

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

12 February to 25 February 2016

(Extract from book 2)

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	Napthine, 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.

12 February to 25 February 2016**Ripon electorate****Question 3891**

Question asked by: Member for Ripon
Directed to: Minister for Energy and Resources
Asked on: 22 October 2015

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government takes community health and safety seriously, which is why I appointed an EPA-accredited independent technical expert, Dr Peter Beck, in September 2015, to review the current monitoring and testing regime at Stawell Gold Mines.

Dr Beck will identify if any further testing or actions are required to improve environmental monitoring, which will ensure the underground mine and surface operations comply with the necessary licence conditions and established regulatory standards. Dr Beck's report is due in March 2016 and will be shared with the community at that time.

The groundwater monitoring bore which recently malfunctioned was investigated by both my Department and the EPA. There was no offsite discharge of groundwater and all groundwater was contained on site, with no risk to the public or environment. I am advised by my Department that it was classed as a minor incident, and was not a breach of licence conditions.

Our Government will continue to actively monitor and regulate all activities relating to the resources sector to ensure community safety and confidence.

Ripon electorate**Question 6331**

Question asked by: Member for Ripon
Directed to: Minister for Energy and Resources
Asked on: 10 November 2015

REPLY:

The Government's regulatory agencies are working to identify an appropriate way to assess a revised project proposal, which the company is entitled to submit. This assessment process will be comprehensive, open to the public and transparent, and must demonstrate that Stawell Gold Mines can comply with all relevant standards necessary to protect public health.

The Government has appointed an EPA accredited independent technical expert to review monitoring data and provide advice on whether the Stawell Gold Mines environmental performance is in line with established regulatory standards.

Dandenong electorate

Question 6531

Question asked by: Member for Dandenong
Directed to: Minister for Industry
Asked on: 25 November 2015

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting the transition of the Victorian economy by working directly with companies to ensure they are aware of and can access relevant growth and transition programs and services.

The \$200 million Future Industries Fund is targeting six high growth industry sectors that are critical to securing Victoria's future as a competitive, innovative and outward looking economy. The six high growth sectors are Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals, New Energy Technologies, Food and Fibre, Transport, Defence and Construction Technologies, International Education and Professional Services.

In October 2015, the Future Industries Fund Manufacturing Program was launched. This program offers grants of up to \$500 000 to assist manufacturing companies to purchase and implement capital equipment, product or process improvements or prototyping for evaluation and testing of new manufacturing products or processes.

In December 2015, the Andrews Labor Government launched the Towards Future Industries Victoria's Automotive Transition Plan. The plan includes two funding initiatives, the \$5 million Automotive Supply Chain Transition Program and the \$33 million Local Industry Fund for Transition (LIFT).

Given around 69 per cent of automotive supply chain businesses and around 50 per cent of automotive workers are zoned in the south-east of Melbourne, the Andrews Labor Government was acutely aware of the need to provide strong support to help the region transition as major car manufacturing ceases in Australia.

The Automotive Supply Chain Transition Program will provide funding to enable eligible automotive businesses to access specialist services valued at up to \$65 000 to assist them to identify, design and implement strategies to transition into new sectors and markets.

LIFT South-East will invest \$10 million to support capital investment by local firms or businesses working to set up operation in the area to build the region's economic zone and create sustain ability.

Eildon electorate

Question 6536

Question asked by: Member for Eildon
Directed to: Minister for Energy and Resources
Asked on: 25 November 2015

REPLY:

The Local Infrastructure Assistance Fund (LIAF) program has a specific aim to provide auto-start back-up diesel generators to facilities which provide health and wellbeing care to those Victorian's who are critically reliant on power. As an outcome of the Government's enhanced network safety standards to decrease bushfire risk, power reliability may be affected in some areas.

In order to protect vulnerable members of the community, auto-start generators are provided to residential care facilities including aged care, disability, mental health and drug and alcohol facilities in regional and rural Victoria.

The LIAF has had an eligibility criteria in place for the duration of the program which ensures the grant process is fair and transparent.

As you may be aware, the Your Guide to Power Outages Summer campaign is part of the Powerline Bushfire Safety Program (PBSP), a 10-year program delivering on powerline protection related recommendations from the

2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission. The campaign advises communities on how to prepare for a power outage event and will again run during the hottest part of summer, mid-January–early March 2016.

