

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Wednesday, 21 August 2013**

**(Extract from book 10)**

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## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

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

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

*# Participating member*

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**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.

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**Law Reform, Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Mr Scheffer. (*Assembly*): Mr Carroll, Mr McCurdy and Mr Southwick.

**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.

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**Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Barker, Ms Campbell, Mr Gidley, Mr Nardella, Dr Sykes and Mr Watt.

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*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

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Mr D. DRUM

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Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Millar, Mrs Amanda Louise <sup>4</sup>	Northern Victoria	LP
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Kronberg, Mrs Janice Susan	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP			

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Resigned 1 July 2013

<sup>4</sup> 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.*

**Wednesday, 21 August 2013**

**Planning: Waverley Golf Club**

**3806.** **MR TEE** — To ask the Minister for Planning: Since being appointed as Minister for Planning, has the minister discussed any planning matters relating to the Waverley Golf Club with the member for Ferntree Gully.

**ANSWER:**

I have had contact with the following regarding Waverley Golf Club:

James Merlino MP  
Nick Wakeling MP  
Knox City Council  
Waverley Golf Club.

**Planning: Waverley Golf Club**

**3807.** **MR TEE** — To ask the Minister for Planning: Was the member for Ferntree Gully present at any meetings the Minister for Planning has attended regarding the Waverley Golf Club.

**ANSWER:**

I have had contact with the following regarding Waverley Golf Club:

James Merlino MP  
Nick Wakeling MP  
Knox City Council  
Waverley Golf Club.

**Police and emergency services: police**

**8215.** **MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): Is the minister committed to providing a police station, as promised prior to the November 2010 election, in Sebastopol.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

This question was directed to the previous Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Honourable Peter Ryan MP. As I am the current Minister for Police and Emergency Services, I am responding to this question.

The government is committed to providing the necessary infrastructure to ensure that police officers can effectively service their communities, and in the 2011–12 state budget provided over \$30 million for new and upgraded police stations across the state, including at North Ballarat and Sebastopol.

I am pleased to advise that the new 16-hour police station for North Ballarat is now operational and that police have been servicing the community since 1 July 2013. In regard to the Sebastopol commitment, I am advised that

Victoria Police is considering this project in the context of emergency services arrangements for the local community. Consequently, I am unable to provide further information at this stage.

**Police and emergency services: police**

**8256. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to police and police facilities in the Western Metropolitan Region:

- (1) Are there plans for new station facilities at Keilor Downs after the lease on the Keilor Downs Police Station expires in 2015.
- (2) What is the current number of Victorian Police staffing each of the police stations in the region.
- (3) What is the projected increase in —
  - (a) police stations; and
  - (b) Victoria Police staffing each police station.
- (4) How many Victoria Police family violence units are there in the region; if so, where are they located.
- (5) Is there a projected increase for family violence units in the region; if so, how many more units, and where will the units be located.
- (6) How many police stationed in the region are dedicated to family violence work and are they full time or part time.
- (7) Is there a projected increase in dedicated family violence police officers stationed in the region; if so, what is the increase and where will the officers be stationed.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

This question was directed to the previous Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Honourable Peter Ryan MP. I am now the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, I am responding to this question on notice.

- (1) Victoria Police is examining options concerning the location of the Keilor Downs police station upon expiry of the current lease in 2015.
- (2) Collation of the information in the specific format sought by the Honourable member represents an unreasonable diversion of resources by Victoria Police. Police full-time equivalent (FTE) information is therefore provided at the police service area (PSA) level.

**North West Metropolitan Region** (Victoria Police North West Metropolitan Region incorporates all suburbs for the Legislative Council Western Metropolitan Region.)

