

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

10, 11 and 12 June 2014

(Extract from book 8)

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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

The ministry

(from 17 March 2014)

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Cabinet Secretary	Mrs I. Peulich, MLC

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Darveniza, Mr D. Davis, Mr Drum, Ms Lovell, Ms Pennicuik, Mrs Peulich and Mr Scheffer.

Procedure Committee — The President, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr D. Davis, Mr Drum, Mr Lenders, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Viney

Legislative Council standing committees

Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee — Mr Barber, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, #Mr Leane, Mr Lenders, Mr Melhem, Mr D. D O'Brien, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford, Mr Ramsay and #Mr Scheffer.

Economy and Infrastructure References Committee — Mr Barber, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Finn, #Mr Leane, Mr Lenders, Mr Melhem, Mr D. D O'Brien, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford and Mr Ramsay.

Environment and Planning Legislation Committee — Mr Dalla-Riva, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Peulich, Mr Ronalds, Mr Scheffer, #Mr Tarlamis, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

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The Hon. P. R. HALL (to 17 March 2013)

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Mr D. R. J. O'BRIEN (from 17 March 2013)

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Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Millar, Mrs Amanda Louise ⁴	Northern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁸	Eastern Victoria	Nats
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Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
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Kronberg, Mrs Janice Susan	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Tee, Mr Brian Lennox	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leanders, Mr John	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Viney, Mr Matthew Shaw	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Lewis, Ms Margaret ¹⁰	Northern Victoria	ALP			

¹ Resigned 26 March 2013

² Appointed 8 May 2013

³ Resigned 1 July 2013

⁴ Appointed 21 August 2013

⁵ Resigned 3 February 2014

⁶ Appointed 5 February 2014

⁷ Resigned 17 March 2014

⁸ Appointed 26 March 2014

⁹ Resigned 9 May 2014

¹⁰ Appointed 11 June 2014

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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, 10 June 2014

Disability funding

Raised with: Minister for Community Services

Raised by: Ms Mikakos

Raised on: 5 February 2014

REPLY:

The coalition government is firmly committed to supporting Victorians with a disability. Since coming to office our government has invested an additional \$570 million in disability services, taking annual funding to over \$1.68 billion.

The government is also driving reforms in the disability services sector in order to enact lasting and meaningful change for people with a disability, their families and carers.

The coalition government acknowledges that, even with the significant increase of funds for disability services, demand for support from my department continues to exceed the funding that is available.

In 2010 we inherited an underfunded and unsustainable system which responded ad hoc to desperate situations. Now the government is underway with the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which will revolutionise Victorian's access to the supports and aids they need. Instead of throwing money at more of the same, the coalition government is building a better system of support for Victorians with a disability.

It is not appropriate that I comment on individual people who are registered on the current Disability Support Register (DSR). However, packages are allocated to those on the DSR in accordance with the DSR guidelines which take into account a range of priority factors relevant to the urgency of each individual's circumstances. For these reasons it is not possible to give a definite timeframe as to when any request for a support package may be met.

The coalition government recognises the NDIS will be fully implemented over the next five years so we continue to deliver additional disability services within Victoria which are aimed at providing more individualised care, with a focus on innovative services. By ensuring people have real choice about how they access the care they need, we are putting Victoria in a good position for the introduction of the NDIS.

Coatesville Primary School

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Mr Lenders

Raised on: 18 February 2014

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

Coatesville Primary School was one of a number of Victorian government schools promised funding by the former Labor government without any indication of how or when that money would come.

Coatesville Primary School was provided \$260 000 in the 2012–13 Victorian budget to commence detailed planning for the school's redevelopment.

The government's 2014–15 state budget allocated more than \$500 million for school infrastructure projects. This includes funding for 12 new schools in growth corridors, further construction stages at recently-built schools and upgrades to more than 70 schools identified as needing modernisation or refurbishment. Eleven of the new schools will be built through a Public Private Partnership (PPP).

I am pleased to advise that Coatesville Primary School has received funding in the 2014–15 Victorian budget. The school has been allocated \$7.8 million in capital works funding to redevelop school facilities, providing modern teaching and learning spaces which meet the needs of the school community.

