

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

29 and 31 October 2013

(Extract from book 14)

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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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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.

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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.

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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.

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

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

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

Council — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr W. R. Tunnecliffe

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

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Deputy Leader of the Government:

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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
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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
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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

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WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Tuesday, 29 October 2013

Western suburbs: truck action plan

Raised with: Minister for Roads

Raised by: Mr Eideh

Raised on: 12 June 2013

REPLY:

The Victorian government coalition government is advancing the east–west link which will provide significant benefits to Melbourne by providing an alternative to the Monash and West Gate freeways for east–west travel. East–west link will alleviate congestion and will help to shift trucks in inner west Melbourne from local and arterial roads to the freeway network.

VicRoads continues to enforce truck curfews in Yarraville. However, enforcement is only one way of achieving compliance with truck curfews.

VicRoads recently began an initiative to achieve greater compliance with truck curfews, which includes improvements to curfew signage, education of truck operators and drivers about the truck curfews and the importance of complying with the curfews and a stronger enforcement program over the coming months.

Since the installation of truck curfews in the Yarraville area, VicRoads has continued to monitor usage of roads by trucks to ensure that the curfews are effective. Annual traffic counts are undertaken that measure the volume of all traffic passing a particular location, including the number of trucks. Traffic counts in 2012 demonstrate that on Francis Street, west of Williamstown Road, truck numbers were down 70 per cent against the same time prior to the curfews being implemented.

Rail: St Albans level crossings

Raised with: Minister for Roads

Raised by: Mr Eideh

Raised on: 27 June 2013

REPLY:

The Victorian government has recently provided a \$52.3 million funding boost under the Metro Level Crossing Removal Blitz program, for seven dangerous level crossings, including the level crossing on Main Road in St Albans.

This funding boost will now allow essential activities to be undertaken at Main Road, St Albans, to clear the way for major construction works. These activities include relocating existing railway siding tracks, obtaining environmental permits, finalising work to reserve land for the project, refining the project designs, undertaking detailed onsite engineering surveys, and relocating utility services.

The Furlong Road level crossing will be considered in future programs and evaluated on a statewide basis for funding consideration.

Healesville tourist precinct group

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Ms Broad

Raised on: 21 August 2013

REPLY:

VicTrack has completed a land swap with the Shire of Yarra Ranges involving exchanging railway land at Healesville for land owned by the council at Mooroolbark.

The Victorian government has worked hard over several years to effect the swap in such a way that the value of each parcel was equal and to secure the agreement of the Yarra Valley Tourist Railway as a key stakeholder in the process.

The land swap has delivered a great win-win outcome for Mooroolbark commuters and the Healesville community.

The land swap enabled the Victorian government to upgrade the land at Mooroolbark to provide more commuter parking and has created opportunities for additional community recreation at Healesville.

SEDA arts program

Raised with: Minister for Higher Education and Skills

Raised by: Mrs Coote

Raised on: 17 September 2013

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

I would like to formally acknowledge the special place which the Port Phillip Specialist School, indeed all our specialist and special development schools, have within the Victorian government school education system. Port Phillip Specialist School excels in meeting the learning and development needs of young people with disabilities for whom mainstream schools do not have the breadth of expertise among their staff or the specialised infrastructure necessary to support their learning programs. Port Phillip Specialist School is truly special, not just because it caters for a diverse population of students with mild to severe intellectual disabilities from age 2.5 (Early Education Program) to 18 years of age, but because of the way that it is structured.

First, the school uses a fully serviced school model. This unique, holistic approach to service provision has received national and international recognition as a best practice model for schooling children with special needs. This approach means that a wide range of educational, medical, paramedical, and mental health services can operate simultaneously in a single environment to maximise each child's opportunity for learning. The school also has extensive connections with local health providers who supply services for students attending our school.