**Police staffing (FTE) by police service area (PSA) as at 30 June 2013**

<b>Division and PSA</b>	<b>Sworn (FTE)</b>
<b>Regional police resources</b> (These are operational police officers utilised flexibly across the region. They may be located within specific Divisions or PSAs, for example, Family Violence Teams)	1076.29

<b>Division and PSA</b>	<b>Sworn (FTE)</b>
<b>Police allocated to a specific PSA</b> (These officers work with and are supported by officers designated as regional police resources)	
<b>Division 1</b>	
Melbourne	354.16
Yarra	123.42
<b>Division 2</b>	
Hobsons Bay	84.63
Maribyrnong	68.85
Wyndham	87.50
<b>Division 3</b>	
Brimbank	155.97
Melton	80.11
<b>Division 4</b>	
Hume	142.58
Moonee Valley	97.29
Moreland	80.95
<b>Division 5</b>	
Banyule	112.21
Darebin	131.16
Nillumbik	55.21
Whittlesea	113.18
<b>TOTAL, North West Metro Region</b>	<b>2763.51</b>

- (3) Victoria Police has advised of the following projected changes within the North West Metropolitan Region:
- (a) City West Police Complex Project, which includes the relocation of the Melbourne West police station (in division 1 of the North West Metropolitan Region), and a new 24-hour police station in the Kororoit area (in division 3 of the North West Metropolitan Region).
  - (b) Victoria Police staffing of each region and division is regularly reviewed and announcements regarding allocations of police members are made as required. The timing and size of any increases in the number of police officers assigned across Victoria remains the responsibility of the Chief Commissioner of Police.

- (4) Victoria Police advises that, as at 30 June 2013, the following family violence teams (formerly known as family violence units) are located within the North West Metropolitan Region:

Location	Existing Family Violence Teams	No of teams
Division 1	Melbourne North	1
Division 2	Wyndham & Westgate	2
Division 3	Brimbank & Melton	2
Division 4	Hume, Moreland & Moonee Valley	3
Division 5	Darebin, *Banyule & Whittlesea	3

**Note\*:** Covers Banyule and Nillumbik PSAs

- (5) Victoria Police advises that its family violence services across the state, including in the North West Metropolitan Region, are regularly reviewed to ensure that the needs of the community are best met. The number of teams has increased significantly over the past several years and at this stage there are no plans for additional teams.
- (6) Victoria Police advises that addressing family violence is part of the duties of all sworn operational members and some non-operational members. That said, as at June 2013 there were 109 full-time and 2 part-time sworn members specifically dedicated to family violence in the North West Metropolitan Region.

North West Metro Region	Full time	Part time
Regional Family Violence Advisors	5	Nil
Family Violence Court Liaison Officers	3	Nil
Family Violence Teams (11 teams)	60	2
Family Violence Liaison Officers	41	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>2</b>

**Note:** The above data does not include unsworn police staff performing family violence-related duties.

- (7) Victoria Police advises that its family violence resources across the state, including in the North West Metropolitan Region, are regularly reviewed and adjusted to ensure that the needs of the community are best met.

**Children and early childhood development: maternal and child health centres**

**8596. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development: In relation to Victoria’s maternal and child health centres, I seek:

- (1) A list of all the maternal and child health centres operating in Victoria.
- (2) The amount of funding provided to each local government area in respect of maternal and child health services.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

- (1) A list of all the maternal and child health centres operating in Victoria is available at the Maternal and Child Health online centre directory <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/findaservice/Home.aspx>.

- (2) The total state government investment in MCH for 2012–13 is \$55.99 million including the Universal MCH service, the MCH Line and Enhanced MCH service.

The 2012–13 Victorian budget provided record funding for MCH services with an additional \$62.7 million for universal MCH services and \$16.3 million for enhanced maternal and child health services.

**Police and emergency services: firearms**

**9252. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In light of media reports in January 2013:

- (1) How many and what type of firearms have been imported into Victoria annually in 2010, 2011 and 2012.
- (2) How many and what type of firearms have been manufactured in Victoria annually in 2010, 2011 and 2012.
- (3) What happens to firearms that are manufactured for use in films after the films are produced.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Imported Firearms by category								Total number of firearms imported into Victoria <sup>1</sup>	Total number of firearms that were moved interstate or overseas once imported into Victoria <sup>2</sup>
Year	A	B	C	D	E	H	P		
<b>2010</b>	15 169	15 031	119	0	37	2193	701	33 250	22 322
<b>2011</b>	20 922	13 616	113	0	0	2242	855	37 748	21 296
<b>2012</b>	39 451	25 426	136	0	4	1140	777	66 934	31 516

**Explanatory notes: (to be read in conjunction with above table)**

Firearm categories A to E are longarm firearms as defined in section 3 of the Firearms Act 1996. Category H refers to handguns. Category P refers to Paintball Markers.