The Victorian government supports school autonomy and considers that individual schools are best placed to determine capital works priorities at the local level. As such, the school and its community will determine how the funds will be directed to ensure the best return for students.

Latrobe Valley fires

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Ms Hartland

Raised on: 19 February 2014

REPLY:

I refer to matters raised by Ms Hartland, member for Western Metropolitan on 19 February in relation to the Latrobe Valley Fires.

Ms Hartland has asked a question about the public availability of air monitoring readings as a result of the air monitoring conducted by the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) for the Hazelwood Coal Mine fire.

Ms Hartland would be aware that the EPA is responsible for publishing air quality data. I am advised by the EPA, that in relation to the public release of data for the coal mine fire, air monitoring results from Morwell have been made available on the EPA's website (www.epa.vic.gov.au) since the earliest days of the fire.

Further, an air quality bulletin is updated hourly on the EPA website with data for Morwell South, Morwell East and Traralgon.

The Department of Health has monitored the air quality data throughout this incident to inform the public health response. The public health response to the fire included issuing, from 11 February, health warning messages on the measures community members can take to protect their health, particularly for those in vulnerable groups such as persons aged 65 and over, young children, people with chronic heart and lung conditions and pregnant women.

These messages were issued via a range of channels, including media conferences, paid radio and print advertisements, attendance at community meetings, and fact sheets distributed by a range of community organisations. A community respite centre was opened in Moe on 19 February as a place where people could seek temporary breaks away from the smoke.

To supplement the existing GP services, community health centre and Latrobe Regional Hospital, the Community Health Assessment Centre (CHAC) was opened on 21 February. This was staffed by paramedics and registered nurses from Latrobe Regional Hospital and over 2100 people attended. Reassuringly, very few health problems were detected at the centre, with most problems unrelated to exposure to smoke.

In relation to your request for information about hospital admissions, I can advise that no significant health issues related to smoke were reported by the Latrobe Regional Hospital.

The member for Western Metropolitan might be reassured to know that analysis of the ash did not indicate the presence of carcinogenic substances or other chemicals at levels that would be of concern to health.

It is concerning to hear that some residents felt that there was lack of action to assist them and that their health was seemingly put at risk however, the government put in place a number of different measures to ensure that the people of Morwell had access to sufficient information to protect their health.

The member would also be aware that the government has also committed to an inquiry.

Immunisation

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Mr Leane

Raised on: 19 February 2014

REPLY:

The Victorian coalition government is protecting the health of children by setting new target rates of 95 per cent for immunisation coverage among new primary school students. We are building on Victoria's excellent immunisation record with 92 per cent of children fully immunised before they start school.

By law in Victoria, under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, parents must provide an immunisation status certificate to the primary school when enrolling their child. School principals also have obligations to collect these certificates and keep these records up to date.

We have developed new resources to make it easy for parents and school principals to fulfil their obligations for school entry immunisation status certificates.

Research is about to begin on the barriers in presenting immunisation status certificates at primary school enrolment. This research will provide evidence that will inform and assist with the development of a communication strategy and associated resources specifically targeting the identified barriers.

These resources will be rolled out on a statewide basis.

We are also investigating a range of options for improving follow-up of parents of children who do not present certificates and whose children are not fully immunised.

Herd immunity is a well-accepted term in the immunisation world and it describes a form of immunity that occurs when the vaccination of a significant portion of a population provides a measure of protection for individuals who have not developed immunity.

Children's Protection Society Child and Family Centre, West Heidelberg

Raised with: Minister for Community Services

Raised by: Ms Mikakos

Raised on: 19 February 2014

REPLY:

I acknowledge the Children's Protection Society's contribution to responding to the needs of families by supporting them to achieve and maintain a safe and nurturing environment for children.

The Children's Protection Society's Early Years Education and Research Project aims to ensure that children at risk of abuse and neglect are developmentally and educationally equal to their peers when they commence school. The

Project commenced in 2010 with a mix of federal and philanthropic funding. Commonwealth funding through the Department of Employment Education and Workplace Relations totalled \$1.8 million and concluded in June 2013.

