

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

Tuesday, 21 August 2018

(Extract from book 11)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable KEN LAY, AO, APM

The ministry

(from 16 October 2017)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
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Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

**OFFICE-HOLDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

Speaker

The Hon. C. W. BROOKS (from 7 March 2017)

The Hon. TELMO LANGUILLER (to 25 February 2017)

Deputy Speaker

Ms J. MAREE EDWARDS (from 7 March 2017)

Mr D. A. NARDELLA (to 27 February 2017)

Acting Speakers

Ms Blandthorn, Mr Carbines, Ms Couzens, Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Graley,
Ms Kilkenny, Ms Knight, Mr McGuire, Mr Pearson, Mr Richardson, Ms Spence, Ms Suleyman,
Ms Thomson, Ms Ward and Ms Williams.

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 — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

Council — Acting Clerk of the Parliaments and 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 ⁴	Melton	Ind
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 ⁵	Morwell	Ind
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Bull, Mr Timothy Owen	Gippsland East	Nats	O'Brien, Mr Michael Anthony	Malvern	LP
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Clark, Mr Robert William	Box Hill	LP	Pearson, Mr Daniel James	Essendon	ALP
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Crisp, Mr Peter Laurence	Mildura	Nats	Pesutto, Mr John	Hawthorn	LP
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Dimopoulos, Mr Stephen	Oakleigh	ALP	Richardson, Ms Fiona Catherine Alison ⁷	Northcote	ALP
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Donnellan, Mr Luke Anthony	Narre Warren North	ALP	Ryall, Ms Deanne Sharon	Ringwood	LP
Edbrooke, Mr Paul Andrew	Frankston	ALP	Ryan, Mr Peter Julian ⁹	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
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Guy, Mr Matthew Jason	Bulleen	LP	Staikos, Mr Nicholas	Bentleigh	ALP
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Hibbins, Mr Samuel Peter	Prahran	Greens	Thomas, Ms Mary-Anne	Macedon	ALP
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Kairouz, Ms Marlene	Kororoit	ALP	Tilley, Mr William John	Benambra	LP
Katos, Mr Andrew	South Barwon	LP	Victoria, Ms Heidi	Bayswater	LP
Kealy, Ms Emma Jayne	Lowan	Nats	Wakeling, Mr Nicholas	Ferntree Gully	LP
Kilkenny, Ms Sonya	Carrum	ALP	Walsh, Mr Peter Lindsay	Murray Plains	Nats
Knight, Ms Sharon Patricia	Wendouree	ALP	Ward, Ms Vicki	Eltham	ALP
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McCurdy, Mr Timothy Logan	Ovens Valley	Nats	Williams, Ms Gabrielle	Dandenong	ALP
McGuire, Mr Frank	Broadmeadows	ALP	Wynne, Mr Richard William	Richmond	ALP

¹ Elected 31 October 2015

² Resigned 3 September 2015

³ Resigned 3 September 2015

⁴ ALP until 7 March 2017

⁵ Nats until 28 August 2017

⁶ Elected 14 March 2015

⁷ Died 23 August 2017

⁸ Elected 31 October 2015

⁹ Resigned 2 February 2015

¹⁰ Elected 18 November 2017

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 Carroll, Mr Clark, Ms Edwards, Mr Hibbins, Mr Hodgett, Ms Kairouz, Ms Ryan and Ms Sheed.

Legislative Assembly select committees

Penalty Rates and Fair Pay Select Committee — Ms Blandthorn, Mr J. Bull, Mr Clark, Mr Hibbins, Ms Ryall, Ms Suleyman and Ms Williams.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Noonan and Ms Thomson. (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Ms Hutchins, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O’Brien, Mr Pakula 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, Ms Garrett and Ms Ryall. (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmarr and Mr Melhem.

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

Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Halfpenny, Mr Richardson and Mr Riordan. (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Ramsay and Mr Young.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Britnell, Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards and Ms McLeish. (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and 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 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*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Gepp.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward. (*Council*): Ms Patten, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Blandthorn, Mr J. Bull, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto. (*Council*): Ms Bath and Mr Dalla-Riva.

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Tuesday, 21 August 2018

The SPEAKER (Hon. Colin Brooks) took the chair at 12.03 p.m. and read the prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The SPEAKER (12:04) — We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to them, their culture, their elders past, present and future, and elders from other communities who may be here today.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE and MINISTERS STATEMENTS

Electorate office staff

Mr GUY (Leader of the Opposition) (12:04) — My question is to the Minister for Veterans. Minister, did you sign any time sheets for your casual staffer Ben McMullin in the same way the Ombudsman identified you did for Jake Finnigan?

The SPEAKER — Order! I have ruled in this house previously that matters of parliamentary administration, including the employment of electorate officers, are not government business, but clearly matters raised in an Ombudsman's report are, so I ask the minister to answer that question insofar as it relates to the Ombudsman's report.

Mr EREN (Minister for Veterans) (12:05) — These sorts of questions have been asked in the past, and obviously I have answered them in previous answers. I refer the Leader of the Opposition to the report that has been handed down by the Ombudsman.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr Clark — On a point of order, Speaker, on the question of relevance, this is a very specific question about whether the minister signed certain time sheets. It is not relevant to claim falsely that these matters have been dealt with previously or simply to refer to the Ombudsman's report. I ask you to bring him back to answering the question that was asked.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! I ask members to come to order.

Ms Allan — On the point of order, Speaker, we will give him one in four — one in four years he can have that one. I reckon we are still having a better day than you are. But anyway, Speaker —

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! On the point of order.

Ms Allan — Speaker, on the point of order, in your direction to the minister in response to the Leader of the Opposition's question you clearly directed the minister to answer the question insofar as it related to the Ombudsman's report. You explicitly also indicated that matters to do with the employment of electorate staff are outside the responsibility of ministers, therefore the minister, as I heard him saying, referred to the answers he had given in the past in relation to the Ombudsman's report. Therefore he is being entirely relevant to the question that was asked and as you have directed him to answer it, and I would suggest the point of order is out of order.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! The minister has only been answering his question for a few seconds. I ask the minister to continue answering the question.

Mr EREN — As I have indicated, I have answered these questions before in this place and, as you rightly point out, the only part of the question that relates to my portfolio — indeed the Parliament, indeed the government — is the Ombudsman's report, and so on that basis —

Mr Guy — On a point of order, on relevance, Speaker, the minister has answered questions around the hiring of Jake Finnigan in this chamber before. The question is around the replacement to this staffer, which has not been asked of the minister before. The question was very specific, and I ask you to bring him back to answering that.

The SPEAKER — I understand the point of order; however, I have instructed the minister to answer the question in relation to the Ombudsman's report.

Mr EREN — According to your ruling, Speaker, I am answering the question in relation to the Ombudsman's report. I have answered these types of questions before, and I still remain consistent with the previous questions that have been asked. I remain consistent in my answer, as I have previously answered these questions before.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — The member for Warrandyte is warned.

Supplementary question

Mr GUY (Leader of the Opposition) (12:09) — Minister, why did you fail to report to the Ombudsman your hiring of Ben McMullin and the signing of casual time sheets for him in the same way you did for Jake Finnigan? Why did you conceal this evidence when you knew it was relevant to the Ombudsman's inquiry?

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! The Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the member for Kew and the member for South-West Coast are warned. I renew the advice that I provided to the house on this matter.

Mr EREN (Minister for Veterans) (12:10) — Again, I reinstate my previous answer to these types of questions. I have nothing further to add.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — The member for Eildon is warned.

Mr Clark — On a point of order, Speaker, clearly this is a very serious matter that goes to the probity of the minister concerned. It was a question specifically about the Ombudsman's report and his cooperation with that investigation. He has comprehensively failed to answer it, and I do ask you to require him to provide a written answer to the question.

The SPEAKER — Referring to the supplementary question?

Mr Clark — The supplementary.

The SPEAKER — I will take that matter on notice and report back to the house.

Ministers statements: nurse and midwife-to-patient ratios

Mr ANDREWS (Premier) (12:10) — The contrast today is very clear. While the circus travels through Canberra our government is giving to hardworking nurses and midwives the respect and the legislative protection that they are entitled to. Back in 2014 we committed that we would write into law, once and for all — and forever — nurse and midwife-to-patient ratios. We did that. We also committed to engage in a partnership with our nurses, not to give them the bird, as those opposite did, but to respect and value their work and to deliver improvements to ratios — that is, more nurses providing better care. It is valuing our nurses and midwives.

I think there might be some nurses and midwives with us today, and I would say to them that every member on this side of the house thanks you for your work and honours you for your professionalism. We will always provide you with the funding you need, the certainty you are entitled to and the respect that you have earned.

Nurse-to-patient ratios are critically important to safer care and to treating more patients and providing them with better care into the future. That is why our government has not only put these matters beyond doubt but, beyond that, moved to improve ratios, rounding up where we used to round down and providing ratios in new areas of care. Whether it be in maternity, oncology or emergency, in every part of our health system we back our nurses and midwives. We thank them for the work that they do, and it is with considerable pride that we will put this bill to the Parliament later on this day. We would expect that those who cut and close might even give a thought to supporting enhanced nurse and midwife-to-patient ratios.

The SPEAKER (12:12) — Order! Before calling the member for Hawthorn, I would like to welcome to the chamber a former member for Ballarat West, Paul Jenkins.

Ministerial conduct

Mr PESUTTO (Hawthorn) (12:13) — My question is to the Attorney-General. The State Coroner, Sara Hinchey, has stood aside from her duties while she is the subject of a complaint that is under official investigation. Attorney-General, your conduct in the Labor rorts scandal has been exposed by the Ombudsman and is now the subject of a Victoria Police fraud and extortion squad investigation. The State Coroner has done the right thing and stood aside. Why won't you?

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Kew has already been warned.

Mr PAKULA (Attorney-General) (12:13) — I thank the member for Hawthorn for his question and congratulate him on remaining in the chamber long enough to ask it this time. What an entirely unpredictable question. There is no comparison whatsoever between the circumstances. Moreover, the member for Hawthorn would be aware that the coroner has in fact returned to the County Court in a full-time capacity. Moreover, he would be aware that there is a serious matter being dealt with by the Judicial Commission of Victoria that requires all of us to

suspend judgement. For him to seek to politicise that important investigation, which is being undertaken by the judicial commission, is an absolute disgrace.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! Before calling the member for Hawthorn I would just warn members that the level of shouting is excessive. I will remove members without warning if they continue to shout across the chamber.

Supplementary question

Mr PESUTTO (Hawthorn) (12:15) — In standing down, the State Coroner recognised her responsibility to do so and stated:

For the good of the court, my intention is to hand my duties as State Coroner to the deputy state coroner, Iain West, while the commission considers this complaint.

Attorney-General, the State Coroner has put the integrity of our justice system ahead of self-interest. As the state's first law officer, whose actions are now part of a police investigation by the Victoria Police fraud and extortion squad, why are you putting your own self-interest ahead of the integrity of our justice system? Why won't you stand aside?

Mr PAKULA (Attorney-General) (12:15) — The member for Hawthorn has effectively just re-asked the same question with some new words. It is not a supplementary question at all. He provides to the house his supposed knowledge of the details of the police investigation. He does not know who the police are investigating, or what, and if he claims to know, I would be interested to know how he thinks he knows such a thing. My answer to the substantive question is the same as my answer to the supplementary question, which is that the situations are in no way comparable. The coroner has returned to the County Court in a full-time capacity, and the member should not be seeking to politicise the investigation that is being carried out by the Judicial Commission of Victoria.

Ministers statements: nurse and midwife-to-patient ratios

Ms HENNESSY (Minister for Health) (12:16) — I rise to update the house on government initiatives to improve quality and safety in our public hospital system. I am also delighted to confirm that it is the government's intention to introduce new legislation that will continue to improve nurse and midwife-patient ratios in our public hospital system. I too would also like to join with the Premier in welcoming and

acknowledging the very hardworking and wonderful nurses and midwives, some of whom are joining us in the gallery today. I note the opposition, with their backs turned to our nurses. This is something that we have come to expect from the opposition.

We made a commitment to our nurses and midwives before the last election that we would seek to improve nurse-to-patient ratios. We made a commitment that we would continue to invest in our health system, and that is exactly what we have done. Today we will address unfinished business by introducing new legislation that will generate an extra 600 nursing and midwifery jobs across our public health system. That is fantastic for our nurses and midwives, but most importantly it is fantastic for our patients, who will get the care and attention that they deserve.

This stands in very stark contrast to the experience that our nurses and midwives had under the previous government, who of course not only gave the bird to our nurses and midwives but sought to take nurse-to-patient ratios out of enterprise bargaining agreements —

The SPEAKER — Order! I ask the minister to resume her seat.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — The member for Hawthorn has been warned.

Mr Clark — On a point of order, Speaker, the minister is now departing from making a ministers statement and is proceeding to debate issues. I ask you to bring her back to compliance with sessional orders.

The SPEAKER — The minister had strayed from making her statement. I ask the minister to come back.

Ms HENNESSY — But it is a matter of fact that the previous health minister sought to take nurse-to-patient ratios out of enterprise bargaining agreements — bad for nurses and midwives, bad for patients. Our government says this is not something that nurses should have to negotiate at the industrial table about. This is a matter of right for our nurses and midwives; it is a matter of right for our patients. We will continue to invest to support them, in stark contrast to those who cut, corporatise and privatise.

Youth violence

Mr GUY (Leader of the Opposition) (12:19) — My question is to the Premier. On 8 August two groups comprising up to 100 youths rioted in Taylors Hill. The

Victoria Police riot squad was deployed, and frightened locals were told to flee to their homes and lock their doors, while the police had rocks thrown at them and a police car suffered significant damage. At the time no arrests were made for behaviour that your Minister for Police described as appalling. It is nearly two weeks since this riot took place, Premier. How many of these perpetrators have now been arrested?

Mr ANDREWS (Premier) (12:19) — As I would have thought the Leader of the Opposition would know, arrests are made by Victoria Police, and I think that most Victorians would be supportive of those arrangements. If it is appropriate for Victoria Police to provide the Leader of the Opposition with a briefing on those operational matters, I am more than happy to arrange or request such a briefing.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! I ask the Premier to resume his seat. I have warned members about shouting across the chamber.

Mr Clark — On a point of order, Speaker, question time is a forum in which the government of the day is accountable to this house and to the community for the conduct of government and government instrumentalities. It is a long-established practice that the Minister for Police or the Premier is to account to this house for the conduct of Victoria Police, as indeed was the case when the member for Williamstown was the Minister for Police. So I ask you to bring the Premier back to answering this specific question, on which I presume the Minister for Police and the government will have been briefed as to the number of arrests that have occurred in this matter. It is an entirely appropriate question. I ask you to ask the Premier to answer it.

The SPEAKER — I understand the point of order that the member for Box Hill has raised, but the Premier has been entirely responsive to the question that was asked.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (12:21) — The member for Hastings will leave the chamber for the period of 1 hour.

Mr Morris interjected.

The SPEAKER — I apologise. The member for Mornington will leave the chamber for the period of 1 hour — the very honest member for Mornington.

Honourable member for Mornington withdrew from chamber.

Supplementary question

Mr GUY (Leader of the Opposition) (12:21) — Despite them endangering lives, throwing rocks at police and terrorising locals, isn't it a fact that because of your government's soft-on-crime changes to bail laws and youth justice in 2015 it is now harder than ever before for Victoria Police to arrest violent juvenile thugs like many of those 16 and 17-year-old rioters, despite alleged crimes, and harder than ever to keep them behind bars?

Mr ANDREWS (Premier) (12:21) — The answer to the Leader of the Opposition's question is no.

Ministers statements: solar homes program

Ms D'AMBROSIO (Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change) (12:22) — I am absolutely delighted to update the house on the Andrews government's solar homes package. From Sunday families will benefit from a 50 per cent rebate on the cost of a 4-kilowatt solar package system. This will save families \$2225. Further, from 1 July next year we will add an interest-free loan to that package.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (12:22) — Order! The member for Kew will leave the chamber for the period of 1 hour.

Honourable member for Kew withdrew from chamber.

Ms D'AMBROSIO — Labor is putting the power back in the hands of Victorian families with the new solar homes package. We will see solar panels installed on 650 000 homes right across the state, saving families \$890 on average every single year. Over the next 10 years the boldest program on record here in Victoria will be available to Victorian families, unlike under those opposite.

Jeff Kennett and those people opposite made it clear when they sold our assets: they said that prices were going to go down. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact is prices keep going up while the profits of the big energy companies keep going up. Is it any wonder that those opposite are opposed to this program because it puts the power back in the hands of families?

Our scheme will ensure that there is a power station on every roof in Victoria. What we will ensure of course over the next 10 years is that this program will produce

high-quality products. The program will be run with the highest of safety standards in place and when it is complete 1 million Victorian homes will be powered by the sun. While others talk about the problem of rising energy prices, only this government will actually do something about it and put the power back in the hands of Victorian families.

Solar homes program

Mr NARDELLA (Melton) (12:24) — My question is to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. Can the minister inform the house regarding the announcement of the Victorian solar panel rebate and what it means for my constituents in the Melton electorate and if there are any threats to this rebate?

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Hawthorn has been warned.

Ms D'AMBROSIO (Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change) (12:24) — I thank the member for Melton for his question. The program that we announced, the boldest program in Victoria's history, will save significant dollars on ordinary families' bills, including of course many families in the Melton electorate. On top of that, 5500 jobs will be created through this 10-year program. These are jobs — jobs that are good-quality jobs, high-quality jobs that rely on a program being delivered by this government and this government only. The good people of Melton can be assured that when it comes to cheaper energy, when it comes to the jobs that get created through our program, only a Labor government will deliver this. The benefits are there to be put back in the hands of Victorian families, including the families who live in Melton, because we know and they know from this program that the average family will be saving \$890 off their energy bills. We are shifting the power back into the hands —

Mr Walsh — On a point of order, Speaker, I wonder if the minister could inform us as to whether it applies to solar panels on caravans in Ocean Grove.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! The Leader of The Nationals will resume his seat.

Ms D'AMBROSIO — While others might want to make a joke about this, our government is absolutely serious about putting the interests of Victorian families ahead of the big energy companies who reaped billions of dollars of profit because those opposite chose to sell

the assets that ordinary Victorians had paid for when they were built in the first place. Our government will support the good people of Melton.

Our government will support the good people no matter where they live right across Victoria, because when it comes to lowering power bills, when it comes to putting power back into their hands and freeing our families to be able to do other things with their families in terms of the savings they will get from our program, only a Labor government will do something about it. We will deliver, as we have done with every other project, every other promise that we have made to Victorians. We deliver and we do it well and we will continue to do that.

Supplementary question

Mr NARDELLA (Melton) (12:27) — What other programs are there to reduce the cost-of-living pressures for my constituents?

Ms D'AMBROSIO (Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change) (12:27) — I thank the member for Melton for the supplementary question. We have got a whole wealth of programs and initiatives to support working families, families who we know are doing it tough with rising energy bills. In just this last budget \$48 million was kindly made available by the good Treasurer as an incentive for Victorian families and small businesses to be able to access the Victorian Energy Compare website. We know that saves money. When people go to that website that our government has supported, they can save significant amounts of money — more than \$300 in the first year alone. Seven out of 10 consumers, people living in Melton, can actually save significant dollars through our program. There has been an additional amount of money put into utility relief grants — \$21.7 million. We will continue to look after the interests of working families, including those in Melton.

Ministers statements: solar homes program

Mr CARROLL (Minister for Industry and Employment) (12:28) — I rise to update the house on how the Andrews Labor government's solar homes program will create thousands of new jobs and apprenticeships right across Victoria. My family, like many thousands at the time during the 1990s, felt the full impact of the Kennett government's privatisation. My dad, as an electrician and electrical inspector, had his favourite job at the then State Electricity Commission of Victoria — three kids at school, he was the breadwinner but he lost that job. He then went on to work at Powercor and lost that job as well.

Mr Watt — On a point of order, Speaker, the minister is required to tell the truth in this place. In 1992 it was a Labor government who started the privatisation of electricity. They were the ones that started the privatisation with Loy Yang B. They cannot come in here and lie to the Parliament. They cannot continue to lie to the people of Victoria and pretend that it was the Liberals that started —

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Burwood will resume his seat. There is no point of order.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (12:29) — Order! I ask the member for Geelong to leave the chamber for the period of 1 hour. I need to be able to hear members making contributions, including points of order.

Honourable member for Geelong withdrew from chamber.

Mr CARROLL — The so-called ‘party of family values’ loves nothing more than seeing good working people losing their jobs. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Euroa!

Mr Clark — On a point of order, Speaker, the minister is debating issues rather than making a ministers statement. I ask you to bring him back to compliance with sessional orders.

The SPEAKER — I uphold the point of order. I ask the minister to come back to making a statement.

Mr CARROLL — The solar homes program will actually shift the power back to the people, as the minister said. It will create jobs, it will cut power bills and it will also cut carbon emissions. They love to talk about cuts — you would think they would be supporting the program. The new jobs will be created in our solar industry, installing, servicing and repairing solar right across Victoria. But it is also very good for regional Victoria — constructing, repairing and working on those large solar plants.

Let us talk about Beon Energy solar farm in Mildura — 300 jobs with work under construction right now: labourers, trainees, electricians, electrical apprentices, with 35 disadvantaged Victorians working on that plant, thanks to the Andrews Labor government’s Jobs Victoria program, another program that would be cut

tomorrow should they ever get the power. The solar homes program is a no-brainer for jobs and a no-brainer for a future growth industry.

Those opposite are for cuts, closures and big corporations. Any professor around Australia right now knows that solar is what we need. If a professor has got any free time, they should go and see Beon Energy in Mildura. You will not be disappointed. It is about putting renewable energy on the map.

Crime rates

Mr GUY (Leader of the Opposition) (12:32) — My question is to the Premier. It was reported that up to 200 people were involved in the St Kilda riot of 14 December 2017. The lawlessness included assaults, robberies and multiple fights on the streets that injured bystanders and damaged property. At the time Victoria Police was quoted as saying that these thugs had committed crimes, that they had been involved in a number of assaults on the foreshore of St Kilda and that their behaviour was totally and utterly unacceptable. Despite the passage of eight months since that riot, only two alleged offenders have been identified to be charged. Premier, what message are your soft-on-crime policies sending to would-be offenders when they can get away with these types of crimes under your government scot-free?

Mr ANDREWS (Premier) (12:32) — I reject the premise of the Leader of the Opposition’s question and his little rant flourish at the end there. What I also reject is the notion of cutting resources to Victoria Police. That is why the government I lead has never done that. We have never cut resources to Victoria Police, nor would we ever do that. Cuts and closures — that is all they are good at across here. It is all they are good at over there.

Mr Guy — On a point of order, Speaker, on relevance, I know the Premier is touchy on the subject of arrests. I know he is touchy on arrests. But I wonder if you might bring him back to the question and answering: what message does his soft-on-crime approach to law and order have for juvenile thugs who are running riot in our streets and getting off scot-free?

The SPEAKER — Order! I do not uphold the point of order. The Premier has concluded his answer.

Supplementary question

Mr GUY (Leader of the Opposition) (12:33) — In the last four years, Premier, you have weakened juvenile bail laws to remove the offence of bail breaching, you have weakened youth justice laws to make it harder for

police to arrest violent thugs and you have weakened sentencing by making it easier for the most hardened young criminals to get youth control orders to allow them to remain free in the community. All three this government has weakened. Premier, isn't it true that Victorians are less safe now than ever before because you have created a revolving door justice system?

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (12:34) — Order! The member for Macedon, the member for Footscray and the Minister for Roads and Road Safety will leave the chamber for the period of 1 hour.

Honourable members for Macedon and Footscray and Minister for Roads and Road Safety withdrew from chamber.

Mr ANDREWS (Premier) (12:34) — I barely know where to begin, really. I think the theme would be 'wrong'. Every single element in that pathetic question is wrong, and I tell you what else is wrong: cutting Victoria Police budgets. That is wrong, and that is why we will never do it. That is why we will never do it. That is why the academy is full, and it will stay full under a Labor government.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order in the house! The Leader of the House will assist in the running of the house.

Mr Watt — On a point of order, Speaker, if the Premier wants to talk about cuts to police, maybe he could talk about the fact that the Burwood police station has been cut since July 2015. In Monash you talk about closed police stations, and in fact at Ashburton —

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Burwood! That is not a point of order. The Premier has concluded his answer.

Ministers statements: new schools

Mr MERLINO (Minister for Education) (12:36) — I rise to update the house on the rollout of new schools across our growing suburbs. We are opening nine new schools in 2019, and I am pleased to inform the house that all nine principals for schools opening next year have now been appointed and that all 2019 enrolment boundaries have now been finalised. Parents wishing to enrol their kids in these fantastic brand-new schools or view the boundaries can visit the Victorian School Building Authority's website for further details. We are getting on with the job of delivering the new schools that Victoria needs. Construction has already started on

three of the 11 schools that will open in 2020, and the tenders for the remaining eight schools are currently out to market, with builders being appointed before the end of this year.

We are delivering all these new schools because our population is booming. We have ensured that there is a pipeline of new schools being rolled out right into the future, with a further 29 new schools in various stages of delivery. Victorians cannot afford a return to the dark days of mass teacher sackings, mass school closures and the subsequent selling off of school land, yet there are some —

Mr Watt — On a point of order, Speaker, the minister is actually required to tell the truth in this place. He is required to tell the truth. In 1999 when the Labor Party left government there were 1631 schools —

The SPEAKER — Order! I ask the member for Burwood to resume his seat.

Mr Watt interjected.

The SPEAKER (12:37) — The member for Burwood will leave the chamber for the period of 1 hour.

Mr Lim interjected.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Clarinda can join the member for Burwood for 1 hour outside the chamber.

Mr Watt interjected.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Burwood!

Honourable members for Burwood and Clarinda withdrew from chamber.

Mr MERLINO — Clearly there are some that admired that approach of mass teacher sackings and school closures, and I quote:

Jeff Kennett is someone who I've always admired because he gets to the point.

Who said that? The Leader of the Opposition. He is busy —

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! The Leader of the Opposition!

Mr Clark — On a point of order, Speaker, while I am sure we on this side of the house would be very happy to discuss the sorts of issues that the Deputy Premier is raising, he is in fact departing from making a ministers statement, and I ask you to bring him back to compliance with sessional orders.

The SPEAKER — I uphold the point of order. The Deputy Premier did depart from making a statement.

Mr MERLINO — I am a bit too busy to conduct interviews on Victor Perton's blog, but apparently not the Leader of the Opposition. On this side of the house we do not admire Jeff Kennett, who sold our schools and sold —

The SPEAKER — Order! The Deputy Premier's time has expired.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (12:39) — Order! The member for Malvern will leave the chamber for the period of 1 hour for shouting across the chamber. I ask members to stop shouting.

Honourable member for Malvern withdrew from chamber.

Mr Wakeling — On a point of order, Speaker, I draw to your attention question 14 630, which is yet to be answered by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and I ask you to have that matter addressed.

The SPEAKER — I will follow that matter through.

CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Ferntree Gully electorate

Mr WAKELING (Ferntree Gully) (12:40) — (14 804) My constituency question is for the Minister for Education. In May of this year I raised, on behalf of a constituent, a question requesting an answer from the minister as to why he had chosen in four years of government to not provide funding to Fairhills High School, which is a very important school in the Ferntree Gully electorate. I asked the question on behalf of a very concerned constituent as to why the school had not received funding. The minister, in his response that was provided on 22 June, provided no explanation as to why he decided to not provide any funding to that school in four years or what decision he made as the minister to not provide funding for the school. My constituency question again is to request that the minister explain to

my constituent why he has chosen to not provide funding to Fairhills High School in Ferntree Gully.

Yuroke electorate

Ms SPENCE (Yuroke) (12:41) — (14 805) My constituency question is to the Minister for Early Childhood Education, and I ask: how will the proposed cuts to kinder by the whomever-led federal Liberal government impact families in the Yuroke electorate? The Yuroke electorate is home to a significant number of young families, and access to kinder is an absolutely critical part of ensuring their children get the best possible start in life. Certainly many of these families find it quite astonishing that the federal Liberals refuse to guarantee funding certainty for kinder. There is simply no excuse for this sort of attack on early childhood education, and I thank the minister for her efforts to defend kinder.

Ovens Valley electorate

Mr McCURDY (Ovens Valley) (12:42) — (14 806) My question is to the Minister for Agriculture in the other place. Ian Phillipson is a dairy farmer in Invergordon. Like many dairy farmers, he is doing it tough under the seasonal conditions. Ian has been subject to bullying and harassment from Agriculture Victoria in Shepparton and claims that Sue Vaughan has orchestrated 10 raids in 11 months on his property. Mr Phillipson demands that this action stop. I ask the Minister for Agriculture: under what authority is this happening and what offences has he committed to be treated in this manner?

Williamstown electorate

Mr NOONAN (Williamstown) (12:42) — (14 807) My question today is for the Minister for Public Transport, and it relates to the removal of the level crossing on Kororoit Creek Road in Williamstown North. As the minister would be well aware from her recent visit, works are very much underway to construct a new dual rail bridge and duplicate a section of track along the Altona loop over Kororoit Creek Road. Importantly the removal of this crossing will improve safety and improve reliability for Altona and Werribee commuters. Given the wonderful progress on this crossing, I would be grateful if the minister could confirm the anticipated date for the completion of the works.

Gembrook electorate

Mr BATTIN (Gembrook) (12:43) — (14 808) My question is to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety.

Minister, a letter dated 31 July 2018 from your office states that:

I am advised that Windermere Boulevard is managed by the Cardinia Shire Council. As such, it is the council's responsibility to determine the most appropriate pedestrian treatments for this road.

Then a recent article appeared in the *Pakenham Berwick Gazette* and has a quote from the Labor mayor, Collin Ross, stating that he was 'handballing the onus right back to the state government and VicRoads'. He said:

Unfortunately we need to get the authority from other parties before we can make it happen. It's a really frustrating process, but we can't build it on a whim.

Minister, I ask for any information you can provide to my local community about the process to get a level crossing for them in Cardinia Lakes and who is actually the authority that can authorise this, because currently we have a Labor mayor and a Labor government that are both refusing to consult with my local community.

Ivanhoe electorate

Mr CARBINES (Ivanhoe) (12:44) — (14 809) My constituency question is to the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing. I seek the latest information on the progress of the rollout of replacement heating to public housing tenants in my electorate, particularly those across the 3081 postcode comprising Heidelberg West, Heidelberg Heights and Bellfield. I know caseworkers have been supporting tenants, as has my office, and I am pleased with much of the work so far. Of course it is not getting any warmer, so I think it is important to understand what the latest information with regard to that rollout of replacement heating is for the safety of all tenants. I certainly commend that program and the broader work that we are doing across West Heidelberg with the public housing replacement and renewal program, which is providing great opportunities for housing for tenants in my electorate.

Prahran electorate

Mr HIBBINS (Prahran) (12:45) — (14 810) My constituency question is for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, and it concerns the ongoing pigeon infestation problems at the Horace Petty public housing estate in Prahran and in particular in this instance at the TRY South Yarra Preschool. The pigeon issue has always been a problem but has gotten significantly worse and is causing considerable distress to children and their carers. Staff are reporting that the pigeons are harassing kids, jumping on their lunch boxes, trying to eat the food that the children are

holding in their hands and pecking at their legs. Having lunch or morning tea outdoors is now sadly an incredibly stressful time for these kids.

I have regularly raised the issue of pigeon infestation across public housing estates in the Prahran electorate, and whilst in response there has been some funding provided for some cleaning and some pigeon spikes, I now ask: what will the government do to fix the problem of pigeon infestation at the TRY South Yarra Preschool? Enough is enough; this problem needs to be solved.

Buninyong electorate

Mr HOWARD (Buninyong) (12:46) — (14 811) My constituency question is for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, and I ask the minister how our anti-scalping legislation is protecting regional events and regional fans from scalpers. I ask this particularly in relation to the Meredith Music Festival. From humble beginnings 28 years ago this event at the Nolan farm near Meredith in my electorate is an icon on the festival landscape, attracting more than 12 000 music lovers annually that enjoy independent live music. This year's festival will be held from 7 to 9 December. The ballot for this year's event recently closed, but further tickets will go on sale tomorrow. Fans will therefore be interested to know how the anti-scalping legislation will benefit them.

Brighton electorate

Ms ASHER (Brighton) (12:46) — (14 812) My constituency question is for the Minister for Public Transport, and my question is: when will she fix the problems on the route 64 tram, which runs from Brighton East to Melbourne University, and provide a decent service for the residents of Brighton East? That tramline has the highest rate of cancellations on it. On the figures available for the last year 800 services were cancelled, which is a cancellation rate of 1.3 per cent compared with 0.8 per cent over the network as a whole. We in Brighton East have the worst tram service in Melbourne, and it needs to be fixed. I call on the minister again to advise me and this house: when will she fix the problems on this line?

Sunbury electorate

Mr J. BULL (Sunbury) (12:47) — (14 813) My question is for the Minister for Police, and I ask: what is the latest information on an application from the Tullamarine Tennis Club to the Andrews Labor government's Community Safety Fund? This is a great local tennis club with terrific members all wanting to

play the game and enjoy the club. Currently they are seeking funding for security lighting in the front car park, and I ask the minister for the latest information on this application.

RULINGS BY THE CHAIR

Questions without notice

The SPEAKER (12:48) — I have two rulings in relation to the last sitting week. On 9 August the manager of opposition business took points of order about the responsiveness of the Attorney-General's answers to his substantive and supplementary questions. Having reviewed the transcript, I find that the answers were responsive.

The manager of opposition business also raised a point of order about the Minister for Police's answer to his supplementary question to her. I rule that that answer was also responsive.

SALE OF LAND AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Introduction and first reading

Ms KAIROUZ (Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation) (12:48) — I move:

That I have leave to bring in a bill for an act to make various amendments to the Sale of Land Act 1962 in relation to off-the-plan contracts, terms contracts, rent-to-buy arrangements and options to purchase land under land banking schemes, to amend the Anzac Day Act 1958 to impose restrictions on public auctions, and to amend the Estate Agents Act 1980 in respect of payments that may be made from the Victorian Property Fund and for other purposes.

Mr CLARK (Box Hill) (12:49) — I ask the minister to provide a brief explanation further to the long title.

Ms KAIROUZ (Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation) (12:49) — The Sale of Land Amendment Bill 2018 implements key outcomes of a public review of Victoria's sale of land and businesses legislation undertaken as part of the government's broader consumer property law review. The bill's primary objective is to address substantive and ongoing consumer detriment in the Victorian property market and to address other issues of community concern.

Motion agreed to.

Read first time.

SAFE PATIENT CARE (NURSE TO PATIENT AND MIDWIFE TO PATIENT RATIOS) AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Introduction and first reading

Ms HENNESSY (Minister for Health) (12:50) — I move:

That I have leave to bring in a bill for an act to amend the Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Act 2015 and for other purposes.

Motion agreed to.

Read first time.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES COMMISSION (GOVERNANCE, PROCEDURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Introduction and first reading

Mr SCOTT (Minister for Finance) (12:50) — I move:

That I have leave to bring in a bill for an act to amend the Essential Services Commission Act 2001 and the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998, to make consequential amendments to certain other acts and for other purposes.

Mr CLARK (Box Hill) (12:51) — I ask the minister to provide a brief explanation of the bill.

Mr SCOTT (Minister for Finance) (12:51) — The bill makes amendments to the Essential Services Commission Act and the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act in order to make technical amendments to improve the operation of the Essential Services Commission.

Motion agreed to.

Read first time.

GAMBLING REGULATION AMENDMENT (WAGERING AND BETTING) BILL 2018

Section 85 statement

Mr PALLAS (Treasurer) gave notice of intention to make a statement under section 85 of the Constitution Act 1975 of the reasons for altering or varying that section by the Gambling Regulation (Amendment) Wagering and Betting Bill 2018.

PETITIONS

Following petitions presented to house:

Rosanna Golf Links Primary School

To the Legislative Assembly of Victoria:

The petition of the families of Rosanna Golf Links Primary School, residents of the wider north-eastern suburbs, their friends and families, draws to the attention of the house the immediate need of a basketball/netball stadium at Rosanna Golf Links Primary School (RGLPS). At the time of the federal government's 'Building the Education Revolution' in 2010, RGLPS was only just short of the required number of students for a basketball stadium and instead received a small hall. Since this time, student numbers have sharply risen to over 500, with a school ceiling being enforced by the Department of Education regional office in 2016. With over 100 students forced to sit outside on concrete due to lack of space, assemblies are cancelled in the event of inclement weather. The physical education program is limited inside the hall due to potential hazards arising from the glass walls, electronics required for the school deaf facility and exposed ceiling fans. A stadium at our school would provide a suitable space for assemblies, performances, a quality physical education space and another venue for Banyule Hawks Basketball Club who will struggle to continue growth beyond current levels due to a lack of practice courts and game-day facilities.

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Assembly of Victoria allocate funds immediately to provide a single-court basketball/netball stadium with a staff office, one storeroom for PE equipment, one storeroom for concert band equipment and toilets for after-hours use by sporting clubs at Rosanna Golf Links Primary School.

By Mr CARBINES (Ivanhoe) (561 signatures).

Melville Road, Pascoe Vale South, tram terminus

To the Legislative Assembly of Victoria:

Petition of residents, business owners and community members associated with the Melville Road and Bell Street Pascoe Vale South precinct draws to the attention of the house:

Under the stated guise of accessibility, major changes to the tram terminus on Melville Road are being pushed through by Public Transport Victoria without genuine, fair and adequate community consultation. The proposed changes are expected to hinder access for our community and put our local businesses under threat.

This community is concerned about:

major impacts on property access;

major impacts on traffic flow and traffic congestion on Melville Road, Bell Street and surrounding streets;

major changes to parking;

loss of local business and local jobs;

lack of integration with tram and bus transport modes and wider shopping precinct on Bell Street, particularly for those with mobility constraints;

unsafe pedestrian environment;

no attention given to cycling infrastructure;

removal of trees;

removal of nature strips;

loss of heritage significance;

major financial impacts for owners of properties in the area;

failure of Public Transport Victoria to engage in community consultation that is genuine, fair and adequate.

The petition requests that the Legislative Assembly of Victoria calls an immediate halt to the progression of this project which has not been pursued fairly and is expected to bring major negative impacts to the community.

By Ms SANDELL (Melbourne) (670 signatures).

Rosanna Road safety

To the Legislative Assembly of Victoria:

The petition of certain citizens of the state of Victoria draws the attention of the Legislative Council to the ongoing safety and amenity issues on Rosanna Road, Rosanna/Heidelberg.

The petitioners therefore request the Legislative Assembly of Victoria resolves, as a matter of urgency, that sufficient government funding and resources be applied to implement the following changes along Rosanna Road:

- 1) restrict freight traffic to one designated lane each way;
- 2) restrict freight traffic to vehicles that fit (including mirrors) within the designated lanes (allowing clearance within outer lanes for cyclists);
- 3) redesign intersections at Banyule Road, Station Road, St James Road and Darebin Street to improve safety of road users (including motorists, pedestrians and cyclists), including providing turning lanes of best practice road width and setback between pedestrian crossings and vehicle stopping points;
- 4) provide dedicated pedestrian/cycle links over or under Rosanna Road to allow safe dedicated passage of pedestrians and cyclists to services and amenities on either side of Rosanna Road;
- 5) introduce landscape/traffic treatments and traffic restrictions (such as, reduced speed limits up to 50km/h, overnight truck curfew, freight traffic bans on Jika Street) to promote safer driver behaviour and enforce these through the delivery and use of road safety cameras and remote surveillance systems;

- 6) relocate at-risk power poles to address existing catastrophic risks to residents and road users;
- 7) investigate, plan and provide an alternative over dimensional route between the M80 (Western Ring Road) and M3 (Eastern Freeway) designed to carry oversized freight;
- 8) establish a community consultative committee to address ongoing safety and amenity issues; and
- 9) implement a permanent truck ban upon delivery of the north-east link freeway.

By Mr HIBBINS (Pahran) (104 signatures).

Tabled.

Ordered that petition presented by honourable member for Ivanhoe be considered next day on motion of Mr CARBINES (Ivanhoe).