- (2) In 2012 eight category D and 19 category E firearms were manufactured in Victoria. There were no firearms manufactured in 2010 or 2011.
- (3) A licensed firearm dealer may obtain a permit from the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police to be a theatrical armourer under section 92A of the Firearms Act 1996. This allows them to hire or lend firearms kept under their license for carriage or use outside the licensed premises in the production of film, television, theatrical production or historical re-enactment. A theatrical armourer provides film productions with the use of the firearms only whilst under the supervision of the dealer or employee of the dealer. At all times the firearm remains the property of the theatrical armourer, under the firearm dealers’ licence. Once the firearms are no longer required for the film production, they remain the property of the licensed firearm dealer.

<sup>1</sup> The data also captures firearms already registered to Victorians who are subject to an import permit (e.g. instances where persons are taking them on holiday or bringing them back into Victoria for professional competitions etc).

<sup>2</sup> The vast majority of firearms imported into Victoria are by Licenced Firearms Dealers, as four of Australia’s largest importers of firearms operate out of Victoria.

**Police and emergency services: closed-circuit television cameras**

**9374. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to CCTV cameras in the Ballarat CBD: Do Victoria Police officers have real time access to all footage from CCTV cameras in the Ballarat CBD.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Under an agreement with the City of Ballarat, Victoria Police personnel have real time access to all operating CitySafe CCTV cameras. Police can access footage via equipment in the section sergeant's office or in the locked CCTV control room situated in the Ballarat Police station.

The number of CitySafe CCTV cameras in the Ballarat central business district can be identified on the City of Ballarat's website

<http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/community-cultural/community-safety/citysafe-camera-program.aspx>.

**Police and emergency services: closed-circuit television cameras**

**9375. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to CCTV cameras in the Ballarat CBD: are Victoria Police officers able to review footage recorded by all CCTV cameras in the Ballarat CBD independent of assistance from any other agency or the City of Ballarat and if not, from how many cameras are Victoria Police officers able to do so.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that: trained Victoria Police members can review and download footage recorded by all operating CitySafe cameras in the Ballarat central business district (CBD) independent of assistance from any other agency, including the City of Ballarat.

The number of CitySafe CCTV cameras in the Ballarat CBD can be identified on the City of Ballarat's website <http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/community-cultural/community-safety/citysafe-camera-program.aspx>.

Victoria Police advises that apart from the CitySafe cameras, there are other privately owned and operated CCTV cameras in and around various premises in Ballarat. Footage from these cameras is accessed by police on a request basis.

**Planning: surplus land**

**9398. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Planning: In the period from 1 January 2012, has the Department of Planning and Community Development 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:

The Department of Planning and Community Development is not aware of any land owned by the government which has been identified as surplus to requirements, since 1 January 2012, located within the municipality of Ballarat.

**Police and emergency services: Country Fire Authority**

**9402. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the Country Fire Authority’s (CFA) FireReady app:

- (1) On what date did the CFA become aware of concerns with the mapping on the FireReady app.
- (2) How often has the CFA, fire services commissioner or the Department of Justice made contact with Apple regarding the mapping on the CFA’s FireReady app and on what dates did each contact take place.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- (1) The Country Fire Authority (CFA) first became aware of issues with the mapping function on the CFA FireReady app in late November 2012. The issue became apparent as iPhone and iPad users progressively upgraded to the new operating system software version (iOS 6). The upgraded software included a new mapping system (Apple Maps).
- (2) The CFA first contacted the developer of its FireReady app on 3 December 2012 to discuss possible solutions after receiving reports from users of the app. Contact was initiated with Apple Australia Media on 10 December 2012. The CFA has been working with Apple since this date, progressively resolving the FireReady app mapping issues for iPhone and iPad users.

There are several communication channels available for fire warnings, including radio, television, the Victorian Bushfire Information Line and fire services agency websites. People should not rely on only one source of communication for their fire safety.

