

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**26 and 27 June 2013**

**(Extract from book 9)**

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## **The Governor**

The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

## **The ministry** (from 22 April 2013)

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Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Regional and Rural Development . . . . .	The Hon. P. J. Ryan, MP
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Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Technology and Minister responsible for the Aviation Industry . . . . .	The Hon. G. K. Rich-Phillips, MLC
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Minister for the Arts, Minister for Women's Affairs and Minister for Consumer Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. H. Victoria, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, and Minister for Water. . . . .	The Hon. P. L. Walsh, MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and Minister for Bushfire Response . . . . .	The Hon. K. A. Wells, MP
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Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Mr N. Wakeling, MP

## Legislative Council committees

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

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

## Legislative Council standing committees

**Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee** — Mr Barber, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, #Mr Leane, Mr Lenders, Mr Melhem, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford and Mr Ramsay.

**Economy and Infrastructure References Committee** — Mr Barber, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Mr Leane, Mr Lenders, Mr Melhem, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford and Mr Ramsay.

**Environment and Planning Legislation Committee** — Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, #Mr Tarlamis, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

**Environment and Planning References Committee** — Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, #Mr Tarlamis, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

**Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee** — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, Mr Elsbury, Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Brien, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

**Legal and Social Issues References Committee** — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, Mr Elsbury, Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Brien, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

*# Participating member*

## Joint committees

**Accountability and Oversight Committee** — (*Council*): Mr P. Davis, Mr O'Brien. (*Assembly*): Ms Kanis, Mr McIntosh and Ms Neville.

**Dispute Resolution Committee** — (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Lovell and Ms Pennicuik. (*Assembly*): Mr Clark, Ms Hennessy, Mr Merlino, Dr Naphine 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 Carroll, Mr Foley and Mr Shaw.

**Education and Training Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Elasmr and Mrs Kronberg. (*Assembly*): Mr Battin, Mr Brooks and Mr Crisp.

**Electoral Matters Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Finn, Mrs Peulich, Mr Somyurek and Mr Tarlamis. (*Assembly*): Mr Northe.

**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, Ms Crozier and Mr O'Brien. (*Assembly*): 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 Thomson, Mr Wakeling and Mr Weller.

**Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Viney. (*Assembly*): Ms Hennessy, Mr McIntosh, Mr Newton-Brown and Mr Weller.

**Law Reform Committee** — (*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 and Ms Hutchins.

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee** — (*Council*): Mr O'Brien and Mr Ondarchie. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Ms Hennessey, Mr Morris, Mr Pakula 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 Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Barker, Ms Campbell, Mr Gidley, Mr Nardella, Dr Sykes 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

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**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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**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

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Hall, Hon. Peter Ronald	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
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Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP			

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 26 March 2013

<sup>2</sup> Appointed 8 May 2013



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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.  
Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.  
Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.  
The portfolio of the minister answering the question on notice starts each heading.*

**Wednesday, 26 June 2013**

**Water: Living Ballarat project — funding**

- 156. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water): In relation to the government's commitment of \$1 million on a feasibility study to transform Ballarat into Victoria's first regional living city:
- (1) Has the minister sought and/or received advice from the department on the delivery of the commitment; if so —
    - (a) did that advice recommend a timeline for provision of funding to the project; if so, what was it.
    - (b) did the minister accept the recommendation.
  - (2) Has the minister written to the Premier and/or the Treasurer asking that the feasibility study be included in the 2011–12 state budget.
  - (3) Has the provision for the feasibility study been included in any budget submission made by the minister for the 2011–12 Victorian state budget.
  - (4) Has the minister taken any formal action to ensure the provision of \$1 million for the feasibility study in 2011–12; if so, what was that formal action.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The Minister for Water has received the following advice on the Living Ballarat project from the former Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), as well as the Office of Living Victoria (OLV)—which is now responsible for administering the project:
  - (a) The Living Ballarat project was allocated \$1 million in the 2011–12 Victorian state budget. A Project Control Board (PCB) comprising key stakeholders was established on 13 March 2013 to provide governance for and advice on the project. The PCB will provide advice to OLV's Chief Executive Officer on the optimal integrated water cycle management framework for Ballarat. As part of this role, the PCB is expected to complete its work in the 2013–14 financial year.
  - (b) The Living Ballarat project was allocated \$1 million in the 2011–12 Victorian state budget.
- (2) See answer to 1(b).
- (3) See answer to 1(b).
- (4) See answer to 1(b).

**Education: religious instruction — providers**

- 711. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In relation to section 2.2.11 of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 titled 'Special Religious Instruction' (SRI), the Christian Religious Education (CRE) program and the current provision of CRE in Victorian state schools by ACCESS ministries:

- (1) How many state government schools currently have SRI/CRE programs operating.
- (2) What is the process for approving curriculum for special religious education in Victoria and what authority, if any, has been appointed to assess and approve the CRE curriculum for use in state schools.
- (3) What level of training do volunteers CRE providers undertake.
- (4) Is ACCESS ministries the only current provider of special religious education in state schools; if not, what other providers are there and what percentage of CRE programs are provided by ACCESS ministries.
- (5) How many hours of CRE do ACCESS ministries conduct under its \$500 000 contract.
- (6) Has the department or the minister been approached by any other groups seeking approval for a proposed curriculum or to provide religious education in state schools; if so, what were the groups and what was the outcome.
- (7) In terms of establishing a special (Christian) religious program in a state school, does ACCESS ministries approach the school with an offer to provide a CRE program or does the request come from the school.
- (8) If a school does not wish to offer SRI, is it able to refuse.
- (9) In state schools where CRE is provided, are copies of the CRE curriculum and associated teaching materials readily available from the school for parents to inspect; if so, are these provided to parents without them asking.
- (10) Where parents request that their child not participate in a CRE program, what alternative activities do students undertake; if none, what material or instruction do these children receive instead of CRE classes.
- (11) In relation to the CRE curriculum and the classroom conduct of CRE teachers, has the minister issued any directions or instructions in relation to —
  - (a) representing Christian beliefs as established fact or revealed truth (e.g. ‘God made everything in the world’); and
  - (b) proselytising religion to students who have no religious affinity or have a different (non-Christian) religious affinity.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Special Religious Instruction (SRI) has been provided in Victorian government schools under successive pieces of legislation, and provision for this instruction was retained in the most recent Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (the act).

