

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

31 May and 2 June 2011

(Extract from book 8)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AO, QC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

The ministry

Premier and Minister for the Arts	The Hon. E. N. Baillieu, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Bushfire Response, and Minister for Regional and Rural Development.	The Hon. P. J. Ryan, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. K. A. Wells, MP
Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business, and Minister for Tourism and Major Events	The Hon. Louise Asher, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Finance	The Hon. R. W. Clark, MP
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, and Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade	The Hon. R. A. G. Dalla-Riva, MLC
Minister for Health and Minister for Ageing	The Hon. D. M. Davis, MLC
Minister for Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Veterans' Affairs	The Hon. H. F. Delahunty, MP
Minister for Education	The Hon. M. F. Dixon, MP
Minister for Planning	The Hon. M. J. Guy, MLC
Minister for Higher Education and Skills, and Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession	The Hon. P. R. Hall, MLC
Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship	The Hon. N. Kotsiras, MP
Minister for Housing, and Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development.	The Hon. W. A. Lovell, MLC
Minister for Corrections, Minister for Crime Prevention and Minister responsible for the establishment of an anti-corruption commission	The Hon. A. J. McIntosh, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads	The Hon. T. W. Mulder, MP
Minister for Ports, Minister for Major Projects, Minister for Regional Cities and Minister for Racing	The Hon. D. V. Napthine, MP
Minister for Gaming, Minister for Consumer Affairs, and Minister for Energy and Resources	The Hon. M. A. O'Brien, MP
Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.	The Hon. E. J. Powell, MP
Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Technology and Minister responsible for the Aviation Industry	The Hon. G. K. Rich-Phillips, MLC
Minister for Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. R. Smith, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, and Minister for Water.	The Hon. P. L. Walsh, MP
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women's Affairs and Minister for Community Services	The Hon. M. L. N. Wooldridge, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Mr D. J. Hodgett, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Darveniza, Mr D. M. Davis, Mr P. R. Davis, Mr Hall, Ms Lovell, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Scheffer.

Procedures Committee — The President, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr D. M. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Viney

Legislative Council standing committees

Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee — Mr Barber, Ms Broad, Mrs Coote, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, Ms Pulford, Mr Ramsay and Mr Somyurek.

Economy and Infrastructure References Committee — Mr Barber, Ms Broad, Mrs Coote, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, Ms Pulford, Mr Ramsay and Mr Somyurek.

Environment and Planning Legislation Committee — Mr Elsbury, Mrs Kronberg, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, Mrs Petrovich, Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

Environment and Planning References Committee — Mr Elsbury, Mrs Kronberg, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmarr, Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Brien, Mr O'Donohue, Mrs Petrovich and Mr Viney.

Legal and Social Issues References Committee — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmarr, Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Brien, Mr O'Donohue, Mrs Petrovich and Mr Viney.

Joint committees

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Lovell and Ms Pennicuik. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Ms Hennessy, Mr Holding, Mr McIntosh, Dr Napthine and Mr Walsh.

Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee — (*Council*): Mr Leane, Mr Ramsay and Mr Scheffer.
(*Assembly*): Mr Battin and Mr McCurdy.

Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee — (*Council*): Mrs Peulich. (*Assembly*): Mr Burgess, Mr Foley, Mr Noonan and Mr Shaw.

Education and Training Committee — (*Council*): Mr Elasmarr and Ms Tierney. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Ms Miller and Mr Southwick.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Council*): Mr Finn, Mr Somyurek and Mr Tarlamis. (*Assembly*): Ms Ryall and Mrs Victoria.

Environment and Natural Resources Committee — (*Council*): Mr Koch. (*Assembly*): Mr Bull, Ms Duncan, Mr Pandazopoulos and Ms Wreford.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Mrs Coote and Ms Crozier. (*Assembly*): Mrs Bauer, Ms Halfpenny, Mr McGuire and Mr Wakeling.