Ordered that petition presented by honourable member for Prahran be considered next day on motion of Mr HIBBINS (Pahran).

Ordered that petition presented by honourable member for Melbourne be considered next day on motion of Ms SANDELL (Melbourne).

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT VICTORIA

Metropolitan mobile radio contract extension project

Mr MERLINO (Minister for Emergency Services), by leave, presented project summary.

Tabled.

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Alert Digest No. 12

Mr J. BULL (Sunbury) presented *Alert Digest No. 12 of 2018* on:

Building Amendment (Registration of Building Trades and Other Matters) Bill 2018

Corrections Amendment (Parole) Act 2018

Disability Service Safeguards Bill 2018

Gambling Regulation Amendment (Wagering and Betting) Bill 2018

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Amendment Bill 2018

Open Courts and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2018

Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors Amendment Bill 2018

Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2018

Transport Legislation Amendment (Better Roads Victoria and Other Amendments) Bill 2018

together with appendices.

Tabled.

Ordered to be published.

DOCUMENTS

Tabled by Acting Clerk:

Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978:

Order under s 17B granting a licence over Glendhu Historic Area

Order under s 17D granting a lease over Point Leo Foreshore Reserve

Gambling Regulation Act 2003 — Report of Independent Review Panel Gaming Machines Licensing Process: regulatory review — Ordered to be published

Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984:

Notice under s 32(3)(a)(iii) in relation to Waste Management Policy (E-waste) (*Gazette G32, 9 August 2018*)

Notice under s 32(4)(a)(iii) in relation to Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses 2014 (*Gazette G31, 2 August 2018*)

Parliamentary Committees Act 2003 — Government response to the Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee's Report on the Inquiry into fuel prices in regional Victoria

Planning and Environment Act 1987 — Notices of approval of amendments to the following planning schemes:

Baw Baw — C116

Bayside — C155

Boroondara — C271

Glen Eira — C157

Greater Bendigo — C236, GC91

Greater Shepparton — C202, GC91

Latrobe — C103

Melbourne — C284, C326, C334

Melton — C181

Mitchell — GC91, GC106

Monash — C86

Moonee Valley — GC91

Wangaratta — C75

Wellington — C101, GC91

Whittlesea — GC106

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Documents under s 15 in relation to Statutory Rules 108, 109, 111

Surveillance Devices Act 1999 — Report of the Victorian Inspectorate under s 30Q.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Council's amendments

Returned from Council with message relating to amendments.

Ordered to be considered later this day.

ROYAL ASSENT

Messages read advising royal assent to:

14 August

Justice Legislation Amendment (Family Violence Protection and Other Matters) Bill 2018

Owners Corporations Amendment (Short-stay Accommodation) Bill 2016

Victorian Industry Participation Policy (Local Jobs First) Amendment Bill 2018

21 August

Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Racing Amendment (Integrity and Disciplinary Structures) Bill 2018.

APPROPRIATION MESSAGES

Messages read recommending appropriations for:

Gambling Regulation Amendment (Wagering and Betting) Bill 2018

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Amendment Bill 2018

Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2018

Transport Legislation Amendment (Better Roads Victoria and Other Amendments) Bill 2018.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Program

Ms ALLAN (Minister for Public Transport) (12:57) — I move:

That, under standing order 94(2), the orders of the day, government business, relating to the following bills be considered and completed by 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 23 August 2018:

Building Amendment (Registration of Building Trades and Other Matters) Bill 2018

Gambling Regulation Amendment (Wagering and Betting) Bill 2018

Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors Amendment Bill 2018

Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2018.

In moving this motion, as always, I hope and wish and look forward to the unanimous support of the chamber for the motion — not looking at anyone around the chamber. I am always hopeful that it will be unanimously supported, and the reason why I call for it to be unanimously supported is there are four bills on the program that demonstrate the determination of the Andrews Labor government to continue to govern, whether it is policy implementation outside of this chamber, getting on and delivering infrastructure projects or putting into the Parliament important legislation that continues reform in key areas.

Some of the policy areas that we are debating this week in this legislation contain a number of complex policy matters around the registration of building trades, a key issue in terms of how we ensure quality in our construction industry. There are issues around supporting owner-drivers, which I know the Minister for Industrial Relations has been working very, very hard on. There has been a power of work by the Treasurer and the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation on the Gambling Regulation Amendment (Wagering and Betting) Bill 2018, another very complicated policy area. Also again the minister for consumer affairs has been working very, very hard on reforming the residential tenancies area, making it fairer for renters in the residential tenancies market. So there is a lot for us to talk about this week. Those four bills are important bills. They cover complex policy matters and demonstrate our determination to continue to get on and

work very hard for Victorians on the things that matter to them.

Why am I coming off this long run-up? It is because the other item that is not on the government business program but will take some time over the course of today — indeed I anticipate it will probably take most of today — is the no-confidence motion that is being moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I do not know what happened to the Leader of the Opposition Thursday week ago. Maybe it was something he had in his Weeties or something was in the milk that he poured on his Weeties for breakfast, because he woke up and thought, ‘Hey, I’m going to move a no-confidence motion today’.

It really does smack of desperate stuff from the Leader of the Opposition to move this no-confidence motion. It is clear that he is pretty desperate for an audience to talk to; obviously moving a motion like this in the Parliament gives you a guaranteed audience at least amongst your own side of the chamber, but it really is nothing more than a desperate stunt by a desperate leader looking for relevance.

In contrast, the Andrews Labor government is going to continue to get on and deliver in those important areas. I have touched on it in the policy matters that are before the Parliament this week for our consideration and debate. There is other activity that goes on outside of the Parliament, as I have indicated, delivering in services and delivering in infrastructure. So we will continue to push on on these important matters whilst the Leader of the Opposition engages in his desperate stunt seeking relevance, seeking an audience who will listen. I am guessing it is compulsory for those opposite to be in the chamber this afternoon to listen to the Leader of the Opposition so he has got someone to talk to.

With those comments and observations I commend the business program to the house. It is a big one. It is another big week for the Parliament debating and considering, and hopefully passing, important policy reforms that are about making a difference and delivering for all Victorians.

Mr CLARK (Box Hill) (13:01) — I think despite the bravado in the Leader of the House’s remarks she has revealed her inner insecurity and the government’s inner insecurity with her reference to the government’s determination to continue to govern. One would have thought that if a government were in control of its destiny, were comfortable with itself and were just getting on with the business of delivering good government to Victoria, one would not have to reaffirm

a determination that should be capable of being taken for granted.

However, as the Leader of the House has referred to, one of the key issues for consideration this week is the motion of lack of confidence in the Premier and ministers of the state of Victoria, of which notice has been given by the Leader of the Opposition. And despite the disparaging remarks of the Leader of the House, this is not a motion that an opposition moves lightly. It is a motion that is being moved for good cause. Without anticipating the debate on the motion, there is ample ground on which to demonstrate that this house should lack confidence in the Andrews government. Indeed what is missing from the business program for this week, as has been missing week after week after week, is ample demonstration of why this house should lack confidence in the government, because the motion of no confidence is about lack of integrity. That lack of integrity is demonstrated by the refusal of the government to deal with the very serious allegations of rotting and misconduct that have been levied against its members, that have been levied against the former Speaker and Deputy Speaker in this house and that have been levied against a range of members in the Ombudsman’s report.

If this were an instance where one or two members of the governing party had done the wrong thing, then the governing party should have demonstrated its integrity by having those allegations of wrongdoing dealt with properly. When it moves beyond individuals to a government systemically and repeatedly covering up and condoning that malfeasance, then it goes to the question of the integrity of the government as a whole and the capacity of this house and indeed of the people of Victoria to have confidence in it. As so often is the case, the initial wrongdoing was then compounded and made even worse by the attempted cover-ups that have been involved. We have seen that in the condoning of the behaviour of the former Speaker and Deputy Speaker by members of the government, by members of the Labor Party opposite, and we have seen it again in the covering up and attempts to stymie the allegations of the red shirts rotting, the refusal to cooperate with the Ombudsman’s inquiry and the phoney assertion of exclusive cognisance, which is an attempt to prevent scrutiny of members of this house. These are all matters that should be dealt with in this house this week, as they should have been dealt with in this house week after week previously.

For all the bravado and bluster with which the government might come to the house this week, these are the pressing issues that should be dealt with. The government should be clearing the rotten stench that

surrounds it because integrity in government is fundamental to delivering good government in any jurisdiction. If this government cannot have the confidence of the people and cannot be free of corruption, then it is hard for this state to maintain the freedom, the wellbeing and the security that has endured through hundreds of years of effort under Westminster jurisdictions to rid ourselves of the stench of corruption. If this government will not deal with that stench, this house and this community cannot continue to have confidence in it. And for that reason we oppose the government business program.

Mr PEARSON (Essendon) (13:06) — Is that it, Bobby? That's it? What a woeful, woeful, desultory effort. The member for Box Hill has been here for 30 years this year, and I would hazard a guess that I reckon that this is probably the first no-confidence motion he has spoken on — that would be my guess — in 30 years. I could be wrong, but these are rare events. This is his moment to shine. Put your back into it. Show some passion. You are trying to bring the government down by this stunt. Just get behind it. Show us some passion. I do not think the member for Box Hill has got any passion for this, because I do not think the Leader of the Opposition consulted with him at all.

The member for Box Hill is a chief parliamentary tactician for the Liberal Party in this place. Those of us who sit through question time time and time again recognise that, if the state parliamentary Liberal Party was *Animal Farm*, the member for Box Hill would be none other than Boxer. He is the one, the workhorse, that is constantly out there trying to do his bit. He is not Snowball; he is certainly no Napoleon. He is Boxer. Yet here is today — this great moment to shine — and I reckon this bloke is going to sleep through the debate this afternoon. I reckon it is nap time for the member for Box Hill. I mean, if you are going to do this, show some passion. Get into it. Say, 'Yes, it's great to be here. I'm going to try to bring down the government today with this stunt'.

He is not interested because he knows damn well this is a stunt. This is not about the jobs of ordinary Victorians. This is about one job — the job of the Leader of the Opposition — because we know that counting is underway within the Liberal party room. We know that the member for Malvern when he got kicked out of question time was on the phone to start the process. We know that the member for Malvern is sitting on around 23 votes in the Liberal party room and that the Leader of the Opposition is on about 18 votes, and there are six undecided.

Ms Ryall — On a point of order, Speaker, I know there is an audition going on here, but it is a fairly narrow debate, and I would ask you to call the member for Essendon back to the substance of the motion.

The SPEAKER — We are debating the government business program. I note that speakers on both sides of the table have talked about the motion that is on the notice paper, so I am prepared to allow some discussion of that item as long as it is in the context of it being on the notice paper and taking up some time this week. But members should maybe come back to talking about the business program as well.

Mr PEARSON — In response to the member for Ringwood's point of order, I would say in relation to this government business program: it is Gucci, bro. This government business program is totally lit. I think it is an outstanding government business program. But the only reason we are here today to discuss this motion is for one reason and one reason only: it is about ensuring the Leader of the Opposition keeps his job. Those opposite are not interested in the jobs of ordinary Victorians. They are not interested in trying to provide safety and security for Victorians or to provide a progressive Victoria with a strong social fabric. It all comes down to numbers, and it all comes down to votes. What I would ask the member for Ringwood is: have you moved your column? Are you now in the member for Malvern's column or the Leader of the Opposition's column? Are you one of the 18?

The SPEAKER — The member for Essendon will come back to the motion.

Mr PEARSON — Thank you, Speaker, for your guidance. The reality is that according to this motion that is before us today we could be debating really important bills. We could be getting on with the job of delivering good, progressive government to the state of Victoria. Instead this is just a stunt to try to distract this government. We will not be distracted by stunts from those opposite. We are here to do what we were sent to do: provide good, stable, competent administration.

You do have to wonder where those opposite are at the moment. Are they caucusing? Are they trying to work out where the numbers are? Are we going to have another version of Canberra back here in Spring Street? That is the question you have to ask yourself, but we will not be distracted. We are absolutely committed and focused. We are passionate. We love the Labor Party, we love the labour movement and we love occupying the Treasury bench because we know what this means. We did not waste four years. We were not asleep. You slept through four years in government. You will sleep

through this no-confidence motion. It is just a fraud. It is a con. It is a waste of time and the member for Box Hill in his heart of hearts knows it, because he would have gotten up and spoken with vim and vigour and zest. It was absent. It was missing. He is not interested. His back is not into it. He does not care.

The reality is that we are focused, we are committed and we are here to do what we were sent to do. We are not going to be distracted by these stunts. The big question for those opposite is: does the Leader of the Opposition still have your support, or have you joined the member for Malvern and are you one of the 23? I commend the motion of the Leader of the House.

Ms RYALL (Ringwood) (13:11) — I rise to oppose the government business program. I listened to the Leader of the House in relation to her hoping that there would be approval and a unanimous decision to support the government business program, but what I notice is that, time and time again and month after month, the Leader of the House refuses to accept the desire of this house to actually deal with the rorting that has occurred. There can be no greater priority at this point in time than actually dealing with integrity issues and dealing with not taking Victorians for a ride, not taking advantage of Victorians and not taking them for granted. At the end of the day we represent the Victorian people, and the Victorian people expect integrity issues to be dealt with by this house.

The government business program, time and again, has failed to deal with integrity and rorting. The manager of opposition business highlighted the litany of rorts. There has not been just a single one here and there, but systemic rorting has been undertaken by the government. They have done everything, including providing a protection racket to prevent our Parliament — this house — from dealing with those issues of integrity.

I go back a few years and look at when this government were in opposition and at the furore that they created in the house about integrity issues relating to one person, and yet we have got a multiplicity of integrity issues — of rorting issues — facing this government that hold others to standards different to the ones they hold themselves to. A few years ago they had to be dealt with in this house, but under this government, ‘No, we won’t deal with integrity issues. We won’t deal with rorting issues. We’ll just continue to pretend this is good government when we know it’s not. We’ll just pretend that we’re getting on with the job of putting legislation through’.

The very heart of this house and of this Parliament — this government business program — needs to deal with the failure of integrity, the failure of ministers to stand aside, the red shirts rorting program and the second residence allowance rorting. There is just a complete litany of rorting and integrity issues. It is absolutely a priority that this house deals with those issues and makes sure that decency can be restored to this house.

I am not sure how the member for Essendon can stand up there. It was an embarrassing contribution that he made, and it really showed, I think, why the government is in the situation it is in. There is complete denial of the facts and complete denial of standing for integrity and standing for making sure that we do the best for Victorians. All we are hearing from them is, ‘We don’t want to deal with it, and by the way, you’re wrong because you do want to deal with it’. Sorry, but we oppose the business program. In the same vein as the Leader of the House, I hope in the two sittings remaining that dealing with the rorting that has been undertaken consistently by those opposite — the mistruths to get into government, the cheating to get into government and the cheating while they have been in government — becomes one of the orders of the day on the government business program. It would be my hope that the Leader of the House puts that as a priority, as opposed to bagging everybody else and failing to deal with the integrity issues that continue to dominate and dog this government as it goes forward.

Mr CARBINES (Ivanhoe) (13:16) — Thank you very much, Speaker, for your protection for the member for Ringwood. They are not only slow to their feet on the other side; they were very slow when they were in government too.

There are four bills that are listed for debate this week. Of those bills I particularly want to draw people’s attention to the Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors Amendment Bill 2018. I noticed the Transport Workers Union in Canberra today highlighting a Monash University study showing truck driving in Australia is the deadliest and most unhealthy job. Up there in Canberra, while the Liberals are talking about themselves, we have got unions and their representatives — the workers in industries such as our transport and trucking businesses — standing up for workers and making sure that their voice is heard in the community. Can I say also that when we bring these matters to bear in the Parliament this week through the Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors Amendment Bill 2018 we will be talking about matters that are important to them.

I want to commend the Leader of the House and Minister for Public Transport on the work that she did over the past week in helping to resolve matters on behalf of transport companies and also in partnership with the Transport Workers Union, CDC Victoria and Transdev of course. We had those members come out at 4.40 a.m. to Oakleigh last Thursday to get back behind the wheel and provide a service to Victorians. That is the sort of workforce we have in this state. That is the sort of workforce that is supported by this government, and we are the sort of government that wants to get on and work every day for Victorians. Of course we will make sure when we debate those matters that we will also draw some parallels in history to some of the terrible contracts signed in relation to Transdev by the previous government, which extended a seven-year contract and gave extensions beyond that to one of the worst operators of public transport services in Victoria.

There is a fantastic service in SmartBus. It runs on one of the most popular bus routes in metropolitan Melbourne and was introduced by the Bracks and Brumby governments. It is one of the most popular services across my electorate. I tell you what, I would not be eating off the floor of too many Transdev buses, but I certainly would be happy to have a three-course meal on the floor of one of my Dyson buses or one of my Mee's buses. That goes to the heart of the contracts signed by those opposite when they were in government — disgraceful contracts with that multinational company that did not live up to the standards that have been set by many others in relation to public transport in this state. We will be holding those opposite to account for those matters.

Can I say also that while the Liberals in Canberra continue to talk about themselves, the Liberals in Victoria want to talk about the Labor government. Of course we are focused on talking about what matters to people living every day here in Victoria and working hard to make a contribution to our state, whether that is the continued rebuilding and investment in our health services and our schools, or whether it is investing in our teaching and nursing workforce, and some of the bills that have been introduced today reflect that very clearly in relation to nurse-to-patient ratios.

I find it laughable that those opposite want to talk about integrity when it was their very own minister responsible for IBAC, a former member for Kew, who had to resign from the ministry and the integrity portfolio that he held — such was the disaster of those opposite when they were in government. I remind those opposite that they are the only government in recent memory to lose two votes on the floor of this house. I

was here; I remember that, so when they want to talk about matters of confidence, those opposite need to take responsibility for the fact that when they were on the Treasury bench they were unable to exert their will over this house on two occasions because of the poor discipline of their own members.

Can I say also, just in finalising, there are 94 days until the election. The people of Victoria will have the opportunity to determine whether they want to affirm again, for a second time, the portfolios, the policies and the platform of the Labor Party, just as they did four years ago, or whether they want to make a different decision. I would say that I will leave it to the people of Victoria to make the decision on whether they have confidence in the way in which the Labor Party has governed these past four years.

We will not leave it up to those opposite, who were abject failures when they had the opportunity to govern this state. Those opposite were dismissed from office by the people of Victoria. They are the people that never get it wrong, the people of Victoria. They will have their say in 94 days. I put my trust, as does our government, in the people of Victoria to have their say about who they have confidence in to run this state. When we were out there just this week, we announced solar panels on roofs to save some \$900 a year for 650 000 homes in Victoria and a \$1000 rebate for solar hot water for another 60 000 eligible Victorians. I know who is putting Victorians first, and it is the Andrews Labor government.

Mr CRISP (Mildura) (13:21) — I rise to speak on the government business program. The Nationals in coalition are opposing the program. We are opposing the program, as we have consistently since the rorts and the actions of the former Speaker and the former Deputy Speaker became widely known. We continue to oppose these events on the grounds raised by the manager of opposition business.

It is the government's failure to address the rorts and the red shirts affair that runs to the base of this. Right across country Victoria people are shaking their heads in amazement at some of the actions that have been seen during this Parliament. Good governance does demand action, and this government has not acted with integrity and has lacked integrity. Thus we have a no-confidence motion before us to debate today. There are strong grounds for a lack of confidence, which the chamber will no doubt hear, but the issues do revolve around things that are systemic to this government — things that should not become systemic to any government — and the house's failure to deal with them and, when all else fails, to discipline itself.

To the government business program this week, we have four bills on the program — firstly the Building Amendment (Registration of Building Trades and Other Matters) Bill 2018. This bill has many parts, but I think the ones that people are showing some interest in are in relation to certain wall-cladding products following some pretty terrible media that we have seen around that. There is further proposed regulation around swimming pool and spas, amendments to the Local Government Act 1989 for councils to enter into agreements to rectify cladding on buildings and amendments for councils to charge a levy for rectification to assist in those buildings being safer. The Owner Drivers and Forestry Contractors Amendment Bill 2018 is also before the house, as is the Gambling Regulation Amendment (Wagering and Betting) Bill 2018.

Then of course there is the Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2018. There has certainly been quite a lot of activity in my office from various stakeholders, particularly the Real Estate Institute of Victoria. The bill makes some changes around notices to vacate and notices of intention to vacate. The bill proposes some changes to the modification of premises, bonds and the payment of rent. It also deals with pets and requires that premises meet certain minimum standards. There is also a component about compensation payable upon the closure of a caravan park. That is a bill which will be debated on Thursday and which has raised some considerable interest across my electorate and, I am sure, across others.

Again, The Nationals opposing this program is really about the house's failure to do what the house should do about the matters we have seen relating to integrity and rotting. While that remains so, The Nationals will continue in coalition to oppose the government business program.

House divided on motion:

Ayes, 44

Allan, Ms	Knight, Ms
Andrews, Mr	Languiller, Mr
Bull, Mr J.	Lim, Mr
Carbines, Mr	McGuire, Mr
Carroll, Mr	Merlino, Mr
Couzens, Ms	Nardella, Mr
D' Ambrosio, Ms	Neville, Ms
Dimopoulos, Mr	Noonan, Mr
Donnellan, Mr	Pakula, Mr
Edbrooke, Mr	Pallas, Mr
Edwards, Ms	Pearson, Mr
Eren, Mr	Perera, Mr
Foley, Mr	Richardson, Mr
Garrett, Ms	Scott, Mr
Graley, Ms	Spence, Ms
Green, Ms	Staikos, Mr

Halfpenny, Ms
Hennessy, Ms
Howard, Mr
Hutchins, Ms
Kairouz, Ms
Kilkenny, Ms

Angus, Mr
Asher, Ms
Battin, Mr
Britnell, Ms
Bull, Mr T.
Burgess, Mr
Clark, Mr
Crisp, Mr
Dixon, Mr
Fyffe, Mrs
Gidley, Mr
Guy, Mr
Hibbins, Mr
Hodgett, Mr
Katos, Mr
Kealy, Ms
McCurdy, Mr
McLeish, Ms
Morris, Mr
Northe, Mr

Suleyman, Ms
Thomas, Ms
Thomson, Ms
Ward, Ms
Williams, Ms
Wynne, Mr

Noes, 39

O'Brien, Mr M.
Paynter, Mr
Pesutto, Mr
Riordan, Mr
Ryall, Ms
Ryan, Ms
Sandell, Ms
Sheed, Ms
Smith, Mr R.
Smith, Mr T.
Staley, Ms
Thompson, Mr
Thorpe, Ms
Tilley, Mr
Victoria, Ms
Wakeling, Mr
Walsh, Mr
Watt, Mr
Wells, Mr

Motion agreed to.

MEMBERS STATEMENTS

Whitehorse Showtime

Mr ANGUS (Forest Hill) (13:31) — Last Friday I was delighted to attend the opening night of the annual Whitehorse Showtime production, this year entitled *The Sky's the Limit*. As always it was a fantastic performance by the scouts and guides of the Mount Dandenong region, with a record number participating. Well done to all the cast and crew involved, in particular producer Kieran Van Geyzel and director Cate-Linne Conway, as well as all the volunteers whose hard work makes the show possible.

Regis Inala Village

Mr ANGUS — I was very pleased to visit Regis Inala retirement village recently to meet with and present to residents about the Parliament and to speak about my role and various local issues. The Inala community is home to more than 600 residents and is a very well-known local establishment. My thanks to Edzard Batenburg and his colleagues from Inala for organising this event and the residents for attending.

St James Primary School, Vermont

Mr ANGUS — Last week I had the great pleasure of attending St James Primary School in Vermont and

speaking to the year 6 students about Parliament and my role as a local member. The students were very attentive during our time together and asked many excellent questions. I thank the students and year 6 staff for having me along and wish all the students and staff well for the rest of the year.

Whitehorse Netball Association

Mr ANGUS — I was pleased to attend the recent Whitehorse Netball Association annual tournament in Vermont South and particularly to present the trophies. It was impressive seeing many hundreds of young players, parents, team volunteers and umpires enjoying the sport they love. I congratulate all the association staff led by general manager Matthew Firth, committee members led by chairman Mark Lane and other volunteers on organising and running this very successful event.

Eastern Football League

Mr ANGUS — As the Eastern Football League (EFL) home-and-away season comes to an end with my three EFL teams — East Burwood, Forest Hill and Vermont — all involved in finals action, I wish them all well for the finals series. I particularly pay tribute to the numerous volunteers who work tirelessly week in and week out, year in and year out to keep their clubs going. The committee members in particular, who give up so much of their time keeping their clubs running, are to be heartily congratulated.

1st Tally Ho scouts

Mr ANGUS — I recently had the pleasure of attending the 1st Tally Ho scout group's annual presentation night. The group is experiencing growth —

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — The member's time has expired.

Jodi Dack

Mr PALLAS (Treasurer) (13:32) — I rise today to honour the life of my friend and former colleague Jodi Dack. I first encountered Jodi when she was an adviser to Minister Candy Broad. Before then I knew her by reputation: strong, whip smart, witty and fearless. These wonderful traits were truly evident from the moment I met her. They consumed her and they were contagious. Jodi lived her professional and personal life by these qualities. I saw this firsthand as Minister for Roads and Ports when she was an advisor in my office. She was dedicated to making a difference to Victorians. She gave frank and fearless advice with a smile. She was a lesson

to us all, particularly in politics, that you do not have to be hard and nasty to make your way in this world. She never blew out another's candle to light her own.

Jodi was also a dedicated mother and wife. I remember her joy as she announced her pregnancy in 2008. For all her professional achievements, her daughter Una Rose was her proudest life accomplishment. Despite battling cancer for more than six years, Jodi remained strong, intelligent, witty and fearless. She travelled the world in between treatments to ensure her family and friends remembered her tenacity and adventurousness. She was selfless and brave until the end. But beyond all that, she defined herself by the love, compassion and commitment to others that she lived every day. My thoughts are with Jodi's husband, Brendan O'Connor, her daughter, Una, and her family and friends.

Wildlife control

Mr T. BULL (Gippsland East) (13:34) — Last week in this chamber I highlighted the severe drought conditions that are impacting farmers in East Gippsland. I want to ask today for assistance in an area where the government can provide immediate help. A number of our farmers are growing crops and fodder and various pastures for the spring season ahead. What we are having is an inundation of wildlife into these areas. I have spoken about the kangaroos previously in this place. Over recent weeks a number of our native duck population have absolutely decimated the growth in some of our crops.

The applications to control wildlife that are being made by these farmers, these primary producers, are taking four to six weeks to process. Traditionally that has taken two to four weeks, but there has been a blowout in the time frames so that by the time these permits are approved it is far, far too late. We are heading into spring. This is a critical time for our farmers. Purely by allocating more resources to get these permits approved in a much quicker fashion will give our farmers some hope.

We received a little bit of rain over the weekend and there is more forecast for next week, which will hopefully make a big difference, but it is of no use unless our primary producers can control the wildlife that is impacting on their attempts to grow pasture and fodder. I urge the Minister for Agriculture to please put some resources into this very important area for our farmers.

Jodi Dack

Ms ALLAN (Minister for Public Transport) (13:35) — I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable Jodi Dack, our friend who recently lost her tough battle with cancer. Jodi was a generous and loyal friend, an adventurer who loved to explore new places and loved new experiences. She was a dedicated and beloved member of the labour movement, as a union member, a shop steward, an Australian Services Union staff member and as a ministerial adviser, where she met, befriended and earned the respect of many in this place.

At this point I would like to share a reflection from a former upper house member and long-serving minister, Candy Broad, who said:

I was so fortunate to have Jodi Dack as a member of my team as an electorate officer and then a ministerial adviser. Jodi believed that Labor governments existed to make life better for working people, and they loved her for it.

Candy's observation about people loving Jodi was an experience shared by so many of us. Jodi's generosity extended to the community and charitable work she continued to do, even throughout her long battle with cancer.

Jodi was a deeply loving wife to Brendan and an incredible mum. She gave everything she had the power to give to her darling daughter, Una Rose. Yorick and I were blessed to have known Jodi and to have her as a friend. It is impossible to sum up in this statement all that she meant to us. We loved her and we shall miss her terribly. We will do all that we can to continue to love and support Brendan and Una. Rest in peace, beautiful Jodi.

Ian Barnes

Ms RYALL (Ringwood) (13:37) — Congratulations to Ian Barnes, one of our local unsung heroes, who has dedicated 50 years of voluntary service to the Ringwood Football Club. He began as a junior player in 1968 before becoming a trainer and later a committee member. Barney has become a lifetime member of the senior football club, where he is still the head trainer, and he has also received a lifetime membership of the Ringwood Spiders All-Abilities Sports Club. Ian has given so much to the club, without ever asking for anything in return. There are few in our community who have given as much as Barney has, and his longstanding and amazing contribution to the life of the club is admirable. Without volunteers such as Ian, our community would never be what it is today.

East Ringwood Junior Football Club

Ms RYALL — Huge congratulations to the East Ringwood Junior Football Club on their triple win over the weekend with the under-11A, under-13A and under-14A teams winning premierships. Congratulations to all the players, coaches, team managers, volunteers, parents and supporters who pushed through the icy-cold conditions on the day. Under 14A won 54-17 against Lysterfield; under 13A won 60-13 against Blackburn; and under 11A won 8-2 against Blackburn. So it was a fantastic effort by a fabulous junior football club, and I wish it all the best for the young girls who are playing next week in their premiership game.

Jodi Dack

Ms HENNESSY (Minister for Health) (13:38) — Jodi Dack was an incredible woman who lived an incredible life. That life was unfortunately cut short when Jodi passed away as a consequence of the cancer that she lived with for such a significant portion of her recent life. But Jodi's life was so much bigger than the disease that she lived with.

I first met Jodi through mutual friends when she came to work at the Australian Services Union and subsequently through her involvement with the Labor Party. Everyone — and I do mean everyone — who met Jodi could not help but feel enveloped by her warmth, her infectious personality, her prolific work ethic, her decency, her cracking sense of humour and the loyal friendship and selflessness that she gave so freely to everyone. Jodi was a person with a lot of friends, because she was inherently lovable.

In recent times Jodi would share her views and aspirations with me about better systems, better health care and better medical research for people living with cancer. I was struck by her incredible generosity at wanting to share her experiences to advocate for others. Jodi was a beacon of compassion for others. I am incredibly grateful for the friendship and exposure that I got to have.

I have met many a proud parent in my time, but the depth of love and pride that Jodi had for her daughter was something to behold. All of my love to Una Rose and Brendan as they grapple with their grief.

Energy policy

Mr WATT (Burwood) (13:40) — The Andrews Labor government has lost all credibility over the last week and again today, with ministers attempting to

rewrite history. It was Labor that started the privatisation of the electricity market by selling Loy Yang B in 1992, it was Labor that privatised the port of Melbourne and it is Labor that is attempting to privatise the land titles office. The Premier told Victorians energy prices would rise by a mere 4 per cent due to Hazelwood's closure, yet the Premier now claims prices are up by 20 per cent and he continues to blame everybody except himself for the runaway energy costs. Due to Labor's botched energy policies, Victorians are now paying \$300 more for electricity and up to \$500 more for gas, and our state is now dependent on energy imports from New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania just to keep the lights on. The Premier's \$1.2 billion giveaway to property owners will do nothing to relieve the cost of energy for renters, particularly public housing tenants in my electorate, but will actually have the reverse effect of making electricity more expensive for those of us who are left on the grid.

Roberts McCubbin Primary School

Mr WATT — I want to congratulate Roberts McCubbin Primary School for the tour of Parliament they had the other day and for the debate they conducted on plastic bags. It is fantastic to see young students engaging with the political process, and it was really nice to pop in here and have a conversation with the students about the processes of Parliament and what we can do to make life better.

Jodi Dack

Mr PAKULA (Attorney-General) (13:41) — I also rise to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine who left us way too soon at just 47 years of age, Jodi Dack. I first met Jodi about 17 years ago, around the time that Brendan, her husband, stood in the Burke preselection. Her fierce loyalty to him and her organising capabilities were on display then, as they have been many times since. I then reconnected with Jodi when she was an adviser in the office of the now Treasurer and I was the parliamentary secretary. Then when she wanted to return to work after the birth of her beloved Una Rose, or 'UROC' as we called her, and wanted something less taxing and more part-time than a ministerial office gig, she came to work for me in the Yarraville electorate office. Every week the Yarraville electorate office became a creche because Jodi would not leave Una Rose behind. One of the cupboards in the electorate office became a toy cupboard, as Una Rose played on the floor while Jodi worked.

At Jodi's funeral there were eulogies from, as she described them, the 'Sunbury sheilas', a mothers group,

and from a former Prime Minister, and that is who Jodi was. She was the same to everyone, no matter what walk of life they came from. She was fun and she was warm and she was tough. I spoke to her on the day she was diagnosed, and it was a bad diagnosis from the start, but her last six years were about leaving Brendan and Una Rose with as many amazing memories as she could. Judging by the speeches that both Brendan and Una Rose gave at her funeral last Friday, she achieved that end.

Western Victoria rail services

Ms KEALY (Lowan) (13:43) — The people who live in western Victoria are sick of being forgotten by the Andrews Labor government. Despite the Premier saying over and over again that Labor is upgrading every single passenger rail line in Victoria, public transport connections in our part of the state continue to deteriorate, with no attention at all given to returning passenger rail services. All of our public transport services delivered by coach have actually either been cut back or resulted in longer travel times due to timetable changes through the connection in Ballarat. This is extremely disappointing for people in our local community because we have an older demographic who rely on public transport to get to hospitals, to get to shopping, to get to appointments and to connect with their family and friends. This is having a big impact on our area.

I am very, very proud that The Nationals have committed to undertaking a \$4 million business case to look at returning passenger rail services. We deserve a better deal in western Victoria, but it is extremely disappointing that Labor has forgotten that our part of the state even exists.

Willaura hospital

Ms KEALY — Willaura hospital is a fantastic hospital in the east Grampians area. I was very proud that almost six months ago I announced that we would invest \$600 000 to redevelop this fantastic site, supporting what the community have been fighting for for a long time, as has the fantastic Willaura hospital auxiliary. It has been really disappointing that Labor have failed to match this commitment. They simply will not put the money up —

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — The member's time has expired.

Jodi Dack

Ms HUTCHINS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) (13:44) — Last Friday, 17 August, we farewelled a great friend of the labour movement, Jodi Dack, wife of Brendan O'Connor and mother of Una Rose. My path crossed many times with Jodi in the union movement and the labour movement, but I actually got to know Jodi much better at the gate of St Augustine's Primary School, where both of our children went to school. She was a valued member of the community, and sadly we lost her to breast cancer way too soon.

Jodi and I were guest speakers at a big morning tea to raise funds for the Cancer Council at the primary school. I got to speak in my capacity as carer for my husband, and she got to speak as a survivor. Quite frankly there was not a dry eye in the room. I remember her being very pleased at the money that we were able to raise that day, which went to the Cancer Council. Jodie was extremely positive and strong and had a beautiful energy. To her credit, she has left behind a gorgeous daughter who will continue to remind us of her spirit.

We thank you, Jodi, for sharing all your special recipes, for everything that you gave to our community and for being so kind to the sheilas of Keilor. We remember you as a dear friend, a loving mother and a giving person. To quote Connie Johnson:

Cheers to the girls and women who stare down life's toughest experiences and turn them into something that helps others.

And that was Jodi.

Alphington Primary School

Ms THORPE (Northcote) (13:46) — I rise to speak about the planning for a new senior campus of Alphington Primary School. This government has allocated \$4.5 million for a new campus to accommodate the growing student population. This project is in the early phase of site selection and design, but already it has proven problematic. I held a community forum last week to talk about the future of Alphington, and the school campus was the locals' main concern. Proposals so far have been for sites with very little or no green space. Locals are concerned because the process seems to be controlled by the developer, who is determined to put the school campus on top of high-rise apartments and a shopping centre. This poses many health and safety concerns, and it is completely inadequate when the government could easily purchase a piece of land for the school campus.

All primary school students need access to adequate outdoor space for physical activity and mental wellbeing. They also need a safe and appropriate location for their school, one that is not on top of a shopping centre and next to two major roads. The government must go back to the drawing board, consult with the school and local community and consider alternate sites so we can ensure the new campus will lead to the best education and development outcomes for these children.

Jodi Dack

Ms THOMSON (Footscray) (13:47) — Jodi Dack not only had Labor values, she lived by them every single day. I first met Jodi when she went to work for Candy Broad when Candy Broad became a minister. You knew when Jodi was in the room; the room just brightened up with her. She was tall to my short, she always had a smile, she was always prepared to have a conversation and she was one of the hardest workers in any ministerial office. We used to do ministerial drinks, and Jodi took it upon herself to organise Candy's office to do their fair share. She brightened up our lives every single day. She had a very kind heart. She was a beautiful woman both inside and out. She loved life, and everyone loved her. Her commitment to her family was extraordinary — her love of Brendan, being there to support him every step along the way, and of Una Rose, her 10-year-old daughter, who will miss her mum every single day of her life. She has been left with a life full of memories that Jodi made sure Una Rose got since she was diagnosed with cancer in 2012. Jodi, we will miss you every single day ourselves, and to Brendan, to Una, to Jodi's parents and to the families and friends who loved and knew Jodi: I wish you well in the struggles ahead. Rest in peace, Jodi.

Glen Huntly Road, Elwood, pedestrian crossing

Ms ASHER (Brighton) (13:49) — Those in this chamber who pay attention to what I say — and I do not suspect there are many — would be aware that I have been asking for some time for the government to fund a pedestrian crossing upgrade on Glen Huntly Road near Elwood Primary School. The community have been calling for this for many, many years, both the school community and the general community. There have been 17 incidents along the Glen Huntly Road strip, and some of these have unfortunately resulted in injury. The Labor Party has not come to the table with funding, and indeed I quote from a letter from the Minister for Roads and Road Safety dated 25 May 2018:

A pedestrian improvement proposal will be considered for funding in a future program.

That is all I can get from the Labor Party, so I was very, very pleased to see the other day a press release from the shadow Minister for Education in fact announcing that a Liberal-National government will fund this pedestrian crossing. There has been a commitment of \$390 000 set aside to upgrade this pedestrian crossing. I congratulate the shadow minister. I also congratulate James Newbury, the Liberal candidate for Brighton, who has been instrumental in securing this funding. I think this is a very, very good example of where the Liberal candidate has responded to his local community.

Member for Williamstown

Mr NOONAN (Williamstown) (13:50) — I rise to thank and acknowledge the many wonderful people who have worked directly for me over the last 11 years both in my electorate and in my ministerial offices. Working in an electorate office can be a thankless task at times, but the Williamstown electorate has been served by many wonderful and dedicated people. These include Cath McDonald, John Pearson, Chris Ransom, Lindsay Wilson-Roberts, Oliver Tripodi, Owen Virtue, Stacey Lynn, Sam Hayward, Hannah Brown, Claire Rowe, Justin Moloney and Sam Lynch. Each of these individuals has helped achieve many outstanding improvements for local schools, roads, public transport, our hospital, community facilities and local services.

I have also been privileged to serve as a minister across multiple portfolios, including police, corrections, industry, employment and resources. Again I was supported by some of the most hardworking, dedicated and loyal people I have ever met, including Fiona Ward, Marlene Morrison, Ashley McInnes, Owen Virtue, Ashlea Bright, Katherine Munt, Vanessa Williams, Jessica Lindell, Andrew Nelson and Narelle Wiggan, plus a host of departmental staff. I reserve my final thanks to my wonderful friend and former colleague Bob Stensholt, who served not only as my chief of staff but also as an electorate officer during Labor's time in opposition post the 2010 loss. He is a remarkable person and has been an outstanding servant of our state and party. I thank every one of these special people for their friendship and, most importantly, their commitment to Labor's values.

Rowville rail line

Mr WELLS (Rowville) (13:52) — This statement confirms the Liberal-Nationals next step in pushing for a rail line to Rowville. The Rowville rail land corridor will be protected by a Matthew Guy-led

Liberal-Nationals government under planning provisions. At a packed Rowville rail forum held on Friday, 10 August, organised by Mick Van de Vreede, Darren Wallace and their team, Knox residents made it very clear they need more action on Rowville rail. New planning provisions will be the next step towards a rail line all the way to Rowville. A planning overlay on public land will prevent land in the rail corridor being used for anything other than public transport.