Under this longstanding practice, independent organisations are approved by the Minister for Education to administer the provision of SRI. At present, five organisations administer the training, accreditation and approval process for volunteer religious instructors in nine faiths. ACCESS ministries provides SRI to the majority of students.

Under law, SRI is based on ‘distinctive religious tenets and beliefs’ and is not included in the Victorian Essential Learning Standards, unlike ‘General Religious Education’ which is defined in the act as ‘education about the major forms of religious thought and expression characteristic of Australian society and other societies in the world.’

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s (the Department) policy on SRI does not allow for proselytising, and any allegations that this condition has been breached should be forwarded to the Department. Parents have complete discretion over their child’s attendance in SRI and schools must make provision for the appropriate supervision of students who do not attend SRI. Parents requiring information about particular SRI programs on offer at their child’s school can contact the principal or the provider directly.

ACCESS ministries also provides separate services under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program. As part of its election commitments, the Victorian government provides a grant of \$500 000 per year until 2014 for the accreditation and training of chaplains and student welfare workers.

**Education: capital works — Victorian Schools Plan**

**714. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In relation to 2011–12 budget paper no. 4, pages 17–28, Capital Works Program — Education and the Victorian Schools Plan to rebuild or modernise all Victorian state schools:

- (1) Does the reduced capital budget allocation of \$208 million in the 2011–12 financial year still allow for the completion of the Victorian Schools Plan by 2016; if not, by what year will the plan now be completed.
- (2) What will the estimated capital cost be as at July 2012 to complete the Victorian Schools Plan.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian government is aware that a number of schools have been involved in planning for building projects under the previous government’s Victorian Schools Plan.

As outlined in ‘Towards Victoria as a Learning Community,’ the government is committed to establishing a more transparent, professional and coherent school capital program that will provide greater transparency around capital funding allocation.

The Victorian government remains committed to investing in priority school infrastructure and ensuring access to quality education services for all Victorians.

For this reason, the Victorian government is investing \$611 million capital funding since 2011 as well as providing an additional \$100 million in additional maintenance funding for schools. As part of this maintenance funding, a condition assessment of all Victorian government school facilities was undertaken to assess the state of the stock, revealing a maintenance backlog of approximately \$420 million.

\$51.5 million was announced as an initial response to the assessment, which will rebuild, renovate or remove the worst facilities in government schools across the State.

As a long-term approach to the maintenance backlog, the government is improving asset management and investment practices by developing an efficient long-term capital pipeline.

Implementation of this capital pipeline will deliver more efficient investment in government school infrastructure at a substantially lower cost per annum than under the Victorian Schools Plan and Building the Education Revolution programs.

**Treasurer: Mordialloc Creek — dredging**

**8556. MR TARLAMIS** — To ask the Assistant Treasurer (for the Treasurer): In relation to the Mordialloc Creek dredging:

- (1) What is the total dollar commitment made to the Mordialloc Creek dredging in the:
  - (a) 2011–12 budget;
  - (b) 2012–13 budget; and
  - (c) 2012–13 budget forecast for 2013–14.
- (2) What is the total dollar expenditure made by the government so far on stage 2 of the Mordialloc Creek dredging.

- (3) What is the total dollar commitment made to Kingston City Council or their representatives for Mordialloc Creek dredging by the government.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Victorian coalition government allocated \$6 million to the Mordialloc Creek dredging project.

**Environment and climate change: contaminated land — management**

**8732. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Health (for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change): With regard to removal of mercury and arsenic from the environment in Victoria:

- (1) What projects are the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (VicEPA) involved with in relation to the removal of mercury from the environment in Victoria.
- (2) What projects are the VicEPA involved with in relation to the removal of arsenic from the environment in Victoria.
- (3) What projects are being funded in Victoria by the state government or associated bodies in relation to the removal of mercury from the environment in Victoria.
- (4) What projects are being funded in Victoria by the state government or associated bodies in relation to the removal of arsenic from the environment in Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) EPA's inspections, notice and audit systems are used to manage the investigation, management and remediation of contaminated sites across Victoria, including mercury contaminated sites.
- (2) As above (Q1). In the gold mining areas of Victoria, arsenic is a naturally occurring compound in soil and rock. Gold mining works create tailings, waste dumps and leftover material which may contain higher concentrations of arsenic than the surrounding area. EPA outlines appropriate management options for this material via standards and guidance.
- (3) The HazWaste Fund is a \$30 million Victorian government program designed to support industry to accelerate reductions in hazardous waste generated in Victoria and to increase remediation of contaminated soils. EPA is currently reviewing the final round of applications to the HazWaste Fund. The fund has supported a range of programs including \$103 000 for a treatment technology for soil contaminated with heavy metals via a new research project at La Trobe University in Bendigo.

The EPA has identified dealing with past pollution' as one of its strategic priorities in its five-year plan. In February 2013, the EPA released its Contaminated Environments Strategy which outlines the key areas and activities which will deliver on this strategic priority.

The Victorian government is committed to ensuring the management of contaminated land minimises the risk of public and environmental health impacts. The government is currently reviewing the policy framework that underpins contaminated environments management in Victoria. This review will consider recommendations relating to the broader policy and regulatory issues arising from the Victorian Auditor General's Office report on contaminated land management in Victoria and the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Potentially Contaminated Land report recently released by the Minister for Planning.

- (4) As above (see answer to question 3).

**Ageing: Allawah Special Care Hostel — bed numbers**

**9205. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Ageing: With regard to the Allawah Special Care Hostel:

- (1) How many high-care beds have closed from 1 December 2010 to 30 June 2011.
- (2) How many low-care beds have closed from 1 December 2010 to 30 June 2011.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) No high-care beds closed from 1 December 2010 to 30 June 2011.
- (2) No low-care beds closed from 1 December 2010 to 30 June 2011.

**Public transport: myki ticketing system — theft**

**9256. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): To date, how many myki vending machines have had cash stolen from them and how much cash has been stolen.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

40 myki machines at 29 railway stations have had cash stolen from them.

