

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Thursday, 17 October 2013

(Extract from book 13)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

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The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

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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, #Mr Leane, Ms Mikakos, Mrs Millar, Mr O'Brien, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

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

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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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Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Viney, Mr Matthew Shaw	Eastern Victoria	ALP

¹ Resigned 26 March 2013

² Appointed 8 May 2013

³ Resigned 1 July 2013

⁴ Appointed 21 August 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.

Thursday, 17 October 2013

Health: Frankston Hospital bed numbers

9332. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: Are the additional short-stay beds at the Frankston Hospital attached to the Emergency Department.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- The Frankston Hospital Emergency Department redevelopment project (\$39.964 million) was announced in the 2012–2013 Victorian state budget and provides a new emergency department including a 12-bed short-stay unit adjacent to the emergency department.
- Construction is due to commence in July 2013 and the area will be ready for patient use at the end of 2014.

Public transport: myki ticketing system

9453. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): During the 2012 calendar year what was the availability (percentage of time in which the machine was fully functional) of myki machines in the following categories —

- (a) vending machines selling cards at train stations;
- (b) top up vending machines at train stations;
- (c) validators at train stations;
- (d) validators on trams;
- (e) vending machines selling cards on buses;
- (f) top up vending machines on buses; and
- (g) validators on buses.

ANSWER:

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

Information on the availability of myki equipment will be available in Public Transport Victoria's *Track Record* publication when all myki devices and equipment are installed.

Public transport: myki ticketing system

9454. 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 recorded instances, each month, were there of —

- (a) myki vending or validator machines being vandalised; and
- (b) attempts to steal cash from myki vending machines and how much cash was actually stolen.

ANSWER:

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

(a)	January 2012	23
	February 2012	19
	March 2012	21
	April 2012	13
	May 2012	20
	June 2012	61
	July 2012	7
	August 2012	18
	September 2012	63
	October 2012	104
	November 2012	88
	December 2012	76
	January 2013	109
	February 2013	127
	March 2013	81

(b) This matter is subject to an ongoing police investigation, therefore further detail cannot be provided.

Health: Geelong paediatric services

9486. **MS TIERNEY** — To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to waiting periods for families with sick children in Geelong, including those with physical, behavioural and developmental problems, and noting that it has been reported that some paediatricians have simply closed their books, overrun with patient demand, and that waiting times are awful and create a lot of worry for all involved: What is the Napthine government putting in place to address the extremely excessive waiting periods to see a paediatrician in Geelong.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Barwon Health has commenced additional rapid assessment clinics in the Emergency Department for children in Geelong.

Barwon Medicare Local, in partnership with Barwon Health and paediatricians, is developing a healthcare pathway to assist in building capacity and strengthening relationships between general practitioners, Specialists and health services. Paediatric clinical guidelines have been adapted for local use to assist with GP referrals to and from Specialists.

Assistant Treasurer: government information security

9508. **MR SOMYUREK** — To ask the Assistant Treasurer: In relation to discussions at the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearings in 2011 regarding denial of service attacks:

- (1) What work, if any, has progressed within your portfolio to protect the Victorian government from denial of service attacks.
- (2) What broader measures is the government taking to prevent such attacks on service-dependent industries in Victoria, given the Victorian economy is so dependent on the services industry.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Denial of service is one of the many technology security threats faced by the government. It accounts for less than 10 per cent of the cyber security threats and intrusions on the Victorian government, and attempts occur regularly.

The government has aligned itself with best practice policy by adopting the commonwealth Attorney-General's Protective Security Policy Framework and by adopting best practice information security management from the Defence Signals Directorate of the Commonwealth Department of Defence.

From 2011, Victoria commenced a rolling program of information security uplift by departments reviewing and assessing their critical information infrastructure and by strengthening departmental risk and audit committee oversight.

Through the adoption of the Protective Security Policy Framework and best practice information security management, the ability of the government to counter denial of service attacks continues to strengthen.