This announcement continues on from work on the \$2 million Rowville rail feasibility study completed by the previous Liberal-Nationals government, which Labor have ignored despite persistent lobbying by me and the member for Ferntree Gully. With an injection of funding from the federal government of nearly half a billion dollars to start the project from Caulfield to Monash University, Clayton, now is the right time to move forward and have a commitment to the next stage of preserving land for Rowville rail. Labor is still committed to a ridiculous plan for a tramline, hoping that a drawn-out discussion about trams will distract from its own lack of progress on Rowville rail. Labor has not lifted a finger on Rowville rail during their time in government, and now the project is more crucial than ever. The Knox community is sick of waiting, and Rowville locals who want a rail line have been very vocal in their advocacy for one.

GROW program

Mr PEARSON (Essendon) (13:53) — On Friday I met Sam. Sam is working as a junior civil engineer on the removal of the Buckley Street level crossing. Close your eyes for a moment. What picture emerges when you think of a civil engineer named Sam working on a major engineering project? Are you seeing a tall, white Anglo-Australian male? If you are, then you are wrong on every measure. Samrawit is a young woman who emigrated from Ethiopia and is working on this exciting project.

For years African-Australians and support agencies have been telling me that one of the biggest hurdles to employment for communities from East Africa is a lack of connections. At the same time employers are telling these young graduates that they lack Australian experience. With no job available for them when they graduate, many do further studies, getting themselves into further debt without a guarantee of a job. That is why the government's GROW program, which enables migrants and people from a disadvantaged background to obtain a career in the transport and construction industries, is so important. I want to thank the Minister for Public Transport and Mr Leane from the other place for their efforts in ensuring that this is happening. It is

precisely because of this program that Sam is now working on the Buckley Street level crossing.

In the past I have spoken of my father-in-law, who as a proud member of the CFMEU worked on the Burnley Tunnel and Rod Laver Arena, projects which he was incredibly proud of. I want to ensure that in the decades to come migrants and refugees who have African heritage can feel that same level of pride and satisfaction. I want these communities to survey Melbourne in decades to come and say that they had a role in building this great city. I want to reach a stage where you walk through the corridors of government or a business or a department or agency and see African-Australians in leadership positions. Programs like GROW are a stepping stone to making this a reality.

Friends of Mentone Station and Gardens

Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham) (13:54) — I pay tribute to chairperson Dorothy Booth and the members and committee of the Friends of Mentone Station and Gardens Inc., including Claire Houston, Penelope McGuire-White, Tony Brooker, Margaret Mottram, Sue Blackford, Marjory Kean and Mervin Johnston. I acknowledge the great work undertaken by the friends over the past three years in engaging with the Level Crossing Removal Authority in relation to the grade separation at Mentone and working to achieve the best outcome for Mentone with the rail under road solution and conservation of the heritage features of the Mentone station gardens.

Mairi McIntosh

Mr THOMPSON — I pay tribute today to Mairi McIntosh for her outstanding leadership as president of the Beaumaris RSL Women's Auxiliary and also in recognition of her being presented with an RSL life membership earlier this year.

Senator Fraser Anning

Mr THOMPSON — I condemn the use of the phrase 'final solution' by Fraser Anning in his inaugural speech in the Senate. In world history, the Holocaust — in which the Nazis were responsible for the systematic annihilation of 6 million Jews — stands as one of the greatest acts of evil ever committed by humanity.

Constable Leonard Rymer

Mr THOMPSON — I recently attended the dedication of the grave of Constable Leonard Cardell Rymer, and I pay tribute to the Victoria Police Memorials Committee, and in particular Chief Inspector Ralph Stavely for the great work of the

committee. The service was conducted at the Cheltenham Memorial Park on Friday, 10 August 2018.

Sandringham electorate schools

Mr THOMPSON — I lament the lack of reinvestment in Sandringham electorate primary schools by the current government.

Casey Grammar School

Mr PERERA (Cranbourne) (13:56) — Thanks to the Andrews Labor government's \$1.33 million investment, the students, staff and community of Casey Grammar School in Cranbourne East can now enjoy the gymnasium's new foyer area, changing rooms and multipurpose classroom, including an outdoor learning area.

Apprenticeships and traineeships

Mr PERERA — High school students across the state will soon be able to finish school with an apprenticeship or traineeship thanks to the Andrews Labor government. Locally in the electorate of Cranbourne the new Head Start apprenticeships and traineeships initiative will launch at five schools in the area: Alkira Secondary College, Cranbourne East Secondary College, Cranbourne Secondary College, Lyndhurst Secondary College and Marnebek School Cranbourne.

Cranbourne and Pakenham rail lines

Mr PERERA — From Sunday, 26 August 2018 — that is, this Sunday — passengers at Cranbourne, Pakenham, Westall and Dandenong will have extra trains during weekday morning and evening peaks. Fifty services a week will be extended and 30 new services will be added to give Cranbourne-Pakenham rail line commuters more options to travel. Bus timetables will also be adjusted to maintain connections to trains.

Deer control

Ms STALEY (Ripon) (13:57) — The first large-scale deer control program is underway in the Grampians National Park. That is the news that comes from the ABC. However, hunters from the area would say it is not the first; there was another cull in the national park 20 or so years ago. At that time it cost between \$300 and \$500 per deer to cull the deer. It is now proposed that 150 of a supposed 1100 deer will be culled from the Grampians National Park. Professional hunters and experts in the field will say that that is not sufficient to control the deer population in the

Grampians National Park. In fact once again we have seen the department go down the path of hiring professional deer hunters when there are many shooters who would be prepared to do this for nothing if they could be given a permit to do so. Yet once again we have seen that the government is just prepared to pay and pay and pay and not allow the many, many shooters and hunters who are active in the western region and across the whole of my electorate into the national park to make a difference to what is a feral animal that is causing significant damage to a national park.

Jodi Dack

Ms SPENCE (Yuroke) (13:59) — I, too, would like to acknowledge the sad passing of Jodi Dack and pass on my condolences to Brendan and Una Rose and their broader family.

Yuroke electorate volunteers

Ms SPENCE — I would also like to congratulate three outstanding volunteers from the Yuroke electorate who have recently had their great work recognised. Congratulations to Craigieburn resident Arthur Dempster, who was recently short-listed for Volunteer of the Year at the Victorian Disability Sport and Recreation awards. Arthur's decade of service to the Camrea Cricket Club has ranged from preparing the ground and running the canteen to acting as goalkeeper. Indeed, such is his first passion that having his leg amputated due to diabetes two and a half years ago only serve to strengthen his dedication to supporting community cricket. In Arthur's words, 'Volunteering helped my recovery immensely. I was a bit down, but once cricket season started everyone at the club lifted my spirits'. And that is what community sport is about.

Craigieburn Eagles Basketball Association president Jason Moore has been short-listed as a finalist for the Premier's Volunteer Champion awards in the service category. Jason is an energetic and committed community leader and his enthusiasm for basketball has helped make the sport incredibly popular among Craigieburn locals of all ages. He also spearheads the Hume Relay for Life, where he has helped to raise thousands of dollars for Cancer awareness and prevention.

Craigieburn War Memorial & Remembrance Committee member Kevin O'Callaghan is a finalist for the Premier's Volunteer Champion awards in the leadership category. Kevin's lifetime of community service spans 40 years, from leading the establishment of the Craigieburn emergency response team to serving as controller of the Craigieburn State Emergency

Service. Most recently he led the effort to establish a permanent public war memorial in Craigieburn. Well done Arthur, Kevin and Jason, and thank you for the example you have set for others in our community.

Eltham electorate junior football clubs

Ms WARD (Eltham) (14:00) — I would just like to give a big shout-out to all those amazing junior football clubs that played their grand finals on Sunday and made a tremendous effort. To the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of parent volunteers who get out every Sunday no matter what the weather and help their kids, congratulations.

NO CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT

Mr GUY (Leader of the Opposition) (14:01) — I move:

That the Premier and the other Ministers of State for the state of Victoria no longer possess the confidence of this house.

This next election will be fought on trust. Who do you trust to keep your family safe? Who do you trust to fix our state's roads? Who do you trust to keep your power bills down? Who do you trust not to treat the taxpayers purse as your own? And the following simple questions will be asked. Is Victoria a safer place now than it was four years ago? Are our roads less congested than they were four years ago? Are our utility bills higher or lower than they were four years ago? Is the government rorting the taxpayer today compared to four years ago?

The answers to these questions are straightforward. The first basic responsibility of any government is to keep the public safe, and by any measure the Andrews government has failed. Our roads have never been as congested, yet the Andrews government's response was to pay more money to scrap a freeway than it can cost to build one. It is a criminal waste of money.

Utility bills are at historically high levels. The Andrews government taxed Hazelwood to a premature closure and now bills have skyrocketed. They had no plan when they taxed that power station to closure.

This government is corrupt. They have rorted taxpayers money; they sought to cover it up and to hide their crimes. The Ombudsman investigated it and they tried to stop her. Now the police are involved. Labor can run, but they cannot hide. They are corrupt, they got caught — and it is time they went.

The motion I move today is as serious as any that can be debated in this chamber. Today I want to run through a number of areas as to why I believe this

motion should be supported and why I believe that all members should give full consideration to what has occurred under this government — the culture and the behaviour of this government over the last four years — and why members should give full consideration to supporting this no-confidence motion on the basis of, more than anything else, sending a message to Victorians that the kind of government we have experienced, including the culture and the attitude of the government over the last four years, is one that should not be tolerated by any Victorian. It is a motion that Victorians know they deserve better. It is a motion that Victorians know they are being treated with contempt by the current government and a motion that reflects their frustrations.

The principal issue that has brought this motion to this Parliament today is the issue of the Labor rorts scandal. This votes-for-rorts scandal has been happening for some time. It is not an issue that was brought to the fore by the Liberal Party, by the National Party or by the media. It came to the fore from a whistleblower within the Australian Labor Party. This is an issue that came to prominence from Labor itself — from people in the Labor movement knowing that what was being done was wrong, was contemptible and bordered on corrupt. These are people within Labor who have spoken to the media, who have gone public and who have been whistleblowers themselves despite a lot of intimidation from the Labor movement themselves — people who have stood up to immense pressure and said that what has occurred needs to be exposed.

So let us expose what has occurred over a long period of time in full, because remember, this rorts affair is not something that is new; it is not six months worth or six weeks worth. It is three years in the making in public, and the year or so before that, when it was exacted.

On 2 September 2015 this issue became a public issue. It was fully reported that Labor members had been rorting their entitlements to pay for their election campaigns — something that we all knew was completely and utterly contrary to the rules of the Parliament and indeed to the rules that had been told to all MPs by many forms of communication, not least by dispatches and emails from the Presiding Officers, that all of us as retiring members going into the election were aware of and certainly knew about. On 17 September the then Speaker, the member for Tarneit, and the upper house President, Bruce Atkinson, referred the matter to the parliamentary Audit Committee. That committee is made up of the Presiding Officers, the clerks from both houses of the Parliament, the Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary

Services as well as two Independent members. They then looked at and assessed the information.

On 6 October 2015 the report concluded that the use of electorate office entitlements to pay for political campaigning, in their words, ‘Did not pass the pub test’. On 25 November the Clerk of the Legislative Council advised the Ombudsman of the upper house’s intention to refer the matter to her. We have seen this in this Parliament and in previous parliaments where a chamber has referred a matter to the Ombudsman. By 1 December the Ombudsman had advised the government that she had the jurisdiction, as a matter of precedent citing previous investigations — not least the Windsor inquiry, which we all know about from the 2006–2010 Parliament. This was another example where, whether it was sham consultation or inventing a process, it was bordering on corrupt conduct. Yet again it was a Labor government.

By 14 December the government had written to the Ombudsman, restating their view that she did not have the jurisdiction to investigate. So by 14 December 2015 this government had already begun the process of engaging in a cover-up. They had already begun the process to try and nobble and hinder the Ombudsman, and they made it very clear. On 1 February 2016 the Ombudsman filed an application in the Supreme Court to determine whether or not she had the jurisdiction to investigate. It took some time for that process to take place. By 26 August the Supreme Court ruled it was within the Ombudsman’s jurisdiction to investigate — a clear, straightforward, factual response from the Supreme Court to the government and to the Ombudsman.

But did the Andrews government stop there?

Honourable members — No.

Mr GUY — If there is something to fear, there is something to hide and vice versa. By 22 September 2016 the government had lodged an appeal against the Supreme Court ruling. By 9 December the Court of Appeal dismissed the government’s second attempt to block the Ombudsman and nobble her inquiry. On 5 January 2017 the government launched — wait for it — a High Court appeal. A High Court appeal with taxpayers money with who being the respondent for the government? Of course, the Attorney-General.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr GUY — On 5 April 2017 the government’s appeal to the High Court was dismissed — dismissed again.

Mr Riordan — How much money did they spend?

Mr GUY — I hear interjections asking how much money was spent — more than \$1 million of taxpayers money. By 19 March 2018 confirmation had been received that Labor's former Treasurer, John Lenders, had resigned as chair of VicTrack days before the Ombudsman's report was expected to be handed down. As someone who, quite rightly, was given the report in advance to consider its findings and make a response, he had seen that and known that the government would use him as a fall guy for their own corrupt practices. We knew that would be the case, and certainly it was. Ministers like the Premier and others had known that he would indeed be the person who would be made the fall guy for their entire corrupt activity.

Then on 21 March was the bombshell: the Ombudsman's inquiry. She found that Victorian Labor had wrongly used \$388 000 of public money during the party's 2014 election campaign and had clearly breached the politicians' guidelines for staff. The inquiry found that 21 Labor MPs breached those guidelines by certifying payments to electorate officers who were using these time sheets for campaign purposes.

How many times in this chamber do we have to ask the member for Lara to tell the truth? How many times do we have to ask, to get simple answers: did Ben McMullin replace Jake Finnigan in your office? Why did you not disclose that person's employment under this scheme to the Ombudsman? That person's employment is not calculated in the Ombudsman's findings, so how many others are there? How much other corrupt activity has been kept hidden? How many other staffers are not accounted for in that final figure?

When the Premier goes out and says, 'We've repaid the money' — like the bank robber who says 'You can have it back now, forgive me, don't take me to court' — how do we know that is the full amount? We do not. Victorians do not. No-one does. That is why this matter should be, and appropriately is being, investigated by the police, because the Labor Party can run but they cannot hide. These kinds of corrupt practices which have been uncovered are clearly just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to their rorting.

The list that the Ombudsman found included many ministers. In fact there were six ministers in all. It noted Jenny Mikakos in the Council, the member for Keysborough, the member for Mill Park, Gavin Jennings in the Council, the member for Lara and Gayle Tierney in the Council. The Ombudsman stated clearly:

... while some electorate officer work was done for some members of Parliament, the arrangement to employ field organisers as electorate officers was an artifice to secure partial payment for the campaign out of parliamentary funds, and was wrong.

Simple as that. The government's line to date is to claim that this was done in good faith. Let us ask this question: how does signing 15 or 30 time sheets in advance for someone you have never seen enter your office constitute good faith? How does using exclusive cognisance on a debate between chambers to deny information to the Ombudsman constitute good faith? How does walking into this chamber and repeatedly denying or repeatedly refusing to answer questions about other staff that you know have been employed and whose time sheets you know you have signed constitute good faith to the Victorian people?

How does John Lenders's \$44 732 worth of rorting constitute good faith? How does Liz Beattie's \$24 733 rorting of the system constitute good faith? How does the former member Marg Lewis's \$24 358 bill constitute good faith? Ms Lewis was here as a member of Parliament for barely five or six months. I sat in the upper house with her. No doubt the then opposition leader, now Premier, and then upper house opposition leader, John Lenders, had brought her in to use her and her office, as the Ombudsman says, as an artifice to exact that payment for her staff. How does John Pandazopoulos's \$21 757 constitute a good-faith use of parliamentary entitlements? Joe Helper's \$21 148 of rorted moneys is not good faith from a long-term Labor member. This is a member who was on the way out and who allowed his leader in the lower house to use his electorate office entitlements for a political advantage — a former minister who knew and would have known that this was against the rules.

Jenny Mikakos is listed as the same amount; Brian Tee, the same amount; a sitting member today, the member for Footscray, the same amount; Nazih Elasmir in the Council, the same amount; and the Minister for Corrections, Gayle Tierney, \$20 559. She is still there as part of this government's justice team. She is the person who is responsible for running one of our justice system portfolios, and she rorted the system of \$20 559. The minister astoundingly responsible today for integrity in government, Gavin Jennings, was part of a scheme as Labor's deputy upper house leader in the last term and rorted \$20 539 from the taxpayer. Lee Tarlamis, with \$19 931, was recently nominated by the Labor Party and received an award for services to the Parliament.

An honourable member — OAM? Should be an IOU!

Mr GUY — I take up the member's interjection. Matt Viney, Jo Duncan, Adem Somyurek in the Council, the member for Ivanhoe and Candy Broad are all listed. The member for Mill Park, at \$5364, rorted the system and still comes into this chamber with absolutely no contrition whatsoever — zero — and yet the Ombudsman found her to be part of what she terms an artifice, something that was completely and utterly wrong, something that has been trickery upon the electorate and indeed constitutes part of the greatest taxpayer fraud by one political party on the taxpayer. They have defrauded the taxpayer.

The Attorney-General is listed for \$5534 and Cesar Melhem in the Legislative Council for \$3538. We move on to the member for Lara. When you come to the member for Lara, they are simple questions, and many in this chamber, even on his own side, find his answers quizzical and comical — that the member for Lara is getting up to his feet to give such a woeful answer yet again, such a comically bad answer. It would be funny if it was not so disgraceful, because this is money that has been rorted from the taxpayer. This is conduct that is corrupt. This is conduct where he has signed time sheets for someone who never appeared in his office, who worked in a neighbouring electorate under a practice that was against parliamentary guidelines. Then he says, 'Well, you know, it's under investigation. I'm not going to answer it', using blocking excuse after excuse after excuse for something he has previously answered about but will not answer today, because he knows his conduct is more than questionable.

Shaun Leane in the Legislative Council is down for \$2358, and the list goes on. Who are the members who have benefited from this? A lot of the time we talk about those 21 members who were part of this artifice that the Ombudsman has reported on, but who are these people who have benefited? Some say, 'Well, there was no benefit. There was no personal benefit, and the Labor Party got no personal benefit. That's why we paid it back'. Well, let us talk about the personal benefit. The new member for Sunbury, who was elected as part of this scheme, funded by the then member for Yuroke, benefited, because he is now a member of Parliament. The new member for Macedon benefited personally, because she has won a seat in this chamber off hours that were funded improperly by this Parliament, by the taxpayer. The member for Yan Yean, who was in a close fight at the last election, had Labor red shirts working in her electorate who she proudly had photographs of on her Facebook and social media. Now we find those people were partly funded by the taxpayer.

I can go further: the member for Ivanhoe; the member for Bellarine, the police minister; and the member for Carrum. They were active in the seat of Ringwood. The member for Bentleigh in this chamber finds it hard to hear this debate, because he asks, with such a close margin, did he benefit personally? He is a member of Parliament where Labor red shirts were flooded into his seat. Did he benefit personally? Well, he is now a member of Parliament. He benefited personally, because that is why he is here.

Go forward to Cranbourne and Monbulk. I note the Deputy Premier in this chamber is hiding over there. There he is. He is getting a text from Jill and a text from Rob Hulls: 'You've got to toughen up, mate. You've got to be the angry man'.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — If I can just interrupt the Leader of the Opposition for one moment, can I ask the member for Kew not to use offensive words towards other members in this debate.

Mr GUY — We have the member for Albert Park, Labor's candidate in South Barwon and Labor's candidate in Ringwood. Note that the member for Ringwood asked the Premier on record in a constituency question; it is in *Hansard*. The member for Ringwood asked clearly if any of these red shirts were used in her electorate in the same way as has been described in other seats and the Ombudsman has investigated.

And the Premier replied, on the record, no. Now we find it takes the Ombudsman to tell the truth, and that is why we must have a full investigation — because you cannot trust their word. You cannot trust these people. They lie. They will just lie repeatedly to get by. It is proven, it is fact, it is shown and it is obvious. They will lie and lie and lie.

On 28 March 2018 the upper house referred the red shirts affair to the Privileges Committee. It was the first time the upper house Privileges Committee had met. On 14 April a field organiser challenged the Minister for Police over an assertion that he did not work in her office. The Minister for Police said:

... she wasn't sure she 'would know him running into him in the street'.

She said:

He didn't actually work out of my office. He worked out of Trades Hall.

That is the police minister. The man in question replied:

... he not only worked for her in her Newcomb office, but was given a key and the security alarm codes.

No wonder we need a full and frank police investigation when that is from the police minister. When you cannot trust the police minister's word, no wonder Victorians are saying the government is broken and we deserve something better than a government and a minister who continually lie, make things up and just will not tell the truth.

The Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council and minister responsible for the Ombudsman, Gavin Jennings, failed to disclose to the Privileges Committee on 14 June the extent of legal costs. The Chief Commissioner of Police confirmed to the Privileges Committee on 18 June, then confirmed in writing on the 19th, that a police investigation was underway. On 20 July the Premier then raised the matter by saying, 'Well, it was never raised with me directly'. So just bank this. The police minister is saying, 'No, I don't know who this man was', yet he has keys to her office, yet he has got the security code to her office, yet he is employed in her electorate office in Newcomb, he is on her campaign team, he is thanked in the campaign speeches and thanked in the address in reply by the police minister, who says, 'I wouldn't know him in the street'. Now you have got the Premier, who was on Labor's campaign committee, who was part of the structure that approved this whole system, saying, 'It was never raised with me. I never knew how they were paid'. Who would trust these people? Who would trust a word these people say?

Then of course we find that under oath the former minister Adem Somyurek has said that he raised it with him after a party room meeting. We find it was raised, and raised very clearly, at one of Labor's field love-ins in Creswick. When the Labor Party raised it before all those members in Creswick, you would have to find it amazing that he was the only person not in the room to hear it being raised by their own US campaign advisers and by Labor's advisers here in Victoria. This is despite posts being made by their US campaign strategists — believe it or not, as I understand it, at a family getaway with the Premier — and posted on their own social media, so he has obviously met the man, and with Stephen Donnelly training Labor's regional field directors. The leader of the Labor Party then says, 'I knew nothing about it'. So you have US campaign advisers hanging around with you personally, it is raised with your colleagues — every single one of them — in Creswick and then you say, 'I'm the only guy who was not in the room'. I guess he must have got the excuses from the police minister when she said, 'I never ran into this guy. I don't know who he was'.

This government is, more than ever before, rotten to the core. This government's conduct is an absolute and utter disgrace. Victorians have every right to feel cheated and let down by a government that treats their taxpayers dollars with such contempt.

It is not just in the rorts scandal that Victorians have every right to feel disgusted in the behaviour of this government. On 24 February 2017 we found that the Deputy Speaker of this chamber, the member for Melton, had in fact claimed a second residence allowance between March 2010 and February 2017 at a cost of \$174 836. That is what he claimed for a second residence allowance to live outside of his own seat. Remember that? The member for Melton, who was living in a caravan at an Ocean Grove caravan park on the Bellarine Peninsula, claimed that he deserved the subsidy from the taxpayer for that. No wonder these people rort the system and use our electorate office entitlements as their own personal piggy bank when one of the guys who was there to set the rules was active in breaking the rules.

One has to wonder whether or not you can get solar panels onto a Winnebago, because the PricewaterhouseCoopers report for Parliament's audit found that the member stated that the accommodation in St Kilda, his second residence at the time, was not actually spacious enough. It was not spacious enough, so he moved down to an Ocean Grove caravan park and claimed a further \$98 000 for a second residence allowance. This is at a time when power bills in this state have never been as high. This is at a time when Victorians have never done it as tough as they are doing it now with increasing utility bills — water and gas — and tolling charges. Yet we are seeing members on the government side of this chamber stealing taxpayers money to pay for their campaigns and to pay for their second residence allowances. At the time the member was unrepentant. In true Labor attitude the member for Melton said, 'It is my home, I'm claiming it'. It took sustained questioning in this house to show that this member should actually pay back some of that money, that he should have the decency to pay some of it back — and that was through gritted teeth.

Of course that did not come out of nowhere either. That rorting was not the first time that had occurred. We had the former Speaker of this chamber, who just the day before had been found to have claimed \$37 834 to live outside of his electorate, the seat of Tarneit, in the town of Queenscliff. One has to ask: what is it with Labor MPs from the western suburbs that they hate the western suburbs so much? Why does the member for Werribee live in Williamstown? Why does the member for Altona not live in her seat, the member for Tarneit not live in

his seat and the member for Melton not live in his seat? The member for Keysborough, when he was an upper house member for Western Metropolitan Region, lived on the other side of the city. Even the former Presiding Officer of the upper house, Bob Smith, tried to transfer to number 3 on the Labor ticket — and he lived in Chelsea. It is hard to believe that Labor could treat the west with such contempt, but on it goes.

The Treasurer — I have got to give him credit for being frank — came out on 23 February when asked about it and said, ‘Quite frankly, there’s always a way around rules, no matter how emphatically driven they are’. Isn’t he right? ‘There’s always a way around rules’, said the Treasurer. I am looking through the Ombudsman’s report again: ‘There is always a way around rules’. I guess he is speaking from experience. ‘There’s always a way around rules’, says the Labor Party. How right they are. It is not often that I agree with the Treasurer. I do agree with him on another thing, and that is that Jeff Kennett is not a bad guy to catch up with occasionally, because the Treasurer does, the Premier has played golf with him and they even appointed him to a number of government bodies. But there you go.

On 23 February we found that the then Speaker had been charging taxpayers to live more than 70 kilometres, or 50 kilometres I should say — 70 kilometres was the member for Melton, can you believe it? — from his own seat. He then resigned and apologised for upsetting taxpayers by defrauding them of so much money. But it does not stop there.

An honourable member — But wait, there’s more.

Mr GUY — But wait, there is more. You would not believe it, but after all of that, after hearing about rorting the system — whether it is 21 Labor MPs, six Labor ministers, two Presiding Officers, whatever it might be — the guy who chauffeured his dogs in a ministerial limousine then got a building named after him. I am just waiting for the ANZ to rename the 55 Collins Street branch the Squizzy Taylor building. Could you believe that these people, the Labor Party, then named a TAFE after the TAFE minister who resigned for — wait for it — rorting the system.

But this one gets even better. We could not believe this on our side. We just shook our heads and thought, ‘Well, we’ve heard it all now’. Do we remember Ted and Patch? That is Ted and Patch who were the then Minister for Training and Skills’ dogs. He said he made a mistake trying to look after the dogs because he had trouble with timetabling. He said:

Being a minister in a senior portfolio, it’s a tough job ...

He went on to say:

It was done because I needed to do something about the dogs, I couldn’t leave them, and I had few options.

When I get home tonight, I think I will say to Wally the cavoodle, ‘Look, young man, it’s a tough job, and we’re going to have to find ways to babysit you’. The former member for Eltham, the then member of the upper house, got Ted and Patch chauffeured around in the back of a government limousine. Quite unbelievably it even made the BBC website. What must the BBC have made of that? Our first currency was rum, and now we have taxpayers funding dogs travelling around in the back of cars.

But in all seriousness the astounding point on this, as I said before, was that a minister would treat the taxpayer with such contempt. He had an attitude of, ‘No, it doesn’t matter. I’ll just get away with it. It doesn’t matter. I’ll get the driver to do it’. They are the party of the workers who would get their chauffeurs to walk their dogs. They are the party of the workers who, when they get into office with all the white cars, the offices, the staff and the drivers, are the first ones in line to claim the benefits. They are the first ones in line to abuse the perks, and yet they come in here and say, ‘We’re the party of workers’. They are the party of rorters, not the party of workers.

To actually then go and name a building after this man says it all. Buildings, bridges and other places of significance in this state are usually named after people who have made a genuine and serious contribution to our state. Even on this side of the house we do not begrudge things such as Joan Kirner having a hospital named after her, or Hamer Hall being named after former Premier Hamer, for instance. We do not begrudge the naming of the Bolte Bridge, for instance. We do not begrudge the naming of the Evan Walker Bridge. But when it comes to the action of someone like Steve Herbert, which was, if we have ever seen it, an in-your-face gesture to the taxpayer from a lazy, corrupt and out-of-touch government, I think we all thought that must be a Twitter misprint. We must have seen Misfire Merlino misfire again, because that one surely could not be real. But sadly it was real.

IBAC are currently investigating a printing rorts scandal for — wait for it — the third and final Labor presiding officer, and I say that with no commentary but just facts. On 6 September 2017 the first rort was revealed of the issuing of invoices relating to a small amount of printing and quite substantially large bills that were then reimbursed by Parliament. On 14 September, after initial investigations were undertaken by the Department of Parliamentary

Services — so not a thought bubble by the member for Monbulk, trying his hardest to be Rob Hulls mark II, but actually an investigation — the upper house President and yourself, Speaker, referred the allegations to IBAC after Parliament reviewed invoices signed by a staff member in Mr Eideh's office. The staffer and Mr Eideh were put on indefinite leave, and the locks were changed at Mr Eideh's electorate office.

But clearly it is not serious: 'Don't look here, there's no big deal. We've had two Presiding Officers resign. We've just named a building after a dog-chauffeur rorter. We've got 21 of our parliamentary party under investigation by the Ombudsman, six of them ministers, and now we've changed the locks on the doors in the office of the deputy upper house president, but there's no scandal here. There's no pattern of behaviour here. There's no think, thought or belief within the Labor Party that what is the taxpayers actually happens to be mine, because clearly it is'.

This is a pattern of behaviour, and as much as we have differences on our side of the chamber with other parties and as much as we might disagree with the Australian Greens or other parties in the upper house, the Ombudsman, remember, on page 17 of the report said that she looked at the behaviours of all other parties on these matters and only one party, the Labor Party, had committed these offences. Only one party leader had refused an interview to the Ombudsman, the leader of the Labor Party, the Premier.

We have seen a pattern of behaviour from the rorts uncovered by the Ombudsman, from the rorts of Steve Herbert, from the rorts of the former Speaker and former Deputy Speaker and from the investigation into Khalil Eideh, this is an investigation into a pattern of behaviour by one political party, the Labor Party. More to the point, absolute power corrupts absolutely. When you have been in office for 15 of 19 years, you become a born-to-rule, corrupt government in the Parliament who believes that everything of the government's and the taxpayers is theirs. Those opposite are a born-to-rule Labor Party who believe they are entitled to government, who believe that the taxpayers material is in fact theirs and that they can extort and rort as they see fit.

No wonder the Attorney-General has questions to answer. I want to finish this topic on this issue. He does have questions to answer. What are the so-called undertakings that the Attorney-General claims he and other ministers have received from Victoria Police as to the conduct of their investigation into his conduct as a justice minister? Who asked for those undertakings? Who devised them? Were any third parties or

independent parties present or consulted about these undertakings? Who has copies of these undertakings? Does anyone outside of the Andrews government, such as the police or senior bureaucrats, have copies of them? When did they commence? Who will monitor these undertakings? Do they apply to all cabinet ministers? In the interests of transparency, why have we not seen what these undertakings fully and completely are? Not just bluster in the chamber from an Attorney-General whose demeanour has turned from Barry O'Farrell in the making — shave the beard, look a little more handsome, and you are up after your boss — but in fact someone who is now on the back foot because he is under investigation.

We know that these undertakings, exist as they may, go to the heart of the transparency of this government and their separation from this investigation. We want to know, as the public needs to know, can we trust this government? Because if we cannot trust this government on this issue, how can we trust them on any issue? How can you trust this government when they say, 'Trust me, our solar scheme in 10 years time is going to work', 'Trust me, we're going to build more rail infrastructure', 'Trust me, we're going to fix up your roads' and 'Trust me, we're going to make you safer'? How can you trust this government when everything they have said on transparency is a lie — and not just one part of it, all of it has been a lie? How can you trust them?

This government has been elected with a mandate to keep Victorians safe. Every government is elected with a mandate to keep Victorians safe, and as many Victorians will ask, you saw the mandate, you got it and how is it going for you? Is crime lower today than it was when you took office four years ago? Let us be pretty clear about this: from December 2014 to the latest statistics, in Victoria the murder rate is up 6.9 per cent, attempted murder is up 71 per cent, common assault is up 37 per cent, rape is up 18 per cent, sexual offences against children are up 63 per cent, aggravated robbery is up 27 per cent, non-aggravated robbery is up 82 per cent, aggravated burglary is up 42 per cent, motor vehicle theft is up 7 per cent, firearms offences are up 5.5 per cent, and resist and hindering arrest is up 147 per cent.

Those are the facts from the Crimes Statistics Agency. Those are the government's own facts. You hear many on their side trying to delegitimise this issue, saying, 'No, no, no. Our population has grown, so therefore you have to factor in a higher crime rate'. It is kind of like when the Premier said, 'Melbourne's a bigger city; you have to just deal with terrorist incidents from now on'.

Let us have a look at where another population is booming. Let us go north of the Murray to New South Wales. How does New South Wales compare with a numerically similar population growth to Victoria? Murder, as we said before, is up by 7 per cent in Victoria. In the same period in New South Wales — apples with apples — it is down by 42 per cent.

An honourable member — Down?

Mr GUY — Down. Attempted murder and manslaughter is up by 42 per cent in Victoria and down by 8 per cent in New South Wales. Robbery in Victoria is up by 33 per cent and down by 27 per cent in New South Wales. Burglary and break and enter is down by 19 per cent in New South Wales. Motor vehicle theft is down by 12 per cent in New South Wales and up by 7 per cent here. And of course resist and hindering arrest is down by 5 per cent in New South Wales and up by 147 per cent in Victoria. This is where the government of the day says, ‘Well, you know, we’re dealing with it; we’re going to give the police all the resources they want’. When you weaken the laws that operate our justice system and that indeed allow the police to do their job, you are going to hinder the police from actually being able to get on with their job. That is why carjackings are up in this state at record levels. That is why we have a gang problem in Melbourne.

There is all this denial. We all saw the online denial from the late-night tweeter Mr Dalidakis in the Council. His tweets are always late at night. They are always at about 7, 8, 9 or 10 o’clock. They tend to get a little more loose and a little more off the reservation, shall we say. But there he was out there denying that there was a gang problem, yet the next day the Minister for Police is standing there saying, ‘We’ve got a new gang task force’. The Attorney-General was railing against the Liberal Party, saying, ‘There is no gang culture in Melbourne’. The Attorney-General was saying, ‘It’s all an exercise in race baiting’ — his words, not mine. And yet his own minister in January said, ‘We’re going to deal with the African youth crime problem in Melbourne’ — not my words, but the minister’s.

If the government cannot get their story straight on law and order, it is no wonder that our crime rate is skyrocketing. It is no wonder that Victoria has never seen an ice problem in country Victoria as bad as it is today. We have never seen breaking and entering so bad in places like Clyde North, where the member for Bass will tell you one in six homes every year is broken into. That is why we are going to build a new police station in Clyde North, because every day he comes in

and tells us how people in Clyde North are saying this. It is a massive issue, and it is only getting worse.

That is why our youth justice system is broken, and that is why we have seen the number of assaults increase by 77 per cent and the incidence of youth crime go up by 235 per cent, including alcohol and drug-related offences. When you deny the problem, you cannot fix it. When you refuse to admit a problem exists, you will never solve it. Even the Carr government in New South Wales — even the New South Wales Labor government — in the early 1990s and early 2000s admitted Sydney had problems with law and order. They had a zero-tolerance approach, and they fixed it. It is why crime has been coming down for a long time in New South Wales compared to the weak and soft-on-crime approach of repeated Labor governments in Victoria. When Labor governments in Queensland and in New South Wales say, ‘We’ll deal with it, we’ll fix it, we’ll acknowledge it’, in Victoria they say, ‘There’s no problem; don’t look here. It’s all a Liberal-National party issue’. No, it is real. Victorians know it is real, the crime stats know it is real and the victims of crime know it is real.

Caterina Politi knows what happened with her son’s killer, who is now playing football on weekends. The Cronins know what is happening with their son’s killer, who has been let out to do the same and play football on weekends, under the Andrews government. That is why Victorians are saying, ‘Who can I trust to keep my family safe?’. Well, it is not the people in office today. That is why we need to bring back and reinstate powers for police, like move-on laws. That is why we need to have a zero-tolerance approach to those who commit violent repeat offences and have mandatory minimum sentencing. That is why we will reform and we need reform in our bail laws so that our bail system and our parole system protect those who obey the laws, not help those who break them. But when you do not have a government that acknowledges those problems, you have a situation like we do in Victoria today. That is why the situation in this state is as bad as it is today.

Who do you trust to make sure that our city is one where we can get from A to B in a reasonable time frame? Who do you trust in government to spend country roads money on country roads? Who do you trust in government to deal with and manage the fact that Melbourne is about to grow by the population of Brisbane in the next 25 years. This government’s only response is, ‘We’re going to dip a few level crossings and build a railway tunnel, and that’s it; she’ll be right’. Who do you trust: a government that would spend \$1.3 billion not to build a freeway in Australia’s fastest growing city or an alternative that says, ‘We will build

the infrastructure to manage our state's growing population, and that includes an east-west link'?

What is clear — very, very clear — is that this government, in spending \$1.3 billion not to build the east-west link, not only wasted that money for future generations; they criminally wasted that money. In a former life, before I was here, we would have been investigating these people if they were in the private sector through the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Given their behaviour they would have been taken in and charged and no doubt would have lost the ability to sit on a board. Their directors duties would have been stripped because of the criminal waste of money by the Australian Labor Party and those who sat around the cabinet table and said, 'It's fine to waste \$1.3 billion'.

Let me put that into perspective for Victorians. The new Royal Children's Hospital cost \$1 billion to build. I am glad the member for Bendigo East is in the chamber, because the new Bendigo Hospital cost \$630 million; we could have got two of them. A new suburban railway line and in fact a major extension — the South Morang to Mernda extension — cost \$700 million. The Monash Children's Hospital cost \$260 million. It costs \$22 million for a new X'trapolis train for the metropolitan rail network. Just factor that in. It is \$22 million for a new train for the fastest growing city in Australia, and this government paid \$1300 million not to build a new freeway in the fastest growing city in Australia.

The Minister for Education sits in this chamber. It costs \$17 million for a new school in a growth area; \$1300 million was wasted not to build a new road in the fastest growing city in Australia. The member for Bass is someone who is committed to the new police station in Clyde North, and rightly so; his community wants it and needs it. We should advise them that it costs \$14.4 million to build a new police station in the state of Victoria, yet this government wasted \$1300 million not to build a new road. A new ambulance station, including land, costs \$2 million. A combined Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Victoria State Emergency Service hub costs \$1.3 million in regional Victoria. Who would trust this government to deal with the issues of congestion when it was the same Premier who said, 'It won't cost a cent to cancel that project'?

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr GUY — 'It won't cost a cent'! Remember that? 'It won't cost a cent because it's not worth the paper it's written on'. Remember that? Well, of course you would not trust him. He is the guy who also said, 'Peter

Mitchell, I give this commitment to each and every Victorian that I will not increase new taxes in the state of Victoria. No, there will be no new taxes', and then we saw a whole range of taxes rise under this government — 12 of them, I think it was — ranging from taxes on coal to taxes on stamp duty purchases and the like. Who would trust this government?

Who would trust their word when they have lied on rorts and they have lied on the second residence allowance. It is in their DNA to lie. Brown coal taxes tripled. There have been Uber and taxi levies, an increased stamp duty on new cars, a new stamp duty on off-the-plan purchases, vacant home taxes, annual property valuations to increase land tax, a stamp duty on property transfers between spouses, a consumption-point gambling tax, a fire services property levy increase, new land surcharges for absent owners, new stamp duty surcharges for foreign purchases and a new city access tax on the West Gate tunnel. Who would trust them?

