

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

26, 27 and 28 November 2013

(Extract from book 16)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

The ministry (from 22 April 2013)

Premier, Minister for Regional Cities and Minister for Racing	The Hon. D. V. Napthine, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Regional and Rural Development	The Hon. P. J. Ryan, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. M. A. O'Brien, MP
Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business, Minister for Tourism and Major Events, and Minister for Employment and Trade . .	The Hon. Louise Asher, MP
Attorney-General, Minister for Finance and Minister for Industrial Relations.	The Hon. R. W. Clark, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ageing	The Hon. D. M. Davis, MLC
Minister for Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Veterans' Affairs	The Hon. H. F. Delahunty, MP
Minister for Education	The Hon. M. F. Dixon, MP
Minister for Planning	The Hon. M. J. Guy, MLC
Minister for Higher Education and Skills, and Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession	The Hon. P. R. Hall, MLC
Minister for Ports, Minister for Major Projects and Minister for Manufacturing	The Hon. D. J. Hodgett, MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, and Minister for Energy and Resources.	The Hon. N. Kotsiras, MP
Minister for Housing, and Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development	The Hon. W. A. Lovell, MLC
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads	The Hon. T. W. Mulder, MP
Minister for Liquor and Gaming Regulation, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Crime Prevention	The Hon. E. J. O'Donohue, MLC
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 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
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Disability Services and Reform	The Hon. M. L. N. Wooldridge, MP
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, #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.

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*): Ms Allan, Ms Asher, Mr Clark, Ms Hennessy, Mr Merlino, Mr O'Brien and Mr Walsh.

Economic Development, Infrastructure and Outer Suburban/Interface Services Committee — (*Council*): Mr Eideh and Mrs Peulich. (*Assembly*): Mr Burgess, Mrs Fyffe, Mr McGuire and Mr Shaw.

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

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

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

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Hon. Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Lenders, Mr John	Southern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Lovell, Hon. Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP
Broad, Ms Candy Celeste	Northern Victoria	ALP	Melhem, Mr Cesar ²	Western Metropolitan	LP
Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Millar, Mrs Amanda Louise ⁴	Northern Victoria	LP
Dalla-Riva, Hon. Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	O'Brien, Mr David Roland Joseph	Western Victoria	Nats
Darveniza, Ms Kaye Mary	Northern Victoria	ALP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Davis, Hon. David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Davis, Mr Philip Rivers	Eastern Victoria	LP	Pakula, Hon. Martin Philip ¹	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Petrovich, Mrs Donna-Lee ³	Northern Victoria	LP
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Elsbury, Mr Andrew Warren	Western Metropolitan	LP	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Guy, Hon. Matthew Jason	Northern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Hon. Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Hall, Hon. Peter Ronald	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Scheffer, Mr Johan Emiel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tarlamis, Mr Lee Reginald	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Koch, Mr David Frank	Western Victoria	LP	Tee, Mr Brian Lennox	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Kronberg, Mrs Janice Susan	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
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

CONTENTS

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2013

<i>Ambulance services</i>	3953
<i>International students public transport concession.....</i>	3953
<i>Sunshine Leisure Centre learn-to-swim program</i>	3954
<i>Moyston Recreation Reserve</i>	3954
<i>East Werribee railway station</i>	3954
<i>Caroline Springs railway station.....</i>	3955
<i>Australian Wheelchair Handball championships</i>	3955
<i>Burke Road, Glen Iris, level crossing</i>	3956

WEDNESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2013

<i>Vocational education and training: Eastern Victoria Region constituent</i>	3957
---	------

THURSDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2013

<i>Golden Circle Mill Park plant closure.....</i>	3959
---	------

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Tuesday, 26 November 2013

Ambulance services

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Mr Tarlamis

Raised on: 5 September 2013

REPLY:

The Victorian government is investing \$151 million in ambulance services. To date, this investment has seen 215 extra ambulance officers deployed at 38 locations across the state. These extra officers have contributed to a 9.8 per cent increase in the total number of paramedic shifts since July 2010 (as shown below).

Statewide comparison of paramedic shifts July 2010 to July 2013:

July 2010	July 2013	Increase (n)	Increase (%)
292 299	320 897	28 598	9.8%

The government has also provided specific funding of \$12.9 million (over four years) to hospitals, to support initiatives to improve ambulance patient transfer times.

These investments, combined with the ongoing work being undertaken by ambulance and health services staff, have assisted in Frankston Hospital improving its performance against the statewide 40-minute ambulance transfer time indicator by 34 per cent compared to August last year.

International students public transport concession

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Melhem

Raised on: 15 October 2013

REPLY:

International students bring a great deal to Victoria, more than just their investment in their education.

That is why, on 25 October 2013, Premier Napthine announced a generous public transport discount fares arrangement for eligible international students, to be made available in conjunction with education providers.