In 2011, the coalition government also funded the Children's Protection Society \$1.8 million over three years to provide 15 places for children involved with child protection to be part of the project. Funding from commonwealth and Victorian governments and from philanthropic organisations provided capacity of 45 places for children.

Implementation of this project was extended beyond the initial timelines in order to meet the individual needs of each child participating in the service. As a result the 15 state-funded places were not fully utilised until January 2013.

I have met with representatives of the Children's Protection Society many times and visited their Centre. Senior managers in my department have also met frequently with the CEO, having done so three times this year so far.

The Victorian government through my department continues to monitor the project, and will work closely with the Children's Protection Society on the broad range of issues that are evolving.

Sunbury security cameras

Raised with: Minister for Crime Prevention

Raised by: Mrs Millar

Raised on: 19 February 2014

REPLY:

I refer to your matter raised in the Legislative Council on 19 February 2014 regarding security cameras in Sunbury.

The coalition government is committed to supporting community-led crime prevention initiatives to help make our public spaces safer for everyone to use, and the installation of CCTV cameras is an example of one of these initiatives. CCTV can be a strong deterrent for people who seek to vandalise public property, commit crimes, and engage in antisocial behaviour.

I had the pleasure of launching Sunbury's new CCTV network on 8 April 2014 following a \$200 000 commitment from the coalition government, and I thank you for joining me at that important community safety event.

As you would be aware, the Hume City Council undertook extensive consultation with police and local residents to understand the issues impacting community safety in Sunbury and determine the best locations for these 20 cameras. Through thorough consultation, council has listened to the local community to provide a grassroots approach to combating crime, with important support from the coalition government.

The CCTV cameras will help ensure the safety of residents as they enjoy Sunbury's shopping and business precinct. The cameras can be used to identify suspects and assist in the prosecution of offenders through the courts. I was very pleased hear that the cameras have already made a difference in the Sunbury community, with local police using CCTV footage as evidence in court to prosecute an offender just one week after the cameras were switched on.

Helping prevent and detect antisocial behaviour and crime in the area is fundamentally important to local residents and local businesses, and I am pleased that this latest CCTV initiative in Sunbury is already making a difference.

Thank you for your interest in this important crime prevention initiative.

Weighbridge aged-care facility

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Ms Mikakos

Raised on: 13 March 2014

REPLY:

Ms Mikakos's adjournment is hypocritical. The reality is that the Labor government oversaw a range of closures of Victorian public service residential aged care facilities, including in Ballarat and Frankston.

In addition, documentation from 2009 reveals that the Victorian Labor government had plans to transfer 60 public sector residential aged care beds operated by Austin Health at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital within the Darley House to a private aged care provider

Disability services

Raised with: Minister for Disability Services and Reform

Raised by: Ms Mikakos

Raised on: 25 March 2014

REPLY:

The Victorian government is committed to promoting the inclusion of people with a disability in the community.

MetroAccess, RuralAccess, and DeafAccess officers are funded under the Building Inclusive Communities Program.

Through initiatives such as the Building Inclusive Communities Program we continue to build the capacity of local communities across Victoria to become more accessible and inclusive of people with a disability.

The Building Inclusive Communities Program will continue to be funded in 2014–15. There has never been consideration to cease funding for this program in the budget and the member's scaremongering is completely unfounded.

Wangaratta District Specialist School

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Ms Darveniza

Raised on: 26 March 2014

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian government is committed to improving the learning outcomes of all students by acknowledging their diverse needs and catering for different learning styles. A key element of this commitment is an emphasis on improving learning outcomes for children and young people with disabilities and additional learning needs.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has a strong record of innovation and support for students with disabilities, with many significant projects underway within the department to strengthen current resources and programs. More Victorian children with disabilities will receive extra support at school with an additional \$305 million investment in support programs announced in the Victorian state budget 2014–15.

In addition, the 2014–15 state budget included \$6.5 million for capital investment in special schools.

I am advised that while there are no plans in the immediate future for a new specialist school facility to be built in the Wangaratta area, or for land acquisition to enable the expansion of the existing provisions at Wangaratta District Specialist School, the department recognises the constraints of the current site to cater for further enrolment growth. This issue will continue to be monitored by the department's North-Eastern Victoria regional office as current and emerging needs within its schooling population are identified.

