

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**16, 17 and 18 September 2014**

**(Extract from book 13)**

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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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Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads . . . . .	The Hon. T. W. Mulder, MP
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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 . . . . .	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 Jennings, Mr Lenders, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Viney

# Participating member

## 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.

**Environment and Planning References 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.

**Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee** — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, Mr Elsbury, Ms Hartland, #Mr Leane, Ms Lewis, Mrs Millar, Mr D. R. J. 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 Lewis, Mrs Millar, Mr D. R. J. O'Brien, #Mrs Peulich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

# Participating member

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**Accountability and Oversight Committee** — (*Council*): Mr D. R. J. O'Brien and Mr Ronalds. (*Assembly*): Ms Kanis, Mr McIntosh and Ms Neville.

**Dispute Resolution Committee** — (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Drum, 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, Mrs Millar and Mr Ronalds. (*Assembly*): Mr Burgess and Mr McGuire.

**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 Delahunty.

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

**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Coote. (*Assembly*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr Madden, Mrs Powell and Ms Ryall.

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**Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Viney. (*Assembly*): Ms Kanis, Mr Kotsiras, Mr McIntosh 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 D. R. J. O'Brien and Mr Ondarchie. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Ms Garrett, 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 D. R. J. O'Brien. (*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* — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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**Leader of the Opposition:**

Mr J. LENDERS

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

Mr G. JENNINGS

**Leader of The Nationals:**

The Hon. D. K. DRUM (from 17 March 2013)

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

**Deputy Leader of The Nationals:**

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

Mr D. K. DRUM (to 17 March 2013)

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Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Melhem, Mr Cesar <sup>2</sup>	Western Metropolitan	LP
Broad, Ms Candy Celeste <sup>9</sup>	Northern Victoria	ALP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Millar, Mrs Amanda Louise <sup>4</sup>	Northern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>8</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
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 <sup>5</sup>	Eastern Victoria	LP	Pakula, Hon. Martin Philip <sup>1</sup>	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
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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 <sup>7</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Ronalds, Mr Andrew Mark <sup>6</sup>	Eastern 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 <sup>10</sup>	Northern Victoria	ALP			

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Appointed 21 August 2013

<sup>5</sup> Resigned 3 February 2014

<sup>6</sup> Appointed 5 February 2014

<sup>7</sup> Resigned 17 March 2014

<sup>8</sup> Appointed 26 March 2014

<sup>9</sup> Resigned 9 May 2014

<sup>10</sup> 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, 16 September 2014**

**Shire of Surf Coast: bushfire management overlay**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning

**Raised by:** Ms Tierney

**Raised on:** 7 May 2013

**REPLY:**

Ms Tierney has requested information from the Hon. Terry Mulder, MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and State member for Polwarth, on the implementation of the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) in Surf Coast shire and the Polwarth electorate. As the matter falls within my portfolio, I am responding on Minister Mulder's behalf.

As Ms Tierney may be aware, on 28 May 2014 I announced proposed changes to Victoria's bushfire planning provisions to:

- allow homes to be built on 'infill' lots surrounded by other dwellings
- allow private bushfire bunkers as an alternative safety measure
- allow vegetation clearance to achieve defensible space
- ensure the assessment of bushfire risk is consistent with the Australian Standard
- allow more sensible bushfire safety measures in new master-planned estates.

These changes are expected to come into effect shortly.

To help implement the changes, the Victorian State government will create a new \$700 000 assistance fund to help landowners and councils affected by the BMO to streamline planning processes.

The fund will be available for a number of purposes, including:

- direct assistance to help affected landholders make planning permit applications
- assisting the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure's 'Rural Planning Flying Squad' to deal with any backlog of relevant planning permit applications for local rural and regional councils
- grants for councils to develop localised schedules to the BMO, to streamline planning permit requirements locally.

Once the proposed changes are implemented, I will consider updating BMO maps across Victoria, including the Western District and the Polwarth electorate.