From the start of 2015, international students at participating educational institutions will be able to purchase a discounted yearly myki pass for public transport.

The travel pass will be available for zones 1 and 2 for use on trains, trams and buses. Passes will also be available in regional cities, pending university participation.

The initiative will be trialled for three years and evaluated progressively.

The details of the arrangement with education providers are still to be determined and will be announced in late 2014.

Sunshine Leisure Centre learn-to-swim program

Raised with: Minister for Local Government

Raised by: Mr Melhem

Raised on: 16 October 2013

REPLY:

The state government, through Sport and Recreation Victoria's Community Facility Funding Program, does provide capital funding to local councils for the planning, building and redevelopment of swimming pools and other leisure facilities. However, the ongoing running costs of these facilities and the levels of service provision are a matter for council, in consultation with the community through the council budget setting process.

Moyston Recreation Reserve

Raised with: Minister for Sport and Recreation

Raised by: Mr O'Brien

Raised on: 17 October 2013

REPLY:

The Victorian coalition government recently announced funding of \$53 000 from the 2014–15 Community Facility Funding Program to upgrade the netball/tennis courts at the Moyston Recreation Reserve as part of the Moyston Multisport Activity Centre Project.

The project will provide a resurfaced netball court suitable for competition as well as two netball warm-up areas, and will enable unstructured participation for sports including tennis, soccer and basketball.

East Werribee railway station

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Melhem

Raised on: 29 October 2013

REPLY:

As you are aware, Public Transport Victoria (PTV) recently released its Network Development Plan for the metropolitan rail network. The plan represents PTV's assessment of how Melbourne's train system needs to evolve to meet the needs of the city and of train passengers in the short, medium and long term.

The plan unfolds in four stages:

1. overcome existing network constraints and provide a strong foundation for further expansion of capacity in the future;
2. introduce a metro-style train system for Melbourne;
3. extend the network into growth areas and existing areas without good access to rail services;
4. prepare for further growth and protect future options.

A new station at Derrimut Road is included in stage 4 of PTV's Network Development Plan — Metropolitan Rail. The proposal does not currently have any funding allocated to it.

Melbourne and regional centres have been growing rapidly in recent years and there are many competing demands for the metropolitan rail network. All initiatives are subject to budget availability following full analysis and prioritisation of proposals in a statewide budget development process. This requires careful and responsible allocation of state funds to the highest priority projects.

Caroline Springs railway station

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Eideh

Raised on: 30 October 2013

REPLY:

A new V/Line railway station is planned at Caroline Springs, on the Melton line between the existing Rockbank and Deer Park stations.

The Victorian government is reviewing the time frame for construction of the new station.

Australian Wheelchair Handball championships

Raised with: Minister for Sport and Recreation

Raised by: Mr Elsbury

Raised on: 30 October 2013

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

I would like to congratulate the Australian Wheelchair Handball team for their results at the recent world championships in Brazil, and being offered the opportunity to host the event in Victoria in 2015.

Over the past two decades, Victoria has built an international reputation for its diverse major events calendar and expertise in delivering world class experiences. This has been recognised with Melbourne named the World's Ultimate Sports City three times by Sport Business International.

Mr Wayne Slattery has met with my department to discuss the opportunity to host the 2015 World Championship in Victoria, and potential funding opportunities that may exist. Mr Slattery outlined the number of international visitors who would likely attend the event and the venues under consideration. He also detailed the likely expenses that would be the responsibility of the organising committee.

My department is in discussions with Mr Slattery to assess the costs and benefits of the event. I have asked to be briefed on this following my department's review.

I wish Mr Slattery all the best.

Burke Road, Glen Iris, level crossing**Raised with: Treasurer****Raised by: Mr Lenders****Raised on: 30 October 2013****REPLY:**

The coalition government is delivering the largest level crossing removal program in Victoria's history.

It has taken the coalition government coming to office to implement a program of grade separation projects across metropolitan Melbourne, and we are continuing the task of delivering these projects under our Metro Level Crossing Blitz Program.

In the past three years we have provided funding of \$418.6 million to completely remove three level crossings at Mitcham and Springvale as well as funding for planning and early works to remove level crossings at St Albans, Blackburn, Ormond, Bayswater, Glen Iris and Murrumbeena. This is in addition to funding the removal of two further level crossings at Andersons Road in Sunshine as part of the Regional Rail Link project.

As part of the blitz the coalition government allocated \$52.3 million in the 2013–14 budget, which has enabled the Burke Road grade separation project in Glen Iris to proceed with planning and early works. This work is being undertaken now, with the preparation of designs and development of options to remove the level crossing well under way.

This work is essential to ensure the project is properly planned and managed. The coalition government won't be making the mistakes made by the former Labor government when they failed to properly plan infrastructure projects.