Who would trust these people when they went to the last election and said the western distributor was shovel-ready? 'At half a billion dollars it's shovel-ready and it's ready to go. We've got the plans; we've done the work. It's shovel-ready and ready to go'. Who would trust this government when they said the north-east link was going to cost \$6 billion and a couple of months later the price tag was \$16 billion? Who would trust this government that has no plan for arterial roads across Melbourne — zero, no plans but to put in more traffic lights?

Who would trust this government that, in coming to power, cut the Country Roads and Bridges Fund? That is their promise to country Victoria: 'Look, you can trust us. We won't cut the budget. We don't cut things in the Labor Party — oh, except for the Country Roads and Bridges Fund'. Then they will reinstitute something which is about one-tenth of the money. And where do they spend it? In Mulgrave, opposite the Mulgrave Country Club, where he did his victory speech.

Mr Walsh interjected.

Mr GUY — Maybe it was opposite the Mulgrave Country Club because, as I asked the Leader of The Nationals, that is what constituted 'country', because it is called the Mulgrave Country Club. When they were looking at the country areas in their *Melway* — you know, those areas that do not have tram tracks — they saw the word 'country' and figured, 'Well, it must comply'. Who would trust this government when it comes to that kind of conduct?

And while we are on the issue of trust — and I note the Deputy Premier remains in the chamber; I am very glad he does — who would trust this government for what they have done to our CFA? Why do the government and this Minister for Emergency Services hate our CFA? Why do they hate 60 000 volunteers? Think about all the premiers that have fallen over themselves to stand up for the CFA. I was with the member for Euroa in her electorate. I was with her at a little CFA out in the country, and there proudly displayed on the wall is a letter from Premier John Brumby, thanking the CFA for their work and contribution to Black Saturday. They look at that with such pride that the Premier, Labor or Liberal, wrote to them to thank them for all their work in the Black Saturday catastrophe, and a catastrophe it was.

I think back to all the premiers that have backed our CFA: Bolte, Hamer, Thompson, John Cain, Joan Kirner, Jeff Kennett, Steve Bracks, John Brumby, Ted Baillieu and Denis Naphine. All those premiers fell over themselves to back the CFA at a time when they asked for it and that it counted — when they asked for help and asked for basic rights to be recognised, whether it was in an enterprise bargaining agreement discussion or in needing someone to stand up for them because they are doing it voluntarily.

They could be sitting at home. Those volunteers could be going to another community meeting or indeed sitting at home doing nothing. They have chosen to be giving back to their community. Let me say this to every CFA volunteer: I want to lead a government that respects you, not degrades you. I want to lead a government that stands by you when you are in trouble, and I will never, never treat you with the disrespect that the Premier and the Deputy Premier have shown you. One thing this side of the house will never do that the Premier and Deputy Premier have done is make any secret agreement with any third party to do over 60 000 volunteers. We will not be doing that. We will not be treating our CFA volunteers with disrespect.

Despite all the local fundraising they have done, all the work they have done to fundraise, like the Lara CFA did to get their CFA rooms built, and all the lamington drives, the town fetes and the sausage sizzles — everything they do, even on election day raising money through sausage sizzles — those CFAs have been threatened by the member for Lara, who, mind you, has got to answer for his crimes in another form and should answer for how disrespectful he was to the Lara CFA.

While we are speaking of disrespect to CFAs, I note that there is only one member present in this chamber who has had his own local CFAs sign statutory

declarations about their conduct to say that they have not told the truth and that that member of Parliament has misled them and has lied about them. Who would it be? The Minister for Emergency Services, the member for Monbulk, and that is why they are wishing John Schurink all the best.

In May 2015 the chief of staff to the responsible minister resigned after ongoing bullying by Peter Marshall. But of course, ‘The standard you walk past is the standard you accept’. Remember that one, or ‘I take responsibility for each and every thing that happens in my government as Leader of the Labor Party’? Remember those ones? On 10 June the minister, the member for Brunswick, was forced by the Premier to resign following a crisis cabinet meeting. This was after bullying allegations where the head of the United Firefighters Union (UFU) allegedly threatened to put an axe through her head.

Lo and behold, the new emergency services minister, the Deputy Premier, came in. What was his first action? Was it to discipline the head of the UFU for his vile action in threatening the former minister? Was it to stand up to UFU intimidation of former Labor staff — you know, those who stand up for workers? Did he stand up for the little guy? Did he stand up for staff? No, instead he sacked the CFA board. He did not stand up for them; he sacked them. He is a man who stands up for workers — oh, workers rights! — unless you get in the way of the UFU; then you are sacked. So those people were all sacked: Claire Higgins, John Peberdy, Ross Coyle, Katherine Forrest, Michael Freshwater, Peter Harmsworth, James Holyman, Michael Tudball and John Schurink.

On 17 June, just a week later, we had the Premier’s hand-picked CFA CEO. I might add, that was a very good appointment. I do not often say he has done a good job, but it was a good appointment putting Lucinda Nolan in as the CFA CEO. She was a good appointment. On this side we would not criticise her. We thought, ‘No, give them credit — not a bad appointment’. In fact, she did not last a year, because she would not be bullied. The guy who supposedly stands up for women’s rights, who comes in here and says, ‘The standard you walk past is the standard you accept’, took her resignation. She would not be bullied by Peter Marshall.

On 29 June Joe Buffone, the CFA chief officer, quit. He wrote that the deal that the government had done with the UFU impeded his vision for the CFA as a modern, contemporary and inclusive organisation. What did he mean by that? What he meant by that was that he could not actually make it an employer of choice for both men

and women. That is right. It is a government whose members come into this chamber and put their hands up, saying, 'We're the leaders in equality, but not if you're going to go against the wishes of the UFU. We're the leaders in equality, except in the fire services'.

On 23 September 2016, Peter Rau resigned as the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) chief officer. The Minister for Police claimed he resigned for health reasons, but in an email exchange Mr Rau's wife informed 3AW that he resigned due to stress as a result of bullying by the UFU and the current situation with the EBA. That was the Minister for Police again — you know, the one who could not recognise her own staff when she walked down the street, the one who gave the security codes and key to the office door to the guy who was working in her own office, but whom she could not recognise. That is the minister. The one who told that mistruth is the one saying, 'Oh, he resigned due to health reasons'. Who would trust her again? The police minister was then forced to apologise for her misleading comments. I guess she had to adjust her comments. What was the other one? Oh, she misspoke. I guess she misspoke.

Darren Davies, the assistant chief fire officer, has remained on extended leave since May. Andrew Zammit, the fellow MFB assistant chief fire officer, is on indefinite sick leave since July. David Youssef, the MFB deputy chief fire officer, quit in October 2016 amid EBA strife. In March 2017 Bruce Byatt, the CFA deputy chief officer, quit. Paul Stacchino, the MFB acting chief fire officer, resigned in August 2017 as well. There is a pattern of behaviour. Here it goes. On 7 July 2017 Jim Higgins, the MFB CEO, quit amidst plans to restructure the Victorian fire services industry and create Fire Rescue Victoria. It keeps going. In October 2016 Bob Barry, the assistant chief fire officer of south-west region, was sacked for being too supportive of volunteers. I repeat that: someone was sacked for being too supportive of men and women who risk their lives to protect Victoria every day of the year.

Ten senior MFB firefighters claimed they were forced into early retirement by the UFU in October 2017, and they launched multimillion-dollar legal proceedings because they claimed they had been victims of a 15-year campaign of bullying, harassment and intimidation by Peter Marshall, the man whose name the Premier will not even speak. In January 2018, finally, Andi Diamond, again a very smart and experienced person, quit as MFB president, saying she hopes this is the beginning of the rebuilding of the organisation after everything it has been through.

Who would trust these people to keep Victorians safe? Who on earth would trust these people, after treating Victorians with so much contempt over such a long period of time? Who would trust them when, as we all know, these people cannot manage money? They cannot manage money, whether it is taxpayers money — they steal it — or it is the government's money, which blows out. They just treat the taxpayer with contempt, because absolute power corrupts absolutely. After 15 of 19 years in office, these people are corrupt.

The West Gate tunnel has blown out by \$6.2 billion; \$2 billion the Metro Tunnel has blown out by; \$3.3 billion on level crossing removals; and \$10.8 billion on the north-east link. Blowouts include the heart hospital, the Frankston line stabling, the Hoddle Street upgrade, the Casey Hospital expansion, the Ballarat Line upgrade, the Yan Yean Road upgrade, the Frankston station upgrade and the V/Line fleet maintenance.

Some are worthy projects, but the point is that Labor cannot manage money. It is in their DNA. They cannot manage money; they steal it. They cannot manage money; they will take it from you. If they are not taxing it from you, they are going to steal it from you, because, as we have found from the Treasurer, there is always a way to get around the rules, isn't there? We find that from the Treasurer. But we are not surprised to find that from this government because, as we know, this government is led by a bully. This government is led by someone who does not match his rhetoric. He is someone who has said absolutely everything to the opposite of what he has done since coming into this chamber.

As I mentioned before, Lucinda Nolan — a very good appointment by a Labor government, a decent person who was headhunted by them into the role of CEO of the Country Fire Authority — was allowed to be bullied out by a Premier who claims he is a man who does not tolerate any form of bullying or harassment. Then we have his minister, the member for Brunswick, who was bullied out of her job by union thug in Peter Marshall. She even went public when she was in the role, stating that the UFU were showing up to every press conference to intimidate her. How did the UFU know the locations of press conferences by the Minister for Emergency Services? Who in her own government was feeding them that information? Who was telling them to go and undermine her, to bully her? Who was doing that? Was it the guy who ultimately got her job? Was it the member for Monbulk? Was it the Premier of the state, and his office, who sought and happily got her resignation?

Just ask some others about bullying. We on this side of the house all know the bullying that Donna Bauer went through when she was the member for Carrum. We know what was said to Donna Bauer. We know the comments that have been made about Donna Bauer. We know the comments that were said to her by union officials, and we know the comments that the now Premier apparently made about her, which were reported back to us by Labor MPs. That is for them to explain.

I tell you one thing we do not need others to tell us about: the Premier's bullying of the member for South Barwon. The Premier, who is the man who stands up for equality — you know that one? The Premier who says that, 'I will stand up for everyone', 'Equality is not negotiable'.

Who would trust this Premier? I guess you cannot trust him, and I guess what we have found is that Victorians cannot trust him. Victorians know that this is not the man to keep them safe, this is not the man to fix their roads, this is not the man to keep their power bills down and this is not the team to respect Victorians.

I want to conclude with the following. We on this side of the chamber are proud that our members represent their electorates with pride —

An honourable member — Honesty.

Mr GUY — honesty —

Mr Burgess — Residency.

Mr GUY — and residency: honesty, pride and residency. It is a real shame the Labor member for Melton chose to live 56 kilometres away from his electorate, and that the Labor member for Tarneit chose to live in Queenscliff and then move to Footscray, 12 kilometres from his electorate. It is a real shame the Minister for Roads and Road Safety does not drive down the Monash every day because he would know what it is like. He lives 37 kilometres away in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. It is a real shame that the member for Narre Warren South has never, ever lived in her growth area seat. It is a real shame that the member for Broadmeadows prides himself on being a Broady boy. When I was elected to this Parliament as an upper house member, I lived in Preston, which is closer to the Broadmeadows electorate than where the member for Broadmeadow then lived, in Brighton. The Broady boy —

An honourable member interjected.

Mr GUY — Would you believe he has moved, but he is still 11 kilometres from Broadmeadows. You want to represent them but you do not want to live with them, do you?

The member for Thomastown lives 9 kilometres away. The member for Keysborough — remember him, the Attorney-General — lives 8 kilometres away. He was the upper house MP who when he was a member for the western suburbs lived around Black Rock. The member for Werribee — no wonder he did not care if they were building a jail in his seat because he lived 20 kilometres away in Williamstown. They were not building a jail on the Esplanade, so I guess he figured, 'Couldn't care less'. That was their attitude. The member for Bendigo West — she lives 14 kilometres from her own seat. Of course, lo and behold, the member for Bellarine has not lived in her seat of Bellarine since her election 16 years ago. She has never lived in her seat.

The next election will be fought on trust. Who do you trust to keep your family safe? Who do you trust to fix our state's roads? Who do you trust to get your bills down? Who do you trust to not treat the taxpayers' purse as their own and to not treat all Victorians with contempt? Ask yourself: is Victoria a safer place today than it was four years ago? Is congestion worse than it was four years ago? Are our utility bills higher than they were four years ago? Is the government roting the taxpayer more than it ever has before? Why does this government deserve to survive? It doesn't. It should be hounded from office, and if it cannot be on 24 November, it should be today.

Mr MERLINO (Minister for Education) (15:13) — The only leader who —

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! Can I ask the Deputy Premier to resume his seat for a moment — with the help of the Leader of the House.

The Leader of the Opposition was heard in almost silence. I understand that the chamber on one side was relatively empty. Nonetheless I will not tolerate levels of interjection that mean I cannot hear the Deputy Premier. I also warn members who might not have been in the chamber — and I am looking in the direction of the member for Burwood — that I will not have offensive words thrown around the chamber.

Mr MERLINO — I rise to oppose this desperate motion born of a Leader of the Opposition hanging on by his fingernails. This is the day of counting numbers, and word was this morning that the member for

Malvern had 23 votes — and I reckon after that performance by the Leader of the Opposition the member for Malvern is up to about 25, maybe even 26 votes. Put your money on Michael.

This is an opposition leader searching for a distraction, in need of a diversion. This is classic misdirection and a waste of time. It is that old magic trick, that sneaky sleight of hand. The Leader of the Opposition is practically begging us, 'Look over here!', and not at his own poor party internals. Do not worry, Leader of the Opposition, your mates in Canberra will provide plenty of cover, at least for today. You can see his strategy — talking about a lack of confidence in us means he does not have to talk about his colleagues' lack of confidence in him. He is a desperate leader of a distracted party, and they have certainly been distracted this morning. The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Kew were heard in Strangers Corridor this morning bemoaning the 35 votes to Dutton. 'This is terrible for us', they were heard saying. We should remember that the Leader of the Opposition was the whip for the Victorian Liberals for Malcolm Turnbull back in 2015, and he jumped on that plane to Canberra straightaway to go and congratulate Malcolm Turnbull. He would be flying up again to Canberra if he could, but he has got his own issues to worry about.

The Leader of the Opposition is willing to do anything, but that is the way of this Liberal Party, isn't it? They are always willing to do anything and with anyone. The contrast could not be clearer, because while they pursue this desperate distraction, we get on with delivering for Victorians. Let me tell you a little bit about what delivery looks like. Delivery looks like building 70 new schools and upgrading 1300 more. Schools and communities across our state, thanks to this Labor government, now have the classrooms and the facilities they deserve. Delivery looks like 340 000 new jobs since November 2014 — workers and families who, because of this Labor government, now have the security and dignity and purpose of work.

Delivery means investing in our schools, in our hospitals and in the dedicated men and women who work in them — and some of them were here today as we introduced legislation to deliver nurse-to-patient ratios. In the last budget we provided \$2.1 billion, but far more than just a funding figure, it means an extra 86 000 hospital admissions, 49 000 emergency treatments and the best ambulance response times that we have ever seen. That is what is at stake in 94 days in the election at the end of November. That is what is at stake — not this embarrassing motion by the Leader of the Opposition. This investment means mums and dads,

sons and daughters, grandparents and loved ones are getting the care they need sooner.

The list goes on because we are also investing in skills and training. When we came to government we promised that we would rescue TAFE, restore funding and open campuses. Now we are making our training and skills sector stronger than ever, creating more than 30 000 additional places, establishing Head Start apprenticeships in our schools and making 30 TAFE courses and 20 preapprenticeship courses absolutely free for Victorians.

Then there is our massive investment in road and rail. We are building the Metro Tunnel, the biggest public transport project in the nation, and already we are a year ahead of schedule. We are building the West Gate tunnel too, providing that much-needed second river crossing. We are widening the M80, the West Gate and the Monash. We are also extending the South Morang line to Melbourne's growing north — and that is the first major suburban rail extension since we actually built the rail to South Morang. We are upgrading hundreds of suburban and regional roads, with thousands of kilometres being repaired and resurfaced.

We also promised that by the end of these four years we would remove 20 of those dangerous and congested level crossings. It was an ambitious goal, but we have not just met that target, we have crushed it, with 26 already gone. For families living in those communities in Frankston, in Ivanhoe, in Bentleigh, in Bayswater, it is already making a real difference. Today I can tell the house that all-up, across all of our major projects that we have undertaken over the last four years, we have had more than 49 000 site inductions and we have completed over 30 million hours of work. When we promised to get things done in this state, we were determined not to waste a single day because that is what real delivery looks like.

Of course we are not just building; we are making our state fairer and safer too. After not one single extra officer was funded under the last government — not one — we are recruiting 3135 police officers. The Victoria Police Academy is full. It is bursting at the seams.

We are addressing the issue that so many governments have failed to do decade after decade after decade — I am talking about family violence. We commissioned this nation's first royal commission and we are implementing each and every one of its 227 recommendations. Last week we launched the first four of our new support and safety hubs, giving women and children who are escaping family violence a

dedicated space with dedicated support — no more confusion about where to go for help, and no more families falling through the gaps.

I could go on and on and on. I have not even mentioned our breakfast clubs. I have not mentioned abolishing stamp duty for first home buyers or our record investment in mental health. Given the chance, I could be here all day, but instead I would like to use this opportunity to not only talk about our record of delivery but also talk about something that makes those opposite, particularly the opposition leader, more squeamish than usual, and I am talking about scrutiny. Although they are happy to point the finger — and you saw them doing it again just before — they do not like the same level of attention when it comes to their own affairs, so let us take this chance to shine a bright light on the opposition and their agenda — an agenda defined by cuts, closures, big corporations and a party crooked to its core.

Let us begin with cuts, shall we, because cuts are in the Liberals' DNA. Look no further than their last term in office, because in just four years they cut \$1 billion out of our schools and they axed the education maintenance allowance, support for our most vulnerable families. They axed the School Start bonus, they slashed \$1 billion out of our TAFE system and they sacked 2400 teachers — and that is just in education. They also cut from our hospitals, our ambulances, Victoria Police, V/Line, regional development — you name it, they cut it.

You would think that after the 2014 election they would do an about-face; they would learn their lesson. But so arrogant is the Liberal Party that they actually called their post-election review Good Government for Victoria. That was their post-election review. Unemployment up, classrooms falling apart, an ambulance system in crisis, and they have the nerve to call that period a period of good government.

And this opposition is no different. They have already told us — they have laid out their intentions — that if elected they will conduct a so-called commission of audit in their first 100 days. While the opposition might try to hide behind those words, we all know what a commission of audit really means. It is code for cuts — cuts to the school breakfast program, cuts to support for families covering the cost of uniforms, cuts to the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund, and that is just what they have told us about. Mark my words, there is even more to come, because as much as they like cutting, they like closing even more.

Members in this place will know just how important Lilydale TAFE is to me and to the communities that I represent. But under the previous Liberal government the Swinburne Lilydale campus was shut down, boarded up and set to be sold off to developers. There was quite literally a padlock on its gates. We know that several hundred students were impacted immediately by that closure, but we will never know how many more lives were touched, how many more opportunities were lost and how many more families suffered as a result of that cold and calculated decision from the Liberals. And it was not just Lilydale — they closed 22 TAFE sites across our state from Greensborough to Glenormiston. In 2014, in just one year under those opposite, we saw TAFE enrolments go backwards by one-third. Closures are a part of the Liberal legacy. It is a part of their DNA.

You do not go back to the previous Liberal government — you go back the one before, to the Kennett Liberal government. Under his government more than 300 schools were closed, with sites sold off to developers; a dozen hospitals were closed down with around 2000 nurses let go; and in regional Victoria, the so-called toenails of the state, rail to Maryborough, rail to Ararat and rail to Bairnsdale were all closed down. Again, you would think that those opposite would be ashamed, they would realise the error of their ways and try to make amends. But of course there is no shame, there are no regrets. They did not care then and they do not care now.

Indeed, the Leader of the Opposition described Premier Kennett just recently as a 'visionary leader'. That is one way to put it. The Leader of the Opposition also spoke fondly of his time working in Kennett's office. In fact so keen is the Leader of the Opposition to work again with his mentor, with his hero, that he has plans to reinstall him, putting him back in charge, calling the shots and pulling the strings.

It raises even more questions about the judgement of the Leader of the Opposition. How can Victorians back a man who backs Jeff Kennett? Well, the answer is they cannot, because this is not an opposition that is on the same side as ordinary Victorians. This opposition would rather back corporations. We saw no clearer example of that than over the weekend, because while we announced our plans for half-price solar panels, saving families hundreds of dollars every year on their electricity bills, creating thousands of jobs and putting power back into the hands of Victorians, where was the opposition? I will tell you where they were, where they always are — in the pockets of big business.

But it is not a surprise. There is a clear precedent from when the Leader of the Opposition served our state as the Minister for Planning. Remember when he ticked off on a monster new development at 555 Collins Street? Remember that monster development? It just happened to be owned by a Liberal Party benefactor — a coincidence, I am sure.

An honourable member — Not the only one.

Mr MERLINO — Not the only one. This is one example. Yet 12 months later, without a single shovel out of the ground, that developer managed to sell off the site and pocket \$38 million, secured with the help of the then Minister for Planning. When it comes to carving up our state, the opposition leader really is our greatest salesman. He has no hesitation in slicing and dicing up our city and selling it off to the highest bidder or the closest Liberal Party donor.

Like a fish stinks from the head and like an apple rots from the inside out, this is an opposition that is crooked to its core. It is hard to know where to begin — so many examples — but let us go way back to 2011 with Ventnor. As the *Age* put it:

The botched rezoning of farmland on Phillip Island cost taxpayers millions of dollars and has left a major question hanging over Mr Guy's judgement.

Well, I will say it has. Not only did he sign off on that dodgy deal; he went out of his way to avoid scrutiny. That is the record of this opposition leader, and it continues to this day. Just last week there was a Phillip Island regional shadow cabinet forum. Guess who was not there. The opposition leader was not there. He is a bit scared to show his face on Phillip Island, because he knows that what he did there was wrong, it was dodgy and it has yet to be exposed. He never lets democracy and due process get in the way. Take the overnight rezoning of Fishermans Bend in 2012. He sold out a whole suburb — an entire community — just to profit his Liberal Party mates and donors, including the party's honorary federal Treasurer, Andrew Burnes. There is nothing that the bloke who sits there will not do for a buck — nothing he will not do — including wining and dining a man who Victoria Police say has serious connections to organised crime in this state. But to the opposition leader he is just 'cousin Tony', because the man who wants to be the next Premier is also the mobster's best mate. I could go on, I really could. I have not even touched on the \$5000 sandwiches in penthouse suites. 'Fishy' does not even begin to describe it.

Let us fast-forward a few years. Let us fast-forward instead to those reams of dodgy invoices and doctored

receipts that created \$1.5 million in kickbacks. The Ombudsman has confirmed that she is investigating this matter, and that is only right, because there are still some very serious questions that must be answered. Those opposite will have you believe that the matter is done and dusted and that with their former —

Mr Clark interjected.

Mr MERLINO — Yes, the manager of opposition business tells me, 'Mantach is in jail'. He has just told me Mantach has gone to jail. Yes, that is right, the former Liberal Party director was convicted and jailed, and that is true, but that is only half of the story. The other half that has not been fully examined is the knowledge and the behaviour of those opposite, because for Damien Mantach's dodgy and dishonest scheme to have worked, it would have to have relied on those opposite signing their names to it. It is a million-dollar fraud that could only have happened with the participation, the facilitation and the sign-off of Liberal Party members past and present — inflated prices, doctored receipts, years and years of experience — and still they expect us to believe that they had no idea. They ought to have known, they would have known and yet they kept signing their names.

That brings me to the *Hamilton Spectator*. I am glad the member for Lowan is here. I think there has been a bit of leaning on this august publication. I think there has been a bit of leaning of late, but the truth is right there in black and white, and I quote again from that email:

Can we make sure November bookings have October dates on the invoices? Due to government rules around the elections they are not allowed to process anything with November dates on!

An honourable member — It was an accident.

Mr MERLINO — Yes, it was an accident. There is nothing ambiguous there; they did the wrong thing with those 53 dodgy invoices. The member for Lowan and her office did the wrong thing with that invoice for November bookings.

Mr Watt — On a point of order, Speaker, standing order 118 is very clear. Unless he has got a substantive motion about members on this side or about the member for Lowan —

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr Watt — No, this is a substantive motion about you crooks; it is not about us. It is a substantive motion about the crooks on that side.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — The member for Burwood would be aware that this is a substantive motion.

Mr MERLINO — Thank you, Deputy Speaker. This is a substantive motion.

Mr Watt interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Member for Burwood, you are cautioned.

Mr MERLINO — They keep trying to cover it up. They do not like it when the spotlight is put on their behaviour. The truth does hurt, because when it came time to ask the Ombudsman to investigate fully a wholesome examination of every party and of every MP, those opposite voted against their own conduct being scrutinised at every single turn.

The people of Victoria deserve better than this opposition. They deserve better than their cuts and closures. They deserve better than their support of big corporations and crooks. They deserve better than a compromised Leader of the Opposition and they certainly deserve better than this motion. Our Parliament should be debating the issues that matter to Victorians, not serving as a distraction for the Leader of the Opposition, desperate to talk about anything but his leadership. The fact is that those opposite are already talking about his leadership. They are already doing the numbers. It was 23 this morning and it is more than 23 right now. I urge all members of this house to vote against this embarrassing, desperate, distracting motion.

Mr WALSH (Murray Plains) (15:41) — I seek an hour as a lead speaker for another party.

Ms Allan — No. You are not another party.

Mr WALSH — We are another party.

Ms Allan — You are the coalition.

Mr WALSH — We are the National Party.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Leave is not granted.

Honourable members interjecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The member for Murray Plains will resume his seat. Sessional order 12 states:

... subject to any agreement to the contrary, additional time provided for the lead speaker of any party does not apply where such a party has advised the Speaker that it is in a coalition arrangement with another party.

Mr Clark — On a point of order, Deputy Speaker, my understanding is that the Leader of The Nationals sought leave to speak for 1 hour. Clearly it is up to the government to refuse, or any other member if they want to. I certainly have not heard the Leader of the House refuse it at this stage. I think she should confirm the position in that respect.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Is leave granted?

Ms Allan — I am delighted to uphold the standing orders and refuse leave.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Leave is not granted.

Mr WALSH — I rise to support the Leader of the Opposition in his motion that the government no longer has the confidence of this house. The tone of a state is set by the leadership of the state, and the leadership of this state is the Premier and the executive government. We have a Premier in this state and we have an executive government in this state who are bullies, who are rotters, who are corrupt and who will leave no stone unturned to do whatever they can to prosper themselves at the expense of Victoria.

The Premier and the executive government have no respect for the Parliament, have no respect for the rule of law and, as the motion says, they no longer have the confidence of this house to govern this state. They no longer have the respect of Victorians. They treat Victorian taxpayers like an ATM, put their credit card in and get their money out, and there is example after example of that happening. There is a sense of entitlement from the Labor Party that sits on the other side of this house. There is a born-to-rule mentality amongst them. They have been in government for 15 of 19 years and there is a born-to-rule mentality on that side of the house. They will do anything and they will destroy anyone who gets in the way of their right to entitlement and what they believe they should have.

It goes right back to a dictaphone. It goes right back to that. If you cannot tell the truth about a dictaphone, how can you tell the truth about anything? Was it stolen? Was it lost? Did it get listened to? Did notes get taken from the dictaphone? Was it actually destroyed so no-one knew whether it was listened to or not? If you cannot even tell the truth about a dictaphone, how can you have the confidence of Victorians to run this state?

We all remember hearing before the last election, ‘The contract for the east–west link is not worth the paper it is written on’ and ‘It will not cost one dollar to tear up that contract’. Yet later it cost \$1.3 billion to not build that road. The road would only have cost the Victorian taxpayer \$2 billion. For another \$700 million the east–

west link would be well on the way to being built by now, instead of having \$1.3 billion go down the drain.

It will be referred to many times in this debate today, the election eve promise to Peter Mitchell on the steps of Parliament looking down the camera: 'Peter, I make a promise to each and every Victorian I will not increase taxes. I will not introduce new taxes'. We know all the new taxes and we know all the tax increases that have happened in this state. There was no respect for Victorians in that promise — a promise that has been broken over and over again.

We can talk about the respect of the Parliament. The former Speaker, the person that is here to uphold the integrity of this house, decided he wanted to go and live in Queenscliff so he could claim the second residence allowance. After going to live in Queenscliff — he could not live in his own seat of Tarneit; he wanted to live in Queenscliff — he claimed \$37 000, rorting the system around the second residence allowance. Also, there is the former Deputy Speaker — the second of two officers who are here to uphold the integrity of this house. He lived in Ballarat at one stage and then lived in a caravan at Ocean Grove because his flat in Mordialloc was too small. He actually wanted something more spacious to live in so he lived in a caravan at Ocean Grove and claimed something like \$174 000 from the Victorian taxpayer for the pleasure of doing that — no respect for Victorians at all.

Again, the Deputy President — three out of four Presiding Officers in these two chambers are Labor Party Presiding Officers. One is a Liberal. Who are the three that have been in trouble for rorting the system? The former Speaker and the former Deputy Speaker in this house, and the Deputy President in the other place for rorting the printing allowances there, for which there is an investigation that is still ongoing.

But I think if you talk about the sense of entitlement, the thing that takes the cake for all Victorians is chauffeuring your dogs around. Two dogs, Patch and Ted — poor old Patch and Ted, they are infamous in this state now. I feel sorry for those two dogs. They are victims of their master putting them in the back of a chauffeured limousine to go to Trentham and back. If you talk about a sense of entitlement, who in their right mind would think that it is okay to have a chauffeur specially to take their dogs around? Maybe Miss Daisy should have a chauffeur, but not Patch and Ted. If you think about the sense of entitlement, that takes the cake of the corruption and the moral ineptitude of this particular government.

If you think about regional Victoria and the sale of the port, there was an agreement for 10 per cent of that money, \$970 million, to be spent on regional infrastructure. That has not happened. It has just gone into recurrent. It has not actually upgraded anything in regional Victoria. If you look at the \$200 million from the sale of the Rural Finance Corporation, it disappeared into recurrent funding — never went back into regional Victoria. If you actually look at the other half of the Rural Finance sale, the Murray Basin rail project, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to upgrade the rail tracks of north-west Victoria, it is \$100 million over budget, the contractor has been sacked and subcontractors are not being paid. It is two years behind, and I do not think it will ever really be finalised.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr WALSH — As the interjector said, it is a project that has been absolutely botched. But if you talk about regional Victoria, why would any government go to war with 60 000 volunteers in the Country Fire Authority (CFA)? Why would you be so arrogant that you believe you could go to war with 60 000 volunteers and get away with it?

Anyone who actually stood up for those volunteers within the organisation of the CFA has had their career trashed. All those people who were in leadership roles in the CFA that actually did the right things by those volunteers have been trashed. They have been sacked. They have had their reputations destroyed. Two years ago the Premier actually said, 'This dispute needed fixing, and I fixed it'. Two years on there is more chaos than ever, and we have a situation where, with a drought, we are probably going into a very dangerous fire season. We have the CFA in the situation it is in because of the Premier and because of the Deputy Premier of this state, and there is a real risk that we are not as prepared as we would have been.

Four years ago would you have heard anyone in Victoria, would you have heard the media outlets, actually talking about carjackings or about home invasions? In the last four years those two things have become part of the vernacular of this state because there is a government that is soft on crime and actually lets people get away with crime. Carjackings and home invasions are not things that were talked about every day in this state four years ago. They are now talked about on a daily basis and reported in the media accordingly. And you have got a government that is in absolute denial that this is an issue. For some reason it is the ostrich — you put your head in the sand, and it is going to go away. Nothing is going to happen. If we deny it, it is not there. The people of Victoria most certainly do

know that. And crime is not just a city issue; crime is very much a country issue as well, particularly with the burglaries in our smaller towns and the ram raids to our main street shops. People have had enough of the crime that is going on in this state.

The other issue that people talk about all the time is the cost of living. That goes back to that broken promise with Peter Mitchell on election eve. A huge increase in the coal tax in this state, \$250 million more in coal royalties, forced the closure of Hazelwood — 22 per cent of our state generation capacity taken out, prices up. Once this state used to be proud of the fact that it had affordable, reliable power. We had a manufacturing sector that grew up around having affordable, reliable power. We no longer have that. We have a debate based on ideology rather than a debate based on fact, and we are forcing businesses and jobs out of this state.

Melbourne was once very proud of the fact that it was voted the most livable city in the world. We have actually lost the title of the most livable city in this world under this particular government.

I suppose, in my last few minutes of the 15 minutes, the thing that has actually brought all this to a head is the red shirts rorts. For some reason the Labor Party believed that members could dupe parliamentary allowances to have the Parliament pay for staff to actually electioneer for them at the last election. The nub of this issue — and this is where the legality comes into it — is that we all know that if we employ casual or part-time people in our electorate offices, there is an A4 sheet which has each day on it, which is filled in by the person who is working there and actually says how many hours they worked on that day. On the bottom of that sheet there are two spots to sign: one for the person who is working for the MP to sign and one for the MP to sign to say that person actually worked those hours and worked those hours in that MP's office. That is how the system works —

An honourable member — That is how it is meant to work.

Mr WALSH — Exactly, that is how it is meant to work. The rort here — and the illegality here — that I believe the police will actually find when they seriously investigate this, is that Labor Party MPs were asked to sign blank forms and they were sent to another MP's office, where the person who was technically employed by that MP who was signing the forms actually worked, and then they were signed by that particular person in that office not working in the office of the MP who had actually filled that form in initially. That is the nub of the issue here: that those MPs involved were there to

fraudulently take money from the Parliament to pay for those people to do that work.

The fact that there are 21 MPs mentioned in the Ombudsman's report is an absolute shame on the Labor Party and a shame on this house for what they done, but more important is the fact that there are six ministers involved in that. We have six ministers of the Crown who have been found by the Ombudsman to have rorted the system, who are now being investigated by the police and who will not stand aside. The Westminster convention is that if a minister is being investigated, particularly if a minister is being investigated by the police, they should stand aside from their job. Those six ministers should be standing aside.

But it actually gets worse than there being six ministers that should stand aside; there are also the two top law officers of this state, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police. The Attorney-General allegedly signed forms to benefit another MP, and the police minister was a beneficiary of someone signing forms to have someone work in her office. So you have got the two top law officers of this state — the people that sit at the pinnacle of the legal system — accused of rorting the system and being investigated by police, and they will not stand aside; their jobs go on.

On the motion that is before the house, moved by the Leader of the Opposition, I would urge those MPs on the other side of the house who believe in integrity, believe in the Westminster system and believe in the oath — because when we come back after an election we walk up there, we put our hand on the Bible and we swear allegiance to Victoria, to the Queen and to the fact that we will do the right thing and uphold the laws of this state. I believe that the Labor Party and particularly those 21 MPs and, even more importantly, those six ministers, have actually lost sight of the oath they swore when they came into this house after the last election. They no longer deserve the right or the privilege to serve the people of Victoria. They swore that oath, and I believe they have broken that oath and no longer have the confidence of this house and no longer have the confidence of the people of Victoria.

It is also going to be interesting in the vote on this motion as to how the minor parties and Independents in this place vote. If they actually believe in upholding the law, in the rule of law and in the oath they took when Parliament was convened after the last election, they can do nothing else but stand in this place and support the Leader of the Opposition in his motion that this house has lost confidence in the government and government members should all resign.

Ms ALLAN (Minister for Public Transport) (15:58) — Can I say, the National Party lost sight of country Victoria a long, long time ago. They have sold out country Victoria time and time again —

Honourable members interjecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The Leader of the House to continue.

Ms ALLAN — They sold out country Victoria time and time again, and in here today we have seen it again. How dare the Leader of the National Party try and lecture —

Mr Pesutto interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — The member for Hawthorn! The Leader of the House to continue.

Ms ALLAN — How dare the Leader of the National Party try and lecture other minor parties in this place and tell them how to vote, because like the sheep they are the National Party always blindly follow the Liberal Party, and for regional Victoria that means cuts — cuts to V/Line, which we inherited when we came to government, closure of country rail lines, closure of country schools —

Honourable members interjecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Members leaving the chamber please do so quickly and quietly.

Ms ALLAN — The Leader of the Opposition framed this debate around trust. Well, country Victoria knows from bitter experience time and time again that you cannot trust the National Party when they are in bed with the Liberal Party to form government. It is only with the National Party that the Liberal Party can form government. That is what the National Party MPs should be reflecting on whilst the Leader of the National Party tries to give lectures to other members in this place and telling them how they should vote.

On this motion, as we have seen, the Leader of the Opposition spoke for, I think, an hour or more. I kind of lost track because there was no new information presented in the contribution by the Leader of the Opposition. We have seen nothing new, and that just underscores that this is just a reckless stunt pulled by the Leader of the Opposition in his desperation to have an audience for his presentation. He forced everyone to turn up here. They had no choice; they all had to turn up. But he provided no new information to the house. But I am happy to provide information to the house on why, if it comes to trust, if it comes to a record of

delivering for all Victorians, if it comes in terms of who can be trusted to deliver the services that families rely on to get around this state, it is the Andrews Labor government. If you compare it to the four years between 2010 and 2014, not a single major public transport project was undertaken — not one even started — and the contrast in the last four years could not be more stark. We are up to around \$30 billion of public transport —

Mr T. Smith interjected.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Kew is warned.

Ms ALLAN — Speaker, we are up to around \$30 billion currently being spent on public transport projects. As we heard from the Deputy Speaker, on the Metro Tunnel project 7000 jobs — unblocking the city loop — will be created through the construction of the Metro Tunnel. We saw that that was a project scrapped by the former government. You want to talk about trust? We all remember the former Premier down there handing out airline tickets for a project that did not even exist. We have got this project started, and it is now underway, it is supporting thousands of jobs and it is on track to be finished a full year ahead of schedule.

On level crossings, in the decade before we came to office only seven level crossings had been removed. We are up to 26, with three more to go before the end of the year: at Abbotts Road in Dandenong, Seaford Road in Seaford and Buckley Street in Essendon. Twenty-nine will be gone, exceeding — smashing — the target that we set ourselves. Also we have to remember why we are doing these level crossing removals. It is making these communities safety. It is reducing road congestion. It is giving us capacity to run more train services, and again it is creating jobs in local communities.

I know this is a bit of a bleat at those opposite, but where we have had the opportunity to do more, we have done more. In terms of the level crossing removals, yes, we said we would remove those level crossings. What we did not say, though, was that we would build the new stations, upgrade the power and signalling and duplicate the track. We did not say that at the last election, but when we came into government and saw there was an opportunity to do more — to invest in the metropolitan rail network so we could run more services for suburban communities — we grabbed that opportunity with both hands, and we are absolutely proud of that investment that we have made.

On Sunday we will be celebrating the opening of the Mernda rail line — 8 kilometres of track, three new stations and nearly 1000 extra weekday services for the Mernda community. It is a fantastic project that the member for Yan Yean and the member for Mill Park have worked so very hard on for a long time. It was started, funded and finished by a Labor government in less than four years. That is because we understood that we needed to get on and get on very quickly with this project and so many more. Unlike those opposite, who wanted to bring in rolling stock and not support local jobs or the rolling stock manufacturing sector, we have taken a different approach. Whether it is our new high-capacity trains, buying trains from Alstom in Ballarat or buying trains and trams from Bombardier in Dandenong, we are not just buying new rolling stock for our transport network but supporting jobs in local communities as well.

I am so very proud to say we are upgrading every single regional rail passenger line in regional Victoria, we are delivering the Murray Basin project, we are buying new trains for the regional network and we are delivering those new trains to communities like Bairnsdale and Warrnambool and along the north-east line because these are communities that need these modern trains. If those opposite, who were in government previously, are not cutting funding to V/Line, they are cutting train lines. We take a very different approach in supporting our regional passengers and our regional communities, because we understand so keenly and so well that regional communities rely on good public transport links. If it comes to trust, you can sure as hell trust Labor to invest in public transport in regional Victoria and in metropolitan Melbourne, for suburban communities and for the centre of the city. It is about supporting the public transport infrastructure, but most importantly it is the services that come from that infrastructure investment that our growing community needs.

