

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

26 February to 10 March 2016

(Extract from book 3)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

HANSARD¹⁵⁰



1866–2016

Following a select committee investigation, Victorian Hansard was conceived when the following amended motion was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 23 June 1865:

That in the opinion of this house, provision should be made to secure a more accurate report of the debates in Parliament, in the form of *Hansard*.

The sessional volume for the first sitting period of the Fifth Parliament, from 12 February to 10 April 1866, contains the following preface dated 11 April:

As a preface to the first volume of “Parliamentary Debates” (new series), it is not inappropriate to state that prior to the Fifth Parliament of Victoria the newspapers of the day virtually supplied the only records of the debates of the Legislature.

With the commencement of the Fifth Parliament, however, an independent report was furnished by a special staff of reporters, and issued in weekly parts.

This volume contains the complete reports of the proceedings of both Houses during the past session.

In 2016 the Hansard Unit of the Department of Parliamentary Services continues the work begun 150 years ago of providing an accurate and complete report of the proceedings of both houses of the Victorian Parliament.

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
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
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
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 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
Carbines, Mr Anthony Richard	Ivanhoe	ALP	Pallas, Mr Timothy Hugh	Werribee	ALP
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 Elasmr 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 Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto. (*Council*): Ms Bath and 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.

26 February to 10 March 2016**Gembrook electorate****Question 6425**

Question asked by: Member for Gembrook
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 11 November 2015

REPLY:

One of the key challenges for governments is to make decisions that balance competing needs. Beaconsfield Primary School students have identified the challenge of land needed for both farming and housing developments.

On one side of the scale, agriculture is a very important part of the Victorian economy as it employs many people and ensures we have enough fruit, vegetables, grains and meat to eat. On the other side of the scale, there is also a need to build new homes for our growing population. To help achieve balance in this situation, consecutive state governments use an 'Urban Growth Boundary' that maps certain areas that can be used for houses.

Although many families are building homes in the area immediately around Beaconsfield Primary School, there are many areas where houses are restricted. The land just outside the Urban Growth Boundary is a 'Green Wedge Zone' and you are not allowed to build new housing estates in these areas. Green Wedge Zones recognise, protect and conserve land for its agricultural, environmental, historic, landscape, recreational and tourism opportunities, and mineral and stone resources.

You may wish to look at a map of Melbourne's Green Wedge Zones and see where Beaconsfield Primary School is in relation to the Urban Growth Boundary. You can look up your address at [http://services.l
and.vic.gov.au/maps/pmo.jsp](http://services.land.vic.gov.au/maps/pmo.jsp)

Evelyn electorate**Question 6730**

Question asked by: Member for Evelyn
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 9 February 2016

REPLY:

Under the terms and conditions of the Living Victoria Water Rebate Program rainwater tank rebates were available for tanks purchased and installed prior to 30 June 2015.

Ms Catania had purchased a rainwater tank within the eligible period but had not installed the tank before the 30 June 2015 cut-off date. Therefore she was not eligible for the rebate under the terms and conditions of the program. Unfortunately Ms Catania will not receive a rebate under this program.

Macedon electorate**Question 6733**

Question asked by: Member for Macedon
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 9 February 2016

REPLY:

The Victorian Government is committed to reducing the burden of skin cancer, and as such has committed \$15 million for skin cancer prevention initiatives and programs in the 2015-16 Victorian State Budget.

The new Community Shade Grants Program provides grants for shade development in community based settings, such as parks, sports clubs and playgrounds. The first application round of grants has seen tremendous interest, with many applications being received.

On Monday 15 February, I was pleased to announce that 323 shade grants were awarded to a range of community based organisations to fund much needed shade provision, including Macedon Ranges Health.

All applicants will receive written notification of their grant application outcome in the coming week.

Burwood electorate**Question 6734**

Question asked by: Member for Burwood
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 9 February 2016

REPLY:

The need for a pedestrian bridge across Gardiners creek is important both to students and the community, as the current crossing is unsafe and isn't accessible.

The concept of creating a bridge has been discussed for many years, however no progress has been made, leaving a dangerous situation with poor lighting, steep stairs and poor visibility.

Public consultation and design exhibition is currently being undertaken by Deakin University, details of which can be found on Deakin's website-www.deakin.edu.au/burwood-link.

Caulfield electorate**Question 6738**

Question asked by: Member for Caulfield
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 10 February 2016

REPLY:

The VicRoads report the Member for Caulfield refers to was provided to the previous Coalition Government by VicRoads in 2014, but they decided to not release it to the public.

During the 2014 election campaign, despite having access to the information relating to Glenhuntly road in the VicRoads report, the Liberal party and the Member for Caulfield decided to not make a commitment to remove the crossing.