In reference to the 'Spring Creek' development, I can advise that the BMO does not affect this area. The vegetation assessment (including scattered trees and grassland) indicates that there is no risk of extreme to significant bushfire from the surrounding landscape. However, the area has been designated as a bushfire prone area under regulation 810 of the Building Regulations 2006 due to the surrounding grassland hazard. As a result of this designation, minimum bushfire construction requirements apply.

**East–west link**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads

**Raised by:** Ms Mikakos

**Raised on:** 13 November 2013

**REPLY:**

The East West Link tunnel under Royal Park would not directly impact Urban camp. Linking Melbourne Authority and the project's contractors would work closely with Urban camp during East West Link's design and construction to mitigate any impacts on the camp's operations.

The East West Link project includes one of the longest road tunnels in Australia to help reduce impact to communities and parklands.

Linking Melbourne Authority expects there would be construction in the vicinity of Urban camp, and East West Link's contractors would provide for continuous access to Urban camp at all times during the construction period.

Linking Melbourne Authority has met with Urban camp and its Board on a number of occasions and will continue to do so throughout the life of the project. Linking Melbourne Authority would also look for opportunities to provide enhancements to Royal Park following East West Link's completion, in consultation with park users including Urban camp.

With regard to property damage, a property condition survey would be offered to Urban camp prior to tunnelling works commencing. The survey would provide a reference for Urban camp in the event they feel that their property has experienced any adverse effects from East West Link construction works.

In addition to this, vibration would be monitored throughout the construction period to ensure it remains below acceptable limits.

Enhancements to the reference design, such as the exit ramp at Ormond Road, are normal for projects of this nature (for example EastLink and Peninsula Link), and part of our ongoing approach to improving the design as the project is developed.

The tender documents for the shortlisted bidders ensure that the successful bidder follows all conditions arising from the East West Link Comprehensive Impact Statement. Linking Melbourne Authority has allowed time in the bidding phase to accommodate anything that arises from the panel process and public consultation.

Linking Melbourne Authority looks forward to the many opportunities for Urban camp to partner with the East West Link project to provide a great experience for the children visiting.

Linking Melbourne Authority will continue to meet with Urban camp and keep them updated and informed to make sure that they have the best and timeliest information possible.

**Somerville Road, Yarraville****Raised with: Minister for Roads****Raised by: Ms Hartland****Raised on: 4 February 2014****REPLY:**

Somerville Road in Yarraville, between Geelong Road and Whitehall Street, is a local road managed by the Maribyrnong City Council.

In August 2013, the council made an application to VicRoads for the approval and funding of electronic 40 kilometres per hour school speed limit signs on Somerville Road at the Kingsville Primary School. The intention of installing electronic speed signs was to improve the conspicuity of the existing school speed zone at this location, which has standard static signs.

Electronic school speed limit signs are generally installed at schools located on high speed and high traffic roads, which present the greatest risk to school children. Somerville Road does not meet the warrants for the installation of electronic school speed limit signs. As such, VicRoads did not support the council's application to install these signs on Somerville Road, near the Kingsville Primary School.

However, I am pleased to advise that VicRoads will, in the coming months, be installing electronic school speed limit signs on Francis Street, at Wembley Avenue, to address safety concerns near Wembley Primary School, noting that Francis Street is an arterial road subject to relatively high traffic speeds and volumes.

**City of Stonnington planning****Raised with: Minister for Planning****Raised by: Mr Lenders****Raised on: 6 May 2014****REPLY:**

I thank the member for the Southern Metropolitan Region, Mr John Lenders, for the invitation to tour the Coonil Estate in Malvern and talk to the residents living near the Cabrini Hospital. As an important health facility in the south-east of Melbourne, I appreciate the concerns of nearby residents regarding any potential for unfettered growth of this hospital. There is always a balance to be struck between the protection of neighbourhood amenity and supporting the operations of facilities that benefit the broader community.