Second, the school uses an integrated model of service delivery. When teachers, specialists, and therapists collaborate in an integrated service delivery model, each brings a unique knowledge, including an understanding of the curriculum, materials, and classroom management techniques. The knowledge base of these collaborators is continually evolving as they search for instructional approaches that assist the learning efforts of children with special needs. This model ensures that students are learning efficiently more of the time. The model also requires that staff work collaboratively in teams to set appropriate goals, ensure that goals are achieved (as everyone is working toward shared goals), and write appropriate reports. Many of the therapy practices are embedded into the curriculum as part of daily practices.

Port Phillip is set apart, undoubtedly by the third leg of its structure: curriculum. The school has developed an innovative approach to the delivery of curriculum that employs the power of the arts as a vehicle to engage students

with learning in Literacy, Numeracy and Living Skills. This model is called the Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum (VPAC). It uses dance, drama, music and visual arts as a means to engage special needs students in learning skills that will ensure they reach their potential and are able to function as independently as possible. The school teaches English (reading and writing, speaking and listening), mathematics and living skills and delivers the standard VELS curriculum through the VPAC curriculum.

A key component of VPAC is the integration of therapy services with a wide range of therapists working closely with class teachers and specialist subject teachers to plan and deliver programs to students. Student engagement with VPAC is planned and monitored through a computerised database that has been specifically developed to support this model. It is called Learning With Purpose (LWP) and enables staff to tailor teaching to the needs of their students.

As a result, Port Phillip Specialist School offers a unique and innovative model for teaching students with disabilities. Current research evidence supports the power of visual and performing arts impacting cognitive development and in motivating and engaging students in the learning process. The arts provide a vehicle for highly meaningful interaction and in engagement curriculum delivery.

As the honourable member for Southern Metropolitan has described, it is in this environment that the students undertaking the community placement component of the SEDA Arts Development Diploma program recently found themselves, working with and supporting younger school students, who had a range of disabilities, with their learning program. The experience which the diploma students have had will, I believe, stay with them for the rest of their lives and for some, may have an impact on their career pathway. I am aware that SEDA has had a number of discussions with departmental officers on a range of matters since its establishment in 2006 and further discussions are always encouraged between the department and training providers.

However, while the partnership between Port Phillip Specialist School and SEDA as a non-school provider of senior secondary programs is special, it is by no means unique. Schools are partnering every day with a wide range of organisations, many of which are TAFEs and other registered training organisations, to provide structured work placements for school students undertaking vocational education programs as part of their senior secondary certificate. A number of these vocational education programs are in areas similar to disabilities. They include community services and health and aged care. These placements are an important component of a student's learning program.

The department actively encourages, supports and, in some cases facilitates and funds these partnerships. One of these will be very familiar to the honourable member for Southern Metropolitan — the Community VCAL program run by the Brotherhood of St Laurence in High Street Frankston. A number of government schools have partnered with the Brotherhood in this important and, I understand, highly successful program. The department has also provided a significant level of funding to the Brotherhood so that it can document the processes, procedures, structures and practices of this project in order to produce a Good Practice Guide for Community VCAL which can be used as a roadmap for other community organisations and schools across the state to develop their own unique programs. I understand the guide will be available next year and will be supported by professional development opportunities.

Victorian virtual learning network

Raised with: Minister for Technology

Raised by: Mr Somyurek

Raised on: 17 September 2013

REPLY:

Bendigo Senior Secondary College's Towards a Victorian Virtual School project utilises the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's VicSmart wide area broadband network to deliver VCE subjects such as Specialist Maths and Physics to more than 85 students from 26 rural and regional schools across Victoria.

The project utilises software such as Moodle, Skype and Adobe Connect to support interactive learning and students can access course material at any time during the school day. Courses have been developed with known levels of connectivity, which ranges from 10Mb to 50Mb for the participating schools through the VicSmart network and school LANs.

An offline mode is also available allowing students with limited internet bandwidth in the home to download multimedia content and access course material with no disadvantage.

VicSmart provides Victorian government schools with a standard 10, 20, 50 or 100 megabit per second (10/20/50/100Mbps) fibre optic bandwidth connection, which can be upgraded at a cost upon request by individual schools. Bendigo Senior Secondary College presently has a connection speed of 100 Mbps.