Unlike the Liberal party and the Member for Caulfield, in the lead up to the last election the Labor party did not have access to the VicRoads report.

The Andrews Labor Government has committed to remove 50 level crossings and is getting on with it. One of the first crossings being removed is in the Member for Caulfield's electorate at North Road in Ormond.

Further details on all of the 50 level crossings being removed by the Andrews Government are available at www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au.

Gippsland East electorate

Question 6740

Question asked by: Member for Gippsland East
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 10 February 2016

REPLY:

The Mitchell River Silt Jetties is an internationally significant example of a digitate (finger-like) river delta that will almost certainly be lost to erosion and fragment into a series of islands without a longer term plan and some intervention.

Parks Victoria undertook a careful planning process leading to the proposal. In addition to seeking expert advice, a stakeholder group was established to clarify community priorities and to consider the expert advice and its implications for the future management of the jetties.

Two-thirds, or four of the six kilometres, of the jetty will remain accessible to vehicles, including to all the private properties and to the riverbank that is most popular with fishers.

This more highly-used section will be enhanced with improved fishing sites including car parking and fishing platforms designed for access by those with limited mobility. The government is seeking to encourage more Victorians to engage in fishing and the improved facilities will support this.

It should be noted that a number of interest groups support the proposed change. For example, consultation with local tourism bodies suggested that many visitors would appreciate the introduction of the pedestrian walking and cycling opportunities.

I have asked Parks Victoria to continue discussing the proposals with both VRFish and the local fishing community. As pedestrian and cycle access will remain, it may be possible to allow emergency vehicle access in the future and I will ask that this be considered when implementing the plan.

I would like to emphasise that, in seeking to ensure the protection of the silt jetties for future generations to enjoy, access for fishers and others will not be closed. Access to the whole length will remain, with one third accessible by walkers and cyclists and two thirds by car with access to improved facilities.

Essendon electorate

Question 6741

Question asked by: Member for Essendon
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 10 February 2016

REPLY:

The Victorian Government is committed to reducing the burden of skin cancer, and as such has committed \$15 million for skin cancer prevention initiatives and programs in the 2015-16 Victorian State Budget.

The new Community Shade Grants Program provides grants for shade development in community based settings, such as parks, sports clubs and playgrounds. The first application round of grants has seen tremendous interest, with many applications being received.

On Monday 15 February, I was pleased to announce that 323 shade grants were awarded to a range of community based organisations to fund much needed shade provision, including Essendon District Aquatic.

All applicants will receive written notification of their grant application outcome in the coming week.

Eildon electorate**Question 6742**

Question asked by: Member for Eildon
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 10 February 2016

REPLY:

The Victorian Government recognises that any relaxation of constraints along the Goulburn River will pose third party flooding-related risks, which can impact public and private land, infrastructure, stock and people. That's why under state arrangements for environmental watering, the Government will not intentionally flood private land without prior agreement of landholders, or compulsorily acquire land or easements. The Murray-Darling Basin Plan also requires that all constraints proposals demonstrate that third party impacts have been identified and can be adequately managed.

In terms of next steps for the Goulburn proposal, there are seven physical constraints sites in the southern Murray-Darling Basin where investigations are taking place. At the request of Basin water ministers, any decision about whether, or how to proceed with further investigations in the Goulburn will need to be undertaken in the context of what is being proposed at those other sites. Under the currently agreed timelines, governments have until 31 March 2016 to submit their constraints proposals for assessment.

As part of this assessment, governments agree to continue investigations in the Goulburn, we will continue to develop detailed design of the proposal, and to engage with every affected landholder along the river.

Bundoora electorate**Question 6747**

Question asked by: Member for Bundoora
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 10 February 2016

REPLY:

As part of the Victorian Government's Special Needs Plan commitment, the \$10 million Inclusive Schools Fund is designed to assist schools to implement innovative projects which promote inclusive learning environments and support the social and educational needs of children with disabilities.

Applications for the Fund closed on Monday 30 November. We had an overwhelming response, with 287 applications seeking funding of over \$30 million.

All applications have been assessed against the Fund criteria, with successful projects announced on 22 February, 2016. Kingsbury Primary School's application to the fund demonstrated innovation in its proposal for a sanctuary garden to increase inclusion at the school. For this reason, the school will be allocated \$65 000 for this project.

We look forward to working with Kingsbury Primary and other successful schools to deliver innovative projects which make their school environments more inclusive.

The Department of Education and Training will be in contact with all successful schools by the middle of March to begin planning delivery of these projects.