I have recently approved Stonnington City Council's (council) request to apply the reformed residential zones across its municipality. In line with council's request, the existing Residential 1 zone applying to land in the Coonil Estate, Malvern, was replaced with either a General Residential Zone or Neighbourhood Residential Zone. Council is responsible for the consideration of any development applications made by Cabrini Hospital and its assessment of new proposals will need to take into account the purposes of the particular residential zone that applies.

I am not aware of any proposals to rezone the Cabrini Hospital to a non-residential zone. This will be a matter for council to consider if a request of this nature is sought by the hospital.

**Regional and rural pedestrian safety**

**Raised with:** Assistant Treasurer

**Raised by:** Mr D. D. O'Brien

**Raised on:** 8 May 2014

**REPLY:**

I refer to the issue of rural and regional pedestrian road safety you raised in the adjournment debate.

You may be aware that in 2013, the Victorian government launched the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2013–2022, outlining an approach to deliver major improvements in safety on our roads, based on the Safe System Principles and focusing on pedestrian safety and country road users. In 2013 Victoria had the lowest road toll on record. However, pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries continue to be a concern. Over the last five years from 2009 to 2013, 209 pedestrians were killed on Victoria's roads. Of these 50 were killed in regional Victoria and 159 in metropolitan Victoria, and the Victorian government takes this issue very seriously.

In 2013, pedestrians accounted for 15 per cent (36) of the road toll (242). In regional Victoria pedestrians accounted for less than 4 per cent (5) of the regional road toll (149).

The Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2013–2022 has identified 16 priority areas. The first action plan of this strategy identified the following activities, amongst a range of other activities, to reduce the risk of serious injury or fatality to pedestrians and country road users:

- Using 40-kilometres-per-hour speed zones in areas of high pedestrian activity.
- Expanding the \$1 billion Safe System Road Infrastructure Program, funded by the TAC, to implement roadside barriers and improve intersections, as well as addressing pedestrian safety in 'black areas'.
- Providing safer infrastructure for pedestrians on local roads through a new TAC grants program for local government.
- Encouraging sharing of the road between drivers and pedestrians through a communications campaign being developed by VicRoads.
- Improving driveway safety through a TAC and Kidsafe partnership.
- Continuing the 'Talk the Toll Down' campaign in local newspapers through a TAC partnership with regional newspapers.

In 2013, the TAC launched a new campaign focusing on distractions. Whilst the television commercial focused on a distracted driver, other media (online and outdoor) included messages targeting pedestrians. The TAC is now developing the second phase of this campaign, which will include a greater focus on distracted pedestrians.

The TAC also conducts the Community Road Safety Grants Program, running since 2008. This program provides opportunities for community groups to identify a local road safety issue and request funding to implement a solution. Since 2008, the TAC has funded more than 20 projects targeting pedestrian safety in regional Victoria totalling more than \$450 000 in grants.

Road safety education in Victoria commences in early childhood settings and primary schools with key messages relating to safe walking targeted at children and their parents and carers. VicRoads provides information on strategies to be a visible pedestrian and reduce the risk of being involved in a crash, including on rural roads.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

### **Hazelwood mine fire**

**Raised with: Minister for Corrections**

**Raised by: Mr Ronalds**

**Raised on: 25 June 2014**

#### **REPLY:**

In the Legislative Council sitting of 25 June 2014 I undertook to provide you with a written response with regard to details of how offenders serving community correctional orders have assisted the Morwell community with clean up and recovery efforts after the devastating fires earlier this year.

As you are aware, the Morwell fire started in February 2014 and burned for 45 days causing widespread damage across the communities of Morwell, Hernes Oak and the Hazelwood Mine. The Latrobe City Council (the council) coordinated the bushfire recovery program and Gippsland Community Correctional Services (CCS) worked with them to provide assistance where required.