**Community services: youth justice**

**9471. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development (for the Minister for Community Services): How many young people in detention on 1 July 2012 and 1 January 2013 were identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander at the —

- (a) Melbourne Youth Justice Facility;
- (b) Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre; and
- (c) Parkville Youth Residential Centre.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

On 1 July 2012, the number of young people in detention identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander were:

- (a) 17 at the Melbourne Youth Justice Facility;
- (b) 10 at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre; and
- (c) 3 at the Parkville Youth Residential Centre.

And on 1 January 2013, the number of young people in detention identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander were:

- (a) 9 at the Melbourne Youth Justice Facility;
- (b) 5 at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre; and
- (c) 4 at the Parkville Youth Residential Centre.

**Agriculture and food security: waterbird protection**

**9502. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): With regard to the Minister’s response to my adjournment matter raised on 20 March 2013:

- (1) What is the species breakdown of the 760 game species that were shot and left in the water at Box Flat Swamp and recovered by investigating officers.
- (2) What is the species breakdown of the 155 non-game species that were shot and left on the water at Box Flat Swamp and recovered by investigating officers.
- (3) Over what time period were the game and non-game species that were shot and left in the water recovered by investigating officers.
- (4) How many licensed duck shooters were present at Box Flat Swamp over the duck hunting opening weekend on 16–17 March 2013.
- (5) Were any Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and/or Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) staff or officers present at Box Flat Swamp over the duck hunting opening weekend in 2013, and, if so, how many and for what time periods.
- (6) Were any DPI and/or DSE staff or officers aware of the number of licensed shooters that were likely to be present at Box Flat Swamp over the duck hunting opening weekend in 2013.
- (7) Was DPI and/or DSE aware that significant numbers of protected species were present at Box Flat Swamp prior to the duck hunting opening weekend in 2013.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) 561 Pink-eared Duck, 9 Black Duck, 136 Grey Teal, 4 Wood Duck, 47 Blue-winged Shoveler and 3 Hardhead comprised the game species recovered by officers at Box Flat Swamp.
- (2) 3 Blue-billed Duck, 104 Freckled Duck, 31 Eurasian Coot, 10 Australian Grebes, 4 Black Swans, 2 Whistling Kites and 1 Richards Pipit comprised the non-game species recovered by officers at Box Flat Swamp.
- (3) Officers attended Box Flat Swamp at approximately 7.30 a.m. on Sunday 17 March 2013 until close of business Tuesday 19 March 2013. Conditions for recovery were difficult given the large area (approximately 250 acres), areas of heavy vegetation and weed beds.
- (4) The investigation is ongoing, however, it is estimated that between 100–150 hunters attended the private wetland over the opening weekend of the duck season.
- (5) Three Department of Environment and Sustainability (DSE) and one Department of Primary Industries (DPI) authorised officers attended Box Flat Swamp to conduct reconnaissance and hunter education duties between 3.30 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. on Friday, 15 March 2013. One DSE and one DPI officer accompanied by two Victoria Police officers attended the site between 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, 16 March 2013. One DSE and one DPI officer also attended the site at 7.00 p.m. until 7.50 p.m. on Saturday, 16 March 2013. On Sunday, 17 March 2013, one DSE and one DPI officer attended the site at approximately 7.30 a.m. Staff observed hunter behaviour before conducting a shoreline survey to look for unrecovered birds. A number of game and protected birds were discovered during the survey at which time further resources were deployed to the site. From 8.30 a.m. until 11.15 a.m., two DSE and six DPI staff collected, identified, recorded and photographed unrecovered birds. Staff left the site at approximately 12 noon. On the following Monday and Tuesday, a team of staff from DPI and DSE continued to search for, identify, record and photograph unrecovered birds.
- (6) Box Flat Swamp has only been filled twice in the last 140 years. The wetland occurs mostly over private land and landowner permission must be gained prior to hunting at the site. The wetland is unknown to the general hunting public and it is not obvious from any major thoroughfare or road. DPI and DSE staff were not aware of the likely number of hunters that might be present, however, given that it was a private wetland which



required landowner permission to hunt on it, the number was likely to be low compared with nearby public wetlands which are open to all licensed hunters.

