

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

11 March to 24 March 2016

(Extract from book 4)

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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 (Acting Minister for Police and Acting Minister for Corrections from 9 February)	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	Naphine, 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 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 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.

11 March to 24 March 2016**Ringwood electorate****Question 6745**

Question asked by: Member for Ringwood
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 10 February 2016

REPLY:

The land did not go to public tender as, on the recommendation of the Victorian Government Land Monitor, the Minister for Planning granted approval on 19 July 2015 for an exemption from the public sales process requirement pursuant to Paragraph 4.4 of the Government of Victoria Policy and Guidelines for the purchase compulsory acquisition and sale of land - August 2000 ('the Policy') which permitted a private treaty sale to QIC if exceptional circumstances had been demonstrated.

The land was sold for a price not less than the Valuer-General's valuation and was not discounted.

Eltham electorate**Question 6755**

Question asked by: Member for Eltham
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 11 February 2016

REPLY:

I acknowledge the Member for Eltham's strong advocacy on behalf of her community to upgrade the Eltham Ambulance Branch.

Last year, I attended a community forum hosted by the Member to discuss local ambulance service provision. It was evident at that forum the depth of commitment the community and its local member have to improving ambulance services and rebuilding community confidence following the ambulance crisis that occurred under the leadership of the previous Liberal Government.

This commitment to improving our ambulance services was also demonstrated in the community campaign calling for the Eltham Ambulance station to be upgraded.

The Andrews Labor Government has listened to the Eltham community and committed to upgrade this ambulance branch as part of its \$20 million election commitment to upgrade ageing stations.

Ambulance Victoria has commenced design preparation for the upgraded Ambulance Branch. Subject to town planning approval, construction on the Eltham Ambulance Station will commence in early 2017. The Eltham Ambulance Station is targeted for completion in 2018.

Frankston electorate**Question 6757**

Question asked by: Member for Frankston
Directed to: Minister for Mental Health
Asked on: 11 February 2016

REPLY:

We did indeed visit the youth mental health services in the Frankston area together last year. This visit was both insightful and informative. I look forward to visiting the Frankston electorate again in coming weeks to discuss mental health services with you.

The Frankston area has access to a full and comprehensive suite of specialist mental health services. These include a range of bed based services and ambulatory services in addition to acute inpatient beds. For example, there are Prevention and Recovery Care (PARC) services which provide community-based treatment services for youth and adults including early intervention services for consumers who are unwell and for those in early stages of recovery from a psychiatric episode. There is also a Community Care Unit (CCU) program which provides medium to long term clinical care and rehabilitation for people with a serious mental illness and associated disability.

Community treatment and care components also provide targeted community clinical outreach for treatment and support services, including urgent clinical response, short term interventions for people experiencing severe symptoms of mental illness and non-urgent continuing services providing intensive long term support for people with prolonged and severe mental illness and disability.

I look forward to continuing to work with local members and their communities to progress the important work of planning and delivering the services that people need.

Niddrie electorate**Question 6801**

Question asked by: Member for Niddrie
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 23 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 2015. We had an overwhelming response, with 287 applications seeking funding of over \$30 million.

All applications have been assessed against the Fund criteria, with 33 successful projects announced on 22 February 2016. I am pleased to advise that Avondale Primary School was one such successful school.

Through the Inclusive Schools Fund, the Government will be providing Avondale Primary with \$20 000 to construct a dedicated area, located under a large pergola, to support its commitment to inclusion.

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

Rowville electorate**Question 6802**

Question asked by: Member for Rowville
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 23 February 2016

REPLY:

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) regularly reviews bus networks across the state to ensure they meet the needs of the community.

Ventura undertook a patronage survey of buses servicing the Wheelers Hill area last year. The survey found there was adequate capacity on these routes to meet the demand.

I have asked PTV to review school special buses in the area.

Narre Warren South electorate**Question 6805**

Question asked by: Member for Narre Warren South
Directed to: Attorney-General
Asked on: 23 February 2016

REPLY:

The Government understands the importance of providing vulnerable people with a range of methods to deal with infringement fine related debt. Currently, infringement debtors are able to:

- apply to the enforcement agency for an internal review of the decision to issue infringement notices on grounds including special circumstances;
- apply to the Infringements Court for revocation of an enforcement order on grounds including special circumstances;
- apply for an extension of time to pay infringement penalties;
- elect to have the matter go to Court at any time; ·
- apply to the enforcement agency for a payment plan; or
- apply to the Infringements Court for a payment order.

The Fines Reform Act 2014 (Fines Reform Act) will establish a simplified, debtor-centric, infringement system. The Fines Reform Act has not yet commenced. On 23 February, the Government introduced the Fines Reform and Infringements Acts Amendment Bill (the Bill). Key amendments contained in the Bill will enhance the mechanisms available to vulnerable people with infringement fines.

Some initiatives in the Fines Reform Act enhanced by the Bill that will assist vulnerable people to deal with their infringement fine debt include:

- the introduction of the Work and Development Permit scheme that will provide vulnerable people and those in acute financial hardship with non-financial options to address infringement fine debt through community work, treatment, life skills and vocational courses and mentoring for those under the age of 25 years offered through accredited providers and health practitioners;
- strengthening of the internal review provisions including repeal of automatic referral to court of refused special circumstances applications;

- a new internal review oversight function to support fair and consistent internal review decision-making across enforcement agencies; ·
- Harmonisation of court powers to deal with fine defaulters, including making imprisonment a sanction of last resort for infringement fine defaulters; and
- Reinstatement of an improved 'Time Served' scheme for prisoners.

The Government will continue to work with stakeholders .to ensure the social justice initiatives can be implemented as soon as possible to support vulnerable people with infringement fine related debt.

Polwarth electorate

Question 6821

Question asked by: **Member for Polwarth**
Directed to: **Minister for Planning**
Asked on: **24 February 2016**

REPLY:

I am the responsible authority for any wind farm planning permit application in Victoria. As part of the planning permit application process the community is consulted.

If a proponent chooses to amend a previously approved permit to vary a project, the Planning and Environment Act 1987 allows them to make a comprehensive submission, which will be assessed on its merits.

An application to make significant amendments to a permit will be the subject of public notice (advertising) to surrounding landowners, who are welcome to make submissions.

Assessment of an application to amend a permit will require consideration of all objections, the planning controls, and all additional effects of the changes, including noise, impact on avifauna, visual impact, vegetation removal and shadow flicker.