House Committee — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*) Mr Drum, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, and Mr P. Davis. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Ms Beattie, Ms Campbell, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Graley, Mr Wakeling and Mr Weller.

Law Reform Committee — (*Council*): Mrs Petrovich. (*Assembly*): Mr Carbines, Ms Garrett, Mr Newton-Brown and Mr Northe.

Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee — (*Council*): Mrs Kronberg and Mr Ondarchie. (*Assembly*): Ms Graley, Ms Hutchins and Ms McLeish.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Mr P. Davis, Mr O'Brien and Mr Pakula. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Ms Hennessey, Mr Morris and Mr Scott.

Road Safety Committee — (*Council*): Mr Elsbury. (*Assembly*): Mr Languiller, Mr Perera, Mr Tilley and Mr Thompson.

Rural and Regional Committee — (*Council*): Mr Drum. (*Assembly*): Mr Howard, Mr Katos, Mr Trezise and Mr Weller.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Mr O'Brien and Mr O'Donohue. (*Assembly*): Ms Campbell, Mr Eren, Mr Gidley, Mr Nardella and Mr Watt.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

Council — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr W. R. Tunnecliffe

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

President: The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President: Mr M. VINEY

Acting Presidents: Ms Crozier, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Mr O'Brien, Ms Pennicuik, Mr Ramsay, Mr Tarlamis

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. D. M. DAVIS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. W. A. LOVELL

Leader of the Opposition:

Mr J. LENDERS

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

Mr G. JENNINGS

Leader of The Nationals:

The Hon. P. R. HALL

Deputy Leader of The Nationals:

Mr D. DRUM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Hon. Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Lenders, Mr John	Southern Metropolitan	ALP
Broad, Ms Candy Celeste	Northern Victoria	ALP	Lovell, Hon. Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP
Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	O'Brien, Mr David Roland Joseph	Western Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Hon. Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Darveniza, Ms Kaye Mary	Northern Victoria	ALP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Davis, Hon. David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pakula, Hon. Martin Philip	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Davis, Mr Philip Rivers	Eastern Victoria	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Petrovich, Mrs Donna-Lee	Northern Victoria	LP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Elsbury, Mr Andrew Warren	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Hon. Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Guy, Hon. Matthew Jason	Northern Metropolitan	LP	Scheffer, Mr Johan Emiel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hall, Hon. Peter Ronald	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Tarlamis, Mr Lee Reginald	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tee, Mr Brian Lennox	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Koch, Mr David Frank	Western Victoria	LP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Kronberg, Mrs Janice Susan	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Viney, Mr Matthew Shaw	Eastern Victoria	ALP

CONTENTS

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

TUESDAY, 31 MAY 2011

<i>Racing: jumps events</i>	1741, 1743
<i>Anzac Day: Villers-Bretonneux</i>	1741
<i>Special schools: Officer</i>	1742
<i>Schools: Doreen</i>	1742
<i>Trams: W-class</i>	1743
<i>SPC Ardmona: future</i>	1744

THURSDAY, 2 JUNE 2011

<i>Ballarat base hospital: helipad</i>	1745
--	------

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

Responses have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Tuesday, 31 May 2011

Racing: jumps events

Raised with: Minister for Racing

Raised by: Hon. M. P. Pakula

Raised on: 6 April 2011

REPLY:

I refer to the matters raised as part of the adjournment debate on 6 April 2011 regarding the future of jumps racing in Victoria and asking that I clarify the government's commitment to the continuation of jumps racing in this state.

The Baillieu coalition government is a strong supporter of jumps racing, as we have demonstrated through a commitment of \$2 million from unclaimed dividends to the industry over the next four years. The importance of Warrnambool's three-day Grand Annual Carnival to the south-west of the state cannot be underestimated, both for the regional racing industry and particularly for the tourist and hospitality operators that rely on major local events for their sustainability.