- (7) This wetland was not known to staff coordinating the Summer Waterfowl Count and was not included in that monitoring program which uses Department of Environment and Primary Industry field staff to collect data from wetlands throughout the state.

**Public transport: Frankston railway line**

**9504. MR TARLAMIS** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Frankston train line funding announcement:

- (1) How much of the \$100 million allocated in the recent budget will be allocated to signal works.
- (2) Of the \$10 million reportedly allocated in 2013–14 how much will be spent on signal works on the Frankston line.
- (3) Of the \$10 million reportedly allocated in 2013–14 how much will be spent on other train line signal upgrades.
- (4) Of the \$10 million reportedly allocated in 2013–14 how much will be spent on train station upgrades, including improved shelters, enhanced passenger information and disability access on the Frankston Line.
- (5) Of the \$10 million reportedly allocated in 2013–14 how much will be spent on train station upgrades, including improved shelters, enhanced passenger information and disability access on train lines other than Frankston.
- (6) Of the \$10 million reportedly allocated how much will be spent on public accessible toilets.
- (7) If any are funded, which stations will these be located at.
- (8) How much of the \$100 million allocated in the recent budget will be allocated to train station upgrades, including improved shelters, enhanced passenger information and disability access on the Frankston line.
- (9) How much of the \$10 million reportedly allocated in the 2013–14 budget will be allocated to planning.
- (10) How much of the \$100 million allocated will be allocated to planning.

**ANSWER:**

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

The Victorian coalition government’s 2013–14 state budget allocated \$100 million over three years towards Bayside rail improvements.

The Bayside rail improvements will enable the new X’Trapolis trains to run on the Frankston line. This project also involves amenity enhancements such as station lighting improvements, new passenger information screens, extra CCTV cameras, extensions to station platform canopies, additional myki readers and disability access improvements.

Further information about this initiative will be available after Public Transport Victoria and Metro have developed a detailed scope and schedule for the works program outlined above.

**Technology: productivity improvements**

**9506. MR SOMYUREK** — To ask the Minister for Technology: What specific steps has the government taken to use technology to improve productivity, given your past comments in relation to the Victorian economy that it needs to move from one driven by population growth to one driven by productivity growth and that the technology portfolio has assisted the driving of this productivity agenda.

**ANSWER:**

The government has implemented a number of initiatives to support the development and use of technologies across the Victorian economy which is critical for lifting productivity and ensuring global competitiveness.

The Victorian government ICT Strategy was recently released which will guide the use of information and communication technology (ICT) across the public sector to improve service delivery.

The government has also implemented a \$150 million suite of integrated strategies for Small Technologies, Biotechnology and ICT under the banner of Victoria's Technology Plan for the Future. These strategies include a range of initiatives to encourage greater adoption and better use of technologies, including:

- the \$5 million *Technology Voucher Program* which enables companies across a diverse range of industries to explore the use of cutting edge technologies to create more competitive products and processes
- the \$18 million *Broadband Enabled Innovation Program* which supports the innovative use of high capacity broadband to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits
- the \$11 million *Digital Futures Fund* which supports the use of information and communication technology (ICT) within small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to transform current business practices and deliver productivity benefits
- the \$15 million *Health Market Validation Program* which supports SMEs to develop new technology solutions that can improve products, processes or services in the public health sector.

**Technology: Victorian Biotechnology Advisory Council**

**9507. MR SOMYUREK** — To ask the Minister for Technology: In relation to the Victorian Biotechnology Advisory Council, which had \$1.2 million allocated for its establishment in the 2011 budget:

- (1) Is this funding sufficient to maintain the council.
- (2) Has the council been performing up to expectations.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that the allocated funding is sufficient to maintain the council. Additional projects developed and implemented under the auspices of the council are supported by biotechnology portfolio funds, through *Victoria's Technology Plan for the Future — Biotechnology* (VTPF).