Protecting the availability and security of government systems is an arms race. We work with our commonwealth colleagues and our international vendors to keep ahead of a broad range of cyber threats and attacks.

Further strengthening of our security posture is committed under the Victorian Government ICT Strategy to continue to implement information security standards to ensure citizen and government data is protected.

The Department of State Development, Business and Innovation continues to collaborate with the commonwealth's Cyber Security Operations Centre and CERT Australia in Canberra on a daily basis, identifying cyber attacks and advising departments on remediation techniques.

By aligning Victoria nationally, we tap into the expertise of CERT Australia. CERT Australia, a division of the Attorney-General's Department provides a single point of contact for cyber security issues affecting Australian businesses.

CERT Australia provides advice and support on cyber threats and vulnerabilities to the owners and operators of Australia's critical infrastructure and other systems of national interest, such as the financial services sector. By using government, industry and international networks, CERT Australia provide our business partners in Victoria with the most useful and effective advice to strengthen our position in the face of threat or attack as soon as possible.

The new Australian Cyber Security Centre to be established this year will bring together experts from CERT Australia, the Defence Signals Directorate, the Defence Intelligence Organisation, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Australian Federal Police, and the Australian Crime Commission to provide advice and support to business.

Employment and trade: building industry

9517. MS TIERNEY — To ask the Assistant Treasurer (for the Minister for Employment and Trade): In relation to the current downturn in the construction industry as quoted on the front page of the *Warrnambool Standard* on 21 May 2013:

- (1) What is the Napthine government doing to address the issue of apprentices being put off amid a downturn in the construction industry in the south-west.
- (2) What is the Napthine government's response to claims that the lack of building projects in Melbourne due to the government's failure to invest in infrastructure projects is causing 'out-of-town' companies to seek work in the south-west at 'cutthroat prices'.
- (3) When will the Napthine government release a jobs plan for the state of Victoria.

ANSWER:

The Napthine government has a coordinated strategy to support employees who have been made redundant across Victoria, which includes support for apprentices.

The Department of State Development, Business and Innovation (DSDBI) operates the Business in Transition Support (BiTS) program which coordinates information and resources from relevant government agencies and service providers and enables access to opportunities such as retraining under the Government's Workers in Transition program.

The Government also supports the Group Training Association of Victoria (GTAV) to provide services specifically for apprentices. The Need an Apprentice program helps apprentices back into the workforce to facilitate the completion of apprenticeships as required, and Apprenticeship Support Officers provide support and guidance to apprentices in Victoria.

DSDBI proactively works with business, industry and local government to facilitate new investment and employment, and works to provide access to support programs for affected employees when industry downsizing occurs.

Victoria's strong budgetary position provides increased capacity for the government to contribute funding to major transformational infrastructure projects. This is enhanced by the government's \$1 billion Regional Growth Fund that is investing in important local infrastructure projects in south west Victoria and across regional Victoria as a whole, which is contributing to new job creation in regional areas.

Securing Victoria's Economy is the coalition government's strategy to strengthen Victoria's economic future. Released in December 2012, it builds on the state's many competitive strengths, including a diverse and flexible economy, a highly skilled workforce, strong export performance, and liveability. It lays out a vision for Victoria's economic future, and sets out key actions to secure Victoria's position as a leading Australian state and regional economic centre engaged with international markets.

Ageing: aged-care bed licences

9531. MS MIKAKOS — To ask the Minister for Ageing: In relation to any of Victoria's public sector residential aged-care facilities: What information is sought from the Department of Health prior to any decision to sell, close or transfer any bed licence to or from a public sector residential aged-care facility.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Decisions regarding the sale, closure or transfer of public sector residential aged-care services are made by the boards of public health services. Matters concerning transfer of bed licences are controlled by the commonwealth government under the Aged Care Act 1997. The Department of Health is available to provide advice if required on questions asked by health services relating to Commonwealth requirements or other obligations.