Given the matter is subject to an ongoing police investigation, Public Transport Victoria is not in a position to disclose the amount stolen.

**Health: building projects — completion**

**9327. MR TARLAMIS** — To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to government building projects in the health portfolio funded by the Baillieu government, for each project can the minister please provide:

- (a) the names of architects engaged;
- (b) the names of building contractors;
- (c) the commencement date; and
- (d) an estimated completion date.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There are likely hundreds of projects large and small funded by the Department of Health directly or indirectly throughout the state of Victoria.

To compile such a list with the details required would be an unreasonable diversion of department resources. I suggest the member consult contract websites, the budget papers over various years and news releases on the Premier's website to obtain details of many of the capital announcements.

**Health: Frankston Hospital — emergency department**

**9331. MR TARLAMIS** — To ask the Minister for Health: When will the government open the extra 12 short-stay beds promised in 2012 at Frankston Hospital emergency department.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Frankston Hospital emergency department redevelopment project was allocated capital funding of \$39.964 million through the 2012–2013 Victorian state budget.

An early works package to prepare the site for the main construction works has commenced — something of which the Member would have been aware were he to have taken the opportunity to inspect the site, or indeed simply drive by.

The new short stay beds will open after the project is completed.



February 2013—heavy machinery on site ready to commence benching site.

**Health: Frankston Hospital — elective surgery**

**9337. MR TARLAMIS** — To ask the Minister for Health: Will the minister direct extra funding for Frankston Hospital to address the growth in the elective surgery waiting list since June 2011.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Peninsula Health received a 6.6 per cent (\$21.913 million) increase in its funding allocation by the state government in 2012–13 compared to the previous year.

I note the commonwealth funding cuts announced in the MYEFO by the commonwealth government removing \$475 million from Victorian hospitals and that only \$107 million has been restored and that \$368 million promised by the Commonwealth will be withdrawn on 1 July 2013.

I note disappointingly you voted to support the extraordinary commonwealth hospital cut in the Parliament on 11 December 2012.

I remain concerned that the commonwealth cuts to promised funding will be instituted by the commonwealth — Peninsula Health’s cut in 2013–14 will be \$4.47 million — from 1 July 2013.

**Health: surplus land — city of Ballarat**

**9394. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Health: In the period from 1 January 2012, has the Department of Health identified, or been advised of, land owned by the Victorian government that is surplus to requirements and located within Ballarat City Council; and if so —

- (a) what is the address of each property; and
- (b) what action has the government taken to dispose of each property.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Since 1 January 2012, the Department of Health has not identified, or been advised of, land owned by the government that is surplus to requirements and located within Ballarat City Council.

**Community services: surplus land — city of Ballarat**

**9396. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Community Services): In the period from 1 January 2012, has the Department of Human Services identified, or been advised of, land owned by the Victorian government that is surplus to requirements and located within Ballarat City Council; and if so —

- (a) what is the address of each property; and
- (b) what action has the government taken to dispose of each property.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Five sites within the Ballarat City Council have been identified for possible sale.
- (2) The address of each property is generally released when the owner of the land, being the Director of Housing or the Secretary of the Department of Human Services approves the sale of the land.
- (3) There has been one site sold within the City of Ballarat LGA in 2012–2013, at 60 Wattle Avenue, Wendouree.

**Public transport: rail — Croydon station car park**

**9426. MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What plans are being considered by the Department of Transport for upgrades of the station car park, including the construction of additional car parking places, at Croydon railway station.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The department oversees the Public Transport Development Program, which includes funding for various public transport infrastructure improvements. The current focus of the program is the delivery of the government's pre-election commitments, including an upgrade of Balaclava railway station and additional car parking spaces at Syndal railway station. Further railway station improvements will be considered in future budgets

**Public transport: rail — Croydon station upgrade**

**9427. MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What current options are being considered by the Department of Transport for future upgrades of Croydon railway station.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The department oversees the Public Transport Development Program, which includes funding for various public transport infrastructure improvements. The current focus of the program is the delivery of the government's pre-election commitments, including an upgrade of Balaclava railway station and additional car parking spaces at Syndal railway station. Further railway station improvements will be considered in future budgets.

**Public transport: rail — East Ringwood station car park**

**9428. MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What plans are being considered by the Department of Transport for upgrades of the station car park, including the construction of additional car parking places, at East Ringwood railway station.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The department oversees the Public Transport Development Program, which includes funding for various public transport infrastructure improvements. The current focus of the program is the delivery of the government's pre-election commitments, including an upgrade of Balaclava railway station and additional car parking spaces at Syndal railway station. Further railway station improvements will be considered in future budgets.

**Public transport: rail — East Ringwood station upgrade**

**9429. MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What current options are being considered by the Department of Transport for future upgrades of East Ringwood railway station.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The department oversees the Public Transport Development Program, which includes funding for various public transport infrastructure improvements. The current focus of the program is the delivery of the government's pre-election commitments, including an upgrade of Balaclava railway station and additional car parking spaces at Syndal railway station. Further railway station improvements will be considered in future budgets.

**Public transport: rail — Ringwood station car park**

**9430. MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What plans are being considered by the Department of Transport for upgrades of the station car park, including the construction of additional car parking places, at Ringwood railway station.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

On 15 April 2013, the Premier announced that Ringwood railway station would receive a \$66 million upgrade. The Ringwood railway station precinct project will include a station upgrade, a new pedestrian concourse, a reconstruction of the bus interchange, and a new station forecourt and improvements for traffic using the Maroondah Highway

**Public transport: rail — Ringwood station upgrade**

**9431. MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What current options are being considered by the Department of Transport for future upgrades of Ringwood railway station.



**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

On 15 April 2013, the Premier announced that Ringwood railway station would receive a \$66 million upgrade. The Ringwood railway station precinct project will include a station upgrade, a new pedestrian concourse, a reconstruction of the bus interchange, and a new station forecourt and improvements for traffic using the Maroondah Highway.