#### **Toners Lane Bushfire Clean-Up**

The fire burnt through parts of Toners Lane in Morwell, damaging fencing, bushland and property of the Morwell Pony Club, 'Us and Them' Tourers, The Historical Automobile Club Incorporated and the Twin City Archers.

The Morwell CCS work team assisted each of these organisations by undertaking tasks such as removing burnt fencing, damaged tin and rubbish from each of these sites.

#### **Twin City Archers**

The Morwell CCS work team has also further assisted the Twin City Archers by repairing damaged archery targets, making new archery targets, covering tracks and paths with mulch, removing burnt branches and shrubs, and providing a general clean-up of the site. The Archery Club has continued as an ongoing community work partnership site.

#### **Morwell Golf Driving Range**

The Morwell Golf Driving Range has also recently signed a partnership with Morwell CCS, and the work team has completed clean up tasks involving trees which were burnt and lost in the fires.

Gippsland CCS was also involved in bushfire prevention prior to the February fires. Through an ongoing partnership with the Traralgon CFA, Gippsland CCS undertakes bushfire prevention activities one day each week.

Morwell CCS continues to have a proactive approach to disaster preparedness, and CCS is currently developing a Disaster Response pack for Corrections. This pack will provide direction for both CCS and prisons, in terms of how to engage with the community in a disaster situation and quickly assist in recovery activities, using safe Occupational Health and Safety practices.

Through projects such as these, offenders learn new skills and trades to increase the likelihood of gaining employment while giving back to the community and making reparation for their crimes. Putting offenders to work on fire recovery projects is just one way offenders on community corrections orders make a real difference in Gippsland.

Thank you for your ongoing interest and support of the valuable work offenders on community corrections orders undertake in Gippsland communities.

**Western Victoria Region planning strategies****Raised with: Minister for Planning****Raised by: Mr D. R. J. O'Brien****Raised on: 26 June 2014****REPLY:**

Mr O'Brien has requested that I visit the Western Victoria Region and asked that I encourage population growth and plan for higher densities in settlements across this region, particularly in the towns of Hamilton, Horsham and Peshurst.

I visited Hamilton and Horsham on 2 July 2014 to launch the Great South Coast Regional Growth Plan and the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Growth Plan. The regional growth plans provide the direction sought by Mr O'Brien, through establishing a 30–40-year vision and broad direction for land use and development. Together with Plan Melbourne, the eight regional growth plans will help create a 'state of cities' and unlock the potential of regional Victoria to accommodate a greater share of Victoria's population growth.

The regional growth plans support a 'network of towns' approach to planning, development, infrastructure, transport and service provision, and establish a regional settlement strategy where towns and settlements are considered collectively instead of in isolation. The plans direct growth to those settlements with the capacity, infrastructure and services to support growth. The regional centres of Hamilton and Horsham are identified as the settlements with such capacity. Detailed planning frameworks allow increased densities to be provided for through infill and medium density development, as well as providing targeted greenfield development.

Peshurst is identified as a small town which, while experiencing low population growth, has an important role in providing jobs, services and a community focus to rural areas. Incremental population growth, improved community resilience and the ability to respond to economic and population challenges are supported for Peshurst. The Great South Coast Regional Growth Plan encourages the sustainable development of the tourism sector including investment in infrastructure to improve access to regional tourism assets such as the Peshurst Volcanoes Discovery Centre, and linkages with surrounding regions to develop integrated tourism experiences.

Agriculture is one of the cornerstones of the economy of Western Victoria. Land use planning plays an important role in ensuring that agricultural activities and farmers' 'right to farm' are safeguarded. The regional growth plans acknowledge the important role of rural production and its value to regional economies. They identify and protect key agricultural assets and support food production for domestic and export markets. The plans encourage housing to be directed to towns, to support sustainable rural communities and protect the long-term growth of agriculture from conflicting development.