City of Greater Geelong security cameras

Raised with: Minister for Crime Prevention

Raised by: Mr Koch

Raised on: 26 March 2014

REPLY:

I refer to your matter raised in the Legislative Council on 26 March 2014 regarding security cameras in Geelong.

The coalition government is committed to supporting community-led crime prevention initiatives to help make our public spaces safer for everyone to use, and the installation of CCTV cameras is an example of one of these initiatives. CCTV can be a strong deterrent for people who seek to vandalise public property, commit crimes, and engage in anti-social behaviour, and can be used by local police to identify suspects and assist in the prosecution of offenders through the courts.

As you would be aware, the City of Greater Geelong was last year awarded \$110 000 through the coalition government's Public Safety Infrastructure Fund to purchase new CCTV cameras in the Geelong CBD and waterfront area and upgrade the system's infrastructure.

I had the pleasure of launching the 11 new CCTV cameras in Geelong on 22 April 2014 and I thank you for joining me at that important community safety event.

The upgrade and expansion of the camera network is part of the council's Safe City CCTV program — an ongoing plan to increase the safety of Geelong's streets and entertainment precincts. The expansion and upgrade of the CCTV system, supported by the coalition government through its \$110 000 PSIF grant, will help create a safer environment for the people of Geelong and complements other community safety measures in Geelong, which include a recent extension of the NightRider bus service, extra street lighting and the Nightlife Radio program. The coalition government is a proud partner in this crime prevention initiative.

The Geelong CCTV program is one of 13 projects in the City of Greater Geelong that have been allocated almost \$230 000 through the coalition government's Community Crime Prevention Program.

The coalition government is committed to supporting communities to come up with local crime prevention initiatives that address local problems. Councils, working in partnership with community groups and individuals, are best placed to identify crime prevention issues and come up with solutions, and this latest CCTV initiative in Geelong is a great example of this.

Thank you for your interest in this important crime prevention initiative.

Roof construction reforms

Raised with: Minister for Planning

Raised by: Mr Tee

Raised on: 26 March 2014

REPLY:

I note the concerns raised by Mr Earl Setches of the Master Plumbers Association, in relation to the Victorian state government's red tape reforms and in particular, the decision to allow registered builders to construct metal roofs.

It is proposed that implementation of the roofing reform will follow the development of an effective strategy to ensure any increase in the rates of defective roof plumbing works is avoided. As Mr Setches notes in his letter, changes to the plumbing legislative and regulatory framework may be required before implementation can be successfully achieved.

The Napthine coalition government is committed to consulting with industry to develop an effective implementation strategy which will achieve red tape reform without compromising building standards and/or the health and safety of consumers and practitioners. The Master Plumbers and Mechanical Services Association of Australia will be a key stakeholder in this process. I will also seek advice from the Plumbing Advisory Council, of which Mr Setches is a member, on ways in which this reform can proceed safely and effectively.

Port Phillip Bay ferry service

Raised with: Minister for Planning

Raised by: Mr Finn

Raised on: 27 March 2014

REPLY:

The Napthine coalition government has committed to investigating a commuter ferry service for western Port Phillip Bay. In 2012, I announced a study into water-based, commuter public transport from Werribee South, Portarlington and Geelong to the Melbourne CBD. The study went beyond just considering transport efficiency benefits to include the potential improvement in the liveability, vibrancy and investment attraction of coastal communities. Following release of the study discussion paper in March 2013 over 80 submissions were received from the community, government agencies and developers. This study was completed in August 2013.

Plan Melbourne outlines the next steps for this important project. Under Plan Melbourne, all aspects of commercial ferry operations on Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay are being reviewed, including ferry speeds, routes, berth locations, access, local environment and infrastructure delivery. The Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, together with the Port of Melbourne Authority, has commenced a review of speed limits on the Yarra River.

The Napthine coalition government is delivering on its promises to build Victoria's future.