What have we seen while we have been trying to get on and deliver these programs? We have seen a determined campaign from those opposite to try to stop our delivery of public transport projects. They have used every excuse under the sun to try to stop the Metro Tunnel project. It was the cost, it was the route, it was the location of the stations, it was the trees, it was the traffic disruption or it was the impact on businesses. You name it. They tried to find every excuse under the sun to try to stop the Metro Tunnel project. It is underway. It is being delivered despite the attempts of those opposite to stop it. We saw them do that on the Frankston line. They tried to stop the massive \$2 billion investment in public transport improvements that are being undertaken on the Frankston line. That was put at

risk as well by those opposite. We want to continue, and we know we have to continue, this investment.

That is one of the things that is at grave, grave risk. We have seen this programming from the Liberal-Nationals coalition when they were last in opposition before the 2010 election. The last time the Liberals were in government they broke every single one of the public transport commitments they committed to. They promised Doncaster rail; they scrapped it. They promised rail to Rowville; they scrapped that too. They promised rail to Avalon; that went as well. They did not lay a single metre of track on any one of their election commitments, and now what do we see? We see they are trying it on again.

They think the community has not worked them out by now. The community certainly has. They will not be taken for the fools that those opposite try and convince them that they are. They are not silly enough to take the Liberals at their word, because so far what we have seen is that the Liberals and The Nationals are trying to fool communities. Whether it is communities in Eltham, Clyde, Baxter or Gippsland, every single one of the commitments that have been made by the Liberal and National parties have been undercooked and massively underfunded. We know what happens when they come into government in that scenario: they simply do not deliver those projects. So why would anyone believe anything the Liberal Party, the National Party or the two parties standing next to one another say on public transport promises?

One of the other areas I want to touch on is commitments closer to home in Bendigo. Again, if this is a question of trust and who you can have confidence in to deliver, I can tell you who that person is, and that is our Premier. I want to tell a story as to why I believe that to be the case. It was one of the proudest times — in fact I will say it was the proudest time — I have had in my nearly 19 years in this place to be there last Friday to celebrate the opening of the new Bendigo Hospital. It was the proudest, proudest project not because it was built and started by a Labor government, finished by a Labor government and had to be bloody fought for very hard by a Labor opposition on the way through. What it means is that my community and indeed communities of surrounding members of Parliament —

Mr M. O'Brien interjected.

Ms ALLAN — It means that families with cancer do not have to travel —

Mr M. O'Brien interjected.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Malvern will come to order.

Ms ALLAN — It means that people with cancer do not necessarily have to travel to Melbourne. It means that critically ill women with critically ill babies do not have to travel to Melbourne. And I will tell —

Mr M. O'Brien interjected.

The SPEAKER — Order! Member for Malvern, this is your last warning.

Ms ALLAN — I am delighted to lay the history of this issue bare. We started this project. In 2006 we committed to the planning. It was opposed by those opposite. In 2009 we funded the first stage of works in the budget. In 2010 we committed to the full funding of this project. It was opposed by those opposite, and the Bendigo-based member of the upper house, Damian Drum, did not commit to it. It was not until they were dragged kicking and screaming before the 2010 election that they even bothered to commit to it.

Do you know what they then tried to do in government? They tried to impose an inferior option on the Bendigo community because they did not like the company being in alignment with the CFMEU, who were part of delivering that project. We have that on FOI. We had to fight damn hard for our hospital in Bendigo against those opposite. They were prepared to foist an inferior option on the Bendigo community, and do you know who was with the Bendigo community every single step of the way on our fight to get our new hospital? It was the then health minister, the Leader of the Opposition through opposition and the now Premier. He stood by our community as we fought every single step of the way to get our new hospital. We are damn proud of our new hospital. You go there now and you see the expanded workforce, funded by a Labor government, not cut into like those opposite. We had to fight for hospital funding as well during 2010 and 2014.

The other story I want to share with you is one that I know the Deputy Speaker knows well. As opposition leader the Premier was a very strong supporter when the member for Bendigo West and I were working with the Kalianna School Bendigo community to get a new school building. They were pleading with the government of the day to even have their voice heard on why they needed a new school building. Why is this school important? This school supports some of the most vulnerable students in our community — children with a disability, children with an intellectual disability —

Honourable members interjecting.

Ms ALLAN — Goodness me, they cannot even give respect to children with a disability. You lot are a disgrace. You are atrocious. It was the Leader of the Opposition who made a commitment from opposition, and — guess what — in government we are delivering them a brand-new school that those children absolutely deserve and that the staff in that school absolutely deserve.

It is about respect, and that is what Labor governments do. We invest in those services. We invest in those buildings because we respect communities right across the state — big and small, no matter what part of the state they are in. That is why we have got a record school-building program. That is why we have got a record investment in public transport. That is why we have got investment in health services as well. It is about respecting and understanding in government. It is not about cuts and closures that we know come from the opposition. We know that that is in their DNA. Labor governments take a very, very different approach, and under the Premier's leadership that approach has been to push on and make those investments that are vitally needed for our community. Whether it is schools in Bendigo, a beautiful new Bendigo Hospital —

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — The member for Polwarth is warned.

Ms ALLAN — or investment in the big public transport infrastructure projects, this is what Premier Andrews has driven throughout Victoria. It is about supporting jobs, it is about supporting communities and it is about supporting families. Those opposite, we know, do not understand what it means to deliver these services, because when they come into government all they do is cut. Whether it is a teacher they are happy to sack or a nurse they are prepared to put off at the hospital, that is the record of Liberal governments. We take a very different approach. I, as a minister and as a member of Parliament, am very proud to serve in the Premier's team, and we want to continue to work very hard, which is why we will campaign every single day with every inch of effort we have got against the Liberal-National parties and their agenda of cuts.

Ms SANDELL (Melbourne) (16:13) — As I said last sitting week, the public expects us, as MPs, to have the highest level of integrity, and so we should. It really is a privilege to be elected to this Parliament, and we are supposed to use that privilege to actually improve

the lives of all Victorians, to make sure that all Victorians have access to the services that they need to live a good life and to protect our environment for now and for future generations. MPs are not elected to sit in this place to try and figure out how to get more money for themselves, so it has been incredibly sad and disappointing for us to see so many misuses of public funds by MPs in this place simply for their own personal gain. It erodes trust in our public institutions, but also it is just plain wrong. It is no wonder that we are seeing the rise of smaller parties like the Greens or Independents in politics around the country, because people, frankly, are sick of the two old parties using the system for themselves.

Any misuse of public funds is incredibly serious and cannot be swept under the carpet. That is why we found it quite shocking and also incredibly disappointing to see the lengths that the Labor Party went to, including spending huge amounts of taxpayer funds to block the Ombudsman investigating their MPs and ministers who were accused of using public funds to pay their organisers for the election campaign. Labor ministers and the Premier really do need to reflect on their own behaviour, and it is disappointing they are not taking responsibility for their wrongdoing. It really is paramount that they do so. Instead there have been attempts to shut down legitimate inquiries right from the beginning. All along the Greens supported the Ombudsman and the Privileges Committee investigating these alleged rorts. We want to get to the bottom of it; we want to make sure it never happens again.

It is clear that there are grey areas in the Members Guide about what is and is not allowable under MP budgets. The Ombudsman herself said that there is undoubtedly a blurred line between permissible and impermissible uses of parliamentary funds and that reform is needed to give the public confidence that public funds could not be used in this manner in future. But there is a real difference between MPs genuinely attempting to do the right thing and finding it difficult because the rules are confusing and MPs knowingly and actively doing the wrong thing and in fact actively seeking to exploit the grey areas and even being directed to do so by senior people in their parties. Using electorate officers to campaign as field organisers in marginal seats — clearly using taxpayer funds for political election campaigning — on my reading of the Members Guide, and I would suggest on any layperson's reading of the Members Guide, is not a grey area. This is clearly outside the rules.

Yes, many Labor MPs seem to be sitting in this place because of the activities of these organisers, who were improperly paid for by the taxpayer. For example, the

member for Richmond, who does not often get mentioned in regard to this matter, only won his seat of Richmond from the Greens by a handful of votes, and the Ombudsman notes that he was helped by a taxpayer-funded election organiser. Would he have won this seat without taxpayer support? We do not know, but I am sure the voters of Richmond are pretty disappointed by his involvement in the matter. Elections should be a contest of ideas, not a contest of who has the deepest pockets or who is best able to get away with misusing taxpayer dollars.

There is little doubt in my mind that the architects of the scheme in the Labor Party knew exactly what they were doing. This is very, very different from unknowingly wading into the confusing grey areas of the Members Guide, such as not quite being sure what wording you are allowed to put in a mail-out. Suffice to say, we have been incredibly disappointed in Labor for their actions. However, we do not support the Liberal-National parties' attempts to constantly use this issue as a battering ram against the Labor Party heading into the election just so they can try and get some headlines and some extra votes. This is a public mud-slinging match. No wonder the public has so little trust in politicians. The public expects us to be here in Parliament to talk about the big issues facing us all, such as how to improve our schools, our health system, our public transport system or our public housing system and how to tackle climate change and protect our environment. But instead all the public has been hearing is one side beating up on the other side.

Let us not forget that there are also allegations hanging over the head of the Liberal-National parties regarding the misuse of taxpayer funds.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Hawthorn is warned.

Ms SANDELL — This is a coalition that is spreading fear and misinformation in our community, a party that is blaming African gangs for almost everything, aiming to whip up fear and win votes by stoking racism in our community. This is a coalition that is trying to tell Victorians that crime is rising when that could not be further from the truth. This is a coalition that still wants to build the economically and environmentally disastrous east-west toll road despite the road being profoundly rejected by voters at the last election. This is a coalition that wants to destroy our health and our climate by building more coal plants and ripping up virtually all our environmental and

renewable energy laws, something that makes absolutely no sense whatsoever in a modern economy.

These are two parties with no plan for dealing with the big issues in Victoria and that simply want to distract from their bad ideas by beating up the opposition. The public wants us in Parliament doing our jobs, passing bills and dealing with the big issues. They do not want us wasting time on political games, so the Greens will not be supporting this no-confidence motion.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Euroa!

Ms SANDELL — All members in this place have the right to move a motion of no confidence in the government. That is their right. And we are very prepared to let this debate run so that all MPs can have their say, but it must be within reason. A no-confidence motion is a very serious matter. Debate must be allowed to happen, but we will not support using the full week to rehash the same arguments over and over again if it is adding nothing further to the debate. There are several other important things on the agenda this week, such as important changes to the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 to protect renters, something which came about due to the Northcote by-election. We need to get to that this week. There are substantial changes that will really help people.

I also wish that the government and opposition would allow us time to get to the real heart of this matter, which is: what are we going to do to actually fix the systems that currently lead to MPs misusing their allowances? The Ombudsman noted in her report that not only does the Members Guide need to be revised but stronger independent investigation and enforcement powers are needed to respond to alleged breaches.

I would like to point out that for a very long time the Greens have been calling for a parliamentary standards commissioner who would have oversight of MPs' expenditure and the ability to actually enforce the rules and investigate when rules are broken. To me it just seems crazy that we do not have something like this now. The Greens leader, Samantha Ratnam, has written to the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition to ask for their support for amendments in legislation to establish an independent parliamentary standards commissioner. This is not a new idea; it has been around for a really long time. So I personally am quite disappointed that we are debating this rather than the solutions.

I wish we were actually having a substantive debate about how to fix the problem, but instead we are

debating a no-confidence motion because it gives the Liberal Party a platform to beat up the government and win a few more votes. It is a real shame that neither party seems interested in real solutions. The opposition of course has a right to move a no-confidence motion, but all Victorian voters will have a right in less than 100 days to decide who they want as Victoria's government in a general election. I believe that voters will look carefully at the behaviour of both sides of politics when casting their vote and will reward those who are genuinely interested in improving the lives of all Victorians, not just those who are here just to gain power for themselves.

So in conclusion, I urge all MPs in this place to reflect on their behaviour and ask themselves: are they really living up to what the public expects of us, the privileged few who are elected to sit in this Parliament?

Mr DONNELLAN (Minister for Roads and Road Safety) (16:22) — It is a privilege to speak on this two-bob stunt from the opposition. While they are into stunts, we are actually into getting things done because we had four years when nothing much happened, when we had 450 staff cut from VicRoads and we did not have many major projects started or completed. We spent four years waiting for an east-west link that never got off the ground. And then we found a poisoned pill in that — to suddenly have turn-up money delivered to those who had not actually done anything. So in many ways who would you trust? Well, you trust those who actually contract these projects properly.

Our state was very much falling behind. We were growing at 0.8 per cent. Geez, you have got to work hard to mug the economy and be growing at 0.8 per cent — you have really got to be pretty lazy. The fact that you could allow the economy to grow at 0.8 per cent, virtually abandon capital expenditure by the government and virtually sit still and watch the world go by should hang around your necks for the rest of your lives. That was a disgraceful, lazy exercise where there was no jobs growth and the place was coming to a standstill. And let us be very clear: when you went into conservative circles, there was hardly an individual who would defend the last lot. They were actually saying they were the most hopeless lot they had ever seen in their lives, and growth of 0.8 per cent very much highlighted how absolutely hopeless they were.

We got in and we had a positive plan — none of this rubbish. What we have had from the Leader of the Opposition is, 'Who do you trust to deal with congestion?'. Well, certainly not the lot who did nothing in four years, I can assure you. If he is out in the west — the Leader of the Opposition might

occasionally try to travel to the west — he will see the start of the \$1.8 billion worth of duplications that is occurring in the west, because obviously this brain surgeon totally failed to notice that it is already contracted and started. But this goose seems to think he has got a better proposition of doing nothing and waiting to do the east–west over four years.

Who do you trust to make the place safe — the lot that let the crime rate go up every year, compared to us who dropped it? What a pack of jokers! What an absolute pack of jokers to sit there and basically ignore the basic statistics, which said it is going down. It went up every year under the member for Box Hill — every year — and he has the cheek to come into this house and pretend he can do any better. Are you absolutely kidding? You are a pack of jokers. Seriously, look at you. At the end of the day you failed every year on crime, and you come into this house starting to pretend that you know what you could do. You failed comprehensively every one of those years, and that is why you deserved to be thrown out, and that is what the public showed. Their confidence was not in you lazy, slovenly lot. All you did was cut. All you did was fail on every occasion to get something done.

Then we start talking about standards. Are you joking — when you do fundraisers down at the Docklands with people who are involved in organised crime? One of the owners of the venue is in jail at the moment for the biggest ecstasy haul ever in the world, and you lot stand there having fundraisers with them. Are you joking? And then you come into this house — the cheek of you — and start talking about standards. Not only does your leader do it once, but once he has been caught, he goes back there to the Lobster Cave with the brother and has a lunch to do fundraising. And you are talking about standards — are you absolutely kidding? Do you think that is an appropriate place to raise money? Not one of the people on this side would actually go down there and think that is appropriate.

You come into this house and talk about the standard of our leader compared to yours, who hangs around with those whose brothers have done the biggest ecstasy haul ever in the world — \$450 million worth — and you lot think that is someone you should hang around with and do fundraising with. And then we go down to Beaumaris — we leave the Docklands — and we do it again. We do it again after we have been caught the first time. He thinks he can sneak in there and then says, ‘Oh, I didn’t know what I was doing. My staff didn’t tell me. I just turned up and Uncle Tony and Uncle Frank were there’. Are you kidding? That is a lie, an utter lie. That is thoroughly dishonest, and you come

in here and talk about standards and confidence. You have to be kidding. You absolutely have to be kidding.

At the end of the day, for four years you did absolutely nothing. In the meantime, you are trying to raise money from dodgy characters. Then you have had your state director rip off \$1.5 million from both you and the public, and then you would not even put yourselves up to the basic test of what your members knew about that corruption of the political process. And you have the utter cheek to come into this place and start talking about who they have confidence in. Well, in 2014 they answered that question, and it was not your lot, because you did nothing for four years. You sat still, you watched the world go by and you grew the economy by 0.8 of a per cent.

Let us look at what we have done, because I think that is a more positive story. We do not want to look at the rotten standards on the other side — the corrupting, rotten lot that they are. Let us be very clear. We have got on with the job. In the 3.8 years we have been in, you have seen enormous growth in jobs: 370 000 jobs. We are the jobs powerhouse of this country; we are driving growth.

What really annoys me is when we get the federal government coming down to Victoria and saying what a great job they have done to deliver jobs growth. Are they absolutely kidding? For the majority of it here in Victoria, we have funded the infrastructure projects and they are only just starting to come in. We are still at 14 per cent of forward estimates spending from the federal government in terms of infrastructure, so we are not even at the level we should be at. We are driving the economic growth. The federal government carry on like a lot of pork chops, as if they have contributed anything to that at this stage, but they simply have not. They simply have not put the money in; we are still at 14 per cent. So let us be very clear. It is no use waving around that magic lobster claw. You have got to do the work. You cannot rub that magic lobster claw like they do in *I Dream of Jeannie* and just hope you get into government; you have actually got to do the work.

You have only got to look at what is the grade separation policy. Every major private transport engineer in the state said it was absolutely, fundamentally flawed. In other words, they are not just saying it is a lulu; it simply does not work. Only a moron would try something that does not work, but that is their big policy — ‘We’re going to grade separate in the middle suburbs’ — while we have private traffic engineers saying it is fundamentally flawed; it moves the queue to the next congestion point, and that is no good to anybody; and it is a

quarter-baked proposition, so it is not even half-baked. They could not even get to the half-baked bit; they only got to quarter-baked. In other words, that is their big policy, which actually adds up to nothing and does absolutely nothing for congestion.

If you look at regional roads — they are always ranting on about regional roads — the basic figures are there in the budget. They do not lie. In the four years they were in, for regional road maintenance there was \$458 million. Since we have been in, it has been \$856 million. I know whose standard I would like above all else. I know who I would trust to do the job, and that would be the Labor Party, the people who have actually committed the money and do not get in and cut, cut, cut, like the last lot did, because that is in their DNA. They do not really understand much.

It is a bit like going back down to Cranbourne this week. 'We're going to extend the single line down to Clyde', the Liberal Party say. They have obviously forgotten that in 1993 they shut down the South Gippsland line — shut, closed, gone, absolutely disappeared. Then they are telling the people of Cranbourne that somehow or other by extending the line they are going to diminish their services and that is really good for them. Only a lulu would put that up after years ago going down there and shutting the actual line. This is where the National Party needs to stand up to the Liberal Party and actually say, 'No longer are you going to shut down every train line we've got — because that is what you did last time around, you shut them'.

Mr Paynter interjected.

The SPEAKER — The member for Bass!

Mr DONNELLAN — They are the basic facts. I know it is hard to understand for those in the south-east that they would —

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER — The member for Bass and the member for Polwarth are warned.

Mr DONNELLAN — The fool is the person who sat by and watched the train line to South Gippsland shut. That is the fool.

Mr Paynter interjected.

The SPEAKER (16:32) — The member for Bass can leave the chamber for the period of half an hour.

Honourable member for Bass withdrew from chamber.

Mr DONNELLAN — The fool is the person who thinks it is acceptable to shut the train line. That is pretty, pretty stupid. It used to go all the way down to Port Albert. It was a good train line, but at the end of the day, of course, the National Party stood still while the Liberal Party cut, cut, cut. Now they reckon they are going back there to deliver a lesser service to the people of Cranbourne, and the people of Cranbourne have suddenly got to get excited. I mean, are you joking again? It is another appalling standard. We are going to give you lesser services, but we are the ones you trust! Are you absolutely kidding?

When we talk about standards you walk by and you are heading down to the Lobster Cave again, have a think about whether that is the appropriate spot for your leader to be. Has he actually explained how he keeps going to these places without knowing where he is going? I mean, what was it last time? 'I didn't know. Uncle Tony and Uncle Frank just happened to be there'.

In my office I like my staff to tell me where I am going. I like to know who I am going to meet with. It is a pretty basic proposition. In other words, the Leader of the Opposition's staff cannot even tell him who he is meeting with and where he is going each day. Gee, I tell you, I would be getting new staff, or I would be getting an opposition leader who might occasionally tell the truth. It would be a good thing that he might actually tell the truth and say, 'Well, I went down there to raise money', which is what he did. He went down there to raise money — again, from a rotten, dirty source. Let us be very clear: if that is the standard the Liberal Party thinks appropriate, then keep going, because the public will make their choice in November this year. I think the assessment will be pretty harsh if they are the standards you think are appropriate, where you simply cut and you raise money from dodgy characters.

Most of all, you look at their infrastructure policy. It is the yeah-no, yeah-no special. You do not even know where they start and where they finish. It is a bit like their policy on the north-east link. How many positions have we had on the north-east link? Probably more than the Kama Sutra, in many ways. Seriously, we have had 'We don't like the route' and 'It's a dog of a project'. What else has he said? He would use the federal government to block land acquisition for the north-east link. He told Marcellin College the route he enjoyed more than anything else is route C. Then in an interview on ABC radio he vowed he would not sign the contract. Now it is all part of their infrastructure policy.

It is very hard to work out what the Leader of the Opposition does and does not stand for. I think you could really say that the only thing that the Leader of

the Opposition stands for is wanting to get into power. That is it. He does not really want to do anything with it. It is just his desperate need to get into power. It is sort of a manic desire to just get there at all costs.

The public will demand that the Liberal Party be very clear on what they will and will not do. They are now supporting the West Gate tunnel, after they tried to stop the planning for the West Gate tunnel in the upper house; in other words, 'We tried to stop that, we tried to block it and now suddenly we've done a backflip'. 'Oh, we're on board now. We're going to build the West Gate tunnel. Oh, no, no, no. Trust us. We tried to stop it, but no, no, no, trust us. We're in. Then we are going to do the north-east link at the same time, and then we are going to do east-west'. But they cannot even work out where the east-west link is going anymore. We have multiple exit points for the east-west link. We do not know where it starts. It is just this mythical magic lobster claw again, where the Leader of the Opposition will make everything good with just a rub of the magic lobster claw, and his mate in Hastings will join in on the high chair, when they sit with Uncle Tony and Uncle Frank down at the Lobster Cave. This is a joke. We are putting up infrastructure propositions where we cannot even know where the road starts and finishes, and that is their proposal. Trust him. Yes, trust him. It took them four years to do nothing the last time around, and you want to give them another four years to sit on their bums, quite literally.

Well, I do not know whether the Victorian public will accept that. I think what they want to see is work going on. You have only got to look at the north and the south-east, where we have just put out for expressions of interest for \$2.2 billion worth of duplications in the outer suburbs, very much needed and very much supported by those communities, in the same way as the \$1.8 billion western suburbs duplication, which is already started. It is flowing at 100 miles an hour. That is what the public expects from us, whether it be Melbourne Metro or whether it be proper public transport upgrades, not half-baked ones like Cranbourne where we are going to diminish the service to Cranbourne by somehow or other extending a single line. What a hopeless pack of ninnams. You have to do your work properly and you have to make sure you are delivering a service, not diminishing a service. I know who they are going to trust in November this year, and it certainly will not be the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr HODGETT (Croydon) (16:37) — As has been said many times when it comes to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, sometimes you should remain silent and be thought a fool rather than open your mouth and remove all doubt. I rise to speak on the

no-confidence motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. This is a very serious matter. You do not move a no-confidence motion lightly. We could have moved a motion like this well before today, but enough is enough. The Leader of the Opposition has moved that the Premier and the other ministers of the state of Victoria no longer possess the confidence of this house. Why? Because enough is enough, and there is a long and growing list of matters that shows the incompetence of the Andrews Labor government. They are corrupt, rotten to the core and incompetent.

I will outline a number of things that are on that growing list, but as has been mentioned already today, the number one issue, which is at the top of the list, is the red shirts rorts scandal. We have seen rorting, misconduct and corruption of democracy by the Andrews Labor government. This was first uncovered in September 2015. Labor MPs had been rorting entitlements to pay for their election campaign. The Leader of the Opposition today outlined some of the history of the red shirts rorts scandal. We have seen the Labor government fight and block any investigation by the Ombudsman and the courts, but all the way and at every turn rulings were made against them.

We saw the government write to the Ombudsman and say that their view was that she did not have jurisdiction to investigate this matter. In February 2016 the Ombudsman filed an application to the Supreme Court to determine whether or not she had jurisdiction to investigate. The Supreme Court ruled that it was within the Ombudsman's jurisdiction to investigate this matter. The government lodged an appeal against the Supreme Court ruling. The Court of Appeal dismissed Labor's second attempt to block the Ombudsman's investigation. The government then launched a High Court appeal, and that appeal was dismissed. You have to ask yourself: what was the cost of all of this to Victorian taxpayers? It was millions and millions of dollars. The one decent thing the Premier and his government could do is pay back that money. If they are going to fight the Ombudsman through the court system just to block the uncovering of this entire red shirts rorting scandal, they should pay for it out their own pockets and not from taxpayers money.

What did the Victorian Ombudsman find? The Ombudsman found that Victorian Labor wrongly used \$388 000 of public money during the party's 2014 election campaign, breaching the members guidelines for staff. It found that 21 Labor MPs breached the guidelines by certifying payments to electorate officers who were used for campaign purposes. The list includes the following current ministers: the Minister for Families and Children, Jenny Mikakos in the

Council; the Attorney-General; the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change; the Special Minister of State, Gavin Jennings in the Council; the Minister for Sport; and the Minister for Training and Skills, Gayle Tierney in the Council. The Ombudsman went on to say:

... while some electorate officer work was done for some members of Parliament, the arrangement to employ field organisers as electorate officers was an artifice to secure partial payment for the campaign out of parliamentary funds, and was wrong.

There is no doubt about that; it is very clear.

What has happened since then? We have seen a Privileges Committee investigation set up and Labor attempt to delay that inquiry at every turn. We have seen Victoria Police announce that they are opening a fresh investigation into the misuse of almost \$400 000 in taxpayer funds before the 2014 election. We wait to see how that will play out. I am sure that some members in their contributions to this debate will talk more about this corrupt red shirts scandal that the government thinks was done in good faith. They say, 'There's nothing to see here. We have paid the money back. Please leave us alone and go away'.

What else have we heard? We have heard about former minister Steve Herbert chauffeuring his dogs in his ministerial limousine. How can Victorians have confidence in this government? We hear about things like crime, congestion and cost-of-living increases, yet you have a minister of the Crown who has the arrogance to chauffeur his dogs in his ministerial limousine to his property in country Victoria. Not only that but he ordered his drivers to take the dogs for walks. He was not happy to just put Patch and Ted in the back seat and have them chauffeured around the state. He actually said to the driver, 'You've got to get out and walk them'. What arrogance from that minister.

We have also heard that the same minister — Steve Herbert — failed to declare his Trentham property on the register of interests. What confidence can Victorians have in the government when a minister fails to declare his house on the register of interests and chauffeurs his dogs around in a limousine? What have they done for this minister? They have announced that a building at Melbourne Polytechnic will be named after Steve Herbert. That is the height of arrogance and is a disgrace.

The member for Tarneit, the former Speaker, was caught up in an expenses scandal. He claimed \$37 834 to live in beachside Queenscliff, which is well outside of his Tarneit electorate. At the time the Treasurer said:

Quite frankly, there's always a way around rules no matter how emphatically driven they are ...

Again, what confidence can we have in the government and the Treasurer when he is openly admitting that people on their side of the house can find ways around the rules? You can put whatever rules you like in place. They do not care if it is wrong; they are happy to find ways around the rules and rot the system. The member for Tarneit was made to pay the money back. He eventually resigned as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, but he remains a voting member of the state parliamentary Labor Party. This corrupt, rotting state Labor MP remains here as a vote.

We have got the member for Melton, Don Nardella, who is in the house. Following Speaker Telmo Languiller's admission of claiming a second residence allowance —

The SPEAKER — I ask the member to refer to members by their correct titles.

Mr HODGETT — Labor's Deputy Speaker, the member for Melton, was exposed by the *Age* as claiming the second residence allowance between March 2010 and February 2017 at a cost to taxpayers of \$174 836. I will leave it to others who may wish to outline the time line of this in more detail. Suffice to say that the member for Melton, who now lives in Mordialloc, is still under active joint investigation by the Australian Electoral Commission and Victorian Electoral Commission over his enrolment eligibility in the 2014 Victorian state election. Those opposite again throw their hands up and say, 'Nothing to see here. It is all right. There is no corruption here'. How can Victorians have confidence in this corrupt government?

We have the Khalil Eideh printing rorts. IBAC is currently investigating allegations that Labor's former Deputy President, Khalil Eideh, used tens of thousands of taxpayers dollars from the Parliament printing budget to pay for bogus party memberships. I challenge those opposite — they are treating this like a budget response; they are getting up and just saying how good they are and patting each other on the back — to defend these claims. Get up and defend the claim that Khalil Eideh spent tens of thousands of taxpayers dollars of the printing budget to pay for bogus Labor memberships. He eventually stood aside as Deputy President of the Legislative Council and has resigned now as Deputy President, but the outcome of the IBAC —

An honourable member interjected.

Mr HODGETT — Yes, they are slow to go because they pretend nothing is wrong. It is the same as

these rorters — the Premier should be standing them down. In Kahlil Eideh's case the outcome of that IBAC investigation is pending.

Who could forget the Labor infighting? The standards in this place! We had the Minister for Veterans and Minister for Sport in a knife fight with another member. It was a new low in parliamentary discipline when we had the alleged butter knife fight in the Parliament cafe. This is the same minister who is under investigation by the fraud squad of Victoria Police. What sorts of standards are set in this place by Labor infighting? They are turning on each other, pulling knives on each other, and yet they have the audacity to suggest to the Victorian public that we should continue to have confidence in them. Then of course we had Cesar Melhem in the other place sacked over his Australian Workers Union (AWU) activities and the investigation into his rorting while he was the head of the AWU. The list goes on and on and on.

I also wanted to talk about infrastructure, because what confidence can Victorians have in this government when we constantly see costs blow out and cost overruns in major infrastructure projects? I challenge the government to name one project they have delivered on time or on budget or even according to specification. We keep mentioning the east–west link — \$1.3 billion lost not to build a road. We are the laughing-stock of the world. I know that when the Treasurer went overseas foreign banks were asking, 'Is it true that you guys ripped up a contract?'. They just could not believe the foolishness of it.

Just to put it into context, I often talk to people, and a lot of people still do not understand how much \$1.3 billion is. Many people think \$1 billion is \$100 million. It is \$1000 million. To put that into other terms, if you were to spend \$1.3 billion at a dollar a second — 60 seconds a minute, 60 minutes an hour, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year spending a dollar per second — it would take you over 41 years to spend that \$1.3 billion. It would take you 41 years, 81 days, 7 hours, 6 minutes and 40 seconds at a dollar per second. People just do not realise it. The government laughs it off. I think an earlier speaker in their contribution said that that project would be finished now, or just about finished, and we would be opening the east–west link and easing congestion.

Of course the public have got no confidence in this government when they look at issues such as crime, congestion, cost of living or the Country Fire Authority. We had another stunt this week when the government announced the state Labor version of the pink batts fiasco. We talk to people in our electorates about the

cost of living, which is predominantly about power prices, but the government just does not understand that if you force a power station to close, with a growing population demand continues to go up and supply is strangled, so prices are going to go up. It is absolutely disgraceful to hear about Labor ministers driving dogs around in their car, the government wasting \$1.3 billion on infrastructure, cost blowouts and rorting taxpayers money to get elected.

When you talk to people in your electorate, there are pensioners who cannot pay their electricity bills — in fact they stay in bed an hour later of a morning or go to bed an hour earlier at night to shut the house down so they do not have to pay to have the heater on. It is an absolute disgrace. Indeed we saw back in summer that people closed the house off, got in the car or got a bus down to the local shopping centre, sat there all day and bought a cup of coffee if they could afford it, because it was an air-conditioned environment and it was too expensive to stay at home. I say to government members: hang your heads in shame. You have got pensioners who have worked all their lives as hardworking taxpayers, and now because of this government they have to shut down their houses and go down to the local shopping centres because they cannot afford to pay their power bills.

There are other projects, and I wanted to mention one in Frankston. I was down there recently with our candidate for Frankston, Michael Lamb. If we look at botched projects, again, how can the people of Frankston have confidence in the government or their member when you have got the Frankston station precinct works? The Victorian government's \$63 million Frankston station precinct redevelopment project has proved to be a shemozzle. The station design fails to deal with the challenge of handling increased passenger numbers, which will be increasing over the next 10 to 15 years, or address safety concerns.

Then there are the Young Street works. I know a number of members on this side have been down to Frankston. As you walk along Young Street Michael Lamb will point out to you that as a result of the street having been narrowed — there was no consultation; it was just rushed through to be seen to be undertaking a project in Frankston — there is a disabled car park space that actually encroaches on about half the footpath. If a disabled driver were to park in that parking space, they would actually be parked on the footpath and be blocking the footpath. That is the Labor Young Street works project that those opposite botched and rushed through. I implore people to go down there and have a look at it. It is an absolute joke. The member for Hastings has been there; I have seen him there.

It is botched project after botched project. Who could forget the desalination plant? The one I always mention is Hoddle Street. The Hoddle Street project has blown out to nearly double its cost, and this only started in January this year. It was \$60 million, but there has been a cost blowout of \$48.6 million. It is now \$108 million. It only started in January this year, when the government closed the road for one week to commence those works. I was talking about this in April, so only a couple of months later this has blown out to \$108 million. You have got to ask yourself: how can Victorians have confidence in a corrupt government? How can they trust the Premier on anything he says? I challenge any of those opposite to get up and defend this motion rather than carry on and pat themselves on the back.

Ms HENNESSY (Minister for Health) (16:52) — I rise to contribute to the debate on the Leader of the Opposition's motion before the house and indicate my opposition to it. Of course it has been a very colourful day in politics in Australia today. It has been one where we have seen the Prime Minister challenged; it has been one where we have seen a whole range of people try to avoid some of the incredibly important things that people genuinely care about. In moving a motion of no confidence, I am pleased to see that the opposition have actually reflected upon how serious this is, because it does take precedence over all other business in the house.

In speaking in opposition to the motion, I intend to point out why it is that in fact no-one should have confidence in those opposite and their attempts to gain the government benches come November of this year as well. I think in standing up and speaking to this motion, talking about some of the issues that Victorians do care about, they have in fact by virtue of putting this motion on the agenda denied this Parliament actually talking about the issues that Victorians care about. They do care about things like jobs, they do care about things like infrastructure and they do care about good, strong investment in health. Certainly those on the other side of this chamber cannot walk tall or proud when it comes to their record on these issues, and I intend to talk to that in the course of my contribution, particularly in respect of their history on health.

We know that when those opposite had the government benches they made a promise before their election and said that they would not cut health or education. That was absolutely denied in a very, very short period of time. I certainly know that it took the previous Minister for Health 21 days before he first cut the health budget, and the aggregate impact of that cut over the course of that government was over \$350 000, but that was just

the start. In the course of their government they managed to rip \$1 billion out of the healthcare system. That is after they promised the Victorian public that they would not cut the health system.

Mr Watt interjected.

The SPEAKER — The member for Burwood is warned.

Ms HENNESSY — Those that stand before us today and engage in a very, very confected form of kabuki political theatre need to reflect upon their own history when it comes to people and the grounds upon which the Victorian public should have confidence in them. It is my contention to this chamber that there are no grounds to have confidence in the opposition, particularly when it comes to investment in health.

As I said, it did not take long before they revealed their true selves. They have absolutely no commitment to public health — absolutely none. We can see that not only in the \$1 billion that they cut out of the health system but also in the contribution that they made to their workforce — or should I say the lack thereof. Our hardworking nurses, our hardworking paramedics, our hardworking allied health assistants and our hardworking doctors and pharmacists know the truth. They know the truth of what it is like to live in a health system under a Liberal-National government, and that is a history of cuts and disrespect to the workforce.

We see that disrespect on so many arcs of the health system. Let me begin with nurses. When it comes to nurses that government spent almost the entirety of their term in office fighting against our hardworking nurses to deny them a well-earned pay rise. Not only did the then health minister go out and try and develop secret plans to have a strike-busting workforce put in place; he also tried to take off the table things that nurses had fought for years and years and years to secure and protect. One of those was nurse-patient ratios.

Nurse-patient ratios count, and they count because they go to the quality of health care that Victorian patients receive. They count because they go to how many nurses are available in an emergency department resuscitation cubicle. They count because they go to how many midwives are available during active birth in a birthing suite in the public hospital system. They count because they go to how many nurses are available for a palliative care patient. They count because they go to how many nurses are allocated in an oncology ward to care for people. They count because they go to how many nurses are there to support people in a haematology ward, and they count

because there is so much rapid advancement in our healthcare system that procedures once performed only in places like an intensive care unit, and stroke is one example that comes to mind, are now performed on wards. That is a terrific thing.

It is a terrific thing to have that advancement, but when we refuse to actually then invest in the workforce, support them and ensure that we are providing not only enough nurses and midwives but the funding to support good-quality care, it is not just the workforce that suffers by not being able to give adequate attention to their patients, it is the patients that suffer because of a lack of quality of care, and that is something that our government has taken very, very seriously. We have done that by introducing nurse-patient ratio legislation that has been through the house, and of course we are committed to improving those ratios.

A nurse I spoke to today made the following reflection to me. She said it is not just about making sure that people have their pain medication or know when their specialist is coming; it is about having the time to care. It is about having the time to hold someone's hand, it is about having the time to be able to ask questions about a person's history — where and how they live, their family — and to bring some dignity and nobility to people at the times of greatest vulnerability. But those opposite, if given the chance to be on the government benches, will resort to type — and their type is to cut, corporatise and privatise. Victorian nurses know this; Victorian midwives know this. They know that the only government you can have confidence in when it comes to investing in health care is a Labor government and, boy, we will be reminding the Victorian community between now and 24 November of that.

Again, billions of dollars cut from the health system not only impacted upon our hospitals; it impacted upon how quickly patients got access to care. We know that we have got a growing population here in Victoria, we have got an ageing population and we have got people with a whole variety of diseases that need support. What we saw under the previous government as a consequence of those budget cuts was an elective surgery waitlist that blew out to over 50 000. There were 50 000 on the elective surgery waitlist, the longest it has ever been. Why should Victorians have confidence in an opposition that delivered such horrific performance results?

We also saw those that waited for longer than 24 hours in an emergency department at the highest rates ever. Those patients are usually patients that have very, very challenging mental health conditions, and we saw those that waited for longer than 24 hours in performance

quarters grow to over 1000. We have still got work to do to continue to improve our performance. It would be my aspiration that no-one waits that long, but significant harm was wreaked upon patients in incredibly vulnerable circumstances because of those cuts.

We saw those cuts particularly impact upon the ability of our prehospital emergency care sector to respond and to support patients, and we saw that particularly in respect of our hardworking paramedics and Ambulance Victoria. What those opposite delivered to the Victorian community was the worst response times ever on the Australian mainland, and they did that whilst going to war with our paramedics. They went to war with our paramedics, again because they wanted to deny them having the opportunity for a fair and reasonable pay rise. They wanted to deny government investment in our ambulance services to ensure that we are capable of responding to the growth and the changing acute needs in our community, and they did horrific things. They went out and used taxpayers money to buy advertising in newspapers to essentially attack our paramedics.

The previous health minister referred to our hardworking paramedics as thugs — people that were standing up not just for their workforce but for Victorian patients. I am very delighted that we have managed to turn that around through hard work and investment but also in partnership with and respect for our workforce. I am delighted that we have now delivered the best response times that this state has ever seen, and we have done so because we have done it in cooperation with and in support of our workforce, all the while rising to some of the very challenging issues that we have around keeping our paramedics safe and around ensuring that they are well-trained. The previous government thought it was okay to give paramedics one day's training a year for all of their clinical, occupational health and safety issues. We have turned that around to be five days, putting things like the mental health and wellbeing of our workforce on the mainstream occupational health and safety agenda. It is a mainstream occupational health and safety issue.