Shire of Colac Otway chief executive officer

Raised with: Minister for Local Government

Raised by: Mr Barber

Raised on: 19 September 2013

REPLY:

As has been reported in media, the member for Western Victoria, Mr Ramsay, has written to me in my capacity as Minister for Local Government raising certain matters in relation to the administration of the Colac Otway Shire Council. It is not my intention to release a copy of Mr Ramsay's letter.

As members of Parliament would expect, my intention in terms of progressing the matter is that I have considered Mr Ramsay's correspondence, I have sought advice from the Colac Otway Shire Council, I have consulted both the council's Staff Code of Conduct and the council's Councillor Code of Conduct and am responding direct to the member.

Mr Ramsay has made active representations on behalf of constituents of Western Victoria Region, in this instance organising with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority to host a briefing for members of the community on agricultural land mapping issues. Coalition Members of Parliament are strong representatives for their communities.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Thursday, 31 October 2013

Office of Living Victoria green paper

Raised with: Minister for Water

Raised by: Mr Lenders

Raised on: 19 September 2013

REPLY:

The Office of Living Victoria (OLV) released a consultation draft of Melbourne's Water Future on 1 July 2013. OLV's process for peer review of the draft strategy has enabled key stakeholders and the general public to be directly involved in its development. This process has included:

- Rigorous and thorough consultation on the draft strategy, including detailed briefings with key stakeholders and the general public.
 - A total of nine community discussion forums were held from 5 to 15 August 2013 in a mix of established and growth areas including Melbourne CBD, Epping, Mordialloc, Pakenham, Frankston, Werribee, Essendon, Box Hill and Oakleigh. A total of 148 people registered to attend a community forum and 40 attendees completed hard copy surveys on the strategy;
 - Stakeholder briefings were held before and after the release of the draft strategy. Over 120 individual and group consultations have taken place with key stakeholders including water authorities; state government departments; local government authorities; developers; industry and sector associations; community groups; and environmental groups.
- Promoting the release of the draft strategy. Metropolitan and print advertising occurred across the following media between 1 July and 18 September 2013:
 - *The Age*;
 - Nine local newspapers corresponding with nine community discussion forum locations — Mordialloc/Chelsea, Berwick/Pakenham, Frankston, Box Hill, Epping, Waverley/Oakleigh, Werribee, Essendon);
 - Three metropolitan radio stations (3AW, Smooth FM, Gold FM); and
 - Culturally and linguistically diverse media (*An Nahar*, *El Telegraph*, *21st Century Chinese News*, *The Pacific Times*, *Neos Kosmos*, *Ta Nea*, *Il Globo*, *Ti Vi Tuan San*, *Viet Times*).
- Making the draft strategy publicly available and inviting submissions on it. Copies of the draft strategy were provided to key stakeholders and it was also published on the Living Victoria website (www.livingvictoria.vic.gov.au).

A total of 134 people completed an electronic short survey, 3 people completed a detailed questionnaire and 49 written submissions have been received.

The formal consultation period for the draft strategy closed on 18 September 2013. OLV is currently analysing all feedback received on the draft strategy, with a view to releasing a revised, final strategy by the end of 2013.

Albert Park Lake master plan

Raised with: Minister for Environment and Climate Change

Raised by: Ms Crozier

Raised on: 19 September 2013

REPLY:

Albert Park is one of Victoria's most popular parks and is managed by Parks Victoria. The park receives around 6 million visits annually and contains a significant number of assets, infrastructure and facilities of varying age and condition for amateur sport and for casual enjoyment of the park.

The existing 1994 Albert Park Master Plan has been largely implemented and Parks Victoria is developing a new master plan to provide a strategic framework to prioritise opportunities for the refurbishment, replacement or upgrading of Albert Park's significant assets, infrastructure and facilities; and the protection and conservation of the park's biodiversity.

The master plan will be developed through extensive community consultation with regular and casual visitors, surrounding residents and interested members of the community.

I look forward to my next visit to Albert Park when it is at its busiest with people enjoying one of Melbourne's and Victoria's greatest attractions.