**Public transport: rail — Heatherdale station car park**

**9432.** **MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What plans are being considered by the Department of Transport for upgrades of the station car park, including the construction of additional car parking places, at Heatherdale railway station.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The department oversees the Public Transport Development Program, which includes funding for various public transport infrastructure improvements. The current focus of the program is the delivery of the government's pre-election commitments, including an upgrade of Balaclava railway station and additional car parking spaces at Syndal railway station. Further railway station improvements will be considered in future budgets.

**Public transport: rail — Heatherdale station upgrade**

**9433.** **MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What current options are being considered by the Department of Transport for future upgrades of Heatherdale railway station.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The department oversees the Public Transport Development Program, which includes funding for various public transport infrastructure improvements. The current focus of the program is the delivery of the government's pre-election commitments, including an upgrade of Balaclava railway station and additional car parking spaces at Syndal railway station. Further railway station improvements will be considered in future budgets.

**Public transport: rail — Mitcham station car park**

**9434.** **MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What plans are being considered by the Department of Transport for upgrades of the station car park, including the construction of additional car parking places, at Mitcham railway station.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The Victorian government committed \$350 million in the 2012–13 Victorian budget to remove level crossings at Springvale Road, Springvale, and Mitcham Road and Rooks Road, Mitcham. The Mitcham level crossing removal project features a new railway station at Mitcham, new bus interchange facilities, new taxi and kiss-and-ride facilities, a new access way for vehicles and buses to access the station car park and a new bicycle and pedestrian path.

**Public transport: rail — Mitcham station upgrade**

**9435.** **MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What current options are being considered by the Department of Transport for future upgrades of Mitcham railway station.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The Victorian government committed \$350 million in the 2012–13 Victorian budget to remove level crossings at Springvale Road, Springvale and Mitcham Road and Rooks Road, Mitcham. The Mitcham level crossing removal project features a new railway station at Mitcham, new bus interchange facilities, new taxi and kiss and ride facilities, a new access way for vehicles and buses to access the station car park and a new bicycle and pedestrian path.

**Public transport: rail — Heathmont station car park**

**9436.** **MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What plans are being considered by the Department of Transport for upgrades of the station car park, including the construction of additional car parking places, at Heathmont railway station.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The department oversees the Public Transport Development Program, which includes funding for various public transport infrastructure improvements. The current focus of the program is the delivery of the government's pre election commitments, including an upgrade of Balaclava railway station and additional car parking spaces at Syndal railway station. Further railway station improvements will be considered in future budgets.

**Public transport: rail — Heathmont station upgrade**

**9437.** **MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What current options are being considered by the Department of Transport for future upgrades of Heathmont railway station.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The department oversees the Public Transport Development Program, which includes funding for various public transport infrastructure improvements. The current focus of the program is the delivery of the government's pre-election commitments, including an upgrade of Balaclava railway station and additional car parking spaces at Syndal railway station. Further railway station improvements will be considered in future budgets.

**Public transport: protective services officers — infringement notices**

**9455.** **MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): During the 2012 calendar year and in 2013 to date, how many infringements were issued by protective services officers (PSOs) and other charges laid as a result of arrests made by PSOs, broken down according to —

- (a) type of offence;
- (b) month of the year; and
- (c) railway station.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities and should be asked of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon. Kim Wells, MP.

**Public transport: rail — Aircraft station**

**9458. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Aircraft train station located in Laverton on the Werribee line, and considering the opening of the Williams Landing train station scheduled for Sunday, 28 April 2013:

- (1) Are there any plans to close the Aircraft railway station; if so, when.
- (2) Will there be changes to bus routes that currently stop at Aircraft train station, which will result in Aircraft train station being bypassed in preference to stopping at the new Williams Landing station; if so, which bus services will be affected.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

- (1) No.
- (2) Bus route 414 from Footscray to Aircraft railway station will be truncated to terminate at Laverton railway station. This service currently services both Laverton and Aircraft stations duplicating the rail line between the two. Bus route 413 from Hoppers Crossing railway station to Laverton railway station via Point Cook town centre and Aircraft railway station will be replaced by a new Point Cook bus network with five new routes all connecting to every second train at Williams Landing or Laverton stations.

**Housing: financial position — review**

**9460. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Housing: In relation to the Auditor-General's report *Access to Public Housing* which states that 'In 2011, the Minister for Housing commissioned a review of the financial position of public housing. The review found that 2011 operating costs exceeded rental revenue by 42 per cent ...', and the 2011 review of the financial position of public housing:

- (1) What financial year did the 2011 review consider.
- (2) What income and expenses were considered in the 2011 review to come to the above finding.
- (3) What were the income and expense amounts for each item considered in the 2011 review.
- (4) Are Housing Debt Assumption costs considered as an annual expense of the housing and community building division.
- (5) What were the administrative costs of the Department of Health's housing and community building division in 2010–11 and 2011–12.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The review considered the period 2006–07 to 2014–15.
- (2) The review considered income from gross rent (less rebates and subsidies). Service charges and sundry revenue together with expenses for: maintenance, rates and taxes, water, security, gardening and cleaning, leasing, insurance, body corporate, portable housing and other costs.
- (3) Income and expense amounts are documented in the DHS annual report.

- (4) The Housing Debt Assumption costs are a debt owed by the Director of Housing.
- (5) The housing and community building division's administrative costs are referenced in the relevant DHS annual report.

**Housing: deed of borrowing — amendment**

**9461. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Housing: In relation to the amendment to the deed of borrowing detailed in the Department of Human Services 2011–12 annual report which states that ‘The main contributor to the department’s net deficit from transactions of \$537 million has been the amendment to the deed of borrowing between the Treasurer and the Director of Housing which resulted in a one-off expense to the department of \$450 million’ (p.65, p. 162 and p. 193):

- (1) Why was the deed of borrowing amended.
- (2) Will the housing and community building division of the Department of Human Services be expected to pay this \$450 million expense.
- (3) Will this expense be considered an operating or administrative cost of public housing in future budgets and financial reviews.
- (4) If payment of this expense is required by the housing and community building division of the Department of Human Services, what are the expected impacts to funding of services provided by the division, including: upgrading and maintenance of public housing; crisis housing and other services; expanding the property portfolio.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Details of the deed of borrowing are referenced in the Department of Human Services 2011–12 annual report.