We have ensured that we have been able to make investments around better peer support and better access to chaplaincy to reduce fatigue and the demand on our paramedics that we know was contributing to mental health outcomes that saw them have suicide rates almost three times as high as other sections of the emergency services family. We have still got a long way to go, but if you go to paramedics today and ask, 'Who do you have confidence in to invest in and support this workforce and to deliver good services to the Victorian community?' I know what their answer

would be. It would not be those sitting on the opposite side of this chamber.

We have also made very significant investments in capital. When we came to office we did not have a pipeline of capital funded to ensure that we were able to build and grow a health system that desperately needed to be rebuilt and grown to deal with demands in our community. We saw hardly anything. We saw the botched eye and ear project and we saw a lack of capital investment, particularly in rural and regional Victoria. We saw no plans for further expansion of many of our very, very important health services. In the very short time of three and a half years we have managed to get the Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital going, we have managed to get the Casey Hospital project going and we have managed to get half a billion invested to deliver Victoria's first standalone heart hospital. Cardiac disease is one of the biggest killers, and the hospital is going to deliver research and education and attract important investment.

Mr M. O'Brien interjected.

Ms HENNESSY — I hear the cries of derision from those opposite. They do not support the establishment of new standalone heart services.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Malvern!

Ms HENNESSY — They do not support medical research; they do not support clinical training; they do not support medical devices; they do not support investments in things that will actually generate jobs as well as provide cutting-edge health care. Of course the Shepparton hospital was neglected by the Liberal-Nationals coalition, and it has taken a Labor government to make an investment to get the Shepparton hospital rebuilt, and to Angliss Hospital and Moorabbin Hospital — \$250 million worth of investment around rural and regional health infrastructure.

Do you know what those opposite invested? They invested \$56 million over the course of an entire term. They simply do not value public health. They did not make the right investments.

Mr M. O'Brien interjected.

Ms HENNESSY — They did not rise to any form of the challenges of building a proper pipeline.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Malvern will have an opportunity to debate.

Ms HENNESSY — They just focused on their ideological war against our workforce. They sought not just to throw our paramedics out but they sought to ensure that our nurses were disrespected. They refused to actually take things like quality and safety seriously. Upon coming to office, of course, where was the quality and safety work being done in the Department of Health? Those public servants had all been sacked by the previous government and so there was no quality and safety activity occurring. We have turned that around through the establishment of Safer Care Victoria and proper clinical networks through the establishment of a clinical council so we can be open with our data and ensure that performance results are published, unlike the previous government.

Mr M. O'Brien interjected.

Ms HENNESSY — I remember the previous health minister used to appear at the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC), and he would come out of that train wreck of a PAEC experience and then he would drop the data out after. It was beyond the scrutiny of anyone.

Mr M. O'Brien interjected.

Ms HENNESSY — It is only a Labor government that will invest in ensuring that our health system is well funded.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Malvern has been warned.

Ms HENNESSY — It is only a Labor government that will support the evolution, the remuneration, the respect, the quality and safety and the occupational health and safety of our workforce. It is only a Labor government that understands the need to build a pipeline of health capital projects —

Mr M. O'Brien interjected.

Ms HENNESSY — those that are not just the big, acute tertiary ones but the ones in rural and regional Victoria that were absolutely neglected by the Liberal-Nationals coalition.

The SPEAKER — Member for Malvern, you are very close to leaving the chamber.

Ms HENNESSY — They have not taken health seriously; they will never take health seriously. There is absolutely no basis to have any confidence in this opposition when it comes to health. I am opposed to the motion. I certainly will use every moment from now until the election to remind Victorians of the incredible

destruction of our public health system that those opposite undertook with such vim and vigour, lest they ever be given the opportunity to sit on the government benches again.

Mr M. O'BRIEN (Malvern) (17:06) — What a dishonest contribution from a thoroughly dishonest minister. Expressing want of confidence in a Premier and his ministers is one of the most serious sanctions — if not the most serious — this chamber has in its authority. If successful, convention requires that the government must resign. Such a motion should not be considered lightly or as a debating point, but when the circumstances are such as Victoria has seen with the current Andrews Labor government, consider it we must as we lay out the facts — not the arguments but the facts — of what this Labor government has done and of what this Labor government has failed to do. As we consider the unethical, illegal and immoral behaviour of those in this government, the case is made for this motion to pass and for this government to fall.

Consider before the election even before this mob were sworn in. Consider the red shirts rorts, which I will come back to in my contribution. They literally cheated their way into office. They stole money from taxpayers to run their campaigns to win marginal seats — that is how they snuck into office. They stole money from the public purse. They broke the law. They have got six ministers under active investigation by the Victoria Police fraud and extortion squad because they stole money, and they stole their way into office. Think about the east–west link lies. Think about the lies of the Premier, the lies of the Treasurer, the lies that the contract is not worth —

The SPEAKER — Order! The member for Malvern knows he is using unparliamentary language.

Mr M. O'BRIEN — But they are. This is a substantive motion. The lies of the contract is not —

The SPEAKER — Order! I have warned the member for Malvern about the use of that word.

An honourable member — Fibs.

Mr M. O'BRIEN — The deliberate, knowing untruths, which people outside this chamber might refer to by another four-letter word.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr M. O'BRIEN — I take up the interjection from the opposition benches. The comments that the contract is 'not worth the paper it is written on' — do we all remember that? The promises that it would not cost a

dollar to rip the contract up — we all remember that. We know the cost of that; we know the \$1.3 billion that the Premier and the Treasurer and this government has cost Victorians. We would be driving on that road this time next year if it was not for this Labor government's absolutely disgraceful efforts to rip up that contract and cost so much in the process.

We remember the intimidation at the polling booths. We remember they sent the boover boys out from the union movement to rough up our campaigners, to rough up our candidates and to make the most disgusting smears against people who were sick and recovering from cancer. We know what they did with their union mates. We know now why the unions were so keen to come out and make such an effort to make sure that Labor got across the line: because they had secret deals with the Premier before the election. Who do we need to look to as authority for that proposition? Peter Marshall himself. He is the one who has gone out on radio and said, 'Well, I had arrangements with the Premier before the election. I had secret arrangements with the Premier before the election'. Now we know why the United Firefighters Union had been so keen to get this Labor government elected. Now we know why they were engaging in intimidation and deception on polling booths in a perversion of the democratic process. Now we know — because they got paid off. They got paid off in a secret deal, and not just a secret deal that cost taxpayers money, they got paid off with the head of the then Minister for Emergency Services.

That is the control that this union movement has over this Premier and this government — that a female minister can be bullied out of her position when she is simply trying to stand up for the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the CFA volunteers. Instead of standing up to the bullies, the Premier became one himself. He sacked that minister, sacked the board and sacked the chief fire officer. He sacked them all, because whatever Peter Garrett — Peter Marshall — I will not do the dance movements —

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr M. O'BRIEN — Well, we know who pays the rent. We know that the Premier pays the rent to Peter Marshall, because he gives him whatever he wants.

What about the secret deal with Transurban before the election? The secret deal where Labor told the poor old mugs who are the public of Victoria, 'We're going to build a thing called the West Gate distributor. It's a \$540 million project. There's going to be a slip lane off the West Gate Freeway down to the ports and all your traffic problems will be solved'.

As soon as they got into government they ditched it. Why? Because they never had any intention of delivering it in the first place. It was all just a smokescreen because this Treasurer had done a dodgy deal with Transurban before the election to never lift a shovel on that project. They always wanted to give Transurban the inside running. What happened? They got into office, ditched the West Gate distributor, and we get something at more than 10 times the cost to be paid for by motorists who drive on CityLink, a project run by and for the benefit of Transurban and the unions — a project that did not have any tender. Can you imagine what those on the other side would say if we did a deal with a company, a multibillion-dollar deal, that did not go out to tender? Can you imagine what they would say? This is the immorality of this government, and that is why, for all the debate we have in this place about competence and the disagreements over policy, this motion before the house should pass and that is why this house should have no confidence in this Premier and his ministers, because this lack of integrity and this lack of honesty goes to the heart of this government.

After the election, what did we see? As other members have alluded to, we saw the extraordinary situation where every single Labor Party presiding officer in this Parliament has been found to have rorted their entitlements and has had to lose their job — every single one. And of course does this government act with any integrity and refer those lower house members, the members for Melton and Tarneit, to the Privileges Committee for investigation? They do not. Do they engage in a cover-up? Do they engage in a protection racket? Do they stop the public getting to the truth of this rorting? Of course they do. Do we even know if we have got all the money back yet? I think the member for Melton is still holding out. They love a bit of interest-free in the Labor Party. We will come to the red shirts rort in a moment.

We had the situation where the then Minister for Training and Skills, Steve Herbert, decided that the best use of his taxpayer-funded vehicle and the driver that comes with it was to ask him to act as doggy day care. He actually sent his pooches in the back of a limo around Victoria and then the driver had to exercise the dogs and also pick up after the dogs. At least Emma Husar got her own electorate officers to do it; she did not ask the ministerial drivers to go around picking up after her dogs. After this bloke was forced to resign in disgrace — because the public, through the media, were outraged by this abuse — they decided the best way to show contrition for their rorting was to name a building after him. The only question is, does Melbourne Polytechnic come with dog doors? That is the biggest

question. I hope that Patch and Ted get an invitation to the opening, because in their defence they are the innocent victims in all of this. They and the Victorian taxpayers are the innocent victims in all of this.

Let me look at the issue of taxes, which is a favourite one of mine. I am going to read out one of my favourite quotes, and of course when we talk about what you bring to government and what you bring to an election you would think that maybe something that you say as the leader of the party seeking government the day before the election might be something you stick to. There he was out on the front steps of this Parliament on the night before the election last year being interviewed on Channel 7 news. Peter Mitchell said:

Daniel Andrews, all the polls say you will be Victoria's next Premier. If you are, do you promise Victorians here tonight that you will not increase taxes or introduce any new taxes?

He straightened those hunched shoulders and he pulled up his jacket and he looked down the camera and he said:

I make that promise, Peter, to every single Victorian ...

Well, let the record speak for itself. Not one, not two but 12 new or increased taxes were introduced by this government. I could go through the list of 12, but I think one of those broken promises just sums up everything that is wrong and everything that is dishonest about the heart of this government, and that is the decision in 2016 to come out overnight and triple the tax on brown coal. What they did was push Hazelwood out of business. They pushed them out of business as well as if the Premier had walked into the control room and flicked the big red switch, because what they did by tripling the tax on brown coal overnight with no warning, no mandate and no promise to do so is turn a marginally profitable business into a loss-making one. It was at that point that the French owner said, 'This government can't be trusted. This state is not a place we can invest in. This government wants us to fail. Well, we'll pull the pin'. And then, when you take out 22 per cent of the state's energy supply in a heartbeat, you cause massive disruption in the market.

This is why the power prices Victorians are paying today — those higher electricity prices, those higher gas prices — and that lack of reliability all come back to that broken promise of the Premier to triple the tax on brown coal. We heard him swanning around before the media over the weekend saying that solar panels are the fix to all these problems, but they are not a fix to the problems that he created. He created this problem, and he is responsible for it.

We look at all the other taxes, and it is all about making life harder. This is a government that has put up the cost of living and made it harder for Victorians. Whether it is their utilities bills, whether it is unnecessarily ordering water from the desal plant just to prove that Labor's last broken promise actually works, whether it is increasing public transport fares or whether it is their dodgy deals with Transurban to increase tolls, everywhere you turn this government has got their hand in your pocket through taxes or charges or has just got their hand in your pocket through stealing from you. They have got their hand in your pocket whichever way you turn.

That brings me to the red shirts rorts. When you look at this Victorian Ombudsman's report, which is very beiggely titled *Investigation of a Matter Referred from the Legislative Council on 25 November 2015*, you would not know what is actually inside it until you open it. I think one of the most interesting paragraphs in it is on page 88. It comes under the subheading 'Is this legal?':

Mr Finnigan recalled Mr Lenders being asked 'Is this legal?' and Mr Lenders answering with words to the effect of 'It's straddling the line, but we believe it's legal'. Mr Simrajh and Mr Huang also recalled Mr Lenders speaking about the legality of the arrangement in response to a question. In addition, Mr Finnigan recalled Mr Lenders saying words to the effect of: 'Don't tell anyone how you were paid. If anyone asks any questions, you are employed by the party full-time.'

Back when I was practising law, when you told somebody to lie about what you were about to do we would call it consciousness of guilt. That is what a court would regard as consciousness of guilt. When people ask you, 'Is this legal?', and your answer is, 'Don't tell them, and if they ask, tell them something else than what it is', that is consciousness of guilt. This is the guilty party. They have stolen money from the Parliament, they have stolen money from the taxpayer, they have broken promises and they have left Victoria a worse place, a less safe place and a more expensive place — a place that basically Victorians do not deserve. We deserve so much better than this. We have a government which is stretching its tentacles right throughout the public service, trying to politicise everything in this state. This has to end. Victorians deserve better than this. We deserve better than being lied to, we deserve better than being stolen from and we deserve better than this rotting, rotting Labor government.

Mr CARROLL (Minister for Industry and Employment) (17:21) — I rise to speak against this motion, which is nothing more than a distraction. Incredibly, I think Peter Dutton is not the only one who has got his résumé out there today, is he? It is

incredible. I heard about the former lawyer. The barrister line did not come out today from the shadow Treasurer, but he almost did the Peter Costello dance and he almost got a clap from me because I think that was probably one of Peter Costello's finest moments in the federal Parliament.

This motion is nothing more than a desperate, ill-conceived attack on the government. When you look at the government of the day, the Andrews Labor government, let us just go through the figures. There is a 5 per cent unemployment rate. What was it under the coalition? It was 6.7 per cent when they left office. The regional unemployment rate is 4.9 per cent and the participation rate over 65 per cent, the highest amongst the non-mining states. Since we came to office we have created three times the number of jobs. Eight times the number of infrastructure projects are underway. In fact 370 000 new jobs have been created, the highest among the states. Of the 130 000 jobs created in the coalition's term, only 38 600 were full-time.

The figures speak for themselves when you look at our manufacturing sector. I actually did a little bit of media this morning on auto manufacturing following Holden's announcement of 150 jobs. I am not sure I will make the news cut tonight given the shenanigans happening in Canberra as we speak. The Australian Industry Group's own Victorian performance of manufacturing index shows that under the Andrews Labor government we have had 17 consecutive months of growth in our manufacturing sector. We know on this side of the house that you build great communities on the back of manufacturing and great communities on the back of investments in infrastructure. We know it will always be a cornerstone of our economy, with a contribution of some \$27 billion to our economy.

Let us go to our Victorian Industry Participation Policy. There are 88 strategic projects underway versus their eight when they were in office. But more than that, we are putting apprenticeships, engineering and traineeships at the heart of everything we do, with our mandated 10 per cent Major Projects Skills Guarantee giving young people, who are our future, an opportunity not only to define themselves and shape themselves but also to shape our wonderful city on a game-changing major project. There is also one of our flagship initiatives, the Jobs Victoria program, which grew out of a review conducted by the University of Melbourne, which really showed that the commonwealth government were leaving too many Victorians behind with their Job Active program.

I have been to Canberra to speak to the federal jobs minister, Michaelia Cash, and the relevant ministers.

Jobs Victoria is getting real runs on the board through our 51 network providers, working with partners in the community sector to find the jobs and, more than that, to find the people that come from a range of backgrounds, to get them into work, to give them every opportunity to have the dignity of work and to succeed. I know you, Deputy Speaker, have seen firsthand some of the work the government has done in the disability sector, especially with specialists and La Trobe University doing wonderful work for people living with autism.

I am very proud, and I think the whole government is proud, of our major projects that are doing everything. Let us go through them: the Melbourne Metro tunnel, the CityLink Tulla widening, the E. J. Whitten Bridge, our schools and hospitals, and our procurement program. Our social procurement framework was recently released to make sure that everything we do as a government looks after everyone and does not leave anyone behind, whether they be disadvantaged Victorians, Aboriginal Victorians or women who have suffered family violence, making sure we do everything we can to support every part of the Victorian economy but also every part of Victoria.

As I said earlier, the unemployment rates speak for themselves. Jobs Victoria is making a real difference to people: 7900 hundred jobseekers have found work through our Jobs Victoria initiative. It was originally funded at just under \$70 million and the recent budget added \$20 million because the facts speak for themselves. As the employment minister I can go to the Treasurer and speak to him about how this program is putting more people into work to become sustainable members of the community and to pay taxes, which is very important. This is why this program is a very important program.

When you look at places like Moe, Geelong, Ballarat, Shepparton and Carlton, 615 people in these places have found work through the Brotherhood of St Laurence and our work and learning centres. We have assisted more than 400 vulnerable young people to find work and rewarding careers in the public sector through our Jobs Victoria youth employment and cadetship programs. Nine hundred workers in the Latrobe Valley have been given work thanks to our investments. There are 3500 new opportunities for local engineering cadets, apprentices and trainees on our major projects, giving them every opportunity to succeed. One thousand of them are on the job right now. We have delivered over 6000 new manufacturing jobs as a direct result of our investments — some \$120 million into manufacturing.

Many people will be surprised to know that since the closure of the auto sector less than 20 per cent of tier 1 and tier 2 businesses have folded. That is the work of Minister Tierney and the investments she is making in our training sector in our skills and jobs centres. But there is also \$120 million from the work the member for Williamstown did through our Local Industry Fund for Transition. We did everything we could to support the auto industry. We are seeing the benefits of it when we consider the announcement that Holden have made today. It is a very significant announcement that comes off the back of the policy settings and infrastructure we have put in place as a government. There will be 150 new engineers at Holden to focus on advanced vehicle development, including autonomous and electric vehicles. Why have Holden chosen to do this? It is because of the talent coming through our world-class engineering schools in Victoria. Mike Simcoe himself, the head of GM Design, is a Melburnian, a former RMIT engineering graduate, who is, I think, either the first or second person from Australia to hold that role. It is a very significant role as the head of a global company like General Motors.

I highlight the fact that that company is wanting to get and harness the best engineering minds in the country. As members know, we produce more engineering graduates than anywhere else in Australia and we are home to some 30 per cent of Australia's qualified engineers. This announcement by Holden, through their parent company General Motors, with Mike Simcoe in town from Detroit, is a very momentous day. I had the pleasure of seeing the work that Detroit GM are doing, and there is no doubt that autonomous, electric and hydrogen vehicles are all part of the future. We need to embrace it, we need to support it and we need to get behind it every step of the way.

Our manufacturing sector has continued to grow, and it is a very important industry. Yes, we are very upset at losing the Land 400 defence contract and to see that go to Queensland, but we know there will be other opportunities. That is why we are continuing to invest to make sure our workforce has everything they need, and the investments in TAFE are very significant to ensure that we have the workforce ready to take up the challenge.

I think the Premier said it best when he said that we will leave no stone unturned to support workers and to support jobs. My predecessor, the member for Williamstown, did a great job in terms of Alcoa and the refinery in Portland. He went every step of the way to support those workers and make sure the possible closure of that plant did not happen. I want to pay tribute to the member for Williamstown, who led the

effort, along with the Premier and the Treasurer, to ensure that that facility continued to operate.

On top of that, our \$90 million investment in Jobs Victoria gives every opportunity to young people. I know the Treasurer himself is a great supporter of this program. He knows and has seen firsthand the value for the people of Werribee of the Werribee-Tarneit community revitalisation project. That money comes from our \$10.8 million community revitalisation fund, which is really supporting and making sure that people, whether they be in different housing estates — Flemington, Dandenong, Hume or Shepparton — get every opportunity to succeed, to live a life of purpose and to get every opportunity that only a Labor government can deliver. The members for Essendon, Dandenong, Broadmeadows, Sunbury, Yuroke, Werribee and Tarneit have all been committed to ensuring, through our community revitalisation funding programs, that their communities share in the state's economic success. Already the project has supported and seen 200 young people go into sustainable employment and assisted 50 people experiencing disadvantage to set up their own businesses.

Recently I visited Ability Works Australia in the member for Kew's electorate to meet with some of the dedicated team there. Ability Works is an outstanding organisation supporting people from the disability sector to get every opportunity to participate, and the benefits of work, as we know, are so important. There I met Helen, who is a great case study of what is possible. Helen has a disability and thought she would never find any meaningful work. I was greeted with a very wide smile when I met her, but did not know that the machine and computer she was operating — a very large machine — was repairing the 500 e-tags that are tested daily using a purpose-built machine. Helen gets the e-tags that are faulty or do not work and repairs them. It is an incredible machine that was actually built by the people working at Ability Works. It is purpose-built and purpose-made, and they do a lot of that. The Good Friday Appeal warms every person's heart, but it would warm people's hearts even more to know that the people at Ability Works are the people that actually put the tins together that you see in milk bars and shopping centres. They are a wonderful organisation, and if the member for Kew is listening, I advise him to make sure he gets out there and sees these people, because they are very important.

We always said that as a government we would put people first when we got the great honour of serving this great state, and that is what we have been doing, particularly through putting local jobs and local businesses first. With a bit of luck we will hopefully

reach 100 strategic projects underway before the next election. But how many did the Liberal Party coalition achieve? Very few. Only eight. It is not just simply a matter of announcing a major project and then forgetting about it. It is about the steel, it is about the bitumen and it is about the electricity. It is about trying to ensure that every component is Victorian-made where we can.

We all know what those opposite wanted to do when they were last in office. When looking at the rail network, they looked overseas first. They looked at trains made in South Korea before they would even think about putting a Victorian train on the rail network. We have got 100 per cent local steel on our level crossing removal program and 92 per cent steel on the West Gate tunnel project. We are making sure we are putting every Victorian first.

I heard the Leader of the Opposition's speech, and I could not believe when he spoke on crystal methamphetamine. I sat on that inquiry; I was here. I note that Mr Ramsay in the other place, who I give credit to and who chaired the committee, said it was probably the highlight of his career in the Victorian Parliament. That committee did do some excellent work, and I would caution the Leader of the Opposition to be very careful when he tries to compare the previous government's reforms in the area of addressing crystal methamphetamine to this government. Having sat on the inquiry and having continued to follow the issue very closely, I think the Andrews Labor government — we heard from the Minister for Health just before — including the Attorney-General and the Minister for Mental Health, have done an excellent job. I have got an *Age* editorial here from September 2014:

The report, which makes 54 recommendations, must be backed by manifold action. Premier Denis Napthine has promised to expedite his government's response and deliver 'significant' measures within six months.

What did he do? He came in and said on *Hansard*:

The coalition government is committed to eliminating the scourge of ice in our community.

...

That is why we have funded an extra 11 sniffer dogs, and particularly an extra eight dogs in regional and rural Victoria.

When you go through it, look at what the Premier has done himself. He leads an ice action task force. The Attorney-General has expanded the Drug Court. Jeff Kennett even wanted to get on board for a little while, but it was either his way or the highway. When you look at what we have done as a government to combat the

scourge of ice, this government has led the way and has led Australia in making sure we do everything we can.

If you go through the *Age* editorial here, the dot points on the recommendations read:

Creating a ministerial council, led by the Premier ...

Who did that? Daniel Andrews.

Expanding the Drug Court ...

Who did that? Martin Pakula.

Stronger measures to identify and prosecute manufacturers ...

Who did that? Lisa Neville.

Better-resourced and expanded outpatient facilities.

Who did that? Martin Foley. Our cabinet's record, led by the Premier, speaks for itself, and that is what we are doing.

Recently I was in Hastings. I was at BlueScope Steel, which congratulated me as Minister for Industry and Employment and the government for all we are doing to support the industry. This is a company that was once valued at under a dollar during the global financial crisis. They handed down their results very recently, and the shares are going very well. I do not know if they know the local member and just what a sharpshooter he is. He is at the front bench right now, but we all know what the member for Hastings is. He just keeps getting around. He was out in my neck of the woods recently. He was lost. He was looking at the Buckley Street level crossing that would only be removed by a Labor government, and he was there with Mr Davis. We are getting on with the job, putting more Victorians to work.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — The member's time has expired. Can I remind members to refer to other members by their correct titles. I would also remind members of standing order 119 regarding offensive and unbecoming words.

Ms RYAN (Euroa) (17:36) — If the Minister for Industry and Employment's defence is the best that those opposite have got on this motion, then I think they should be very, very afraid. I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition, a motion of no confidence in this government, because the people that I represent have lost faith. I hear that day in and day out.

I am very mindful in speaking to this motion that we come here not as individuals but each as one elected voice representing 44 000 or so people. As I move

around my electorate, those people tell me that they have had enough. They have had enough of the corruption and the lies that they have seen from the Premier and the Labor Party over the last four years, and Labor's record says it all. Consider these words:

The right to govern is a privilege and it must never be taken for granted. Governments must also be honest and transparent. Respect for the Victorian people starts with respect for our democracy. Decisions shouldn't be made in the shadows, communities should always be consulted and the powers of the Parliament and the government should never be abused.

Who said that? That was stated by the Victorian Labor Party in their 2014 election platform. Now we have had four years of lying and rotting, and those words are completely incongruous with the MPs who now occupy the government benches.

Labor has taken its right to govern in this state for granted. It has lied repeatedly to Victorians. It has made decisions behind closed doors with no consideration for the people, the Victorians that we serve, and it has abused time and time again the power of the Parliament and the honour of government. It might come as no surprise that those words have now disappeared from Labor's 2018 platform. They have vanished into thin air because they are empty words. In fact there is virtually no mention whatsoever of standards. There is virtually no mention whatsoever of transparency or of honesty.

When you think about it, this government is characterised — its term is bookended — by police investigations. When they went to the election in 2014 they were under investigation by the police for theft of a dictaphone. The now Premier's office was interviewed. There were recordings of private conversations that were lost, perhaps stolen, at a Labor Party state conference that miraculously turned up in the public domain. We have got to think about the red shirts rot now which hangs over their heads. We have 21 MPs, including six ministers, sitting on the opposite side of this house or in the upper house who are under investigation by the fraud and extortion squad.

They have stolen almost \$400 000 of taxpayer money for party campaigners, and the Premier claims that he did not know. That does not wash with a single person outside of this place. Everybody knows that the Premier could not have been oblivious to that scheme. Those MPs falsified time sheets. They claimed staff were working in their offices when in fact they were campaigning in other seats. The Ombudsman has described it as an artifice. She has said it was wrong. She has also said that the Labor Party is the only party that had such arrangements. Now we have a Minister

for Police who was a beneficiary of that scheme, and we have the Attorney-General, who is at the table, who misused those parliamentary resources — the first law officer of the state — and despite our questions today he denies that that causes a fundamental conflict with his role as the first law officer of this state.

Whether MPs are named by the Ombudsman or not, every government MP is now implicated in this rort because every government MP, whether they are named or not, has voted to block the Ombudsman's investigation. You have blocked and obfuscated at every single turn. You have wasted more than \$1 million of taxpayer funds in fighting the Ombudsman right through from the Supreme Court to the Court of Appeal to the High Court. More than \$1 million of taxpayer funds has been expended in trying to defend your grubby, grubby theft.

I would like to reflect again for the benefit of this house on the statements made in Labor's 2014 election platform, including that the powers of the Parliament and the government should never be abused. That was clearly advice that none of the four Presiding Officers who stepped down took. We have had four actually. In fact they only occupied three of the positions available, yet there have been four Presiding Officers who were forced to step down from their postings.

The office of the Speaker, of the Deputy President and of the Deputy Speaker are supposed to be held to a high standard in this place, and yet we have the member for Melton, who rorted \$174 000 by putting a caravan by the sea. When he was caught out he said, 'Well, it's my home; I'm claiming it'. There was not a single indication of contrition. The PwC report, commissioned by the Parliament, called it opportunistic. Well, Victorians might call it something else. They might call it theft. The former Speaker claimed almost \$40 000 to live in Queenscliff so he could have a second residence in the city. It is interesting, isn't it, that both the former Speaker and former Deputy Speaker chose to base their homes in the electorate of Bellarine, where the Minister for Police herself does not live. The Treasurer's response to that was that there is always a way around the rules. Labor continues to rely on the member for Melton's vote.

Let us go back to the platform, which says that governments must be honest. Khalil Eideh, the former Deputy President in the upper house, is under active investigation by IBAC for rorting his printing allowance. There is the allegation that he spent tens of thousands of dollars of taxpayers money from his printing budget in order to buy false Labor Party

memberships, and of course the outcome in that investigation is still pending.

The fourth is so long ago that I think most of us have forgotten about it, but what about Cesar Melhem in the Council? He was forced to resign after investigations by the trade union royal commission found that he cheated workers of more than \$2 million in penalty rates. This is the party that claims to be for workers, the same party that is selling out timber workers across this state and the same party that has sold out those workers in Hazelwood. They are completely hypocritical.

Then there is Steve Herbert. This one particularly grates for me, because Steve Herbert, knowing that he would probably lose his seat in Eltham, actually made the shift to Northern Victoria Region despite never having lived there. When he got caught chauffeuring his dogs Patch and Ted around the state, as others have gone into extensively, between his bayside house and his holiday house in Trentham, most people in northern Victoria said, 'Steve who?', because we had never seen him. He was never in that electorate, and we had the Labor Party replacing him with yet another MP who is not from that area, Mark Gepp. I feel sympathetic towards Jaclyn. You know, you guys have rolled her for the number one spot. She got in by 88 votes. You rolled her, and she now —

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! I remind the member for Euroa to refer to members by their correct titles.

Ms RYAN — On that, Deputy Speaker, I think you will see that the Leader of the House earlier was actively referring to people by their first names. Those opposite prevented this member for Northern Victoria Region from making it into that number one spot in northern Victoria, despite the fact that she was actually born in the region, to install Mark Gepp, who, again, none of us had ever seen or ever heard from. That sense of entitlement that those opposite have with government resources really sticks with me — and that they would have a former member for Northern Victoria Region ferrying his dogs around in the car.

It is the same sense of entitlement that has been demonstrated in the last four years with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the government's wanton destruction of 60 000 CFA volunteers that they have spent four years systematically undermining. This government has been characterised by lies and deceit at every turn, and that is really, really frustrating to the people that I represent. My electorate is absolutely dismayed by the continuing lies of those opposite. They are so city-centric. We keep seeing them making

commitments that they then wriggle out of and that they never deliver on.

Perhaps most classically in my electorate is the issue around the replacement of rolling stock in northern Victoria. The Premier in April 2017 stood in Wangaratta, and this is what he said:

Let's have the federal government provide the money for the track and my government will provide the money for the trains, and we will get on with making this service much, much better.

...

We stand ready once allocations are made to improve the track to fulfil our important obligations ...

Well, Darren Chester did deliver that money from the federal government, and the Premier has been nowhere to be seen since. There has been no allocation of rolling stock in north-eastern Victoria, in stark contrast with those on this side of the house, who have been willing to put our money where our mouth is and who have committed to replacing all of the long-haul rolling stock on that line to the tune of \$120 million. Not a cent has been invested by the Minister for Public Transport or by the Premier into that line.

Exactly the same goes for the Kilmore-Wallan bypass. The Minister for Roads and Road Safety trotted up there before the last election, and the Labor candidate talked about how that project would not proceed under a coalition government, despite the fact that we had fully budgeted for it and it was due to be completed by the end of 2017. After they had promised that they would allocate funding, that they would build it, we now have Jaclyn Symes — the one Labor MP that we occasionally see — coming out and telling us that the project is not even shovel-ready. They backtrack on absolutely everything. Seymour College is a similar story.

And then we have the funding from the lease of the port of Melbourne — \$970 million that was supposed to be reinvested back into regional communities. We have not seen a cent of it. In fact we have had the roads budget cut. We have got potholes everywhere. We have had lots of money in wire rope barriers, but we have not seen a cent of that \$970 million we were promised. Nor have we seen the \$200 million that has vanished from the sale of Rural Finance. Those lies continue.

They continue with TAFE, and it was interesting to hear the Minister for Industry and Employment speak before on TAFE, where they promised that they would grow enrolments and promised an annual training budget of \$1.2 billion. The Productivity Commission blew that out of the water earlier this year when they showed that just

\$568 million of the training budget was being spent in Victoria. Student numbers have declined from 460 000 students in 2014 to 314 000 in 2016.

This is a government that has been characterised by lies. It has failed to deliver on its own election platform, where it promised that it would be transparent and open with the Victorian public. Those Labor MPs have demonstrated breathtaking arrogance because they believe that government is their right, not something to be earned. They have lied and obfuscated, and the people that I represent have lost confidence in this government and confidence in Daniel Andrews as Premier.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — I again remind members that interjections are not permitted when you are not in your usual place, member for Ringwood. I would also encourage members to abide by standing order 108 and refer to members by their office or title.

Ms THOMAS (Macedon) (17:52) — Every time I have the opportunity to rise in this place following a member of the National Party it does give me pause to consider the way the National Party systematically let down the people of regional Victoria. Indeed getting up straight after the member for Euroa, who seems to be a little bit touchy today — a little bit tetchy — it would seem a member for Northern Victoria Region in the other place is really giving her something to obsess about. She is a little bit nervous that Jaclyn is coming after her, and why wouldn't she?

I am looking now at the performance of the National Party in the seat of Euroa, and I have before me the information for when the Liberals and National Party were in power for those four long years. How much money do you think they invested in education? How much money do you think the Liberal-Nationals coalition managed to invest in schools in the seat of Euroa? \$12.7 million. And in this term of government, under a Labor government, the good people of Euroa have seen \$26.3 million invested in schools in their region.

Ms Green — Double!

Ms THOMAS — More than double the amount. So I say three cheers to Jaclyn Symes in the other place, a member for Northern Victoria Region. At that rate she could knock off the member for Euroa and the member for Ovens Valley at the same time.

Of course we have to speak about members of the National Party. To get up here in this place and have this waste of time motion in front of us when we have got proper business to attend to —

Honourable members interjecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! Can members please not interject.

Ms THOMAS — and to have people on that side of the house, National Party members —

Honourable members interjecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order!

Ms THOMAS — Let us not forget that the member for Ovens Valley — he is sitting there in the front row — as we speak is facing 10 criminal charges, and yet he shows up here every day and sits in this house. He has no shame whatsoever. The member for Lowan is in here as well. Of course the member for Lowan and her office, as we know, are currently under active investigation by the Ombudsman. That is where the member for Lowan finds herself.

Every time I drive through Lancefield in my electorate, I see a fantastic piece of street art. It is a mysterious black cat that appeared from nowhere, and the mysterious black cat in Lancefield reminds me time and time again that that was about the only policy position that the National Party took to the people of Victoria in 2010. They said, ‘We will spend your hard-earned tax dollars chasing down a mythical black cat’ — I mean, seriously. But do you know what they did? You know what the Leader of the National Party did: the Office of Living it Up. Who can forget what happened at the Office of Living Victoria (OLV)?

People in this house today seem keen to talk about the Ombudsman and Ombudsman investigations and so on, so let us be clear what the Ombudsman had to say about the Leader of the National Party. The Ombudsman, Deborah Glass, found that the agency created by the water minister, the member for Murray Plains, was:

... rife with undeclared perceived conflicts of interest and having lacked respect for ‘public sector values and accountability for its use of funds’.

Further the Ombudsman’s key findings in relation to the Office of Living Victoria were that:

The OLV spent \$9.5 million on consultants, contractors and agency staff, many of whom had undisclosed personal or professional relationships to senior management figures. Many were engaged by ‘deliberate circumvention of procurement policies’.

Ms Glass also found ‘deficient or non-existent record keeping’, which she described as:

... one of the worst examples this office has seen during many investigations across a wide range of public sector organisations.

This tells you something of the character of National Party members in this place. I might point out also — as the Leader of the House, the member for Bendigo East, said in her contribution — that the Liberal Party only ever hold government in this place in coalition with the National Party MPs, and what we know about National Party MPs is that they will roll over every time. They will never, ever stand up for the people of regional Victoria. They roll over. They will do whatever is required to keep a couple of seats along the front bench, whatever is required. Just give them the white cars, give them a few perks, and they will do whatever is asked of them. It is an absolute disgrace.

Honourable members interjecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — The member for Euroa and the member for Lowan, you are not in your allocated seats. I would ask you not to interject.

Ms THOMAS — Of course now I am reminded of a former National Party member, a former member for Northern Victoria Region, Damian Drum, who took a long time to declare that he was actually headed for Canberra. I am reminded of him because the only time I ever saw him in my electorate, despite his purporting to represent northern Victoria, was when he was lined up for freebies at Hanging Rock. That is when you saw him.

I will tell you when I did not see him. It was in Kyneton in January 2014 when the former Minister for Education, the member for Nepean, was taking away the junior school classrooms at Kyneton Secondary College. In the middle of the school holidays a big truck was sent up with people to dismantle the year 7–8 centre at Kyneton Secondary College that had been built under a former Premier of Victoria, our friend the Honourable Joan Kirner. The former Premier had invested in the Kyneton Secondary College; those on the other side were just taking the classrooms away. Where were the Liberals and Nationals then? They were nowhere to be seen.

I talked before a little bit about the contrast between the education commitments that this government has made compared to those made by those on the other side when they were in power. I talked about Euroa.

Let me tell you what has been happening in Macedon. Under this government we have invested more than \$53 million in education facilities across the state seat of Macedon. This has been much-needed investment in

many, many schools in my electorate. I want to contrast that with what the Liberal Party did when they were in power. In my seat of Macedon they invested just over \$15 million. But do you know what is really cynical about the way in which they operate? I will tell you what is really cynical: it is that \$10 million of that \$15 million was committed in the 2014 budget. What do they take us for? Fools? Absolutely they do — and they are wrong. The good people of this state elected, with a very healthy swing, the Andrews Labor government to power. They knocked that lot off after one term. Really, how hopeless do you have to be? That is what happened: they were knocked off after one term, because the people of Victoria could see that they were completely and utterly unfit to govern.

I have not even had an opportunity yet to talk about the leader of the Liberal Party. I do not propose to go over again what we have heard so much about in this chamber today and on many, many occasions. Let us not forget the person who sits on the other side of the house, the man who would be the Premier of this state. We can think about his involvement in Ventnor and how he ripped off billions of dollars of value at Fishermans Bend. What has gone on at Ventnor and Fishermans Bend are examples of the worst sort of ripping off of the Victorian public and the Victorian taxpayer. What the Leader of the Opposition did there is absolutely scandalous and defies belief. Of course we also know that this is a man whose judgement is so poor that he dined with people who had been warned off racecourses and who Victoria Police had identified as having organised criminal connections. He knowingly dined with them and probably took their money. That is the calibre of the people on the other side of this place.

As I said, in contrast here we have a government that is focused on the things that matter to the people of Victoria. I have talked about our education spending. Let us talk about TAFE. Having got up again to follow the member for Euroa, I have to say that she gets up in this place and thinks that she can rewrite history. Victorians will never forget that those on the other side ripped out \$1 billion —

Honourable members interjecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! Members who are not in their allocated seats, I would prefer it if you would not interject across the chamber.

Ms THOMAS — They ripped \$1 billion out of the TAFE system that saw 22 campuses close across the state, including in Kyneton, and 2400 teachers sacked. At the last election I remember working with one of my

volunteers who had joined our great cause and got on board to help elect an Andrews Labor government because he had been sitting in a classroom when his teacher walked in and said, ‘That’s it. We’re finished. Sorry, class is over. I’ve been sacked’. That is what happened in our TAFE system. It was an absolute disgrace and it was done by those on the other side. The member for Euroa was instrumental in that, because she was working as an adviser at the time. Let us just remember that the people of Victoria know that it is only —

Honourable members interjecting.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The member for Gembrook is warned.

Ms THOMAS — It probably is appropriate to pause at this moment and look at that lot on the other side. What a joke they are. They bring this motion to the house, they waste our valuable time.

Honourable members interjecting.

Ms THOMAS — They sit there, they laugh, they joke, they play around, they toy with the Parliament. They are an absolute disgrace, and the people of Victoria can see straight through what that lot are on about. We know what they are on about. They are the party of cuts, cuts, cuts and cuts — and closures: 22 TAFE campuses closed in Victoria.

Honourable members interjecting.

Ms THOMAS — Nothing that you can say or do will ever take away those facts. The people of Victoria know what you and your lot are all about.

This is a government, as I said, focused on the things that matter to the people of Victoria: investing in education and in health care. As the Minister for Health noted in her contribution, we are bringing to this place a bill to implement nurse-patient ratios. That is about improving the quality of health care and it is about respecting and valuing our health care workers. Victorians will never ever forget that under the previous Liberal government we were subjected to the worst health minister in history — Mr Davis, a member for Southern Metropolitan Region in the other place.