The council has been involved in several projects and initiatives to date. One major initiative I'd like to highlight is the *Enabling Technologies Skills Strategy — Biotechnology*, which has included initiatives such as:

- The revision of the *Code of Best Practice for Reporting by Life Science Companies* (the code), which I recently launched at the AusMedtech conference in Melbourne in May. A media release pertaining to the code can be found at the Premier's website.
- The BioMentorz 'Secret Sauce of Deal Making' course is a business development course that provides participants with "real world" tools necessary to achieve deal making success, delivered by a highly regarded international faculty of skilled and experienced entrepreneurs. The first course, held for the first time in Australia with the 2012 AusBiotech Conference, has been a success with 25 delegates attending.
- 'Molecules to Medicine' is an on-the-job training and mentoring initiative for early career researchers in translation and commercialisation of biomedical advances. It builds on Victoria's longstanding success and strong reputation in biomedical research by boosting productive output from that research. The program commenced in September 2012 and has attracted double the anticipated numbers of interns and organisations — 9 biomedical research organisations and 30 interns.

In addition to discrete projects and initiatives the council has also provided broader advice on the implementation of VTPF, opportunities within sector, as well as barriers to the growth of the Victorian biotechnology industry.

**Technology: national broadband network**

**9509. MR SOMYUREK** — To ask the Minister for Technology: In relation to a Fairfax media report on 10 April 2013 quoting federal opposition communications spokesman, Mr Malcolm Turnbull, MP, as saying that ‘At least one state government has offered their extensive fibre network for its use’, and the Victorian Government’s submission to the federal inquiry into the Warrnambool exchange fire where it offered to sell the Geelong to Warrnambool fibre-optic link for use in the national broadband network:

- (1) Did the Victorian government make this offer; and
- (2) If so, is the Victorian government willing to invest in a fibre-optic link to improve broadband services in outer suburbs, such as Narre Warren.

**ANSWER:**

Shadow Minister Turnbull’s quote in the Fairfax Media of 10 April refers to state offers to NBN Co to use their fibre networks.

It is on the public record that the government has sought to collaborate with both the commonwealth government and NBN Co to support the rollout of the national broadband network where there are demonstrable benefits to the state, including access to state-owned fibre-optic cable.

For example, the government has funded an extension of the VicTrack fibre network from Geelong to Warrnambool. Construction of this fibre network was complete in May 2013 with services scheduled to become available by August 2013.

The government has offered access to this extension to the commonwealth government for an equivalent exchange with access to commonwealth-funded fibre links in Victoria to support rollout of the national broadband network and other public benefits.

To date the federal Labor government has rejected this proposal.

The government is intending to use the new Geelong to Warrnambool fibre to leverage economic and social benefits. As part of this, my department is currently developing a process to enable private sector access to this link. We expect that the Geelong to Warrnambool fibre will enable ‘fibre exchanges’ and thereby expand the government’s fibre network to other areas of the state.

**Technology: information and communication technology sector**

**9510. MR SOMYUREK** — To ask the Minister for Technology: In relation to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearing on 20 May 2011 where it was noted that one of the key challenges of the information and communication technology sector was the decline of the number of people interested in entering this sector, what has the government done to ensure that the appropriate training has taken place so that the industry has skilled workers when required.

**ANSWER:**

In August 2011, I released *Victoria’s ICT Skills Initiatives 2011–2013* which outlines a set of initiatives to support the ongoing development of a highly skilled ICT workforce in Victoria across three areas:

- Careers awareness — working with education providers and industry to address inaccurate perceptions of ICT careers and to encourage young people to pursue ICT-related courses and careers
- Skills building — enhancing the quality and breadth of tertiary ICT courses and improving the job readiness of ICT graduates

- Growing the workforce — increasing the supply of ICT workers from non-education pathways (such as through skilled migration and increasing participation of women) and developing a highly skilled ICT workforce.

I am pleased to advise that significant progress has been made in delivering key activities including:

- Delivery of informative, interactive events and industry tours across Victoria reaching more than 1600 students as part of the *ICT — Start Here, Go Anywhere* careers awareness campaign. The activities showcase the breadth of opportunities that can stem from a career in ICT
- Nineteen grants have been provided to Victorian universities and TAFEs to deliver work integrated learning opportunities for their students to improve their job readiness and help students transition into ICT careers under the *Technology Skills Work-Integrated Learning* program
- The government is working with the Australian Information Industries Association to develop an ICT vocational educational and training pathways pilot project. The pilot will trial alternative training approaches to ensure a sustainable supply of ICT skilled individuals is available to meet the demands of industry.