The amendment to the deed provides greater certainty to the department regarding the payments from the Department to the Treasury.

The amendment does not represent any new obligation on the Department of Human Services but instead means there is greater transparency of existing arrangements.

As the cash payment remains the same as before the amendment to the deed of borrowing, there is no impact to funding of services provided by the department.

**Community services: Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre — staff**

**9469. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development (for the Minister for Community Services): In relation to the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre, what was the total number of staff, not including administrative staff, employed on —

- (a) 1 January 2011;
- (b) 1 July 2011;
- (c) 1 January 2012;
- (d) 1 July 2012; and
- (e) 1 January 2013.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The total number of staff, not including administrative staff, employed at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre was:

- (a) 146 on 1 January 2011;
- (b) 146 on 1 July 2011;
- (c) 150 on 1 January 2012;
- (d) 145 on 1 July 2012; and
- (e) 147 on 1 January 2013.

**Community services: Parkville Youth Residential Centre — staff**

**9470.** **MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development (for the Minister for Community Services): In relation to the Parkville Youth Residential Centre, what was the total number of staff, not including administrative staff, employed on —

- (a) 1 January 2011;
- (b) 1 July 2011;
- (c) 1 January 2012;
- (d) 1 July 2012; and
- (e) 1 January 2013.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The total number of staff, not including administrative staff, employed at the Parkville Youth Residential Centre was:

- (a) 50 on 1 January 2011;
- (b) 49 on 1 July 2011;
- (c) 60 on 1 January 2012;
- (d) 56 on 1 July 2012; and
- (e) 57 on 1 January 2013.

**Youth affairs: National Youth Week — shires of Colac Otway and Corangamite**

**9477.** **MS TIERNEY** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Youth Affairs): In relation to this year's National Youth Week where 90 events were held around the state for people aged between 12 and 25: Why were there no events held in the Colac Otway shire or the Corangamite shire.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Victorian government in partnership with the federal government and beyondblue made available over \$183 000 in grants for more than 90 organisations to hold National Youth Week events across Victoria in April this year.

In November 2012, we invited organisations to apply for National Youth Week grants of up to \$2000, to organise events in National Youth Week 2013. We received 128 applications. Unfortunately none of these were from organisations in the Colac Otway shire or the Corangamite shire.

I am pleased to advise you however that the Victorian government is funding a number of organisations located within these shires to support the involvement and engagement of young people in community activities such as the Engage!, FReeZA and Advance programs.

**Environment and climate change: threatened species — spot-tailed quoll**

**9479. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Health (for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Revised National Recovery Plan for the spot-tailed quoll:

- (1) When did the department first receive a copy of the Revised National Recovery Plan.
- (2) When did the department receive comments from the Threatened Species Advisory Committee in relation to that Revised National Recovery Plan.
- (3) Has the department responded to those comments and, if so, when was that response made and, if not, when does the minister expect that response to be made.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) A draft National Recovery Plan for the spotted-tailed quoll (the plan) was prepared in 2004 by the Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI), in accordance with a contract between the former Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and the former federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

The plan was updated in 2007, and again in 2010. On 22 August 2011, the draft plan was provided to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) for review by the federal Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC).

- (2) On 15 March 2013, SEWPaC provided the TSSC's comments on the draft plan back to the then DSE.
- (3) ARI staff are currently considering the comments from the TSSC before providing a final draft plan to SEWPaC. The final draft plan will be provided to SEWPaC by 30 June 2013.

**Education: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development — staff**

**9480. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister of Education): With regard to the minister's response dated 19 March 2013 to question on notice 9250 where it was stated that 'At the start of this term of government approximately 60 FTE based in regional service centres had formal emergency management responsibilities, and approximately 33 FTE in metropolitan centres were formally delegated emergency management duties': Were there also staff employed on a part-time or casual basis that had formal emergency management responsibilities at the start of this term of government.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The staffing numbers provided to Ms Hartland on 19 March 2013 are full-time equivalent. They include both full-time and part-time staff.

Both full time and part time staff have received training in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's incident management procedures. Incident management teams within the regions have been designed to ensure that surge capacity can be reached during critical incidents, and this includes ensuring that both full time and part time staff have been trained to respond to emergencies.

As a duty of care, all regional staff under the employ of the department are inducted into their workplace's emergency management procedures. This includes any staff engaged on a casual basis.

**Education: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development — staff**

**9481. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister of Education): With regard to the minister’s response dated 19 March 2013 to question on notice 9250 where it was stated that ‘In the new regional structure, there are approximately 124 roles (up to 31 roles with each of the four regions) with formally delegated emergency management responsibilities across rural and metropolitan centres’: How many of these 124 roles are based in rural/regional service centres, i.e. Benalla, Bendigo, Moe, Geelong and Ballarat.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Roles with responsibility for emergency management are flexible across regions, providing greater surge capacity to combine regional and metropolitan resources to respond to emergencies wherever they occur in the state.

In addition, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s centrally located Emergency Management Team is available to respond to incidents across the state, providing additional capacity to manage emergencies.

**Education: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development — staff**

**9482. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister of Education): With regard to the minister’s response dated 19 March 2013 to question on notice 9250 where it was stated that ‘All members of emergency management teams are trained in the Department’s emergency management response protocols’: How many Department of Education staff (FTE and part-time) were members of emergency management response teams at the start of this term of government and how many department of education staff are currently members of emergency response teams.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

At the start of this term of government approximately 60 FTE Department of Education and Early Childhood Development staff based in regional service centres had formal emergency management responsibilities. Approximately 33 FTE staff in metropolitan centres were formally delegated emergency management duties.

In the new regional structure, there are up to 124 roles (up to 31 roles within each of the four regions) with formally delegated emergency management responsibilities across rural and metropolitan centres.

Since 2010, 288 department staff have been trained in emergency management response protocols. Of these staff, 85 per cent are still employed by the department and can provide surge capacity to augment the dedicated emergency response teams.

All staff with emergency management responsibilities are part of the region’s incident management team and can be called upon to respond to an incident.