When I travel through my electorate — make no mistake about it — I hear that the paramedics of Macedon understand that a Liberal government will do whatever it takes to attack them, to attack their professionalism and to attack their industrial rights. The Liberals do not care if ambulance response times blow out. Such is their ideology that they will attack workers

and they will attack unions, and they do not care if ambulance response times blow out. That is what happened under the previous lot — ambulance response times blew out year after year after year.

Some people have said that they are pleased to speak on this motion today. I think that this motion is an absolute waste of our time. I have said that before. We have got important business in this place. It shows you what a rabble they are, how absolutely all over the place they are that they pull on this stunt. We have nine days left in this place before the election, and they want to take up a whole day with this cheap political stunt that has absolutely backfired on them. Just to sit here and have to listen to the drivel coming out of their mouths is an embarrassment to this place.

Ms Ryall interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Member for Ringwood, I have listened to you interject across the chamber. You are not in your allocated seat.

Mr CLARK (Box Hill) (18:07) — Even if the Andrews government were an honest government it would still be one of the worst governments in Victoria's history. It has failed in its fundamental duty to keep the community safe. It has failed through its neglect of police numbers. It has failed through its lack of response to weak decisions by our courts. It has failed in not reacting to youth justice riots and in its mismanagement of the corrections system which has allowed riots in adult prisons. It has failed through its weakening of bail laws that have sent entirely the wrong message to juvenile offenders. It has failed in its repeal of move-on laws, with the signal it has sent that people can create mayhem on the streets and can blockade those going about their lawful business and the police are powerless to react.

The government has failed in its delivery of projects. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition and others have documented the project blowouts and bumbles across the state. The government has cut TAFE numbers. We have heard several members on the government side talk about TAFE, but the facts show that TAFE enrolments have plunged under the Labor government, and that is something that they cannot deny. The Deputy Premier has boasted about reopening the Lilydale campus, but he has done it at the expense of the Box Hill Institute now being forced to hand over large parts of its landholdings to private sector developers because of the funds that it was forced to commit to the Lilydale campus.

The government has failed in its energy policy with Hazelwood. It has failed with sky rail. It has failed with its sacking of school cleaners and the disarray that that has created in our school system as a result. It has failed to meet standards of decency, honesty and respect for taxi licence holders and in the way it has deprived them of the security and confidence that they ought to have in the absence of sovereign risk in an established democracy such as Victoria. It has failed in its abolition of the building and construction industry code, which again has encouraged lawlessness and thuggery on building sites. It has failed in its West Gate tunnel project and the disgraceful deal it has done with Transurban at the expense of CityLink motorists.

It has failed with policies such as Safe Schools. It has failed with its attempted attacks on freedom of association. It has failed in the enormous delays in the implementation of domestic violence protections. It has failed with the disarray that is now endemic in our mental health system. It has failed with the huge blowouts in dental health waiting lists. It has failed in its management of the state's finances. It has in four years pushed the state's finances to the brink in a way that it took the Cain-Kirner governments 10 years to achieve and the Bracks-Brumby governments 11 years to achieve. It is reliant on the fact that the GST revenue flow has favoured Victoria over recent years to an extent that is rare in history and cannot be relied upon to continue. It has pushed debt limits to the absolute limit, yet it still has not fully funded many of its projects.

For all of those reasons alone this government deserves the loss of confidence of the Victorian community. However, the principal charge against the government today, for which by itself the government no longer deserves the confidence of this house, is that of systemic dishonesty and corruption. Integrity and probity in government are fundamental to the freedom, the wellbeing and the security of any society. It has taken centuries for Westminster democracies to shake off the dead weight of corruption, and if we allow ourselves to slide back into corruption we are going to quickly head in the direction of the oligarchies, the one-party states and the banana republics that we currently look down upon. It is often said that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. The price of freedom from corruption is also eternal vigilance. When corruption starts to take hold in the government of any jurisdiction, right-minded people need to stand up against it and need to put the integrity of the system against their own short-term interests.

A charge of corruption is not one that is to be made lightly, but it is a charge to be made today. Under our current Premier, Victoria has a government that is

politically corrupt and a government that condones and covers up personal corruption. It is a culture that comes out of the worst excesses of the union movement — from left-wing officials who have become used to getting their own way by thuggery and violence, and from right-wing officials who have become used to getting their way through extortion and kickbacks. It is a culture that believes that public office is a tool to be seized and used for political gain and too often to be used for personal gain as well. It is a culture that protects and covers up for wrongdoers instead of doing the right and honest thing and exposing and dealing with wrongdoers whoever they may be. It is a culture that has pervaded the current government's conduct in big things and in small. It is a culture that has seen initial wrongdoings and then cover-ups and then desperate and dishonest attempts to divert attention.

There are two charges in particular that head up a very long charge sheet. The first of course is the political corruption of the Andrews government, epitomised by the red shirts rorts. That started in a wrongful and systematic artifice to appropriate taxpayers money and use it to fund Labor campaign staff. It was an artifice that was canvassed, endorsed and adopted at the highest levels of the Labor Party, including by a Labor campaign committee of which our now Premier was a member and for his role in which he has never accounted to this house or to the community. The red shirts rort was an artifice that most if not all Labor MPs knew in their hearts was wrong but they went along with it nonetheless. Then when this wrongful artifice was exposed came the cover-up attempts. As with Watergate, as with so many other instances of corrupt conduct, the initial wrongdoing was compounded. There was the refusal to cooperate with the Ombudsman's inquiry. There was the spending of hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayers money in failed legal attempts to stop the investigation. There was the ignominy of the Attorney-General being thrown out of the High Court without even being given leave to put his appeal case to that court. There was the coaching of staff to tell untruths about the source of their salaries, as the member for Malvern so eloquently put it — the recognition of guilt; the guilt of the guilty party.

Now of course this wrongdoing has been exposed to the world by the Ombudsman, and the police have begun a criminal investigation. Yet instead of doing the right thing and standing down those ministers involved, including the first law officer of the state and the Minister for Police, even now the Premier is failing to do the right thing. Of course we now also have the contradictions between the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police about exactly what ramshackle and contrived terms they are seeking to continue in office,

with the Attorney-General referring in this house on one day to the terms of undertakings having been given and the next day denying the existence of any such undertakings or arrangements.

As if the political corruption of the Andrews government were not bad enough, arguably even worse is their condoning of personal corruption. When Labor came to office they nominated three of their members to hold some of the highest offices in this Parliament: the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of this house and the Deputy President of the Legislative Council. These are officers that should have upheld the highest standards of probity and exemplary conduct within the Parliament, but instead each of these office-holders has had to go in disgrace and scandal over their misuse of allowances. Three strikes out of three office-holders of itself would be compelling evidence of a culture of corruption within the Labor Party, but it is the cover-up that is the particular disgrace on the Labor Party and on the government as a whole.

If the government and the Labor Party had accepted that some of their own had done the wrong thing and should be properly investigated and have appropriate consequences imposed, then perhaps you could accept that this was individual wrongdoing, albeit by people who had been put forward to these high offices in the Parliament. But the fact that time and time again government members, from the Premier down, have blocked any attempt to ensure accountability for the apparent personal corruption of these individuals shows that the condoning of corruption is endemic within the Labor Party culture.

As others have pointed out, there are numerous other examples. The example of the dictaphone machine has been raised. The example of the continued role of the member for Melton, who even at this moment while I am speaking is sitting on the Labor backbench in cordial conversation with his former Labor colleagues, who were betrayed by his own remarks —

Mr T. Smith interjected.

The SPEAKER — Order! I ask the member for Box Hill to resume his seat for a moment. I warn the member for Kew about offensive language towards members in this place.

Mr CLARK — The member for Melton has exposed himself with his own words when he has been on his feet in this house referring to 'our decisions' in terms of decisions by the Labor Party. Any of us who see him having his coffees and socialising with Labor Party members know it is purely an artifice that he has

left the Labor Party. There is no disclaimer and there is no reprobation of the member for Melton by members of the Labor Party. Others have pointed to the fact that the disgraced former Minister for Training and Skills, Mr Herbert, has had a building named after him. The mindset of any party, of any government, that could think that that was an appropriate thing to do shows — it is arrogant, it is out of touch and it is lacking any semblance of decency or modesty or shame. Yet again that is epitomising the culture that has riddled the Labor Party and the government.

That is not even to come to condoning the thuggery of the union movement, which is the industrial wing of the Labor Party. We had the Minister for Industrial Relations associating herself with an illegal picket in Abbotsford at the Carlton and United Breweries site when the head of the CFMEU, Mr Setka, was threatening violence against other workers. Instead of condemning that conduct, as she should have, the minister was allowing herself to be associated with it.

Then of course we have seen the desperate measures being taken by a desperate government to try to distract attention from its abuse of office. We have seen the disgraceful release of personal information about former government employees in an attempt to generate a story that would distract attention — so disgraceful an attempt that even senior public servants have run away from it and rushed out statements to disclaim any involvement in it. We have seen the move by the Minister for Public Transport to try to ban Sky News from railway stations without a scrap of evidence to justify it, conduct that has been rightly exposed to ridicule and condemnation. We have seen the moves by government advisers to try to have pornography charges dropped against a Metropolitan Fire Brigade officer, who was a senior union official.

We have seen the repeated unbelievable claims by the Premier, such as that ripping up the east–west link contract would not cost \$1 and that it was a contract not worth the paper it was written on. I will leave it to members of this house and members of the public to judge whether or not the Premier could ever have had any honest belief in the truth of that statement, and whether he could ever have had any honest belief of the solemn assurance that he gave to voters on the eve of the election that he would not increase any tax or charge or introduce any new ones. Then to compound it we have seen the vindictiveness of the Premier in measures such as cancelling the Peter Mac Private cancer wing, which shows a streak of malevolence that we should not tolerate in anyone who holds the office of Premier in this state.

For all of those reasons this house should not have any confidence whatsoever in the current government. Let me conclude by quoting some words from Oliver Cromwell when he got rid of the Rump Parliament after far too many years in office. Oliver Cromwell had many failings and did many terrible things, but he did have a turn of phrase. Let me apply some of his words, and I quote:

It is high time ... to put an end to your sitting in this place, which you have dishonoured by your contempt of all virtue ...

Ye are a factious crew, and enemies to all good government.

Ye are a pack of mercenary wretches ...

...

... Which of you have not bartered your conscience for bribes? ...

...

Ye are grown intolerably odious ... You were deputed here by the people to get grievances redressed, are yourselves become the greatest grievance.

The SPEAKER — Order! The member's time has concluded.

Mr WYNNE (Minister for Planning) (18:22) — I move:

That the motion be put.

Mr Clark — On a point of order, Speaker —

The SPEAKER — I ask the member for Box Hill to resume his seat. When this motion is put there is no ability for members to raise points of order or debate the question. The closure motion should be put immediately by the Chair unless the Chair believes it is (a) an abuse of the rules of the house or (b) it is a denial of the rights of the minority or (c) it has been —

Mr Watt interjected.

The SPEAKER (18:23) — Order! The member for Burwood can leave the chamber for the period of 30 minutes.

Honourable member for Burwood withdrew from chamber.

The SPEAKER — Or (c) it has been moved to obstruct business. At this point I am confident that this is not an abuse of the rules of the house nor has it been moved to obstruct business, but I am not yet convinced that it is not a denial of the rights of the minority. But I am approaching the point where I think this motion

could be supported at a future point, so I urge non-government members who wish to make new points in this debate to do so in the immediate future.

Mr PEARSON (Essendon) (18:24) — I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. It was interesting to sit through a great portion of the Leader of the Opposition's contribution. He spoke for 75 minutes. I saw a photo on Twitter and many of those opposite were on their phones.

We are here for one reason only. We are here because it is what the Leader of the Opposition wants. He has determined that, in order to protect his own position within the state parliamentary Liberal Party, he has to bring on this motion. It was a performance worthy of Fidel Castro, honestly — 75 minutes of rambling on, with the obligatory 'Hear, hear' and cheers, but for the rest of the time people were on their phones. It was almost as if they were trying to sleep their way through the 75 minutes as best they could.

I have consulted with the Clerk and I understand that in the history of the Victorian Parliament there have been 10 governments that have been defeated by a no-confidence motion. When the constitutional changes occurred back in 2003, there were specific requirements made for a no-confidence motion to be put. As a consequence of that, this is the first no-confidence motion we have had. I recognise that in an earlier contribution when I was following the manager of opposition business I had thought he had never spoken on a no-confidence motion. In actual fact there had been a no-confidence motion back in 1989, but these are very rare events, particularly in the modern age. The two most obvious no-confidence motions that this house has debated were the one that I referred to back in 1989, which was moved by Alan Brown when he was then Leader of the Opposition, and the earlier successful one in 1955, which was moved, I believe, by Sir Henry Bolte. I suppose the question you should ask yourself is: is the Leader of the Opposition more like Alan Brown or is he more like Sir Henry Bolte? I would suggest to you that this has all the hallmarks of the motion moved by Alan Brown in 1989.

It is a desperate attempt to try and stave off a leadership challenge. It is a desperate attempt to try and demonstrate to his own party that he deserves their confidence. The reality is that, when you think about it, the Leader of the Opposition has form. He is the apprentice to the master. He worked closely with Jeff Kennett, and Jeff Kennett was this state's one-man band. The Leader of the Opposition has shown consistently in the course of this Parliament that he is a one-man band. He determined in his own right that he

would move this motion without consultation with the manager of opposition business. On Good Friday the member for Hawthorn had to slink out on the steps of Parliament House and say that it was a leadership group decision to call back Mr Finn and Mr Ondarchie. Then it became clear that no, it was not. In actual fact it was the Leader of the Opposition's decision.

The Leader of the Opposition said that this election will be fought on trust. I have got three words for the Leader of the Opposition — bring it on. We are ready for the voters to determine, because if you look at the way those opposite conducted themselves in government last time, what was the promise? It was to fix the problems and build the future. Well, they failed emphatically on that. We have been a government that have honoured our commitments — each and every one of our commitments. In response to the manager of opposition business's concerns, the reality is debt is not at a record high. It is at a virtual record low. It is 4.5 per cent of gross state product. The long-term average in the general government sector is 18 per cent. We have got a strong hand on the economic tiller. The government is going well and the economy is growing well.

This is just a pathetic and juvenile stunt. If you have any doubt about that, it was the member for Gembrook who decided to slink over here earlier to try and sort of — I do not know what you were thinking, frankly. I do not know what the member for Gembrook was thinking. But he is not taking it seriously. This is a serious motion. This is the first time a motion like this has been debated since 1989, and you have got those opposite who come in and come out, they are on their phones, they are off their phones. They just engage in stunts and juvenile tactics. It is just a joke. This motion is laughable. It is about one reason only: it is about saving the Leader of the Opposition's job because we know that the member for Malvern has 23 votes. We know that the Leader of the Opposition is on borrowed time. I oppose the motion.

Mr R. SMITH (Warrandyte) (18:29) — I rise to support the Leader of the Opposition's motion, which is to move that the Premier and the other Ministers of State for the state of Victoria no longer possess the confidence of this house. The member for Euroa spoke about the Labor Party platform extolling the virtues of integrity, those words which have now disappeared from the Labor website. I will also talk about some words that were put forward by a Labor luminary back in 1949 — the former Labor Prime Minister, Ben Chifley — who said, and I quote from his famous light on the hill speech:

I try to think of the Labour movement, not as putting an extra sixpence into somebody's pocket, or making somebody Prime Minister or Premier, but as a movement bringing something better to the people, better standards of living, greater happiness to the mass of the people ...

If the movement can make someone more comfortable, give to some father or mother a greater feeling of security for their children, a feeling that if a depression comes there will be work, that the government is striving its hardest to do its best, then the Labour movement will be completely justified.

You only have to compare those words to the actions of this rotten, rotting, stinking government to see how far the Andrews Labor government have fallen, to see how far they have lost their way and to see why Victorians have lost their confidence in this government. How does this government stand behind Chifley's words of bringing something better to the people when they have shown just so much disrespect to the 60 000 Country Fire Authority volunteers in this state and when they have ignored the residents of Oakleigh, Murrumbena, Carnegie and Hughesdale over the sky rail fiasco, which was foisted on those people by a government that is completely uncaring of them? How can this government stand behind Chifley's words of bringing better standards of living when the cost of living has actually skyrocketed in this state over the last four years and when energy bills are high and the number of taxes that this government brought on in contravention of their leader's promise to Victorians on the eve of the election is just disgraceful?

How can this rotting government stand behind Chifley's words of making someone feel more comfortable when the incidents of crime have gone through the roof — when crimes such as carjacking and home invasions were not even spoken about before this rotten government came into office? How can they feel more comfortable when they are worried about being home invaded and they are worried about being carjacked, and when incidents of violent crime, as I said, are through the roof? Chifley also said 'give to some father or mother a greater feeling of security for their children'. How can that be the case when so many parents are opposed to the social engineering programs that are now compulsory in our schools, lessons that parents are not even allowed the details of? Parents cannot even get the details of these lessons when they ask for them because this government will not allow it.

How can this government stand behind Chifley's words of a government striving its hardest to do its best when a culture of rotting has permeated through every single level of this government and started before these people from the Labor Party even took office? How can a government be said to be doing its best when it throws away \$1.3 billion not to build a road — a road that

would almost be finished and a road for which the state's contribution was only marginally more than what this government threw in the bin — because the Premier said that he had legal advice that the contract was not worth the paper it was written on? Those opposite have said, 'Oh well, the Premier made a promise that he was going to tear up the contract'. He also made a promise that it would not cost us any money, and it cost the Victorian taxpayer \$1.3 billion.

Ben Chifley went on to say in that speech:

We have a great objective — the light on the hill — which we aim to reach by working for the betterment of mankind, not only here but anywhere we may give a helping hand.

How can this government be trusted when, far from offering a helping hand, all that is on offer from this government is a shove to the average hardworking Victorian and, frankly, putting up the middle finger to those hardworking Victorians who thought that the Premier could be taken at his word. Instead he lied to them. How can this government be trusted when the very existence of the so-called 'light on the hill' is being threatened by the ideological and damaging energy policies of this government that diminish the very affordability and reliability of a power supply that for so many years gave this great state its competitive advantage?

I will go on about the rotting of this government and the theft of public money by this government, but the failures of this government and the lies that have been told by this government throughout the last four years are just appalling. I turn the house's attention to the latest lie from this government and the Premier that privatisation caused power prices to go up. What an absolute lie from this government. It is 25 years since our power distributors and generators were privatised in this state. If you took the Premier at his word, how unlucky is he that in the last three years — coincidentally, just when this government forced Hazelwood to shut its doors — power prices have gone through the roof.

You only have to look at the hypocrisy of this government. While the Premier is in the environment of telling everyone how bad privatisation is, I turn to the very verbose member for Essendon who back in June 2015, when speaking on the Joan Kirner condolence motion, said:

In terms of some other issues ... you can look at the partial privatisation of Loy Yang B, which was 49 per cent. This freed up capital and allowed the state to start to deploy that capital for other projects and initiatives. That was an important initiative. The reality is that it paved the way for the full privatisation which subsequently occurred.

The member for Essendon was very excited about the privatisation that apparently the Labor Party started. Indeed if we turn to the second-reading speech when the Loy Yang B Act 1992 was put forward, the then Labor Treasurer, Anthony Sheehan — the guy who was apparently not responsible for anything — said, as he introduced this bill for the privatisation of Victoria's power supplies, that the privatisation would:

... help ensure continued reductions in the real price of electricity to all Victorian customers ...

How is it that the Premier can now walk up to Victorians with a straight face and tell them that privatisation, which happened 25 years ago, is the cause of energy price rises that we are seeing now in this state? How can he say that when his own minister and he himself said that the closure of Hazelwood would only cause prices to rise by 85 cents a week or 4 per cent? How is that possible that the Premier can make those comments and then walk around just a few years later and say that it is all because of privatisation from 25 years ago? This government does not know how to do anything else but lie, and I know when they are lying because their lips are moving.

They lied when it came to rorting the Victorian taxpayer before the election. They lied when the then Leader of the Opposition and now Premier stood up in front of Peter Mitchell and said that there would be no tax increases or no new taxes. They lied when they said that the east-west link contract being torn up would cost Victorians not a cent — and the list goes on and on and on. It might be the rorts that have brought this motion to this house, but the reality is that we on this side of the house, and indeed Victorians, have lost confidence in the government because of the long list of failures.

I listened very carefully to the Leader of the Opposition when he moved the motion and was the first speaker on the motion, and it was actually incredible to listen to the long, long list of failures that this government have had over their four years. When we talk about youth justice, there have been over 50 riots in the youth justice centres in this state, there have been breakouts and assaults within those institutions, and parts of those institutions have had to be bulldozed because they have been wrecked by the youth offenders in those institutions. It only happened under this government.

I spoke before about the crime rate that has risen in this state. Do we all remember when the Premier said after the Moomba riots that he was going to smash the gangs? There is only one lot of people doing the smashing, and that is those young, rioting youths who are going through suburbs and forcing their way into people's homes and creating a situation where we have

to have — would you believe it? — mounted police patrolling our suburbs to make sure this stuff does not happen again.

We can also remember when the Premier said that the Country Fire Authority (CFA) dispute had to be fixed — 'And I fixed it', he said. Is it fixed or has it just gotten worse under this government? Has it just gotten worse under this emergency services minister who is so hollow that he has given up every single value that he ever held? Is it fixed when even the CFA people in his own electorate are not on side? They send into this place statutory declarations declaring that their local member, the member who is supposed to be looking after not only their interests as a local member but also as their minister, lied to them. Can you believe it? I have never seen that happen in all my 12 years in this place.

If I can go back to power for a moment, when I think about the Hazelwood closure and this government saying that the energy generator Engie could afford the exorbitant royalty rises that were put forward by this government, the energy company closed the doors, and this government did not give one second's thought to the 700 workers at Hazelwood who were thrown on the doorstep overnight, to say nothing of the additional jobs that were lost through the associated newsagents and businesses. I understand there were travel agents who said holidays were cancelled; events were cancelled; and cafés, bars and restaurants were all shut as a result of that callous closure. That was in the areas of Moe and Morwell where we had unemployment rates of between 15 and 20 per cent. In one of the worst hit areas of social disadvantage where there are not enough jobs, this government callously taxed that energy provider out of existence and left not only people of the Morwell-Moe area without jobs but forced price rises through the roof. There is a callous disregard from this government in regard to that.

I have also mentioned the sky rail fiasco. The member for Oakleigh has not lifted a finger for the people of his electorate. May I say that the member should know and understand through his time in here that he is supposed to represent his community in this place. You are not paid, and you are not elected by the people of your community, to represent the Labor Party in your area. So when the people of that electorate actually have major concerns with the infrastructure that is being put in place — the sky rail when they were promised rail under road — then the member for Oakleigh must understand that he has only a few short weeks left in his position as the member for Oakleigh. I tell you what, Andrew Edmonds who is going up against Mr Dimopoulos in that seat certainly has more integrity

in his little finger than Steve Dimopoulos has in his whole body.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Spence) — Member for Warrandyte, I ask you to refer to members by their correct titles.

Mr R. SMITH — This is a man who protects us as a police officer. It is worth noting that while the Premier and the Minister for Police go on and on about how they are supporting police, isn't it funny that we have three former policemen on our side of the house both here and in the other chamber, and four more police who want to join our ranks here because they are so disgusted with the way that this government has treated the police force? They are so disgusted with the revolving door justice system that this government has put in place that they want to leave good, solid careers and come and join us in here so they can bring it to the government, make sure that there is a change of government and make sure that the changes that are so desperately needed in this state are made so that the people of Victoria are far safer than they have been in the past.

Let us briefly talk about the ice injecting room; let us talk about that for a moment. The Premier said it was never going to happen. But of course with the Northcote by-election he had to make something up that would maybe give Labor a step ahead in that by-election — although it did not work. Then didn't he promise us that it was only going to be an ice injecting room?

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr R. SMITH — Oh, heroin, I beg your pardon — a heroin injecting room. No way was there ever going to be ice there as well, and of course we find that the Premier soon changed his mind and bizarrely and unbelievably puts the thing literally 37 metres from a local primary school. Can you believe it? You cannot smoke inside it, but you can inject all sorts of things. We also hear that the member for Frankston and the member for Geelong have been advocating for injecting rooms in their electorates as well. We know that is on the cards.

Mr Wynne interjected.

Mr R. SMITH — Why wouldn't it be? Don't you believe in them, Dick? Don't you think they are good? Don't you think they are worthwhile?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Spence) — Order! Member for Warrandyte, do not take up interjections from the member opposite, and refer to members by their correct titles.

Mr R. SMITH — The member for Frankston knows he is going to be advocating for that. The member for Geelong has put it on record. We know full well that is the plan. We know full well, as do the people in the seat of Frankston. The people in Geelong have seen the quotes in the paper from the member for Geelong and they know that if this government comes back then that injecting room will be in their community before you know it. They know that and they will vote accordingly.

Let us talk quickly about country roads. This government has let down country communities in an enormous way. There are no worse roads in this country, I would hazard, than the roads in country Victoria. You only have to talk to the member for South-West Coast or the member for Polwarth or indeed our good members out in the Gippsland areas to know that this government has cut funding to roads. There is no maintenance or time going into those country roads, and putting up speed limit signs that reduce the speed limit from 100 kilometres an hour down to 40 kilometres an hour frankly is not a fix.

This government is a rotten, rotting government. It is a rotting, rotting government that needs to go as soon as possible. I urge members to support the Leader of the Opposition's motion because this is not a government that deserves the confidence of the Victorian people. This is not a government that should be allowed to have any more time on the Treasury benches than absolutely necessary. This is a government that needs to be turfed out at the first opportunity so that their stinking, lying, rotting government can be consigned to the annals of history.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Spence) — Before calling the member for Frankston, I know these reminders have been made before, but I will again remind members that they are not to interject when they are not in their usual places, they are not to use offensive or unbecoming language and they are to refer to other members by their correct office or title.

Mr EDBROOKE (Frankston) (18:44) — I will try hard, Acting Speaker. It is always very refreshing to follow the sheer stupidity of the member for Warrandyte. Today this motion is seriously an own goal. It is meant to be a serious matter, yet we have seen the opposition make an absolute joke of it. When we talk about no confidence we have really got to divide the opposition's thought of no confidence and who they represent and the confidence of Victorians.

Ms Ryall interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Spence) — Member for Ringwood, you are not in your usual place.

Mr EDBROOKE — Certainly Victorians are not confused about the trust, the faith and the belief that they have in people who had a Liberal Party-registered ‘Hands off the CFA’ fundraising site, and in people who walk back in after gaining pairs on Good Friday — we saw Mr Finn and Mr Ondarchie do that in the other place — which made media headlines everywhere, even internationally. People are not confused about who to trust.

We have also seen locally in Frankston Liberal Party campaign managers being kicked out of peoples’ shops because people do not trust them. On the other side though we have had people in Frankston seeing tangible results of a government that actually invests as opposed to a corrupt, entitled, Mafia-connected government that had four years to do so much in Frankston and did nothing. They had no spine, they had no vision and they literally did nothing. I note there are no arguments or interjections because nobody in the opposition can actually remember something they did in Frankston.

Recently at a public transport forum we had the Liberal candidate for Frankston actually sitting in the bleachers watching the shadow minister. The shadow minister travelled all the way from Surrey Hills to tell us in Frankston what we need with public transport. There is a vacuum of the Liberal Party in Frankston. Locally there is an absolute vacuum. I have got to tell you that if Frankston community members were sitting in here today it would be interesting to see what they thought about this motion.

My community of Frankston was absolutely abandoned by the opposition. They were abandoned by the Shaw-Napthine-Baillieu governments. They abandoned our schools. They abandoned our disadvantaged people, our homeless and our businesses. They abandoned any promises of public transport initiatives. They abandoned our health system and cut it. This motion of no confidence is just an absolute joke. As the member for Essendon said, it is so much more about a reflection of what is happening across the chamber in the opposition.

I am going to give you an example, a very positive example, of what is happening in Frankston at the moment. On my social media only a week ago a Liberal Party member put a comment up and said, we have the most effective member in Frankston in the last 20 years, and I will vote for you.

So with this thing of confidence we talk about, I think some of these people here who are having a bit of a giggle now probably need to turn around and look at their community and see who they are representing and what those people actually think, because these people with these massive egos were actually voted out. We have got people across there who were actually voted out by the community telling us that the community has got no confidence in us. It is an absolute joke.

In our community of Frankston we have a track record of delivering. It is undeniable and it is turning heads, as opposed to what happened with the Geoff Shaw government of four years ago. We hear a lot about rorting, and I could talk about Mr Shaw. I am not going to, because he is forgotten in Frankston. No-one knows who Geoff is, because we have embraced a new vision for Frankston and we are actually getting things done.

In contrast to the Liberal-Nationals cutting \$1 billion from our education system, we have invested more than \$3.8 billion to build, upgrade and maintain schools. I am going to run through a list of some of the schools in Frankston, because this list will be foreign to anyone on the opposition benches. They will not have heard the names of any of these schools, because they did not fund any of them: Frankston Primary School, Nepean Special School, Frankston East Primary School, Overport Primary School, Frankston Heights Primary School, Karingal Primary School, Mahogany Rise Primary School, Derinya Primary School, Ballam Park Primary School, Aldercourt Primary School, Karingal Heights Primary School with a great new building, Naranga Special School, Kingsley Park Primary School, Frankston Special Developmental School, Mount Erin College, Frankston High School, Monterey Secondary College and McClelland College. I say that because the opposite has happened in the last four years. We have funded all those schools, which means there is future and opportunity for the people in Frankston.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr EDBROOKE — I could do them again, but I have got to go on to all the rest of the things we have done in Frankston. That is twice the budget, twice the funding, of what our friends across the bench did in Frankston. We can talk about many, many things today, but one of the things that I think really has hit home in Frankston is community safety. We hear people talking a lot about it, but the other day we heard that the Leader of the Opposition was coming down and promising CCTV for Frankston’s CBD. The Leader of the Opposition did not actually go and find out that we had already put that CCTV in. We have actually already installed that CCTV. It is working.

Our community are noticing it. There has been a 14 per cent offence rate decrease in Frankston, thanks to 10 new police and different policing strategies with a police force that is resourced.

Public transport is another sector that Frankston is just building on and building on. Young Street — a failure of the former government, which did not get it up and running — has been redeveloped. We have got a brand-new station. We have got 65 high-capacity trains, which will soon travel down the Frankston line past 10 new stations and 13 level crossings that are not there anymore, and once Melbourne Metro opens we will have 2 to 3-minute trains coming from Frankston, something that the opposition could not even visualise in their four years because they were too stuck in the mud in their own egos.

We have got a vision for Frankston now and, as the chair of the Frankston Revitalisation Board, I can say we have brought everyone into the fold. Frankston is going forward at a great rate, and it is being noticed. That is why we are getting this feedback, and that is why I stand here today looking at the opposition, saying, 'What did you do in that four years?'. I can tell you it was nothing and I have got no interjections, saying, 'Hey, we built this, we built that', because they know there is nothing, but to stand here and tell us that the Victorian people have no confidence in this government is an absolute laugh.

But the most important question they should be asking themselves is: who does the community have confidence in? I can tell you now, the community have confidence in the people that deliver for them. The community have confidence in a government that listens and gets it done, and that is what this government is doing at record rates. We have heard many, many people on this side of the chamber talk about the employment rate going from the worst on the mainland in Australia to record employment now. We have heard many people talk about going from an ambulance crisis to having the best ambulance response times in our history, which for Frankston means you actually save 2 minutes. I can tell you as a former first responder that 2 minutes is life saving. Two minutes of having no-one pumping on your chest, no-one applying defibrillation, is not good. To have ambos there 2 minutes earlier is saving lives every day in my community. That is what governments like this work towards, and that is why I am so proud to be part of this government.

To sit here and listen to the absolute drivel coming from the opposition is sad, but it is also entertaining because it gives someone like me, who was not in opposition over those dark four years, an idea about the dialogue

that was happening at that time and the lies and the stories that my community were told. Now my community have turned around, and it is not people saying, 'We'll build this'; it is, 'Look what we've done. You wanted it, we consulted you and we've built it'. And my community is doing much better because of it. The Victorian community is doing much better for it. I think come 24 November you will see at the polls a recognition of that in the Victorian community, and I look forward to it. I am working every day in my community, and will be working every single day of the next 94 days like I have over the past three and a half years, working my fingers to the bone getting things done in huge opposition to our local Liberals, who do not want to see anything done. They would rather we did nothing because it hurts so bad, and on 24 November I think we will say, 'Come in spinner'. I will continue working every single day till then to make sure people know what we have been up to and what we have been doing.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr EDBROOKE — I would tell you, but I am not going to. In the small amount of allotted time I have got left I would say that this has been an absolute joke, including the member for Gembrook actually coming over and making a joke on this side of the house. It has been a bit of a laugh, but today has been a very, very sad day to be a Liberal. There have been some mouths hitting the floor, and I would say that six ministers have resigned — whoops — possibly. It has been my pleasure speaking on this motion just to tell you everything that has been happening in Frankston and why our community do have confidence in us, and I sternly oppose this motion.

Mr T. BULL (Gippsland East) (18:54) — Unlike the previous speaker, the member for Frankston, I will not stand up here and drink my own bathwater for 15 minutes and tell myself how good I am. I will get onto the motion.

Mr Pesutto interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Spence) — The member for Hawthorn!

Mr T. BULL — I will not be figjamming like the member for Frankston.

A number of the speakers on this side of the chamber have already made many valid points and given some classic examples of the many stuff-ups and reasons why this current government is no good. What I would like to do in this contribution is give a few examples of why country Victoria has lost confidence in this

government, particularly in my electorate. I want to start off by saying, as I stand here today, almost at the end of this term almost four years in, my electorate, which is going through a drought at the moment, has been through significant job losses and has had fires ravage the area over the last four years. We have not had to any of our major towns a visit by the Premier or the Deputy Premier in almost four years. With what a lot of my communities have been through with the closure of Hazelwood, bushfires and the like, that is nothing short of an absolute disgrace. I am very confident in saying this because, unless they have been into town and flown under the radar, we have not had the Premier or the Deputy Premier in Bairnsdale — one of our major regional cities — Lakes Entrance, Orbost, Maffra, Stratford, Omeo or anywhere else in almost four years, and that is with some of the hardships that my communities have been through.

The fact is that neither has gone to Heyfield, half an hour down the road from Traralgon. As of next week Heyfield timber mill will have lost 100 jobs since this time last year — 100 jobs. Whilst the old Premier is happy to float down the highway and drift into Traralgon and Morwell in the Latrobe Valley, he cannot be bothered to come half an hour down the road to talk to the people of Heyfield who have gone through enormous hardship, an enormous amount of stress and, as I said, significant job losses in that community that have severely impacted on its local economy. He cannot be bothered doing an extra half an hour to get out there and talk to that community. That is a disgrace.

One of the other issues that I want to talk on, which I think is a classic example of why people in rural and regional Victoria have lost confidence in this government, is the plight of the Bairnsdale Secondary College. The deceit that that community has been through is amazing, and I want to outline it. In 2010 we committed \$10 million to build stage 1 of the college and we built it. Leading up to the 2014 election we committed to build stage 2. What the Labor Party did was to decide to hold off appointing a candidate until three weeks out from the election — someone who was not local, who came into the electorate for one day — purely so there was no pressure on to make pre-election commitments. So nothing was done.

Following the election I invited the Minister for Education down to East Gippsland and the school council invited the Minister for Education down to East Gippsland in good faith just to meet with the school, have a chat and understand the issues as to what was going on. What happens there is the school is in a situation where every time it rains the library and three classrooms flood. Water pours down the walls, mould

sets in and kids cannot occupy those classrooms. We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on maintenance and then it rains again and we are back to square one.

All that school community wanted to do was get the minister down to explain the situation and show him. Let us see what the minister said in his responses. On local radio in 2015 the minister came out and said he would visit when his diary permitted. He then came out later on in 2016 when he was asked again and said he would visit when his schedule permitted — so when his diary permitted and then when his schedule permitted. When he was asked a third time later in 2016 his response was, 'I will visit in the near future'. So his responses were: when his diary permits in 2015, when his schedule permits and then in the near future.

Here we are in late 2018, on the verge of an election, and he has not visited. He has not been able to find the time since he made that comment almost three and a half years ago to just come and talk to this community. That was all we wanted him to do. Is there any surprise —

Business interrupted under sessional orders.

Sitting continued on motion of Mr WYNNE (Minister for Planning).

Mr T. BULL — As I was saying, we had these three commitments to come to the secondary college. He does not follow through, does not tell the truth, deceives the school community and wonders why we then have no confidence whatsoever in his ability to follow through or care. If you cannot afford to visit in four years — really, that is deplorable. A promise from the minister not followed through on — it is just an absolute disgrace.

I want to move on to roads funding. On coming to government the Labor government cut the country roads and bridges program. That was \$1 million a year into all of our councils. Its own budget papers showed significant cuts to the roads assets and maintenance budget — that is in your own budget papers; that cannot be argued. Our roads suffered in rural and regional Victoria. The country roads and bridges program was off the radar, never to be seen again. Important roads funding for councils was just torn away. We have already announced that we will reinstate it, and that has been welcomed by councils far and wide across Victoria. As I sit here, the punctuality on the Gippsland rail line is dropping from bad to worse. Some say it is at its worst ever.

To more recent matters, we are on the cusp of a drought here. Our farmers are starting to struggle. I

have asked in this chamber before, can we please get a representative of this government down to one of our biggest primary production areas just to walk the walk on the ground with the farmers to try and understand what they are going through and try to understand the hardship — one visit from the Premier or the Deputy Premier to our rural communities of East Gippsland. Once in four years should not be too much to ask. We want them down there and we want them down there soon.

With this drought, we are also on the cusp of a very serious fire season. We are in one of the most fire-prone areas of the world, and it is very dry. It is time that this government gave our Country Fire Authority volunteers the respect that they deserve, something that has been seriously missing over the past few years. It is another reason why the people of rural and regional Victoria are feeling unloved and do not believe that this government is in touch with their views or their needs.

I would like to move on to some of the bigger statewide issues. One of the biggest doozies of all time has got to be \$1.3 billion not to build a road. I know that other speakers have mentioned this: \$1.3 billion could build 70 new schools. We cannot get money for Bairnsdale Secondary College from the bloke who comes in here and spouts off all the time about Victoria being the Education State. He will not go down there and visit one of the schools that is in greatest need, I would say, of any school in the state, but he is happy to come in here and waffle on about Victoria being the Education State. Get to Bairnsdale.

We have seen \$1.3 billion wasted. It rolls off the tongue a little bit, \$1.3 billion. Put it into this context: it is \$1300 million. That is a huge amount of money to be wasted not to build a road in a city that is becoming increasingly congested with every day that passes.

I turn to the red shirts saga. In his contribution the member for Box Hill made some very pertinent comments on the red shirts saga. Many people in here have quoted the Ombudsman and are calling it an artifice. Let us explain what an artifice is, because it is a word that is not commonly used in the English language. The first time I heard it for a number of years was in the Ombudsman's report. What is an artifice? An artifice is a crafty trick used to deceive others. That is why we have a no-confidence motion in this government. They are crafty and they try to deceive others.

The Ombudsman uncovered the \$388 000 rort and described it as an artifice, but those opposite also spent \$1 million trying to stop the investigation. Can you

believe that? The government went from saying, 'Nothing here at all' to 'Sorry'. They challenged it in the Supreme Court, they challenged it in the Court of Appeal and they challenged it in the High Court. They lost all of those challenges, and we had \$1 million go down the tube. That would have been a good start towards the Bairnsdale Secondary College rebuild. Those opposite said, 'Nothing to see there', and then, 'Sorry, we'll pay it back. Please forgive us'. As the Leader of the Opposition quite rightly said in his contribution, a bank robber cannot just hand the money back and say sorry and all is forgiven. Society does not work like that.