Decisions about the racing program are the responsibility of Racing Victoria Limited (RVL), the controlling body for thoroughbred racing in Victoria. The safe conduct of jumps racing also remains the responsibility of RVL and I understand that the system of key performance indicators, instituted by RVL last year, which saw a significant reduction in jumps incidents, continues to be in effect in 2011.

The decision RVL made was that hurdle racing in Victoria would continue for three years — the current jumps racing season and two seasons thereafter — and that steeplechasing would be conducted this current season and re-examined at the end of the season.

RVL's jumps review panel monitors all jumps racing events and will therefore review the incident at Warrnambool on Monday 4 April that resulted in Casa Boy being euthanased and the more recent death of Shine The Armour.

I have also asked Racing Victoria to conduct an inquiry into the 5 May incident at Warrnambool in addition to a broader review of spectator safety policy. The safety of spectators at horse racing events is of paramount importance. I have asked Racing Victoria to report back to me on existing spectator safety measures and any recommendations to improve these measures. WorkSafe has already conducted an inspection of the location of the incident and provided initial findings and recommendations to the Warrnambool Racing Club on how to reduce risks to spectators.

You may also be aware that RVL has recently appointed Dr Brian Stewart as its new head of equine welfare and veterinary services. This appointment is in addition to the recent appointment of an equine welfare officer to ensure that the wellbeing of all horses is appropriately observed. These appointments add to the strong commitment of the industry to making sure the safety of all participants, including horses, jockeys and others involved, is paramount.

Anzac Day: Villers-Bretonneux

Raised with: Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Raised by: Mrs Coote

Raised on: 3 May 2011

REPLY:

I am advised that the ceremonies held in the village of Villers-Bretonneux in France and other surrounding villages including Bullecourt after the ANZAC Day dawn service are organised by the local community not the Australian government.

In that context any member of parliament who does visit Villers-Bretonneux for the ANZAC Day dawn service can attend these other services but, if they wish to do so formally, they will need to make any necessary arrangements directly with the relevant community organisation/s through their own electorate offices.

Special schools: Officer

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Mr O'Donohue

Raised on: 4 May 2011

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The government committed to establish a specialist school in Officer serving the communities in Casey and Cardinia municipalities prior to its election in November 2010.

The provision of \$4 million for land acquisition and \$15 million for construction in the 2011–12 state budget is the first step in delivering on this commitment for the local community.

I am pleased to meet with representatives of the group special school for Casey-Cardinia.

Schools: Doreen

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Ms Mikakos

Raised on: 5 May 2011

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The government has made a commitment to focus on upgrading government primary and secondary schools across the state. Priority projects to be included in the building program for the first term of government were identified in the *Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Plan for Education*, released in November 2010. Further schools were identified for capital funding in the Victorian state budget 2011–12, released on 3 May 2011.

The government allocated \$208 million in the 2011–12 state budget to provide quality school infrastructure. This included funding for the purchase of land for a new secondary school in Doreen.

The government will fulfil its commitment to the school community and commission a feasibility study that will examine the residential growth in the area and set a timetable for school planning and construction.

The feasibility study will be given due consideration as part of future budget processes and in determining future priorities for the building program.

Trams: W-class

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Drum

Raised on: 5 May 2011

REPLY:

The coalition government has provided \$8 million in the 2011–12 state budget to restore and trial a limited return to operation of the historic W-class trams. Under the initiative, up to four W-class trams could be restored from storage to operating condition.

As part of a separate project, a City Circle tram has been sent to Bendigo Tramways workshops to undergo restoration works. This will inform the government of the extent of works required to bring W-class trams as close to the original designs as possible within the confines of current safety requirements.

Once completed, it is likely that restoration of W-class trams under the \$8 million program will be awarded to Bendigo Tramways workshops as it is the only specialist workshop with the capability to restore W-class trams.

Racing: jumps events

Raised with: Minister for Racing

Raised by: Ms Pennicuik

Raised on: 5 May 2011

REPLY:

I refer to the matters raised as part of the adjournment debate on 5 May 2011 regarding the future of jumps racing in Victoria and asking that I clarify the government's commitment to the continuation of jumps racing in this state.