**Liquor and gaming regulation: Independent political candidates — raffles**

**9483. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Liquor and Gaming Regulation: In relation to the Gambling Regulation Act 2003, section 8.2.3 of which currently acts to exclude Independent political candidates from conducting raffles as they are not a political party:

- (1) Is it the government’s intention to exclude Independent political candidates from conducting raffles to fundraise for their election campaigns.

- (2) Has the government investigated legislative reform options for allowing Independent political candidates to run raffles for the purposes of running a political campaign; if so, what was the outcome of this.
- (3) Will the government consider reforming section 8.2.3 of the Gambling Regulation Act 2003, to allow Independent political candidates to conduct raffles for political purposes.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The Gambling Regulation 2003 Act (the act) only permits minor gaming activities, such as raffles, to be conducted by or on behalf of a declared community and charitable organisation.

The government has not investigated and is not considering legislative reform options in relation to this issue.

**Employment and trade: Colac — job losses**

**9485. MS TIERNEY** — To ask the Assistant Treasurer (for the Minister for Employment and Trade): In relation to a number of issues raised in a recent article in the *Colac Herald* on 1 April 2013 on unemployment including that Colac's unemployment has increased for the fourth quarter in a row and that Colac's unemployment rate is 7.3 per cent, which is higher than at any point in the last four years: What policies or projects will the Napthine government put in place to ensure that the high unemployment rate in Colac will not increase for a fifth quarter in a row.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Victorian government, through the Department of State Development, Business and Innovation, is working closely with industry in Colac to facilitate new investment and business growth opportunities to assist with the generation of new jobs.

As part of the G21 region, industry in Colac is also eligible for support under the Greater Geelong Industry Fund to support new job creation.

The government, through Regional Development Victoria (RDV), has also invested \$810 000 over four years in the Advancing Country Towns project for Colac. This project is supporting the growth of the economy and has projects focused on local workforce planning and new business opportunities.

The government's \$1 billion Regional Growth Fund (RGF) is helping communities like Colac to deliver economic development projects that generate new employment outcomes. The Colac Otway Shire Council continues to work closely with RDV to advance projects under the RGF.

The government and Colac Otway Shire Council have recently worked with local businesses to identify potential employment opportunities in the region. An Employment Fair was recently held in Colac which was attended by the major regional employers looking to recruit skilled employees.

Our Workers in Transition program also supports employees impacted by significant business closures and provides retraining opportunities through access to the Victorian Training Guarantee.

**Racing: jumps racing — Warrnambool**

**9487. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Assistant Treasurer (for the Minister for Racing): In relation to the Premier's statement to the Warrnambool *Standard* on 3 May 2013 that the Warrnambool Jumps Racing May Carnival is 'worth over \$1.5 million in prize money and \$70 million to the local community': What is the evidence base for the Premier's claim of a \$70 million boost to the local community and what is the source of the \$1.5 million in prize money for the Warrnambool Jumps Racing Carnival.



**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The importance of the three-day Warrnambool Racing Carnival to Victoria and to the community of Warrnambool cannot be overstated.

Racing generates more than \$2 billion annually for the Victorian economy and supports jobs for more than 70 000 Victorians. Victorian racing industry studies tell us that almost \$1 billion of the economic benefit and around two-thirds of the employment outcomes accrue in regional Victoria.

The Warrnambool Racing Carnival is recognised as one of Victoria's hallmark tourism events, an honour reserved for only the best, including the AFL Grand Final and the Melbourne Cup. Held in May each year, it is Australia's largest and strongest regional racing carnival. Close to 30 000 people attend the three-day carnival — a large proportion coming from other parts of Victoria as well as interstate.

The influx of visitors brings enormous economic benefit to Warrnambool particularly the hospitality and retail fashion industry. Many visitors also take the opportunity to visit other parts of south-western Victoria while in the region. Together with the benefits arising from training and preparation of horses the economic contribution to the region from the carnival is worth many tens of millions of dollars.

Prize money for Victorian races is primarily funded by the industry from revenue it receives from its joint venture arrangements with Tabcorp. This includes funding for jumps racing prize money.

All jumps industry funding (\$2 million over four years) provided through the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF) for jumps prize money and other jumps racing initiatives is sourced from the unclaimed dividends pool—that is, winning bets that have not been collected by punters. \$100 000 was provided through the VRIF to top up the prize money for the Grand Annual Steeplechase. The remaining prize money was provided by the racing industry. This funding does not come from taxes paid by Victorians.

A significant proportion of this funding for jumps racing has been focused on improving safety and education for horses and jockeys. Over the past two years since the funding has been provided it is encouraging that safety indicators for jumps racing have vastly improved.

**Racing: jumps racing — prize money**

**9488. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Assistant Treasurer (for the Minister for Racing): What is the source of the prize money allocated to the 2013 Victorian Jumps Racing program in each of the following cases:

- (a) \$20 000 for the Maiden Hurdle 3200m, Warrnambool on Tuesday, 30 April 2013;
- (b) \$100 000 for the Open Steeple 3450m, Brierly Steeple N/C, Warrnambool on Tuesday, 30 April 2013;
- (c) \$100 000 for the Open Hurdle 3200m, Galleywood Hurdle SW&P N/C, Warrnambool on Wednesday, 1 May 2013;
- (d) \$20 000 for the Restricted Hurdle 0–120 3200m, Warrnambool on Thursday, 2 May 2013;
- (e) \$250 000 for the Open Steeple 5500m, Grand Annual N/C, Warrnambool on Thursday, 2 May 2013;
- (f) \$20 000 for the Maiden Hurdle 3300m, Mornington on Sunday, 19 May 2013;
- (g) \$100 000 for the Open Hurdle 3300m, Jack Dow Memorial SW&P N/C, Mornington on Sunday 19 May 2013;
- (h) \$100 000 for the Open Steeple 3300m, Great Southern SW&P N/C, Mornington on Sunday, 19 May 2013;
- (i) \$100 000 for the Open Hurdle 3400m, Australian Hurdle N/C, Sportingbet Park Sandown on Saturday, 1 June 2013;