Then we had the sale of the lease of the port. Ten per cent — \$970 million — was meant to be spent in country Victoria, but it went into general revenue and it was spent. The youth justice system is in disarray. We have a crime wave sweeping many areas. Crime is massively up in Victoria and massively down in New South Wales. Why is that? Because they have a serious commitment to being tough on crime. Some might say that there is not a huge problem in country areas. I cannot tell you the number of people I have had in my office who have kids that they are sending to Melbourne for work or university and who are terrified about their kids. There are carjackings and home invasions. What is going on? People in the country come to me and say, 'What the hell is going on in this state? Am I taking a risk sending my son or my daughter to Melbourne to work or go to school?'. It is just not good enough.

Then we have the cost of living and the massive increase in power prices. Labor tripled the brown coal royalty rate. Engie, faced with an \$87 million tax bill, decided to close down. We were told that bills would go up 4 per cent — 85 cents a week. The Bairnsdale RSL's bill has gone up many, many thousands of dollars. They have put off staff, such is the rise in their power bill. To say that it is only going to go up 4 per cent, or 85 cents a week, has been a complete and utter lie. It is just not true.

I want to just remark on some comments of the Engie spokesperson at the time, before he obviously got told to change his language. What he said at the time, immediately after the announcement, was:

... this government decision takes \$20 million a year straight out of the Hazelwood business.

That is a significant additional cost that has to be found at a time when we are already experiencing very difficult electricity market trading conditions.

AGL Loy Yang general manager Steve Rieniets said the increase in royalties would add almost \$35 million in annual operating costs to the business. He said:

Increased costs of this magnitude could flow through to wholesale electricity prices and ultimately to customers.

That is Rieniets, the general manager of AGL, but people on this side of the house say that has nothing to do with our power bill rises. It has everything to do with our power bill rises, and people within the industry who know the industry backwards are acknowledging that.

What about being unable to manage projects? I will not go into that, given the limited amount of time, but speakers on this side of the chamber have highlighted the many, many projects in this state that have run massively over budget.

I want to go on to the Safe Schools program. I commend our shadow Minister for Education on his replacement program for this that teaches respect for all. People in our communities do not want a program that highlights that gender is fluid. They do not want a program that highlights that students can use the boys or the girls toilets depending on how they are feeling on that particular day. As the father of a year 7 girl just entering secondary school, I certainly want the girls in the girls toilets and the boys in the boys toilets for her safety. I can assure you that we need an anti-bullying program that is respectful for all but without this left-wing stupid ideology that promotes something that should not be put in front of our students.

I want to also touch for a minute on the question, if things are not bad enough, of what would happen under a Labor-Greens coalition, which some commentators are forecasting may be the case. Say goodbye to the rodeos that hold our country areas together. The Omeo, Orbost and Buchan rodeos are great community events that raise a lot of money in our communities. The Greens are opposed to rodeos; they do not like them. They want to create more national parks and wipe out our timber industry. They want to ban hunting. They want to ban jumps racing. They want to ban greyhounds. The Greens party should rename themselves the Fun Stopper party, because all of these things have been part of our country way of life. They have all been part of the social fabric of the bush. If things have not gotten bad enough now, they will get worse if that situation arises. I conclude my contribution by saying that people in the bush have been cheated, and we have no confidence in this government.

Mr McGuire (Broadmeadows) (19:10) — The Victorian opposition leader argues the next election will

be fought on trust. If so, this no-confidence motion is being debated in the wrong Parliament against the wrong government. Coalition parties are so riven by factionalism, engulfed by policy chaos and divided by leadership rivalry that the government of Australia is overwhelmed by crisis. The coalition cannot govern itself, far less Australia. The Liberal Party is being torn apart by an existential threat because the powerful have made a pact with zealots. Liberal MPs are appeasing their regime's Tea Party demands to be permanently angry, resentful and obstructionist.

Even those considered small-l liberals are captive. The warning for Victorians is: do not risk the Canberra contagion spreading to the state that now leads our nation. This is the critical point. Such a risk is too great, and here is why: despite the Australian government hanging onto power by one seat, the Liberal Party today effectively voted no confidence in Malcolm Turnbull, leaving him clinging to the prime ministership by seven votes. A second strike to topple his prime ministership is reported as inevitable. Turmoil will continue to destabilise the nation, sap business confidence and corrode public trust. We cannot allow it to spread to Victoria, because insanity, as Albert Einstein rightly said, is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. We cannot have this in Victoria. Put simply, Victorians cannot trust the coalition to deliver. It is so divided that a Prime Minister surrendered his authority and conviction on climate change in an act of appeasement. 'An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last', which is a direct quote from Winston Churchill.

Mr Watt — On a point of order, Acting Speaker, the member for Broadmeadows has been here long enough to know that he should not be reading a speech. This is a no-confidence motion. If he had real confidence in the government, he would actually be able to talk without reading a speech.

Mr McGuire — On the point of order, Acting Speaker, I was directly quoting from Winston Churchill, and I will repeat it for the benefit of the member for Burwood:

An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Pearson) — Order! There is no point of order. I believe the member for Broadmeadows is just referring to notes.

Mr McGuire — The crocodiles have made their first strike but continue to circle for the political death roll. Ministers are resigning in the ultimate vote of no confidence. The federal Minister for Veterans' Affairs,

Darren Chester, declared after today's leadership vote, 'The Australian people expect the circus to end now', and, 'Every minute we spend talking about ourselves, the Australian people are marking us down'. That is from a currently serving Australian government minister defining the loss of trust in the coalition. I am reporting directly to you what he said. With 94 days to go until the Victorian election, the message is clear: Labor is delivering for all Victorians; do not risk the coalition. This is the critical point.

Mr Thompson — On a point of order, Acting Speaker, with respect to the member for Broadmeadows, he has pulled out the wrong speech. It is one that would be well suited to Sky News. I am reminded of the words of Jonathan Swift that a political lie can make a saint out of an atheist, make a patriot out of a profligate, furnish a foreign minister with intelligence and make rise or fall the credit of a nation. I think with great intellectual acumen he is using a fair bit of metaphor to avoid defending the indefensible and the matter of roting on the part of the government. It is a very skilful speech, and whilst I am enjoying it, it is not relevant to the matter at hand.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Pearson) — Order! There is no point of order.

Mr McGuire — I have known the member for Sandringham for a long time, and I do recognise his applause for my efforts. So thank you very much, and we will continue to have many discussions at a later date. But the critical point is that Victoria is Australia's fastest growing state. Our AAA-rated economy has delivered record investment, surpluses and an unprecedented pipeline of infrastructure projects to reimagine Melbourne as it becomes a metropolis and to spread opportunity throughout our great state. Victoria's economic leadership is now investing in attributes I have long maintained largely determine fate: lifelong learning, skills and jobs.

Business trust is critical for economic development and delivering prosperity. I witnessed the support from business when the Premier addressed the Committee for Economic Development of Australia in his State of the State address marking 100 days until the election. Business wants the Andrews government to build on the momentum of this first term, when investment in infrastructure will peak at \$14 billion this year. That was the overwhelming response from business leaders in this state. They want the momentum to continue. They do not want to go back to the four wasted years that we had and the opportunity loss that that meant for the state. We cannot afford that. We are moving to a metropolis. We need to get on with it, and Labor is delivering. These

nation-defining investments will provide opportunities throughout the state. That is another proposition that the National Party seems to ignore.

These investments are not just in projects. They are also in our most valuable asset, our people. Importantly, everyday people can see where they fit into this big picture. Skilled workers are in demand, so the government is reinvesting in TAFE after the coalition's cuts. Next year the government will provide life-changing opportunities free of charge — this is critical — including 30 priority courses and 18 preapprentice courses. The Premier defined the strategy to focus on the skills Victoria needs, including courses that will help build infrastructure projects, respond to family violence and care for older Victorians and people living with a disability. As the Premier told the independent, national organisation, which has a large cross-sector membership:

While the previous government cut TAFE in ... a jobs crisis, we are making TAFE free in ... a jobs boom.

That sums up the difference succinctly, and this will be a critical test for trust and for who delivers in 94 days when Victorians have to make that decision.

At the Strong Australia conference recently in Broadmeadows I put the quintessential questions: what is Australia going to make and what is the coordinated strategy to deliver results? It was the Business Council of Australia CEO Jennifer Westacott who responded:

The most important thing is to get people skilled, to make sure that young people get the right pathways into the right jobs, that we don't keep everyone at university, that we give a diversity of opportunities.

... the challenge is how we make sure that no community or person gets left behind.

That is from the CEO of the Business Council of Australia. That is a ringing endorsement of the Andrews Labor government strategy. Such priorities are emblematic of Labor in power. Contrasting this with the coalition's federal budget is revealing. The Australian government axed more than \$200 million from TAFE, skills and training across the country — a cut of at least \$60 million to Victorian students. These cuts define the coalition's disconnection from the needs of Victoria. You would have to be in la-la land to cut TAFE now. That is the point. This is the disconnect between the Liberal Party, what is going on and what the Andrews Labor government is doing.

Mr Watt interjected.

Ms Hutchins — On a point of order, Acting Speaker, the member for Burwood is being very disruptive, and I cannot hear the speaker.

Mr Watt — On the point of order, Acting Speaker, if she wants to know what he is saying, she could just ask him to give her the speech. Obviously he has a speech that he has written, and if she wants to know what he is saying, maybe he could just give it to her, because that would be about as useful as what I am hearing now.

Ms Halfpenny — On the point of order, Acting Speaker, the conduct of the member for Burwood and his use of language with ‘She, she, she’ is out of order. You are supposed to refer to people by their correct titles and not be disrespectful to women, as he has been known to do on many occasions.

Mr Thompson — On the point of order, Acting Speaker, if the minister at the table did not hear what was said, the member for Broadmeadows could be invited to repeat the last couple of minutes of his speech. He was making some interesting points in relation to Broadmeadows and the importance of productivity, and I might add from our point of view the importance of there being strong baseload power to provide jobs in Broadmeadows.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Pearson) — The debate has been robust. Member for Burwood, though, I would encourage you to try to limit the number of interjections that you are making. The member for Broadmeadows to continue.

Mr MCGUIRE — Thank you, Acting Speaker. The tale of the two budgets is a tale of priorities defining why Australia’s political system is broken, which is essentially because of hyperfactionalism and hyperpartisanship. That is how I defined our nation’s divisions three months ago. This hyperfactionalism played out today in the federal Liberal Party room, diminishing a Prime Minister and public trust, so this is what we have to stop coming down into Victoria.

I do want to note that the Leader of the Opposition made a gratuitous comment on his way through. I find this remarkable because in opposition he claimed in the media that he represented the good people of Broadmeadows as a Liberal in the upper house. So what did he actually do? The Victorian coalition adopted a reverse Robin Hood strategy, redistributing funds of about \$80 million from shovel-ready infrastructure projects in Broadmeadows to sandbag marginal seats when the Liberal leader was then the Minister for Planning and claiming to represent these

families. The former coalition government cut \$25 million from the Kangan Institute at the worst possible time, given the need to retain workers losing manufacturing jobs, and then merged the campus with Bendigo TAFE to pork-barrel another marginal seat. So this is the reality about trust. We know what the former Minister for Planning and now opposition leader did when he claimed publicly to be the local representative.

This is what will happen soon: people in Victoria will make their decision on what needs to be done, who is actually the party that they need to be able to trust to deliver and who will actually get the job done. We cannot just have amnesia about what happened in that last four-year term. I have been asked to yield so that we can get on to the adjournment debate, and I want to make it critically clear that when it comes down to the Victorian election and the issue of trust, only Labor is delivering for all Victorians.

Mr PESUTTO (Hawthorn) (19:22) — This motion is important to Victorians, not just those in the gallery but the many Victorians who are watching online and the many thousands of Victorians who will read about this debate in the years to come — many thousands, because motions of no confidence are rare. They are taken in the most exceptional circumstances. Why, in this case, are we moving this motion? Because whether you can believe in your government matters. Whether you can trust what your government says about you, about your family and about the future of your community matters, as does whether you can rely on the government when it says waiting lists will be reduced or response times will be reduced. When governments say they can reduce crime and keep you safer, you need to know that you can believe in your government. This government said it would not raise taxes on the eve of the last election, and yet it did. And it did not just do it once, twice or thrice; it did it 12 times and counting.

Projects cost far more than this government ever said they would cost. The Melbourne Metro Tunnel, which is proceeding without any opposition from us, has seen \$2 billion in blowouts under this incompetent minister. The north-east link has gone from \$6 billion to \$16 billion and counting. The West Gate tunnel, a \$7 billion project at this stage, started off as a western distributor costing half a billion dollars. Victorians need to know whether they can believe their government when they say projects will be finished on time.

They need to know across the range of other initiatives that they can believe their government. When a government says it will not introduce a drug injecting room, they need to be able to rely on that, and yet they

could not in this case. It matters to everybody watching tonight. To everybody watching tonight I say — and we understand it on this side of the house — it matters whether you can believe the government that tries to serve you.

You need to be able to believe in your government because it comes down ultimately to the vision that parties will offer at elections, and in advance of this election I am proud to say that on this side of the house, after the disappointment obviously of the last election, we have spent three and a half, nearly four, years speaking to Victorians and working with them to develop a vision that will serve them and their communities. That is what we have been doing in this time, and the vision we have developed is something they can rely on because they have helped develop it with us.

When it comes to public transport we have got over \$600 million in new trains to serve the Warrnambool, Albury, Shepparton, Swan Hill and Bairnsdale lines. We have got \$32 million to extend V/Line services on the Maryborough line out to Donald. We have got expanded rail services to the tune of nearly \$80 million to improve rail services between Shepparton and Melbourne. We have got millions allocated for improved bus services and timetable upgrades. We will extend the Cranbourne line out to Clyde. We will duplicate the Hurstbridge line between Greensborough and Eltham. We will develop — and we are the only party to offer this to the Victorian people — a freight and logistics plan that will maximise the opportunities for Victorians right across our state.

On roads, we will build the east–west link. I should say that I have long regarded a tragedy, a travesty, what this government did on the east–west link. It was not limited to \$1.3 billion. Let us all remember that when this government cancelled the east–west link it did not just cost us \$1.3 billion; it meant, and has meant, that for the last four years we have been denied the benefit of \$3 billion in federal money. So when this road could have been built, it could have been built with \$4.3 billion, not just the \$1.3 billion. That is the scale of the rip-off and the broken promise of this government. We will build the north-east link and we will do it in conjunction with the east–west link. We will remove intersections to free up the arteries of Melbourne. We will not rip up the West Gate tunnel project, as much as we see that as a far inferior version of the east–west link stage 2. So across public transport, across roads, we have a vision.

When it comes to health we have a vision: a new West Gippsland Hospital and \$100 million to upgrade

Warrnambool Base Hospital. We have got a \$140 million palliative care plan. We have got compulsory drug and alcohol treatment for those who desperately need help. We have got free flu vaccinations for kids aged six months to five years. We have got a bowel cancer action plan. We have developed a vision across the health portfolio.

In education, we will improve our education with a curriculum review. We have got \$80 million for integrated education hubs for disadvantaged areas in rural and regional communities across our state. We will introduce phonics checks for students at year 1 so that their difficulties can be identified and addressed. Across public transport, across roads, across health and across education we have made substantial and profound commitments to the Victorian people.

In crime and community safety, Speaker, which you have heard me speak about many times in this house, we will fix the mess that this government has created, not just overseen. Whether it is policing, whether it is bail, whether it is sentencing, whether it is gangs, whether it is riots — in the streets and behind bars — we will fix the justice system. We will put responsibility and respect at the heart of it.

I have never heard this government talk about responsibility, accountability or respect. They have not got a plan. We have a plan, and under the leadership of the member for Bulleen we are doing something which in my memory no-one from opposition has ever done. We have presented a comprehensive plan from Victoria's east to its south to its west and to its north to develop a decentralisation plan that will serve all Victorians. We will not be a government obsessed with everything that goes on inside the tram tracks. All of us on this side of the house have been travelling our state and working with communities to develop a plan and a vision. Unless you can believe in your government, you cannot believe in the vision that they are pretending to have. We are offering the Victorian people a better way.

This mob over here, they do not have a vision. I will tell you what they have. They have a communications plan. This is a government run by PR flacks, with no vision. They respond to events by the hour, by the bulletin, by the media cycle. They pretend it was part of some artful measure of leadership, like your drug injecting room and like other initiatives you promised never to introduce and then introduced. We have a vision. They do not; they have a communications plan.

Understand, Speaker, only 14 motions of no confidence have been moved in this place since 1952. They are rare, and we have not moved this motion lightly. A

motion of no confidence will enliven section 8A of the constitution, if it passes. That engages an eight-day period when a motion of confidence in the government has to be passed. If it fails, then the Governor, exercising reserve powers, may dissolve the house. That is how serious this motion is, and we have not done it lightly. We do it because this government, unlike any of its predecessors, has brought this house and this Parliament into such disrepute. Although this government's term ends on 24 November 2018, we strongly believe that this government has reached the end of the line now.

There have been five police investigations into this government: the dictaphone, which others have spoken eloquently about; Steve Herbert; Cesar Melhem in the Council; the former Speaker and the former Deputy Speaker; and the Deputy President. I add one more to the list, as it is growing. Lucky that there are busy news days, because in any other circumstance a minister who went around a fundraiser with an EFTPOS machine, shaking people down for political donations, would have lost his job. He would have lost his job because the ministerial code of conduct says he should — and it says the Premier should take charge of the situation. So thank goodness for busy news days. Thank goodness there is so much traffic in the way that no-one noticed Mr Dalidakis in the other place. Lucky for him. Well, we know what he got up to. And of course there are the red shirts, which is the fulcrum of this motion but is not the entirety of it. Let us remember the government does not come here without a rich history: a parliamentary audit, an initial police investigation, an almost unprecedented referral by the upper house to the Ombudsman, a Privileges Committee inquiry — unheard of previously — and now a second police investigation.

Others have spoken at length about what the Ombudsman's report has disclosed, as disturbing as it is. I just want to say something about why this motion is even more urgent now, because the situation has become even worse. Not only do we have a damning Ombudsman's report; we have ministers who are refusing to stand down, despite damning findings against them — including the chief law officer. In any other circumstance ministers would stand down because they would know that their ongoing positions are untenable.

Worse than spending over \$1 million trying to obstruct the Ombudsman in the courts, this mob over here have just done away with those niceties. They just want to go and monster Victoria Police out of their job. We have Sam Rae, Kosmos Samaras and Luke Hilakari, an associate lieutenant of the fellow who sits there,

monsterring Victoria Police. For your own benefit — far be it from me to offer you legal advice — you had better watch out. You do not want to be on the wrong side of the provisions that talk about perverting the course of justice, and you certainly do not want to be accused of hindering a police investigation, both offences under our criminal law. So gone are the niceties. They are looking to monster police.

It gets even worse. There are cracks emerging in their stories. In September 2015, when the laughable Minister for Sport was asked had he signed any time sheets, he said, 'Totally inaccurate'. Then the Leader of the Opposition asked him earlier this year, 'Do you change your story now?', and he said that he was not going to improve upon his answer, despite the Ombudsman saying that he had signed time sheets for Jake Finnigan. He was asked today about Ben McMullin and he hid under a rock. What a coward.

As for the Attorney-General — he has just joined us; let us all thank him — if you want to know what the definition of regret is, if you look up 'regret' in the authorised dictionary of the English language, Australian version, there is a picture of the Attorney-General being interviewed by Neil Mitchell on 22 March, when he admitted that he had signed time sheets in respect of a staff member who spent two days a week campaigning for the member for Mordialloc, who is yet to join us. Even the story of the Premier himself is starting to show cracks. He said he knew nothing about it and no-one had ever raised the issue with him. Well, Mr Somyurek in the Council put paid to that lie and made clear he had raised it with him. So we have a government whose alibis, whose stories, are starting to crack.

Many people have said why bring on a motion that is certain to fail? I will tell you why: because we hope that there are some people over there who might be consistent in their views. Speaker, you might remember sitting over on this side of the house four years ago when the then opposition leader, now Premier, made comments about a certain matter that came before this house and made much of the fact that staff of that member had been told a lie, something which has been repeated — we know from the red shirts rorts that staff were told not to say anything about it. The now Premier made it very clear that he believed that somebody who broke the rules should resign or be dismissed. Who over there, with all the money that has been wasted, with all the obstacles that have in my view unlawfully been put in the pathway of Victoria Police, has paid a price? No-one. No-one has lost a job; no-one has been sanctioned. This is the only chance we have to sanction. If they believed now what

they believed four years ago, they would vote with us when it comes time to cast a vote.

Ms HUTCHINS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) (19:37) — I move:

That the question be now put.

House divided on question:

Ayes, 45

Allan, Ms	Knight, Ms
Andrews, Mr	Languiller, Mr
Blandthorn, Ms	Lim, Mr
Bull, Mr J.	McGuire, Mr
Carbines, Mr	Merlino, Mr
Carroll, Mr	Nardella, Mr
Couzens, Ms	Neville, Ms
D' Ambrosio, Ms	Noonan, Mr
Dimopoulos, Mr	Pakula, Mr
Donnellan, Mr	Pallas, Mr
Edbrooke, Mr	Pearson, Mr
Edwards, Ms	Perera, Mr
Eren, Mr	Richardson, Mr
Foley, Mr	Scott, Mr
Garrett, Ms	Spence, Ms
Graley, Ms	Staikos, Mr
Green, Ms	Suleyman, Ms
Halfpenny, Ms	Thomas, Ms
Hennessy, Ms	Thomson, Ms
Howard, Mr	Ward, Ms
Hutchins, Ms	Williams, Ms
Kairouz, Ms	Wynne, Mr
Kilkenny, Ms	

Noes, 37

Angus, Mr	Paynter, Mr
Asher, Ms	Pesutto, Mr
Battin, Mr	Riordan, Mr
Britnell, Ms	Ryall, Ms
Bull, Mr T.	Ryan, Ms
Burgess, Mr	Sandell, Ms
Clark, Mr	Sheed, Ms
Crisp, Mr	Smith, Mr R.
Dixon, Mr	Smith, Mr T.
Fyffe, Mrs	Staley, Ms
Gidley, Mr	Thompson, Mr
Guy, Mr	Thorpe, Ms
Hibbins, Mr	Tilley, Mr
Hodgett, Mr	Victoria, Ms
Katos, Mr	Wakeling, Mr
Kealy, Ms	Walsh, Mr
McLeish, Ms	Watt, Mr
Morris, Mr	Wells, Mr
O'Brien, Mr M.	

Question agreed to.

The SPEAKER — The question is that the motion of no confidence moved by the Leader of the Opposition be agreed to.

House divided on motion:

Ayes, 33

Angus, Mr	O'Brien, Mr M.
Asher, Ms	Paynter, Mr
Battin, Mr	Pesutto, Mr
Britnell, Ms	Riordan, Mr
Bull, Mr T.	Ryall, Ms
Burgess, Mr	Ryan, Ms
Clark, Mr	Smith, Mr R.
Crisp, Mr	Smith, Mr T.
Dixon, Mr	Staley, Ms
Fyffe, Mrs	Thompson, Mr
Gidley, Mr	Tilley, Mr
Guy, Mr	Victoria, Ms
Hodgett, Mr	Wakeling, Mr
Katos, Mr	Walsh, Mr
Kealy, Ms	Watt, Mr
McLeish, Ms	Wells, Mr
Morris, Mr	

Noes, 49

Allan, Ms	Languiller, Mr
Andrews, Mr	Lim, Mr
Blandthorn, Ms	McGuire, Mr
Bull, Mr J.	Merlino, Mr
Carbines, Mr	Nardella, Mr
Carroll, Mr	Neville, Ms
Couzens, Ms	Noonan, Mr
D' Ambrosio, Ms	Pakula, Mr
Dimopoulos, Mr	Pallas, Mr
Donnellan, Mr	Pearson, Mr
Edbrooke, Mr	Perera, Mr
Edwards, Ms	Richardson, Mr
Eren, Mr	Sandell, Ms
Foley, Mr	Scott, Mr
Garrett, Ms	Sheed, Ms
Graley, Ms	Spence, Ms
Green, Ms	Staikos, Mr
Halfpenny, Ms	Suleyman, Mr
Hennessy, Ms	Thomas, Ms
Hibbins, Mr	Thomson, Ms
Howard, Mr	Thorpe, Ms
Hutchins, Ms	Ward, Ms
Kairouz, Ms	Williams, Ms
Kilkenny, Ms	Wynne, Mr
Knight, Ms	

Motion defeated.

Honourable members interjecting.

The SPEAKER (19:47) — Order! The members for Hastings, Kew, Burwood and Eltham will leave the chamber for the period of half an hour.

Honourable members for Hastings, Kew, Burwood and Eltham withdrew from chamber.

Remaining business postponed on motion of Ms ALLAN (Minister for Public Transport).

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER — The question is:

That the house now adjourns.

Public housing

Mr ANGUS (Forest Hill) (19:48) — (14 814) I raise a matter of importance for the attention of the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing. The action I seek is for the minister to urgently resolve the matter that I first wrote to him about on 22 March 2017 and subsequently also raised as an adjournment matter on 23 May 2018. The issue is that a constituent who lives in Barter Crescent, Forest Hill, continues an ongoing battle with the department of housing to have some important maintenance works completed. I am very disappointed to have to raise this matter again, but I have no choice as the minister has failed to ensure that the serious outstanding maintenance matters will be addressed.

My constituent has been extraordinarily patient regarding these outstanding maintenance issues and wrote to me yesterday to provide me with an update. She also called my office and spoke to one of my staff and was very distressed and frustrated to advise that despite repeated attempts by her and numerous visits by an array of tradesmen, the maintenance matters remain outstanding. The minister can review the details of the matters I raised in this place on 23 May. My constituent has continually put up with these unresolved issues, including regular flooding in her backyard, a damaged and ineffective side gate, a fence that is falling down and a carport with no roof. She has sent me some shocking photos of her property, which I have with me tonight, and I am very happy to make these available to the chamber. These very comprehensive photos show a carport with no roof, some completely disgraceful carpentry work that has not been done properly and spouting falling off. It is just outrageous. You can look at her backyard after that drop of rain the other day.

This is a very frustrating and very difficult position for my constituent to be in. She has been patient. She has tried her very best to resolve it through the normal channels, but it has been ignored. There have been an array of tradesmen come in and come out that have done bits and pieces but essentially have left it worse than it ever was. The minister needs to take charge of this issue and ensure that the necessary work is done in an efficient manner and not as is currently the situation, with numerous tradesmen attending the property but not actually completing any of the jobs required. This must be costing Victorian taxpayers a lot of money through this gross inefficiency. I ask the minister to

once and for all urgently resolve these very longstanding maintenance issues at my constituent's property. I look forward to hearing from the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing about this issue and having my constituent's housing maintenance issues finally being resolved after many years of waiting.

Yuroke electorate fire brigades

Ms SPENCE (Yuroke) (19:51) — (14 815) My adjournment matter is for the Minister for Emergency Services. Can the minister please provide me with an update as to how Country Fire Authority brigades in the Yuroke electorate have benefited from the Andrews Labor government's grant programs throughout this term of government? Yuroke residents are very fortunate to be protected by committed volunteer and career firefighters at three different stations. Indeed the minister has been kind enough to take the time to meet with many of them on a number of occasions. This government has provided fantastic support to volunteer and career firefighters in my community, and I look forward to the minister outlining that record.

Swan Hill hospital

Mr WALSH (Murray Plains) (19:51) — (14 816) My adjournment matter is for the Minister for Health, and the action I seek from the minister is for her to instruct her department to provide an up-to-date costing on the redevelopment of the Swan Hill hospital. The Swan Hill Needs a New Hospital group have been formed to lobby for a new hospital in Swan Hill, because they quite rightly believe that the current building is sick and needs to be rebuilt. They have done a lot of work campaigning to do that, and members of this house would have all received a T-shirt and a letter from them in the last sitting week. I am sure that members, particularly those on the other side, will be wearing those T-shirts with pride.

One of the challenges that group faces is getting up-to-date real information about the cost of redevelopment of the Swan Hill hospital. They did organise a rally last Wednesday, which over 500 people attended. The street was closed off, and there were a number of speakers at that rally: Dr Ernan Hession, Dr Louise Bibby, who works there as well, and Raylene Richardson, who is the widow of Don Logan, who had over 40 years service on the board, who spoke of Don's vision of getting a new hospital in Swan Hill.

As a result of that action I made some comments that day that the Swan Hill hospital and the department were forbidden from talking to the opposition and to the Swan Hill Needs a New Hospital group. The Minister

for Health's office responded to the Swan Hill *Guardian*, which was printed on the Friday, saying that that was not correct and that what I was saying was wrong, completely untrue and misleading. If what the minister's office said about that is true, can I urge the minister to urge her department to please give the Swan Hill Needs a New Hospital group and me a detailed briefing on what the cost of that new hospital will be, because despite the fact that we were told they could not speak to us, the minister is now saying that is not true. The action I seek is that the minister live up to her word and actually provide a briefing to that group and to me on the cost of a new hospital and the redevelopment in Swan Hill.

New Gisborne Primary School

Ms THOMAS (Macedon) (19:54) — (14 817) The matter I wish to raise is for the attention of the Minister for Education. The action I seek is that the minister join me at New Gisborne Primary School to meet with principal Andy Kozak and school council president Mick Campbell to understand the needs of this growing school community and its vision for teaching and learning into the future. With a strong focus on developing the whole child through activities, including sport and music, students at New Gisborne Primary School consistently achieve strong NAPLAN results, so it is no surprise then that New Gisborne Primary School is an immensely popular local school.

As a result the school is expecting enrolments to increase significantly over the next four to five years. Keen to manage this growth sustainably, the school's leadership in partnership with its dynamic parent-led school council has developed a comprehensive vision that aims to support the school's high aspirations as it continues to grow. Over our term the Andrews Labor government has delivered an unprecedented level of investment to schools across my electorate, including New Gisborne primary. We have already invested more than \$53 million in local schools, compared with a measly \$15 million under the previous Liberal government, and we rebuilt the New Gisborne art room that burnt down way back in 2011. But a Labor government knows we need to keep investing in education. It is absolutely vital, and it is core to our values. And of course we will always get right behind our public schools in regional Victoria. I look forward to welcoming the minister to New Gisborne.

Warrandyte Road, Ringwood North

Ms RYALL (Ringwood) (19:55) — (14 818) My adjournment request is for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. The action I seek is a full road safety

review of Warrandyte Road in the vicinity of the Ringwood North shops, in particular along Warrandyte Road between Lockhart Road and after the roundabout. This specifically relates to road congestion in the area that is mounting and becoming gridlocked during peak hours. But it is also gridlocked during school drop-off and pick-up times. With the Andrews government's policy of increasing housing density, together with population increases, there are more vehicles and pedestrians on and around the roads than ever before. Residents are reporting that they see near misses from cars speeding through the pedestrian crossings when travelling north and south between Oban Road and Wonga Road. They also report that with the current speed limit residents struggle to get out of the streets off Warrandyte Road due to heavy traffic.

Residents have particularly asked for a speed limit decrease along Warrandyte Road, which is really important considering the road safety issues and just the sheer number of vehicles on the road in this area, especially when people are going into and also coming out of the shopping area. Residents are fearful that there will be a serious accident if their speed and safety concerns are not addressed. There are significant volumes of traffic coming through this street, with local shops, schools and childcare centres. There are also many children crossing the road both before school starts and after school, and it is very, very important to my community that those students remain safe at all times. I ask the minister to act on my request for the safety of all who use the roads in Ringwood North, particularly around the Oban Road–Warrandyte Road roundabout in all aspects — north, south, east and west — but particularly in the vicinity of the shopping centre.

Ambulance response times

Mr RICHARDSON (Mordialloc) (19:57) — (14 819) My adjournment matter this evening is to the Minister for Ambulance Services. The action I seek is for the minister to update my community on how response times have improved over the last reporting period in the Mordialloc electorate and in the City of Kingston region. Every Victorian expects the best quality health care and the best ambulance response times, but unfortunately over the term of the previous government we saw code 1 average response times slip to some 14 minutes. We saw lives put at risk. When seconds count and lives matter, getting our paramedics there in the quickest possible fashion is the most important thing for our community. Whether it is a choking child, a child suffering an asthma attack or someone experiencing pains in their chest, those frantic moments are so very critical.

When Labor came to government, it ended the crisis in our ambulance system. Investing in and supporting our paramedics saw response times get down to just over 11 minutes, and that matters. It is more than seconds; minutes have been saved in responding to and supporting people. We have recruited more than 450 paramedics to strengthen our health system into the future. It goes with our commitment to nurse-to-patient ratios supporting people in hospitals and our support for elective surgery. That term ‘elective surgery’ can be very misleading when we think of very important procedures like knee replacements, hip replacements or cataracts, which improve people’s lives and their outcomes and quality of life. This is about investing in our health, and that is what Labor governments do best.

We have seen over the last few years improvements in ambulance response times in the bayside region, and we know that is supporting people and that it matters to people’s lives. As we improve those response times, I am so keen to update my community on how those response times are saving lives and supporting people. So I ask the Minister for Ambulance Services: how are those response times going now in the Mordialloc electorate and the City of Kingston?

Grovedale childcare centre

Mr KATOS (South Barwon) (19:59) — (14 820)

My adjournment matter this evening is for the Minister for Planning. The action I seek is for the minister to intervene and call in the planning application for the proposed Grovedale childcare centre and refuse the planning permit at its proposed location. Minister, planning permit application 833-2018 currently before VCAT to use and develop land at 37–39 Pioneer Road and 2 Westminster Street, Grovedale, for a proposed childcare centre in Grovedale concerns not only an inappropriate and dangerous spot for such a facility, but also a facility that is currently not required in that part of Grovedale. I ask you to use your powers as the Minister for Planning to intervene in the VCAT process, call in this permit and reject it.

The application is for a 98-place childcare centre which would operate from 7.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. on Pioneer Road, which is a very busy arterial road alongside an established residential precinct. I am informed that nearby childcare centres are running at only 40 per cent occupancy, and therefore there is hardly a need for another 98 places in this area. Minister, as you would remember from last year, I am by no means against childcare centres being built. Quite the opposite, my electorate needs them in certain growth areas such as Armstrong Creek, Waurn Ponds and Torquay. I note that the City of Greater Geelong has a childcare needs

projection that states new centres will be required in Armstrong Creek, and that is why the previous Liberal government provided \$7.1 million to build a new childcare centre in Armstrong Creek, which is presently under construction by the City of Greater Geelong.

This centre in Grovedale does threaten the viability of nearby centres and also the residential character of the street. The location is inappropriate. I tabled a petition in this house on 25 July where nearly 700 locals strongly believe that it will greatly impact their amenity in the area, creating more noise, increased traffic and a reduction in available on-street parking. I note within the application there is an allocation for only 18 onsite car parks; therefore this will obviously lead to more traffic and congestion in already very busy Pioneer Road and side streets. The City of Greater Geelong understood these concerns and has already refused the permit, leading this application to go to VCAT to be dealt with.

Minister, I have met and heard from many of the locals who have been objectors to this proposal — locals like John Raven, who tells me that the increased traffic movements will be potentially dangerous to residents when entering their properties. John notes to me that exiting from Westminster Street into Pioneer Road is challenging at the best of times and this street is effectively a one-lane road when cars legitimately park out the front of their houses, and this centre will render the street even more difficult to navigate. Therefore, Minister, given that 700 people have signed the petition in the local area against this centre and there is no need for a centre in this area — it is needed in other parts of the electorate — I ask you to use your powers and intervene in the VCAT process, call this permit in and refuse it.

Carrum electorate women’s health forum

Ms KILKENNY (Carrum) (20:02) — (14 821) My adjournment matter is for the Minister for Health, and the action I seek is for the minister to join with me at my women’s health forum on 13 September. The Andrews Labor government is supporting women’s health and wellbeing by funding sexual and reproductive health services, free breast screens, training for health workers in family violence detection, mental health and body image programs and of course nurse-to-patient ratios and more nurses and midwives. Earlier this year we announced plans for a women’s sexual and reproductive health centre to be based at Peninsula Health Community Health. Victorian women can now access expert evidence-based information, with Women’s Health Victoria now operating Victoria’s first women’s sexual and reproductive health

phone line, 1800 My Options. The centre and the phone line are part of Victoria's first-ever women's sexual and reproductive health plan. I am so very proud to be part of a government that is putting women's health squarely on the agenda. I look forward to welcoming the minister on 13 September.

Sandringham power outages

Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham) (20:03) — (14 822) I wish to raise a matter for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and the action that I seek is for the minister to assist in providing an explanation as to why multiple Sandringham small business proprietors were adversely impacted by recent power outages on 24 July 2018 and 31 July 2018.

The Andrews government has symbolically transitioned Victoria's energy supply from having had the capacity to deliver AC/DC's *High Voltage* to Elton John's *Candle in the Wind* if we are lucky. A number of local businesses have been unable to continue trading due to all pricing being electronic and therefore inaccessible without power. One of those businesses also faced the potential of large amounts of refrigerated stock being spoiled. A local medical practice faced massive inconvenience due to the blackouts; they were unable to treat any patients, nor were staff able to contact patients to cancel their scheduled appointments. This resulted in patients, many of whom are elderly or disabled, being sent home after making the journey to the practice. The clinic reported a complete loss of income for the afternoon.

A local aged-care facility was forced to operate on generator power during the blackouts, and this power was only able to cover essential services. The majority of the facility was in the dark. Residents were required to gather en masse in the communal areas where staff could safely monitor them. Noting that the power outages occurred at almost the same time of day exactly one week apart, I would value any insights that the minister might be able to provide, which I could then pass on to Sandringham electorate small business proprietors, as to the cause of these blackouts as well as steps that can be taken to prevent this happening in the future.

Regrettably many Sandringham electorate business proprietors and industries are being disempowered by the actions of the present government and the reduction of the baseload power capacity coming out of the Latrobe Valley. It has a serious impact when employers are not able to fill contracts and when service providers are not able to meet the medical needs of their patients.

As we move forward it is imperative that Victoria as a state — which once had the generating capacity to provide employment, through the manufacturing industry and major providers to the industry trade and the manufacturing trade, to apprentices, to leading hands, to specialist tradespeople and to office people and enabled them to compete with the best in the world for manufactured output — has a reliable power supply.

Bentleigh electorate bus services

Mr STAIKOS (Bentleigh) (20:06) — (14 823) My adjournment matter is for the attention of the Minister for Public Transport, and it concerns the new bus route that was funded in the budget. The action that I seek is that the minister provide an update to my community on the progress of that new bus route. It was funded in the last state budget. It will run from Moorabbin station to Chadstone shopping centre via Tucker Road and East Boundary Road, and it will fill some service gaps that we currently have in East Bentleigh. East Bentleigh is of course a large suburb that does not have easy access to a train station, so buses are very important, and this bus route was developed in close consultation with the local community.

While I am talking about buses, it would be remiss of me not to address the metropolitan transport forum in Glen Eira last week. It was a really good discussion in many ways about the future of transport services in the area. The shadow Minister for Public Transport, David Davis, was not a panellist, but he was in the front row. To say that Mr Davis lost the plot while sitting in the front row would be an understatement. He spent the entire night shouting and screaming at the top of his lungs, making a spectacle of himself. He had absolutely nothing positive to add as the shadow Minister for Public Transport, but what was worse than that was that members of the Liberal Party who were present really had nothing to contribute when it comes to commuting and commuters. They made a whole lot of motherhood statements about transport but no real, tangible policies. I know that all of the genuine people who were actually there — once you stripped away the many Young Liberals who were at this meeting — were left scratching their heads as to what this opposition is offering when it comes to public transport.

We outlined record investment in public transport, including level crossing removals, the Metro Tunnel and a \$200 million investment in new and improved bus routes. The Liberals really gave us nothing. I think that David Davis's role in these transport forums is, frankly, just to go around and disrupt them. He did the same thing at the City of Stonnington. Frankly he is a

total disgrace and should be an embarrassment to those opposite.

Responses

Ms NEVILLE (Minister for Police) (20:09) — A number of issues have been raised by a number of members for a range of ministers, and I will pass those matters on to those ministers.

The SPEAKER — The house now stands adjourned.

House adjourned 8.09 p.m.