Removal of the level crossing at Burke Road, Glen Iris, will deliver benefits to train, tram and road users. VicRoads has been working closely with the City of Stonnington and key stakeholders to develop design options for the level crossing removal. In November residents, businesses, and road and public transport users have been invited to provide input into the project to ensure the local community feedback is incorporated into potential design solutions. I encourage the community to have their input into the project through this consultation process.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Wednesday, 27 November 2013

Vocational education and training: Eastern Victoria Region constituent

Raised with: Minister for Higher Education and Skills

Raised by: Mr Scheffer

Raised on: 26 June 2013

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

TAFE institutes regularly assess their delivery locations in line with student demand, the need to ensure financial viability, and to be competitive in the training market.

All TAFE institutes are considering their delivery needs in response to the Refocusing Vocational Training in Victoria changes and the government's response to the TAFE Reform Panel report *A Strong and Sustainable TAFE Sector*.

Swinburne University has been transparent in its dealings with the government, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, local authorities and other interested parties.

Ongoing discussions on the future of Lilydale campus are proceeding with Swinburne University, local authorities and training providers to ensure all options are thoroughly explored so that training may continue to be provided in the area.

In the meantime, I encourage Ms Burnham and her son to visit the Victorian Skills Gateway to explore the range of training providers offering computer programming which may be more accessible to him. The Gateway is an online one-stop shop for information on vocational education and training in Victoria.

As at 5 July 2013, there were over 10 training providers offering subsidised enrolments in the Diploma of Information Technology in Victoria, a number of whom offer flexible and/or part-time training options. Students can now match their career aspirations to the right training and find out about their job prospects. The Gateway is accessible through: www.education.vic.gov.au/victorianskillsgateway.

Ms Burnham and her son may also wish to investigate training pathway options through a Learn Local provider in the Lilydale area. Community organisations in the Learn Local network offer education and training with a focus on tailoring programs for the learner. Further information about enrolment in a Learn Local course can be found at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/learners/learnlocal/pages/enrol.aspx>.

The government has also retained concession fees for subsidised training places to protect low-income students. Students with an eligible concession card will only pay 20 per cent of the standard course fee in qualifications up to a certificate IV level. Students studying a diploma qualification or above may also be eligible to access an income-contingent loan to assist them with tuition costs through the commonwealth government's VET FEE-HELP scheme.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

3958

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 27 November 2013

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Thursday, 28 November 2013

Golden Circle Mill Park plant closure

Raised with: Minister for Manufacturing

Raised by: Mr Somyurek

Raised on: 30 October 2013

REPLY:

On 24 October 2013, I became aware of Golden Circle's intention to consolidate beverage manufacturing to its facility in Northgate in Queensland when the company issued a media release. Attached is a copy of their media release which explains why the company took this decision. The company did not seek any form of assistance from the Victorian government.

I have been advised the company has developed an employment program for retrenched workers in conjunction with a staffing company, assisting them with outplacement and training services.

The coalition government has spoken to the company about the criteria for retraining under the Workers in Transition program. The Victorian government will continue to monitor progress and assist the transition throughout the next five months.



Golden Circle Limited (ABN 85 054 355 618)

280 Earnshaw Rd P.O. Box 106 Telephone + 617 3266 0000

Golden Circle announces consolidation of operations to Queensland

Golden Circle announced today that it will consolidate beverage manufacturing, transferring the production of beverages from its Victorian Mill Park plant to its existing facility in Northgate, Queensland. The decision to consolidate manufacturing in Australia is a critical step in the company's plan to become more competitive in a challenging environment, and to accelerate future growth.

The transfer of production to Northgate will lead to the closure of the Mill Park site in March, or shortly thereafter, affecting 123 employees who will be made redundant. Each employee will receive a redundancy package in accordance with the requisite union agreement or their employment contract, as appropriate.

As part of this move, Golden Circle will invest a further \$8 million in its Queensland beverage manufacturing facility at Northgate, taking the total investment in the facility to approximately \$30 million since 2011.

General Manager of Manufacturing, Simon Leonard, said the decision to transfer production volumes from Mill Park was not one that was taken lightly.

"The transfer of the Mill Park production will allow us to redirect investment to our Northgate facility which will ensure Golden Circle remains a competitive local manufacturer for the long term."

"This is in no way reflective of the performance of the Golden Circle team at Mill Park. The site is small and the capital investment required makes it too costly to continue to operate," said Mr Leonard.

"Our first priority is to work with the affected employees and their families, and every effort will be made to provide them with the necessary assistance to help them transition through this phase. Both counselling and outplacement services will be made available," said Mr Leonard.

For additional information please contact:

Siobhan Koopmans
Haystac
0430 062 288

Jim Stilladis
Haystac
0414 534 703

****ENDS****