- (j) \$100 000 for the Open Steeple 3900m, Australian Steeple N/C, Sportingbet Park Sandown on Saturday, 1 June 2013;
- (k) \$20 000 for the Maiden Hurdle 3200m, Bendigo on Sunday, 16 June 2013;
- (l) \$100 000 for the Open Hurdle 3200m, Brendan Drechsler Hurdle SW&P N/C, Bendigo on Sunday, 16 June 2013;
- (m) \$100 000 for the Open Steeple 3600m, Moss Trooper SW&P N/C, Bendigo on Saturday, 16 June 2013;
- (n) \$20 000 for the Maiden Hurdle 3200m, Warrnambool on Sunday, 30 June 2013;
- (o) \$100 000 for the Open Hurdle 3600m Kevin Lafferty Qty Hcp N/C, Warrnambool on Sunday, 30 June 2013;
- (p) \$100 000 for the Open Steeple 3450m, Thackeray Qty Hcp N/C, Warrnambool on Sunday, 30 June 2013;
- (q) \$200 000 for the Open Hurdle 3900m, Grand National Hurdle N/C, Sportingbet Park Sandown on Sunday, 14 July 2013;
- (r) \$100 000 for the Open Steeple 3900m, Crisp SW&P N/C, Sportingbet Park Sandown on Sunday, 14 July 2013;
- (s) \$100 000 for the Open Hurdle 3400m, JJ Houlahan SW&P N/C, Sportingbet Park Sandown on Sunday, 28 July 2013; and
- (t) \$250 000 for the Open Steeple 4500m, Grand National Steeple N/C, Sportingbet Park Sandown on Sunday, 28 July 2013.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Prize money for Victorian races is primarily funded by the industry from revenue it receives from its joint venture arrangements with Tabcorp. This includes funding for jumps racing prize money.

All jumps industry funding (\$2 million over four years) provided through the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF) for jumps prize money and other jumps racing initiatives is sourced from the unclaimed dividends pool—that is, winning bets that have not been collected by punters. This funding does not come from taxes paid by Victorians. A significant proportion of this funding has been focused on improving safety and education for horses and jockeys. Over the past two years since the funding has been provided it is encouraging that safety indicators for jumps racing have vastly improved.

To date, \$107 500 has been provided through the VRIF for prize money increases for some of the jumps races identified in the member's question (note: funding for 2013–2014 financial year has not yet been provided).

- (a) Racing Victoria \$20 000
- (b) Racing Victoria \$100 000
- (c) Racing Victoria \$100 000
- (d) Racing Victoria \$20 000
- (e) Racing Victoria \$150 000, Victorian Racing Industry Fund \$100 000
- (f) Racing Victoria \$17 500, Victorian Racing Industry Fund \$2500
- (g) Racing Victoria \$100 000
- (h) Racing Victoria \$100 000
- (i) Racing Victoria \$100 000

- (j) Racing Victoria \$100 000
- (k) Racing Victoria \$17 500, Victorian Racing Industry Fund \$2500
- (l) Racing Victoria \$100 000
- (m) Racing Victoria \$100 000
- (n) Racing Victoria \$17 500, Victorian Racing Industry Fund \$2500
- (o) Racing Victoria \$100 000
- (p) Racing Victoria \$100 000
- (q) Racing Victoria \$200 000
- (r) Racing Victoria \$100 000
- (s) Racing Victoria \$100 000
- (t) Racing Victoria \$200 000, Victorian Racing Industry Fund \$50 000.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Bannockburn supply**

**9489. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Bannockburn of \$6 640 000 —

- (a) Have tenders been received for the area and, if so, how many;
- (b) By what date will the government award the tender;
- (c) Is the government confident that Bannockburn will have gas as at November 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

On 22 May 2013, I announced that Bannockburn is to be connected under this strategy. The government will contribute \$8.976 million to provide natural gas to more than 1400 properties in Bannockburn. The project includes the construction of approximately 8.7 kilometres of supply pipeline and at least 42.04 kilometres of reticulation pipeline, with natural gas expected to reach Bannockburn by the end of 2016.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with SP AusNet, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Bannockburn under the Energy for the Regions Program.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Heathcote supply**

**9490. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Heathcote of \$13 860 000 —

- (a) Have tenders been received for the area, and, if so, how many;
- (b) By what date will the government award the tender;
- (c) Is the government confident that Heathcote will have gas as at November 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns with reticulated natural gas. RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Heathcote under this stage of the Energy for the Regions Program.

The Victorian government remains committed to the connection of the priority towns as identified under the Energy for the Regions Program. Any towns not connected under the fixed subsidy process will be included in a tender process, which will seek to have those towns connected through a compressed or liquefied natural gas supply mechanism.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Invermay supply**

**9491. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Invermay of \$3 370 000 —

- (a) Have tenders been received for the area, and, if so, how many;
- (b) By what date will the government award the tender;
- (c) Is the government confident that Invermay will have gas as at November 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns with reticulated natural gas. RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Invermay under this stage of the Energy for the Regions Program.

The Victorian government remains committed to the connection of the priority towns as identified under the Energy for the Regions Program. Any towns not connected under the fixed subsidy process will be included in a tender process, which will seek to have those towns connected through a compressed or liquefied natural gas supply mechanism.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Koo Wee Rup supply**

**9492. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Koo Wee Rup of \$3 640 000 —

- (a) Have tenders been received for the area, and, if so, how many;
- (b) By what date will the government award the tender;
- (c) Is the government confident that Koo Wee Rup will have gas as at November 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns with reticulated natural gas. RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Koo Wee Rup under this stage of the Energy for the Regions Program.

The Victorian government remains committed to the connection of the priority towns as identified under the Energy for the Regions Program. Any towns not connected under the fixed subsidy process will be included in a tender process, which will seek to have those towns connected through a compressed or liquefied natural gas supply mechanism.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Lakes Entrance supply**

**9493. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Lakes Entrance of \$14 260 000 —

- (a) Have tenders been received for the area, and, if so, how many;
- (b) By what date will the government award the tender;
- (c) Is the government confident that Lakes Entrance will have gas as at November 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns with reticulated natural gas. RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Lakes Entrance under this stage of the Energy for the Regions Program.