Warrandyte electorate

Question 6752

Question asked by: Member for Warrandyte
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 11 February 2016

REPLY:

Local councils coordinate assistance for Victorians affected by a single house fire. Assistance may include personal support, material aid from charitable sources, connection to services, and emergency relief assistance through the Personal Hardship Assistance Program.

Councils are provided with emergency contact numbers for the Department of Health and Human Services so they can advise the department of a house fire and if emergency relief assistance may be required. The Department of Health and Human Services then arranges to meet with the affected person to conduct an assessment of their eligibility and administer the Personal Hardship Assistance Program.

I am informed by the Department of Health and Human Services that Mr Corstorphan has met with staff from the department and had his eligibility for emergency relief assistance assessed.

Sunbury electorate

Question 6753

Question asked by: Member for Sunbury
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 11 February 2016

REPLY:

Over 100 000 Victorians registered to participate in Premier's Active April in 2015.

Regular physical activity, along with healthy eating, helps people improve and maintain their health and wellbeing. Premier's Active April provides a series of incentives, opportunities and support to participants to help them build positive habits that increase the level of activity in their daily life.

Participants in Premier's Active April also receive a series of free incentives and discounts from participating YMCA's and local government facilities, Sportsmart, Tennis Victoria and Seal Life Melbourne Aquarium. In addition, participants are supported with a package of information on healthy eating and a range of participation ideas and opportunities from organisations including Nutrition Australia, state sporting bodies and local government leisure facilities.

Murray Plains electorate

Question 6754

Question asked by: Member for Murray Plains
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 11 February 2016

REPLY:

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Victorian Government, and the Government used its first State Budget to allocate \$730 million to build, upgrade and maintain school facilities across the state.

The infrastructure requirements of all schools are taken into account during the budget process when determining future priorities for the Department of Education and Training's capital works program. Our challenge, of course, is to responsibly balance and prioritise the needs of over 1500 government schools in Victoria, all in varying condition.

In preparing for the next State Budget, I can assure you that the capital needs of Echuca's school communities will be carefully assessed when detailing the scope of works that can be resourced in 2016-17.

Nepean electorate

Question 6756

Question asked by: Member for Nepean
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 11 February 2016

REPLY:

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning has advised me that, following Advisian's Portsea Wave Investigation Study, the procurement process for the assessment of coastal and maritime management options for Portsea is being finalised, upon which the Department will appoint a consultant to undertake the assessment. The assessment will take six months to complete. The community will be involved during the process in the form of two community consultation sessions and through a stakeholder reference group.

Niddrie electorate

Question 6759

Question asked by: Member for Niddrie
Directed to: Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence
Asked on: 11 February 2016

REPLY:

Across all stages of life women face significant barriers to employment opportunities, pay equity and living free from discrimination. We also know that gender inequality is the key driver of family violence.

That's why in December 2015, the Andrews Labor Government launched a consultation paper for Victoria's first Gender Equality Strategy. The strategy will guide actions and priorities to enhance women's equality and establish a community that does not tolerate negative attitudes and behaviours towards women.

Individuals and organisations can share their ideas on how gender equality can be achieved in Victoria by making a submission to the Victorian Gender Equality Strategy Consultation Paper by 18 March 2016. Submissions can be made via email to genderequality@dpc.vic.gov.au or by writing to the Women and Royal Commission Branch, Department of Premier and Cabinet, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne Vic 3002.

Improving outcomes for women across all areas of the community is not just a win for equality, it's a win for productivity. Your constituents may also wish to join the conversation about the development of the Gender Equality Strategy on Twitter by following #VICforWomen.

Bass electorate

Question 6760

Question asked by: Member for Bass
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 11 February 2016

REPLY:

In 2013 Cardinia Shire Council received \$250 000 under the Public Safety Infrastructure Fund to revitalise Bourke Park in Pakenham. The funding was to upgrade lighting and landscaping and install a new playground, along with extra rest areas, to make the park a more welcoming and family friendly space. Council did not apply for funding for CCTV as part of its 2013 grant application.

Council did not apply for CCTV or any other additional community safety initiatives at Bourke Park under the most recent round of the competitive Public Safety Infrastructure Fund grant program.

Narre Warren South electorate**Question 6761**

Question asked by: Member for Narre Warren South
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 11 February 2016

REPLY:

The Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2009 allows for shorter vehicle registration periods of less than 12 months for eligible pensioners, Health Care cardholders and for some vehicles operated by, or on behalf of, incapacitated persons. Current legislation does not provide for discretion to offer short-term periods more generally.

VicRoads is currently reviewing the system of registration options, including the ability to pay registration in six-monthly instalments. The community will be advised if there are any changes as a result of the review.