

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

27 May to 9 June 2016

(Extract from book 8)

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 (to 22 May 2016)

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

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Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
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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, Mr Clark, 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 Elasmarr 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*): 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.

27 May to 9 June 2016

Evelyn electorate**Question 6908**

Question asked by: Member for Evelyn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 8 March 2016

REPLY:

VicRoads considers and evaluates requests for intersection improvements on a statewide basis, with consideration given to factors such as the number and type of vehicles using the intersection, the need to cater for pedestrians, the historical safety record of the site, the impact that treating the intersection would have on the performance of the surrounding network and the implementation costs.

VicRoads' assessment has found that any improvements to this intersection would need to meet the above criteria to be considered for funding under a future roads program.

VicRoads will continue to monitor the operation and safety of this section of Clegg Road to determine the need for any improvements in the future.

Bass electorate**Question 7020**

Question asked by: Member for Bass
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

I appreciate the importance of this issue to the Lang Lang community. The Cardinia Shire Council has been developing a proposal for a truck bypass in consultation with VicRoads. The council has been developing the bypass in two stages with planning for the first stage completed. VicRoads will continue to work with the council as part of planning for the second stage. The Government will consider a funding contribution towards the bypass along with other competing priorities across the state.

Carrum electorate**Question 7074**

Question asked by: Member for Carrum
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 12 April 2016

REPLY:

As part of the 2016-17 Victorian State Budget, the Andrews Labor Government has invested an additional \$1.3 billion in hospital services, with a focus on elective surgery, emergency department access and performance, specialist clinics and mental health services. The Budget delivers the single biggest one-off investment in elective surgery in Australian History.

Peninsula Health has been allocated additional funding of \$2.58 million, brought forward into the 2015-16 financial year. This funding is for capital works to support elective surgery and increase elective surgery activity. A portion of this funding will be used to build an additional theatre and open new beds.

Monash Health has been allocated additional funding of \$3.45 million, brought forward into the 2015-16 financial year. This funding is for capital works to support elective surgery and to increase elective surgery activity at Monash Health. A portion of this funding will be used to open 10 news beds, expand the Short Stay Unit at Monash Medical Centre and to purchase new elective surgery equipment.

This funding will have an immediate impact, allowing Peninsula and Monash Health Services to increase their elective surgery activity and to target longest waiting patients, to get the surgery they need sooner.

These investments stand in stark contrast to the decisions of the Liberal Commonwealth Government, which will see \$15.4 billion cut from Victoria's hospital system over the next 10 years.

Additional funding to support hospital activity in 2016-17 will be confirmed as part of the 2016-17 Policy and Funding Guidelines development process.

Sandringham electorate

Question 7089

Question asked by: Member for Sandringham
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 13 April 2016

REPLY:

The closure of the Frankston line in June and July will allow for the excavation and reconstruction of the rail line and removal of level crossings. Thanks to careful project planning, the amount of time to construct the projects has been shortened, with major road and rail closures brought forward six months to June/July 2016. This will see the project completed earlier than originally planned. The shorter construction schedule will also minimise disruption for residents and businesses.

Public Transport Victoria is working closely with Metro Trains Melbourne and VicRoads to make sure the works are carried out with the least possible disruption to train services across the network and local road networks.

Frankston electorate

Question 7092

Question asked by: Member for Frankston
Directed to: Premier
Asked on: 13 April 2016

REPLY:

The Victorian economy continues to maintain its lead as the fastest growing in the nation, with 112 000 jobs created over the past 17 months.

Infrastructure creates jobs, boosts productivity and supports the services that Victorians need and rely on every day.

The Level Crossing Removal Project will remove 50 level crossings across Melbourne by 2022 and create approximately 4500 jobs.

The Frankston line will have 11 level crossings removed, including the Skye/Overton Road level crossing.

With over 220 trains running through this crossing daily, the boom gates are down for a significant proportion of the day, including 34 minutes in the 2 hour AM peak. This causes congestion for the 8700 vehicles that drive over this crossing daily, which can lead to commuter frustration and risky behaviour.

Removing this level crossing will improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers, and ease congestion by allowing traffic to flow freely across the rail line and through the nearby road network.

Removing the Skye/Overton Road level crossing will create 300 jobs during peak construction, and up to 500 from start to completion.

Consultation and planning is currently underway, with construction set to begin in 2018.

South Barwon electorate

Question 7108

Question asked by: Member for South Barwon

Directed to: Minister for Education

Asked on: 14 April 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to investment in education and school infrastructure, and this has been demonstrated through the allocation of \$1.1 billion to school facilities in the, 2016–17 State Budget. The Victorian School Building Authority will be established to deliver this construction boom that will not just benefit students, but also create jobs for construction workers and local tradies. Our challenge, however, is to responsibly balance and prioritise the needs of over 1500 government schools in Victoria, all in varying condition.