Dianella Community Health and Merri Community Health Services**Raised with: Minister for Mental Health****Raised by: Ms Mikakos****Raised on: 27 March 2014****REPLY:**

I would like to address your adjournment regarding the recommissioning of mental health support services and the subsequent impact on Dianella Community Health and Merri Community Health Services. I understand that change of this nature is never easy for organisations and the dedicated workers that have provided community mental health support services over many years however it is important that we deal with the facts.

The Napthine government is committed to the delivery of mental health support services. Indeed, this coming financial year it will provide \$1.2 billion for mental health — more funding per year than has ever been provided before. And while we provide funding to mental health, the government is also committed to mental health support service reform.

On coming to government we had heard from clients, carers and providers alike that while services were valued they were complex, disjointed and did not allow agencies to best meet client needs. The current recommissioning process, developed hand-in-hand with the sector, was thought to be the best and fairest way to remove inefficiencies in the system and ensure that people with a psychiatric disability and the people that care for the, regardless of where they live in Victoria, will have access to similar high-quality services.

While change is difficult for some to accept, it is for the benefit of clients. Funding available to people with a psychiatric disability in Victoria will be expanded consistent with these reforms.

Nor is the sector being 'privatised' as claimed. Community Health Services, not-for-profit and non-government organisations of all types will continue to provide these vital services as before. Indeed, Community Health Services, will deliver a greater share of services as a result of these changes.

It is expected the vast majority of Victoria's experienced community mental health workers will continue to work in this sector. Some roles may change and other will be created—strengthening the overall vibrancy of the community mental health workforce.

Government is not in a position to comment on any particular agency, however all agencies have been offered the opportunity to receive feedback when the process concludes. The process and evaluation criteria were both very clear and are available in the Department of Health website.

The submissions received were of a high calibre, demonstrating the depth of experience and expertise available in Victoria. This bodes well for the quality of services that will be delivered through the new approach.

Social housing**Raised with: Minister for Housing****Raised by: Mr Melhem****Raised on: 2 April 2014****REPLY:**

The drop in capital expenditure between 2012 and 2013, indicated in the Productivity Commission *Report on Government Services 2014*, can be attributed to time limited commonwealth funding ceasing or declining such as through the housing affordability fund.

This government has invested in the revitalisation of public housing estates, such as the replacement of more than 600 unsuitable or out-dated homes in Heidelberg West, at an estimated cost of \$160 million over ten years, and an \$80 million initiative in Norlane, which will result in 160 new public housing properties and 160 new private homes.

On 28 March 2014, I launched the new Victorian social housing framework that provides the direction for social housing in Victoria into the future. The framework responds to long-standing issues such as the deterioration of public housing stock and the lack of an overarching strategy for the future of public and community housing.

In 2012, the Victorian Auditor-General found that public housing properties had deteriorated to the point where some 10 000 properties were at risk of becoming obsolete. Through the framework, the government will invest \$1.3 billion over five years in maintenance and upgrading around 9500 properties to halt the deterioration of the portfolio and ensure that public housing remains available for people in need into the future.

The Victorian government is also committed to addressing and preventing homelessness, and I am committed to working with the commonwealth on a shared approach that will ensure vulnerable Victorians are provided with the assistance they need.

On 30 March 2014 the commonwealth government announced up to \$115 million across Australia for services under the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness in 2014–15. We are working with the commonwealth to ensure it provides positive outcomes for Victoria. Victoria has committed \$124.4 million over four years to increase our homelessness services capacity to support some of Victoria's most vulnerable people. It will also provide stability to the sector and services funded under the national agreement.

I understand that the report *Home Sweet Home*, written by the Footscray Community Centre, provides information on the experiences of low-income renters in the western suburbs. It is concerning that tenants do not request repairs to their property from fear of eviction or rent increases, and that many tenants are not adequately aware of, or confident in pursuing their rights as tenants. For this reason, the department provides annual funding to the Tenants Union of Victoria to provide advice, information and advocacy to both public and private tenants.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Wednesday, 11 June 2014

Southern Metropolitan Region level crossings

Raised with: Minister for Roads

Raised by: Mr Lenders

Raised on: 5 September 2013

REPLY:

Thank you for your invitation to visit the level crossings in the Southern Metropolitan Region.