Shepparton electorate

Question 6641

Question asked by: Member for Shepparton
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 8 December 2015

REPLY:

The government appreciates the commitment of many community minded people who volunteer their time so generously to not-for-profit organisations in our community. I personally, would like to thank the volunteers, in particular pensioners, who choose to support the community in this way.

Police checks are routinely used to screen many potential volunteers for suitability in volunteer roles. Victoria Police provides a service to all Victorians who wish to obtain a National Police Certificate for employment, voluntary work and occupation-related licensing or registration purposes.

In most cases it is the individual organisations themselves that determine the need for prospective and current volunteers to produce a current National Police Certificate.

There are requirements in legislation for people working in certain occupations to undergo screening. Some industries or professions have either direct legislation or licensing requirements which require a police check to be conducted at certain intervals. Organisations may also have developed their own policies that require employees and volunteers to undergo police checks.

Victoria Police provides a National Police Certificate upon request for a nominal fee for volunteers. Strict guidelines are applied to the release of criminal history information to individuals and organisations outside Victoria Police.

Unlike Working with Children Checks, which provide ongoing monitoring for criminal offences for the duration of validity of the check (5 years) and can be carried across employment/volunteer positions, a National Police Certificate is issued at a specific date. The decision rests with the individual organisation, about whether they will accept a certificate provided at an earlier date, unless there is a legislative requirement preventing this course of action. The organisation could then undertake alternative action to verify the suitability of volunteers.

The Victoria Police Information Release Policy sets out the general provisions that Victoria Police applies when police records checks are conducted. The policy determines what level of information is released based on the purpose of the police check. The certificate may be used more than once provided that it is for the same purpose, which is displayed on the top left corner of the certificate.

Victoria Police also recognises the importance of these volunteers to community organisations and offers a discounted fee for police checks required by volunteers working with authorised organisations.

Thank you for taking the time to raise this matter with me. I trust this information is of assistance.

Dandenong electorate

Question 6667

Question asked by: Member for Dandenong
Directed to: Minister for Industry
Asked on: 10 December 2015

REPLY:

For decades, the south-east of Melbourne has been the heartland for automotive supply chain businesses. The region is now facing an unprecedented challenge with the closure of car manufacturing in Australia by 2017. The

Andrews Labor Government understands these challenges and through our Automotive Industry Transition Plan we have a comprehensive package of support that will help the region.

The \$8.4 million SEAT program will support automotive workers located in south-east Melbourne, where around half of Victoria's automotive supply chain workers live and work, by providing two new Skills and Jobs Centres at Holmesglen and Chisholm Institutes, intensive one-on-one careers and training advice, and opportunities for mature-aged retrenched workers to undertake an apprenticeship or a traineeship. The government will also provide an incentive payment of up to \$7000 for businesses employing retrenched automotive workers under the Back to Work Scheme.

It is anticipated that at least \$3 million of the \$5 million allocated to the Automotive Supply Chain Transition Program will be invested into supply chain businesses based in the south-east, reflecting the fact that 3 in 5 supply chain companies are based in that region.

The Automotive Supply Chain Transition Program will assist businesses to develop the capabilities they need to identify and secure new opportunities in new markets.

Finally, the government has established a \$10 million fund for south-east Melbourne as part of the Local Industry Fund for Transition (LIFT) program. LIFT supports job-creating projects in the communities most affected by the impending closure of the major automotive companies. Grants of up to \$2 million are available to support capital investment by businesses located, or looking to locate, in the region.

The package of support announced in the Automotive Transition Plan will provide much needed assistance to businesses and workers in Melbourne's south-east.

Carrum electorate

Question 6739

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

REPLY:

Ms Kilkenny has already listed some of the benefits which will result from the imminent refurbishment of facilities at Kananook Primary School. Indeed, this school — like so many others — has been targeted for works which, in bringing existing amenities up to scratch, will provide the appropriate infrastructure to help its students thrive.

A ceremonial “sod-turning” to officially get things going was held on Friday, 12 February, 2016.

A construction start-up meeting was conducted the following Thursday (February 18) to initiate building works. With architect, Wendy Hastrich, and builder, Colbrico Constructions, at the helm, this important refurbishment project is anticipated to be finished by August 2016.