The government remains committed to working with industry and education stakeholders to address the ICT skills issues. I recently appointed an ICT skills subcommittee of the Victorian Information and Communication Technology Advisory Committee to provide advice to me on ICT skills and workforce development issues. I look forward to working with the ICT skills subcommittee over the next few months to continue to address this important issue.

### Roads: trucks

**9516. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Roads): In relation to the Moving More with Less policy, which allows freight trucks up to 36.5 metres long on freeways in regional Victoria and by application on local roads to access Melbourne Port:

- (1) Does the government plan to, or have they, conducted assessments of the bridges on proposed 'last mile access' routes to ensure they can safely withstand use by larger heavy vehicles.
- (2) If an assessment of the impact on bridges on last mile access route has been conducted, what were the results.
- (3) Considering no Melbourne trucking companies participated in the first VicRoads trial, does the government intend to undertake another trial or assessment of the impact of heavy vehicles up to 36.5 metres long on local roads, noise levels and pollution where applications for last mile access to the port have been submitted and, if so, when will it be conducted.

### ANSWER:

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

Each last mile access route will be assessed on a case by case basis. This will include consultation with local government to ensure that access is only permitted on those roads that can safely accommodate longer combinations. Where access is required on a local road, the transport operator will be required to obtain written approval from the relevant municipality.

### Roads: Surf Coast Highway–Beach Road, Torquay

**9518. MS TIERNEY** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Roads): In relation to the intersection of Beach Road and the Surf Coast Highway:

- (1) What is VicRoads doing to address the number of collisions that have occurred at the intersection after a petition was presented to the Parliament some time ago calling for traffic lights to be installed at the intersection.
- (2) Will traffic lights be installed at this intersection.

**ANSWER:**

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

The intersection of the Surf Coast Highway and Beach Road is identified in the Surf Coast Shire's structure plan for Torquay to be controlled by traffic signals, to assist future pedestrian and traffic movements at this intersection.

VicRoads has developed a proposal for traffic signals at this intersection in line with the structure plan, and is actively working with the Surf Coast Shire to explore suitable funding opportunities to advance the installation of signals at this location.

**Agriculture and food security: restricted dog breeds**

**9519. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): With regard to the minister's response to question on notice 9339:

- (1) Who is undertaking a review of the implementation of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.
- (2) How many restricted breed dogs have been registered with Victorian local councils since 2010.
- (3) How many owners have appealed council decisions regarding restricted breed dogs and how many have been successful.
- (4) What is the total cost to Victorian local councils of legal challenges to council decisions regarding restricted breed dogs.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Local government councils are the enforcement agency for the Domestic Animals Act 1994. Councils are responsible for adequately reviewing their implementation of the act as part of their Domestic Animal Management Plan. Councils are required to prepare a "Domestic Animal Management Plan" every four years in consultation with the department secretary and must set out methods of evaluating whether the animal control services provided are adequate.
- (2) The Victorian Declared Dog Registry identifies that, between 30 September 2010 and 17 June 2013, there have been 165 restricted breed dogs registered with local councils.
- (3) Information available on the public website ([www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/vic/VCAT](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/vic/VCAT)) reveals that of the 29 appeals made to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, 13 decisions were set aside.
- (4) The total costs of legal challenges regarding restricted breed dogs are unknown as legal costs are not centrally reported, and further, there is no requirement for councils to report these costs.

**Agriculture and food security: canola**

**9520. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security):

- (1) How many hectares of genetically modified canola were grown in Victoria in —
  - (a) 2008;
  - (b) 2009;
  - (c) 2010;
  - (d) 2011;
  - (e) 2012; and
  - (f) 2013.