I recently visited the Murrumbeena Road level crossing as a part of the government's announcement of our \$2–2.5 billion project to provide a 21st century rail service on the Pakenham and Cranbourne lines.

This project includes four level crossing removals, of which Murrumbeena Road in Murrumbeena, and Koornang Road in Carnegie, are included.

In addition, I can advise that planning and preconstruction work will also be undertaken for future removal of a further five level crossings along this corridor, of which Grange Road in Carnegie and Poath Road in Murrumbeena, are included.

This project will remove bottlenecks on our road networks and dramatically improve travel times and productivity for motorists.

Southern Metropolitan Region level crossings

Raised with: Minister for Roads

Raised by: Mr Lenders

Raised on: 26 November 2013

REPLY:

I am informed that:

In May 2011, the Victorian government announced its Metro Level Crossing Blitz program, focussing on 12 of Melbourne's busiest rail level crossings including level crossings at North Road, Ormond and Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena. As part of this program, level crossings have already been removed at Anderson Road, Sunshine; Mitcham Road, Mitcham and Rooks Road, Mitcham. Another level crossing at Anderson Road, Sunshine and Springvale Road, Springvale are both due to be completed this year.

In April 2013, the government announced an additional \$52.3 million for further investigations, planning and pre-construction activities at seven of the busiest rail level crossings, including North Road, Ormond.

In this year's budget the government has now confirmed full funding for 10 of the 12 level crossings in the first stage of the Metro Level Crossing Blitz Program. This brings our funding to more than \$1 billion to remove level crossings, including North Road.

The government has also announced that four level crossings at Murrumbeena Road, Murrumbeena; Koornang Road, Carnegie; Clayton Road, Clayton; and Centre Road, Clayton will be removed as a part of our

Cranbourne-Pakenham Rail Corridor Project. The project also includes planning funding for future level crossing removals at Corrigan, Heatherton and Chandler Roads in Noble Park; Grange Road, Carnegie; and Poath Road, Murrumbeena.

Southland railway station

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Tarlamis

Raised on: 12 March 2014

REPLY:

I am pleased to confirm that \$20.8 million has been allocated in the state budget for the construction of Southland railway station.

Construction of the station will be completed by December 2016.

Eastern Freeway graffiti

Raised with: Minister for Roads

Raised by: Mr Leane

Raised on: 1 April 2014

REPLY:

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

The government has committed over \$10 million over four years towards reducing graffiti through a range of strategies under our Anti-Graffiti Plan, including:

- direct removal of graffiti in partnership with local councils and state agencies, including VicRoads, via the Community Correctional Services' Graffiti Removal Program;
- an annual \$300 000 grants program to support councils to partner with their communities to deliver local graffiti prevention and removal solutions; and
- supporting local graffiti management initiatives to increase the coordination and effectiveness of local activities. This includes making Portable Graffiti Removal Systems available to councils and community groups to support community based graffiti removal activities.

VicRoads manages more than 22 000 kilometres of arterial roads and freeways throughout Victoria. As the State Road Authority, VicRoads has to balance its available resources to the many road maintenance demands on the road network. As a result, maintenance works must be prioritised with those works that have the greatest impact on public safety being given the highest priority.

VicRoads acknowledges that graffiti vandalism is a community concern. In the past 12 months, VicRoads has undertaken a significant amount of graffiti removal across the freeway network and has recently commenced an intense graffiti removal program along the Eastern Freeway. Unfortunately, in many cases, the noisewalls have been repeatedly vandalised with new graffiti within days of the graffiti removal.

VicRoads is currently investigating other measures to help discourage graffiti vandalism along freeway corridors and has requested the assistance of Victoria Police in relation to monitoring the high-risk areas at night.

Eastern Freeway graffiti**Raised with: Minister for Roads****Raised by: Mr Tee****Raised on: 2 April 2014****REPLY:**

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

The government has committed over \$10 million over four years towards reducing graffiti through a range of strategies under our Anti-Graffiti Plan, including:

- direct removal of graffiti in partnership with local councils and state agencies, including VicRoads, via the Community Correctional Services' Graffiti Removal Program;
- an annual \$300 000 grants program to support councils to partner with their communities to deliver local graffiti prevention and removal solutions; and
- supporting local graffiti management initiatives to increase the coordination and effectiveness of local activities. This includes making Portable Graffiti Removal Systems available to councils and community groups to support community-based graffiti removal activities.