The infrastructure needs of Bellbrae Primary School, and all Victorian Government schools, will be given serious and equitable consideration through future budget processes and when priorities for funding in future capital works programs are being determined.

I will, of course, be very pleased to visit Bellbrae PS when my schedule next allows.

Yan Yean electorate

Question 7109

Question asked by: Member for Yan Yean

Directed to: Minister for Public Transport

Asked on: 14 April 2016

REPLY:

The Mernda Rail Extension not only will provide new public transport options from South Morang to Mernda, but also include the construction of walking and cycling paths. Feedback from the local community demonstrated a strong desire for bicycle facilities, and as such, the project will construct the linkages to existing and future networks that are being delivered by the City of Whittlesea.

The project will also deliver bicycle storage at each station either as bicycle hoops in the station precinct or parkiteer facilities where space allows.

A walking and cycling path connection over the rail at Lakes Boulevard will provide access to the future Hawkstowe Recreational Reserve, and an additional walking and cycling underpass will connect with a future path along the Yan Yean pipe track. Ultimately this walking and cycling path will connect South Morang Station to Mernda Station.

Bicycle Network Victoria and the City of Whittlesea have been consulted with to ensure their feedback is incorporated into the overall project design.

Warrandyte electorate**Question 7506**

Question asked by: Member for Warrandyte
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 27 April 2016

REPLY:

The reforms undertaken by the previous Government had a devastating impact on the taxi industry. On 11 May the former Premier, Jeff Kennett, said on 3AW that the former Liberal Government treated the taxi industry badly and that the Liberal's reforms had broken his heart.

The emergence of ride-sharing is the biggest issue facing the Victorian taxi and hire car industry. It is an extremely complex matter, and there is not a one size fits all' approach across Australia. Victoria's response needs to reflect the unique starting point of our regulatory framework and industry.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring we implement a solution that is going to work for the industry as a whole in the longer term. As part of this, the potential impacts of any regulatory changes on existing licence holders is a key consideration.

The Government's careful consideration of this issue will continue and we will advise the public of progress.

Eltham electorate**Question 7513**

Question asked by: Member for Eltham
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 27 April 2016

REPLY:

Firstly, I would like to thank the Montmorency South Primary School staff and students for such a warm welcome during my visit to the school. I acknowledge the contribution of the school community in striving to provide a first class education for its students.

Investment in education and school infrastructure continues to be a priority for the Andrews Labor Government. This has been demonstrated through the Government's 2016-17 State Budget allocation of \$1.1 billion to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state, ensuring that every community has access to a great local school, and every child gets the chance to succeed. The Victorian School Building Authority will be established to deliver this construction boom that will not only benefit students, but also create jobs for construction workers and local tradespeople.

I am delighted to confirm that Montmorency South Primary School will share in \$12 million of planning funding that has been allocated to 35 schools across the State in the 2016-17 State Budget. This funding will allow the school to begin planning a capital works projects, ensuring works can commence immediately when further resources are provided in a future State Budget.

I have asked the Department of Education and Training to work closely with the Montmorency South Primary School community on its future plans for capital improvement.

Eildon electorate**Question 7514**

Question asked by: Member for Eildon
Directed to: Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Asked on: 27 April 2016

REPLY:

Galeena Beek PTY LTD was an independent organisation formed in 2000. With the assistance of the Victorian State Government it acquired three properties in the Healesville area. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs was registered as the first mortgage holder for each property. Unfortunately Galeena Beek went into voluntary liquidation in September 2011.

On 17 June 2014 the then Minister for Aboriginal Affairs announced that with the cooperation of the Galeena Beek Proprietary Limited Liquidator an Advisory group be established to assist the Liquidator in determining the best use of the assets.

The Galeena Beek Advisory Group was formed in September 2014 and held its first meeting on 14 October 2014. It has met six times since it was established.

Its members include the Wandoon Estate, Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council, Worawa Aboriginal College, Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association, Healesville Indigenous Arts Enterprise Cooperative and Healesville Elders represented by Aunty Dot Peters.

At its first meeting the Advisory group agreed that a new community entity would be formed to focus on creating a Belonging Place that would provide an Integrated Service Delivery hub.' The Advisory group also asked the then Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria to commission a feasibility study to identify how this could be achieved. The Feasibility study provided options on the usage of each property.

The Advisory group did not agree a preferred option.

The Victorian Government will now work with the local Aboriginal community, including HICSA, to determine the best use of Galeena Beek assets.

It is unfortunate that no conclusion was reached in the past six years as it means the assets have not been utilised by a community that needs them.

Ivanhoe electorate**Question 7515**

Question asked by: Member for Ivanhoe
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 27 April 2016

REPLY:

The Victorian Government is committed to protecting the Yarra River for the health, enjoyment and appreciation of current and future generations. Before preparing new legislation to protect the Yarra River, the government has established a Ministerial Advisory Committee to provide independent advice on the key issues, opportunities and improvements to governance arrangements needed to protect the river corridor and ensure its appropriate management. The Ministerial Advisory Committee will also identify and reflect on the community's experiences and expectations of the legislation in their deliberations. The Committee's report is due by the end of 2016 with a recommended action plan including a Yarra Protection Bill and a Trust (or similar entity) to achieve the long term goals for the river corridor.

