

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**Tuesday, 5 March 2013**

**(Extract from book 3)**

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## **The Governor**

The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

## **The ministry**

Premier and Minister for the Arts (to 6 March) . . . . .	The Hon. E. N. Baillieu, MP
Premier, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Ports, Minister for Major Projects, Minister for Regional Cities and Minister for Racing (from 6 March) . . . . .	The Hon. D. V. Napthine, MP
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Minister for Planning . . . . .	The Hon. M. J. Guy, MLC
Minister for Higher Education and Skills, and Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession . . . . .	The Hon. P. R. Hall, MLC
Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship . . . . .	The Hon. N. Kotsiras, MP
Minister for Housing, and Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development . . . . .	The Hon. W. A. Lovell, MLC
Minister for Corrections, Minister for Crime Prevention and Minister responsible for the establishment of an anti-corruption commission . . . . .	The Hon. A. J. McIntosh, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads . . . . .	The Hon. T. W. Mulder, MP
Minister for Ports, Minister for Major Projects, Minister for Regional Cities and Minister for Racing (to 6 March) . . . . .	The Hon. D. V. Napthine, MP
Minister for Gaming, Minister for Consumer Affairs, and Minister for Energy and Resources . . . . .	The Hon. M. A. O'Brien, MP
Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. E. J. Powell, MP
Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Technology and Minister responsible for the Aviation Industry . . . . .	The Hon. G. K. Rich-Phillips, MLC
Minister for Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Youth Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. R. Smith, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, and Minister for Water . . . . .	The Hon. P. L. Walsh, MP
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women's Affairs and Minister for Community Services . . . . .	The Hon. M. L. N. Wooldridge, MP
Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Mr D. J. Hodgett, MP

## Legislative Council committees

**Privileges Committee** — Ms Darveniza, Mr D. 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, Ms Broad, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, #Mr Leane, #Mr Lenders, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford, Mr Ramsay and Mr Somyurek.

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

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

**Environment and Planning References Committee** — Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Petrovich, 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, Mr O'Donohue, Mrs Petrovich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

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

*# Participating member*

## Joint committees

**Accountability and Oversight Committee** — (*Council*): Mr O'Brien, Mr O'Donohue. (*Assembly*): Ms Kanis, Ms Richardson and Mr Wakeling.

**Dispute Resolution Committee** — (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Lovell and Ms Pennicuik. (*Assembly*): Mr Clark, Ms Hennessy, Mr Holding, Mr McIntosh, Mr Merlino, Dr Naphthine 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 Ms Tierney. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Ms Miller and Mr Southwick.

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

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

**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Coote, 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 Graley, Mr Wakeling and Mr Weller.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee** — (*Council*): Mr O'Donohue. (*Assembly*): Mr Brooks, 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

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

**President:** The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:** Mr M. VINEY

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

**Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. D. M. DAVIS

**Deputy Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. W. A. LOVELL

**Leader of the Opposition:**

Mr J. LENDERS

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

Mr G. JENNINGS

**Leader of The Nationals:**

The Hon. P. R. HALL

**Deputy Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr D. DRUM

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



# CONTENTS

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## WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

### TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2013

<i>Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex community: health ministerial advisory committee .....</i>	<i>701</i>
<i>Mitcham Senior Citizens Centre: relocation .....</i>	<i>701</i>
<i>Bushfires: emergency communications.....</i>	<i>702</i>





**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Tuesday, 5 March 2013**

**Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex community: health ministerial advisory committee**

**Raised with:** Minister for Health

**Raised by:** Ms Pulford

**Raised on:** 28 November 2012

**REPLY:**

I thank Ms Pulford for raising the matter of the establishment of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (GLBTI) Ministerial Advisory Committee. As Ms Pulford mentioned, this committee has important work to do and I am committed to establishing it as soon as possible.

There were a large number of applications for the committee and we are planning to appoint between 15–20 members. The field of applicants was very strong and came from right across Victoria. In order to ensure a fair and equitable selection process, we decided to interview a significant number. To ensure the best possible coverage of skills, experience and knowledge of the health needs of the different parts of the GLBTI community, I am now carefully considering the outcomes of the interviews in order to make my selections for appointment.

The Baillieu government has shown our strong commitment to improving the health of GLBTI Victorians by delivering on our commitments. In particular, we have already delivered \$4 million over four years to support GLBTI community organisations tackle the problem of suicide in same sex attracted and sex and gender diverse young people under Minister Wooldridge's mental health portfolio.

Minister Wooldridge and I have also shown our direct support to the GLBTI community through the No to Homophobia campaign that we launched in August of last year. I am proud to have been asked by the Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby to speak at this event and I hope that my presence sent a strong message of support to the community.

**Mitcham Senior Citizens Centre: relocation**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government

**Raised by:** Mr Leane

**Raised on:** 5 February 2013

**REPLY:**

I am advised that any new location for the Mitcham Senior Citizens Centre will be a matter for the Whitehorse City Council to decide. It would not be appropriate for me to be involved in such a decision.

Further, while there is no consideration of funding being provided through the Local Government portfolio to assist with the relocation of the Senior Citizens Centre, I have been advised that VicRoads is currently undertaking the formal process of acquisition as outlined in the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986.

I understand that this process allows for fair and reasonable compensation to be paid to Whitehorse City Council as a result of this acquisition.

I thank Mr Leane the Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region for his adjournment and advise that, as this matter sits within the Roads portfolio, any further queries he may have should be directed to my Parliamentary colleague the Hon. Terry Mulder, MP, in his capacity as the Minister for Roads.

### **Bushfires: emergency communications**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police and Emergency Services

**Raised by:** Ms Tierney

**Raised on:** 5 February 2013

#### **REPLY:**

This government greatly respects and values the work of our firefighters and all emergency services personnel in our communities. Country Fire Authority (CFA) volunteers and operational firefighters play a paramount role in protecting the people of Victoria from all manner of disasters.

As you have acknowledged, volunteers and operational officers of the CFA and Department of Sustainability and Environment did an outstanding job evacuating campers from the Great South West Walk, West of Portland, during the large fires between Portland and Dartmoor. It is also due to the dedication of our emergency services personnel that lives were not lost in the fires west of Ballarat during January 2013.

In relation to the community meeting held on 9 January 2013 at the Snake Valley Community Hall to discuss issues arising from the fires west of Ballarat, CFA has advised that this meeting was attended by key personnel from CFA, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Department of Health, Department of Primary Industries, Ambulance Victoria, the mayor of the Shire of Pyrenees and local businesses. Concerns raised by the community have been captured by CFA and are being actioned or, where necessary, referred to the relevant organisation to address.

With regard to communication facilities used by the community, unexpected failures can affect infrastructure during major incidents, as the result of fire damage for example. For this reason, the government and fire authorities urge the public not to rely on one single source of information. Emergency alerts via fixed-line and mobile telephones, radio and television announcements, internet sites and smartphone apps are all means by which the community can remain informed during an incident. I note that radio communications used internally by emergency services personnel for incident management operated well during the incidents to which you refer.

The government understands the frustration of communities in mobile phone coverage 'blackspots'. However, this issue is the exclusive responsibility of the federal government, managed through the Australian Communications and Media Authority. Further information and practical advice on access for mobile services is available at [www.dbcde.gov.au](http://www.dbcde.gov.au).

As radio and television broadcasts, the internet, and mobile phone coverage fall under commonwealth regulation, the Victorian government does not conduct audits on these services.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.