2854

Question asked by: Member for Broadmeadows
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 8 October 2015

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government recently announced an additional \$747 million in extra funds over four years to deliver great schools for every community and great teachers in every classroom as part of our plan to make Victoria the Education State.

\$493 million of that funding will be targeted to students most in need of help, to break the cycle of disadvantage and give our kids the best opportunities to succeed. We are also providing \$72.3 million in funding to secondary schools to help students who have fallen behind catch up.

These reforms represent the biggest ever increase in equity funding in Victoria. The new model for distributing funding towards students most in need of help will help schools to break the cycle of disadvantage and give our

kids the best opportunity to succeed. The new formula for distributing funding for social disadvantage is fairer and better reflects the latest global evidence of educational need, including in Victoria's government schools.

I appreciate your concern for schools in Fawkner, and I am pleased to inform you that Fawkner Primary School, Moomba Park Primary School and John Fawkner Secondary College share in more than \$1.4 million in equity funding in 2016.

The new funding model introduces a combined measure of disadvantage, which as you note, uses both parental occupation and education. Consistent with evidence from around Australia and the world, this model was developed based on an analysis of Victorian data which shows the combined measure has a stronger correlation with student outcomes than parental occupation alone. It is important to note that this analysis applies to the qualifications that parents have reported, even if they are not recognised in Australia. This aligns with research we reviewed which shows that parental education levels are a very good proxy for the conduciveness of their home learning environment.

The Government will continue to explore ways to improve our school system by building on the new equity funding reforms, including being informed by outcomes from the Bracks Government School Funding Review, due to report to me by the end of the year.