Environment and climate change: Caulfield Racecourse Reserve

9534. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Minister for Health (for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change):

- (1) Has any Crown land been removed from or added to the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve since 2009.
- (2) Has the government received payment for any Crown land added to the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve, and, if so, what amount.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There have been a number of Crown land parcels exchanged in the general vicinity of Caulfield Racecourse Reserve that as a package have resulted in the Crown receiving a total of 7214 square metres in exchange for 5865 square metres of Crown land being transferred to freehold.

Sections 17 and 18 of the Land (Revocation of Reservations and Other Matters) Act 2009 (the act) provided for the excision of 5865 square metres from the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve. On 1 July 2010 section 17 and 18 of the act came into operation.

As a result the subject land, shown as Crown Allotment 2017 on 'plan A' (attached) and known as the Tabaret car park, became unreserved Crown land and was subsequently granted to the Victorian Amateur Turf Club (incorporating the Melbourne Racing Club) in October 2012.

Section 19 of the act provided for the surrender to the Crown of 954 square metres of Melbourne Racing Club (MRC) freehold land (see 'plan B' attached) for addition to the Caulfield Recourse Reserve. This land formed a small part of the race track proper. The MRC surrendered the land to the Crown in October 2012. As a consequence this land is now part of the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve.

- (2) There was no payment received by the government for the 954 square metres of land added to the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve.

Education: Timboon P-12 School

9560. MS TIERNEY — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In relation to the evacuation and closure of the Timboon P-12 School on 24 June 2013 due to asbestos-related issues:

- (1) When was the government first made aware that there were possible asbestos issues at Timboon P-12.
- (2) How long does the government expect the removal of the asbestos to take.
- (3) What ongoing provisions and programs will the Napthine government put in place to ensure that this incident has the least impact on the staff and students at Timboon P-12.
- (4) When will the government fulfil its promise to fund stage 1 of the school's redevelopment, as was planned and signed off on under the previous state Labor government.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

On 17 June 2013, the principal of Timboon P-12 contacted the Department of Education and Early Childhood relating to a ball damaging eaves which contained asbestos. The department sent a specialist occupational hygienist on Wednesday 19 June 2013 to repair the eaves board and mitigate any potential risks that may have emerged. This is a standard support service that the department provides to all Victorian government schools.

On 24 June 2013 WorkSafe issued a prohibition notice to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, following a site inspection at Timboon P-12 College. The prohibition notice related to the possible presence of friable asbestos, cracked lead-based paint and PCBs. The notice forced the immediate closure of the school, resulting in the relocation of the entire student population.

Immediate and appropriate action was taken in line with the department's Asbestos Management Plan, which complies with asbestos safety legislation and regulations.

An environmental hygienist engaged by the department immediately attended the school to commence an independent assessment of all aspects of the WorkSafe notice. This included immediate air monitoring of the site, which confirmed that there was no airborne asbestos at the school and that students and staff were not at risk. Air monitoring continued at the school during the school holidays, and reported no airborne asbestos fibres.

The department, in close consultation with WorkSafe, developed a plan of remediation and removal works to enable the school to reopen. As a result, on Thursday 27 June 2013, WorkSafe lifted the prohibition notice, allowing students to return to school for their last day of term.

The necessary works identified in consultation with WorkSafe were completed over the school holidays so that students were not present while works were undertaken.

The department will continue to work closely with Timboon P–12 School on its future plans for capital improvements.

The Victorian government is committed to upgrading government primary and secondary schools across the state. The government must also responsibly balance and prioritise the needs of over 1500 government schools in Victoria.

I am aware that a number of schools, like Timboon P–12, were involved in the previous government’s school capital program. Many of those schools received planning money from the government prior to the 2010 state election, but never any money for the delivery of those building programs.

The government will continue to invest in quality school facilities to ensure students have access to the learning environment they deserve.