The Victorian government remains committed to the connection of the priority towns as identified under the Energy for the Regions Program. Any towns not connected under the fixed subsidy process will be included in a tender process, which will seek to have those towns connected through a compressed or liquefied natural gas supply mechanism.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Maldon supply**

**9494. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Maldon of \$5 840 000 —

- (a) Have tenders been received for the area, and, if so, how many;
- (b) By what date will the government award the tender;
- (c) Is the government confident that Maldon will have gas as at November 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns with reticulated natural gas. RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Maldon under this stage of the Energy for the Regions Program.

The Victorian government remains committed to the connection of the priority towns as identified under the Energy for the Regions Program. Any towns not connected under the fixed subsidy process will be included in a tender process, which will seek to have those towns connected through a compressed or liquefied natural gas supply mechanism.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Marong supply**

**9495. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Marong of \$2 240 000 —

- (a) Have tenders been received for the area, and, if so, how many;
- (b) By what date will the government award the tender;
- (c) Is the government confident that Marong will have gas as at November 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy 'bounty' offers to Victoria's incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns with reticulated natural gas. RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Marong under this stage of the Energy for the Regions Program.

The Victorian government remains committed to the connection of the priority towns as identified under the Energy for the Regions Program. Any towns not connected under the fixed subsidy process will be included in a tender process, which will seek to have those towns connected through a compressed or liquefied natural gas supply mechanism.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Orbost supply**

**9496. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Orbost of \$8 060 000 —

- (a) Have tenders been received for the area, and, if so, how many;
- (b) By what date will the government award the tender;
- (c) Is the government confident that Orbost will have gas as at November 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy 'bounty' offers to Victoria's incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns with reticulated natural gas. RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Orbost under this stage of the Energy for the Regions Program.

The Victorian government remains committed to the connection of the priority towns as identified under the Energy for the Regions Program. Any towns not connected under the fixed subsidy process will be included in a tender process, which will seek to have those towns connected through a compressed or liquefied natural gas supply mechanism.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Terang supply**

**9497. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Terang of \$6 520 000 —

- (a) Have tenders been received for the area, and, if so, how many;
- (b) By what date will the government award the tender;
- (c) Is the government confident that Terang will have gas as at November 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns with reticulated natural gas. RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Terang under this stage of the Energy for the Regions Program.

The Victorian government remains committed to the connection of the priority towns as identified under the Energy for the Regions Program. Any towns not connected under the fixed subsidy process will be included in a tender process, which will seek to have those towns connected through a compressed or liquefied natural gas supply mechanism.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Wandong-Heathcote Junction supply**

**9498. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Wandong-Heathcote Junction of \$3 970 000 —

- (a) Have tenders been received for the area, and, if so, how many;
- (b) By what date will the government award the tender;
- (c) Is the government confident that Wandong-Heathcote Junction will have gas as at November 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.



Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns with reticulated natural gas. RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Wandong-Heathcote Junction under this stage of the Energy for the Regions Program.

The Victorian government remains committed to the connection of the priority towns as identified under the Energy for the Regions Program. Any towns not connected under the fixed subsidy process will be included in a tender process, which will seek to have those towns connected through a compressed or liquefied natural gas supply mechanism.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Warburton supply**

**9499. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Warburton of \$7 880 000 —

- (a) Have tenders been received for the area, and, if so, how many;
- (b) By what date will the government award the tender;
- (c) Is the government confident that Warburton will have gas as at November 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns with reticulated natural gas. RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Warburton under this stage of the Energy for the Regions Program.

The Victorian government remains committed to the connection of the priority towns as identified under the Energy for the Regions Program. Any towns not connected under the fixed subsidy process will be included in a tender process, which will seek to have those towns connected through a compressed or liquefied natural gas supply mechanism.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Winchelsea supply**

**9500. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Winchelsea of \$3 940 000 —

- (a) Have tenders been received for the area, and, if so, how many;
- (b) By what date will the government award the tender;
- (c) Is the government confident that Winchelsea will have gas as at November 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

On 3 June 2013, the Premier and I announced that Winchelsea is the third town to be connected under this strategy. The government will contribute \$4.156 million to provide natural gas to more than 600 properties in Winchelsea. The Project includes the construction of approximately 3.3 kilometres of supply pipeline and at least 14.70 kilometres of reticulation pipeline, with natural gas expected to reach Winchelsea by winter 2016.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with SP AusNet, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Winchelsea under the Energy for the Regions Program.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Avoca supply**

**9501. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the announcement on 30 April 2013 that SP AusNet and the government have reached an agreement for the provision of gas to Avoca:

- (1) How many tenders were received for the project.
- (2) How much was the 'bounty payment' to SP AusNet.
- (3) What is the estimated cost of connection to each domestic residence in Avoca.
- (4) What is the estimated cost of each small commercial and/or industrial connection in Avoca.
- (5) What is the estimated cost of each large commercial and/or industrial connection in Avoca.
- (6) What is the forecast number of properties to be connected at —
  - (a) 27 November 2014;
  - (b) 27 November 2018;
  - (c) 27 November 2022; and
  - (d) 27 November 2026.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura.

The next stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, RDV has received, and is assessing, a number of responses to its fixed subsidy offers for conventional pipeline supply to the 13 remaining priority towns.

On 30 April 2013, I announced that Avoca is to be connected under this strategy. The government will contribute \$8.389 million to provide natural gas to more than 700 properties in Avoca. The Project includes the construction

of approximately 9.3 kilometres of supply pipeline and at least 16.45 kilometres of reticulation pipeline, with natural gas expected to reach Avoca by winter 2016.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations and contract with SP AusNet, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Avoca under the Energy for the Regions Program.



**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.*

*Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.*

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

*The portfolio of the minister answering the question on notice starts each heading.*

**Thursday, 27 June 2013**

**Premier: surplus land — city of Ballarat**

**9401. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Health (for the Premier): In the period from 1 January 2012, has the Department of Premier and Cabinet identified, or been advised of, land owned by the Victorian government that is surplus to requirements and located within Ballarat city council; and if so —

- (a) what is the address of each property; and
- (b) what action has the government taken to dispose of each property.

**ANSWER:**

Since 1 January 2012, the Department of Premier and Cabinet has not been advised of, nor identified, any land owned by the government that is surplus to requirements and located within Ballarat city council.