- (2) How many tonnes of genetically modified canola were delivered to silos in Victoria in —
- (a) 2008;
  - (b) 2009;
  - (c) 2010;
  - (d) 2011;
  - (e) 2012; and
  - (f) 2013.
- (3) How many hectares of non-genetically modified canola were grown in Victoria in —
- (a) 2008;
  - (b) 2009;
  - (c) 2010;
  - (d) 2011;
  - (e) 2012; and
  - (f) 2013.
- (4) How many tonnes of non-genetically modified canola were delivered to silos in Victoria in —
- (a) 2008;
  - (b) 2009;
  - (c) 2010;
  - (d) 2011;
  - (e) 2012; and
  - (f) 2013.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

All genetically modified (GM) canola varieties commercially grown in Victoria have been assessed as safe to human health and the environment by the Commonwealth Office of the Gene Technology Regulator. The Department of Environment and Primary Industries does not require producers or grain handlers to report on the amounts and varieties of canola grown or delivered to Victorian silos. Industry successfully regulates the segregation of GM canola and non-GM canola in Victoria according to market demand.

Industry estimates on Victorian canola plantings and production are publicly available from the Australian Oilseeds Federation website: [www.australianoilseeds.com](http://www.australianoilseeds.com).

**Community services: Youth Justice Mental Health Initiative**

**9526. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Community Services): With regard to the Youth Justice Mental Health Initiative:

- (1) Is funding for this initiative coming to an end on 30 June 2013.
- (2) Will Forensicare receive funding in 2013–14 to continue its work with clients with mental health issues in youth detention.
- (3) Will the Adolescent Forensic Health Service receive funding in 2013–14 to continue its work with clients with mental health issues in youth detention.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) In March 2013, the Minister for Community Services advised all organisations delivering the Youth Justice Mental Health Initiative that funding would be provided on an ongoing recurrent basis from 1 July 2013. Previously, from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013, funding was provided for a limited four-year period only.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Department of Human Services has extended its service agreement with the Adolescent Forensic Health Service to continue delivering health services, including mental health services, until 31 December 2013. New health services, including mental health services, for young people detained in a youth justice centre will commence from 1 January 2014.

**Community services: youth justice**

**9527.** **MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Community Services): With regard to the provision of health services at all youth justice facilities in Victoria:

- (1) Is there a tender process currently underway for health services in youth justice, including mental health services, and, if so, when does the tender process close.
- (2) Has the government made a decision on the successful tender recipient.
- (3) Is it the government's intention that health services, including mental health services, be contracted out to private providers through this tender process.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Yes. Details about the submission are at [www.tenders.vic.gov.au](http://www.tenders.vic.gov.au).
- (2) No. The tender process is still underway. The government has not made a decision about the preferred provider of health services.
- (3) The delivery of health services will be provided by the organisation that best demonstrates its ability to deliver coordinated, comprehensive and high-quality health services to young people detained in custodial centres.

**Community services: youth justice**

**9528.** **MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Community Services): In relation to youth justice programs and services in the community services portfolio: What are the programs and services in your portfolio and how much funding did each program or service receive in the 2013–14 budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for the statutory supervision of young people in the criminal justice system. \$136.3 million has been allocated to the combined Youth Services and Youth Justice output group for the 2013–14 financial year.

The range of activities funded through Youth Services and Youth Justice is available in the DHS Policy and Funding Plan 2012–15 which is published on the department's website.

**Community services: Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality**

**9529.** **MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Community Services): In relation to the Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality (MAPPS): How many youth offenders undertook this program between 1 July 2012 and 1 January 2013.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The number of young people involved with Youth Justice service receiving an individual or group based intervention from the Male Adolescent Program for Positive Sexuality for the period 1 July 2012 to 1 January 2013 is 51 young people found guilty of sexual offences.

**Youth affairs: programs and services**

**9533.** **MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Youth Affairs): With regard to the Youth Affairs portfolio: Which programs and services in the portfolio received funding, and how much funding did each receive, during the following financial years —

- (a) 2011–12;
- (b) 2012–13; and
- (c) 2013–14.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Funding information in relation to the Youth Affairs portfolio for the financial years 2011–12; 2012–13 and 2013–14 can be found in the budget papers for these years.