Education: Bendigo North Primary School site

9565. MS BROAD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): With regard to the former Bendigo North Primary School, State School 1267, site located at the corner of Smith and Nolan Streets, North Bendigo:

- (1) What does the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) plan to do with the now closed school.
- (2) What plans do the DEECD have for the disposal of the land (and buildings) at the site.
- (3) Has this land (and buildings) been declared, or is it intended to be declared as surplus to Victorian government requirements, and, if so, has any land been offered to local government or Victorian government entities for community purposes or any other purposes.
- (4) Has this land (and buildings) been valued by the valuer-general Victoria for any purpose.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

With reference to the former Bendigo North Primary School, State School 1267, site located at the corner of Smith and Nolan Streets, North Bendigo:

- (1) The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development plans to dispose of the site.
- (2) The department is required to work in accordance with requirements established by the Government Land Monitor when disposing of sites.

The site will be first offered to other government departments, then to the local council at a market price determined by the valuer-general.

If there is no interest from any of these agencies, the property will then be offered for public sale by auction or tender.

- (3) The land and buildings have been declared surplus to the department’s requirements. The land has not yet been offered to state or local government entities.
- (4) The land and buildings have not been valued by the valuer-general.

Public transport: myki ticketing system

9830. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): How many of each of the following types of myki are currently on issue —

- (a) full fare;
- (b) concession;
- (c) child; and
- (d) seniors.

ANSWER:

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

- (a) 3 431 861
- (b) 1 246 071
- (c) 512 265
- (d) 809 169

Public transport: myki ticketing system

9831. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): How much revenue has been collected via the following types of myki in 2012–13 —

- (a) full fare;
- (b) concession;
- (c) child; and
- (d) seniors.

ANSWER:

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

- (a) \$506 399 696.97
- (b) \$95 220 423.98 (concession ticket types also include student myki cards)
- (c) \$15 374 405.47
- (d) \$17 766 921.59

Public transport: White Night Melbourne

9832. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the White Night event on 22–23 February 2013:

- (1) How many additional late night/early tram services were run for the event.
- (2) What was the estimated cost of running those services.
- (3) Was a special payment made to Yarra Trams for this purpose; if so, how much was this payment.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) A 30-minute service operated after the normal last service on Saturday night until the normal first on Sunday morning on majority of routes (including 1, 3a, 5, 6, 8, 16, 19, 48, 55, 57, 59, 64, 67, 70, 72, 75, 86, 96, 109 and 112). No additional services were operated on routes 78/9, 82 and City Circle.

No trams operated on St Kilda Rd–Swanston Street between Lonsdale Street and Arts Centre precinct and on Flinders Street between Russell Street and Elizabeth Street from 19:00 hours on Saturday to 07:00 hours on Sunday.

(2 & 3)

Payment was made from Victorian Major Events Company to Yarra Trams of \$160 813.62 to cover all costs associated with the disruptions to normal tram services and for the additional services as outlined above on the night of White Night Melbourne.

Employment and trade: Ballarat job losses

9837. MS TIERNEY — To ask the Assistant Treasurer (for the Minister for Employment and Trade): In relation to the 11 job cuts at Ballarat’s UGL Engineering recently, what assistance will the Napthine government provide workers who have been affected by these job cuts.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

United Group Rail (UGL) has informed the government of 11 job losses at the company’s Ballarat manufacturing plant. In a public statement UGL stated that the recent job losses are ‘Due to the present macroeconomic environment in Australia and a softening demand across its rail operations’.

Despite these redundancies, UGL remains a significant employer in Ballarat with approximately 80 skilled manufacturing employees.

On 3 September 2013 Regional Development Victoria coordinated an information session for affected employees with the relevant government agencies and service providers. This included information on access to retraining opportunities under the Workers in Transition program.

Regional Development Victoria is continuing to liaise with the company on potential job matching with employers in the Ballarat area that may be seeking skilled manufacturing employees.