VicRoads manages more than 22 000 kilometres of arterial roads and freeways throughout Victoria. As the State Road Authority, VicRoads has to balance its available resources to the many road maintenance demands on the road network. As a result, maintenance works must be prioritised with those works that have the greatest impact on public safety being given the highest priority.

VicRoads acknowledges that graffiti vandalism is a community concern. The noisewall near Orion Road is one of many sites along the freeway that is frequently targeted by graffiti vandals. VicRoads had all the graffiti at this location removed in September 2013 and again in October 2013. Unfortunately, the noisewall was repeatedly vandalised with graffiti shortly after the graffiti removal. VicRoads has recently commenced an intense graffiti removal program along the Eastern Freeway, and the noisewall near Orion Road is scheduled to be cleaned again in the coming month.

VicRoads is currently investigating other measures to help discourage graffiti vandalism along freeway corridors and has requested the assistance of Victoria Police in relation to monitoring the high-risk areas at night.

St Albans level crossing**Raised with: Minister for Roads****Raised by: Mr Finn****Raised on: 6 May 2014****REPLY:**

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

Full funding for the removal of the level crossing at Main Road, St Albans, was announced on 27 April 2014, with approximately \$200 million allocated. This has been made possible by the Regional Rail Link being delivered ahead of time and under budget. The Regional Rail Link is jointly funded by the commonwealth and state governments.

Preconstruction works at St Albans have commenced including site surveying, ground condition investigations, design development, environmental and heritage assessments, utility service proving and an amendment of the local planning scheme.

The next phase of the project is to finalise the design and prepare tender documentation for the primary construction works. The tender process is due to begin in the coming months and the project is expected to be complete in 2017.

The allocation of funding and progress on important preconstruction works demonstrates the Victorian government's commitment to this project and to the people of St Albans.

Western Highway

Raised with: Minister for Roads

Raised by: Mr Ramsay

Raised on: 6 May 2014

REPLY:

The Victorian and federal governments have committed \$4 million to undertake the planning studies of the Beaufort and Ararat Bypass.

The planning study will commence in June 2014, and will follow on from the recent work that the respective councils have undertaken in relation to the identification of possible bypass options. An initial task is to determine whether an Environment Effects Statement (EES) will be required. The determination of whether an EES is required will dictate the time required to complete the planning study.

Should an EES be required, the EES would commence late in 2014 or early 2015, and conclude by mid-2017. If an EES is not required, the planning study would commence late 2014 and conclude in the second half of 2016.

In the coming months, VicRoads will be undertaking consultation through a stakeholder group and community consultation sessions. The timing of the consultation has not been determined as yet, but further information will be made available through the VicRoads website and local media.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Thursday, 12 June 2014

Meat processing

Raised with: Minister for Agriculture and Food Security

Raised by: Mr D. R. J. O'Brien

Raised on: 3 April 2014

REPLY:

PrimeSafe is the independent statutory authority responsible for ensuring that Victorian meat and seafood products for human consumption are safe.

Abattoirs in Victoria must be licensed by PrimeSafe, comply with the requirements of the Meat Industry Act 1993 and meet the relevant Australian Standards.

There are no mobile abattoirs currently licensed to operate in Victoria.

While there are no legislative barriers to prevent a business operating a mobile abattoir, it would need to be licensed by PrimeSafe prior to commencing operation. In order to obtain a licence the business would need to demonstrate to PrimeSafe that it complied with all necessary standards. For example, there are strict requirements for the construction of abattoir facilities as well as their ongoing operation. Licensees must manage public health and environmental risks, animal welfare, hygiene, temperature control and traceability.

There are 16 abattoirs currently licensed by PrimeSafe in Victoria that can slaughter and process goat or deer. These abattoirs may be able to assist Spa Venison for the time being.