The Baillieu coalition government is a strong supporter of jumps racing, as we have demonstrated through a commitment of \$2 million from unclaimed dividends to the industry over the next four years. The importance of Warrnambool's three-day Grand Annual Carnival to the south-west of the state cannot be underestimated, both for the regional racing industry and particularly for the tourist and hospitality operators that rely on major local events for their sustainability.

Decisions about the racing program are the responsibility of Racing Victoria Limited (RVL), the controlling body for thoroughbred racing in Victoria. The safe conduct of jumps racing also remains the responsibility of RVL and I understand that the system of key performance indicators, instituted by RVL last year, which saw a significant reduction in jumps incidents, continues to be in effect in 2011.

The decision RVL made was that hurdle racing in Victoria would continue for three years — the current jumps racing season and two seasons thereafter — and that steeplechasing would be conducted this current season and re-examined at the end of the season.

RVL's jumps review panel monitors all jumps racing events and will therefore review the incident at Warrnambool on Monday 4 April that resulted in Casa Boy being euthanased and the more recent death of Shine The Armour.

I have also asked Racing Victoria to conduct an inquiry into the 5 May incident at Warrnambool in addition to a broader review of spectator safety policy. The safety of spectators at horse racing events is of paramount importance. I have asked Racing Victoria to report back to me on existing spectator safety measures and any recommendations to improve these measures. WorkSafe has already conducted an inspection of the location of the incident and provided initial findings and recommendations to the Warrnambool Racing Club on how to reduce risks to spectators.

You may also be aware that RVL has recently appointed Dr Brian Stewart as its new head of equine welfare and veterinary services. This appointment is in addition to the recent appointment of an equine welfare officer to ensure that the wellbeing of all horses is appropriately observed. These appointments add to the strong commitment of the industry to making sure the safety of all participants, including horses, jockeys and others involved, is paramount.

SPC Ardmona: future

Raised with: Minister for Regional and Rural Development

Raised by: Ms Darveniza

Raised on: 25 May 2011

REPLY:

The Victorian government is strongly committed to supporting the food and beverage sector and, indeed, all manufacturing across regional and rural Victoria.

The CEO of Coca Cola Amatil (CCA), Mr Terry Davis, issued a statement on 4 May 2011, regarding the impact of a number of issues such as the higher Australian dollar, the carbon tax and private label groceries on the Australian food manufacturing sector. Mr Davis also foreshadowed possible further restructuring at SPC Ardmona (SPC) as a consequence of these adverse impacts.

Senior officers from Regional Development Victoria and the Department of Business and Innovation met with SPC senior management on 9 May 2011. At this meeting Mr Vince Pinneri, managing director of SPC, reiterated SPC's commitment to having a presence in regional Victoria and advised that they are presently carrying out a review of company operations, which includes utilisation of their multiple regional sites.

I have arranged to meet with CCA on 1 June 2011.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

Responses have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Thursday, 2 June 2011

Ballarat base hospital: helipad

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Mr Koch

Raised on: 5 May 2011

REPLY:

Ballarat Health Service provides an important service to the Grampians region.

The government has committed to building a helipad at the hospital and is working with the Department of Health and Ballarat Health Service to investigate options for the helipad.

Over the last six years, Ballarat has received, on average, 9 patients per year by helicopter, and transferred out around 20 patients per year by helicopter. Helicopter transfers have increased significantly in 2010-11, with 36 transfers out of Ballarat and 7 transfers into Ballarat so far this year.

Patients leaving Ballarat Health Service by helicopter are generally being transferred to major trauma and treatment centres in Melbourne including the Alfred, Royal Melbourne and Royal Children's hospitals.

Year	Transfers Out	Transfers In
2004-05	18	10
2005-06	19	8
2006-07	16	3
2007-08	19	5
2008-09	21	7
2009-10	25	19
6 year total	118	52