Carrum electorate**Question 7526**

Question asked by: Member for Carrum
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 3 May 2016

REPLY:

The upgrade to the intersection of Wedge Road and Frankston-Dandenong Road in Carrum Downs is now operational.

The new traffic signals were switched-on on 18 May 2016.

Some minor work at the site is currently being undertaken to complete the project.

I thank you for your efforts and advocacy on this issue.

Prahran electorate**Question 7527**

Question asked by: Member for Prahran
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 3 May 2016

REPLY:

Thank you for your question regarding future planning within the City of Stonnington, specifically Prahran. I note your concerns relating to development pressure, planning policy, liveability and infrastructure provision in Prahran.

Plan Melbourne is the Victorian Government's planning strategy, guiding the way the city will grow and change to 2050. Plan Melbourne 2016 provides a framework to enhance the city's productivity, move jobs closer to where people live and to create new urban areas to accommodate much of Melbourne's growth. The Government has committed to refreshing Plan Melbourne to ensure it accurately reflects community and expert priorities and advice. Submissions are currently being reviewed and will inform the development of Plan Melbourne 2016.

Melbourne Metro is a city shaping project that will increase the capacity, reliability and efficiency of train lines serving Melbourne's growth areas in the north, west and south-east. It will deliver twin nine-kilometre rail tunnels and five underground stations to Melbourne's rail network, freeing up space in the City Loop. The Eastern Portal will enable the Cranbourne/Pakenham line to diverge from the existing rail corridor just south of Toorak Road, and travel towards the CBD via the Melbourne Metro tunnels. The Eastern Portal is proposed to be located in the rail reserve adjacent to the South Yarra Siding Reserve. A new station in South Yarra or upgrades to the existing station are not in the scope of the Melbourne Metro project, however that does not mean that improvements to the South Yarra station will not occur in the future.

Stonnington Amendment C172 proposes to implement the strategic direction of Chapel reVision by applying the Activity Centre Zone to the Chapel Street Activity Centre which includes four distinct precincts; Forrest Hill, South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor. The Structure Plan seeks to guide change and the future planning and development of the Chapel Street Activity Centre until 2031. It provides comprehensive built form and urban design analysis, which identifies significant opportunities for change within the Activity Centre. The amendment was submitted to me for approval and is currently under consideration.

Pascoe Vale electorate**Question 7530**

Question asked by: Member for Pascoe Vale
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 3 May 2016

REPLY:

Non-government schools are an important part of Victoria's education system, with over one-third of Victorian students studying at a Catholic or independent school. I note your strong and continued advocacy for schools in your electorate, including St Oliver Plunkett Primary School. As you know, the 2015-16 State Budget provided \$120 million over four years to build and upgrade these schools, matching dollar-for-dollar the non-government sector's contribution.

The Andrews Labor Government is working closely with the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria and Independent Schools Victoria to ensure available funding is targeted to the areas of greatest need. Under the program, schools submit applications to their sector bodies to demonstrate their relative need against the defined criteria. The sector bodies assess all applications and submit recommendations for funding to the Department.

The sector bodies have submitted their recommendations for funding to the Department and these are being reviewed. I am looking forward to announcing successful projects soon.

Essendon electorate**Question 7538**

Question asked by: Member for Essendon
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 4 May 2016

REPLY:

The 2016-17 Victorian Budget includes \$30 million over 4 years for the Living Heritage Program to safeguard and reactivate the State's key heritage resources. This is the largest program investment in the conservation of heritage in Victoria's history.

It includes a competitive grants stream of \$7 million, providing up to \$200 000 for the conservation of 'at risk' State listed heritage places and objects across Victoria.

This includes heritage places and objects that are owned or managed by local government, Committees of Management responsible for managing heritage places on public land and not for profit organisations that have limited access to funds for heritage conservation.

Matched funding will be available for places of worship, and in some instances, for heritage places in private ownership if a broader community benefit can be demonstrated.

Priority will be given to projects that provide a clear public value, contribute to the character of an area, are accessible to the public or have a current or future community use.

There are many Victorian Heritage Register listed places in the Essendon Electorate that could potentially benefit from this program. Places include, for example, the former Essendon Technical School and High School (Buckley Street, Essendon), the former Essendon Courthouse, home of the Essendon Historical Society (Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds) and the Walter Burley Griffin designed Essendon Incinerator (Holmes Street, Aberfeldie).

The Living Heritage Program also includes grants of more than \$22 million for major conservation projects in relation to a smaller pool of State significant heritage icons with highly complex conservation needs. This includes, for example, Her Majesty's Theatre in Ballarat. Announcements regarding these projects will occur over the coming weeks.