I am confident that the regional growth plans and their implementation will support opportunities to attract people and investment to regional centres, build communities as well as identifying agricultural areas for protection.

**Australian Formula One Grand Prix****Raised with: Minister for Tourism and Major Events****Raised by: Mrs Coote****Raised on: 5 August 2014****REPLY:**

I refer to the matter raised by Ms Andrea Coote, the member for Southern Metropolitan on the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix.

Victoria's major events strategy contributes \$1.8 billion to the Victorian economy annually. The Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix alone generates between 351 and 411 full-time equivalent jobs and up to \$39 million in economic benefits as well as up to \$36 million in media or advertising equivalent.

On Sunday, 3 August 2014, I was delighted to join the Premier of Victoria in announcing that the Victorian coalition government had secured the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne for a further five years — 2016–2020.

The Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC) confirms that reparations to the park for the period 2016–2020 will continue to be performed in the same timely manner as they have been performed under the current contract. AGPC will continue to work closely with Parks Victoria.

### **Ringwood railway station precinct**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Mr Leane**

**Raised on: 6 August 2014**

#### **REPLY:**

The Ringwood station upgrade will deliver improvements to the surrounding area, as well as to the station. Major works will begin by the end of this year.

Improvements will be made to the road environment in central Ringwood, to establish the Ringwood Bypass as the preferred through-route for vehicle traffic. A new, wider, signalised pedestrian crossing of Maroondah Highway, with more frequent crossing opportunities, will be developed, along with vastly improved pedestrian and cycling facilities along the Maroondah Highway. These works will transform the Maroondah Highway between Ringwood Street and Warrandyte Road into a traffic-calmed boulevard with a new, high standard pedestrian crossing, and integrate the station precinct with Eastland Shopping Centre. The pedestrian crossing will directly connect with the community facilities proposed for the Eastland Shopping Centre redevelopment.

The station upgrade will provide full accessibility, and improve amenity and shelter for customers. Both platforms 1 & 2 will be upgraded to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992. This legislation covers both the horizontal and vertical gap between trains and the platform. The platforms will be resurfaced and tactile ground surface indicators will be installed to assist the visually impaired.

An additional 42 car parking spaces are being created in the vicinity of Ringwood Station at Thanet Court.

The Ringwood station upgrade is expected to be completed in early 2016 and lifts are expected to be operational at the time of practical completion.

### **Ormond level crossing**

**Raised with: Minister for Roads**

**Raised by: Mr Lenders**

**Raised on: 7 August 2014**

#### **REPLY:**

I am pleased to confirm that the Victorian government announced in the 2014 State budget, funding to undertake the Level Crossing Removal Project at North Road in Ormond and for three other Level Crossing Removal Projects, including that at Burke Road, Glen Iris.

VicRoads advises me that it will complete the Level Crossing Removal Project at North Road, Ormond by mid-2017, in accordance with the announced completion dates for the projects funded as part of the Metro Level Crossing Removal Blitz Program.

The procurement process for all four level crossing removal projects commenced with the advertising of an Expression of Interest process on 27 August 2014.

VicRoads plans to deliver the Burke Road Level Crossing Removal Project ahead of the North Road project, as it is at a more advanced state of readiness for construction. There are significant planning challenges at the North Road site that will require a longer lead-time to resolve. These challenges include the temporary relocation of cricket and baseball clubs, which need to be carefully planned and managed.

Notwithstanding this, we are getting on with providing early benefits to the Ormond community with works on a new signalised pedestrian crossing on North Road, near the level crossing, to commence within the next two months. This signalised crossing will improve the safety of pedestrians crossing North Road, close to Ormond Station.

The Victorian government is committed to removing the level crossing at North Road, Ormond, which will provide significant benefits for commuters, road users and the people of Ormond.

### **Graffiti**

**Raised with: Minister for Crime Prevention**

**Raised by: Mrs Coote**

**Raised on: 19 August 2014**

#### **REPLY:**

The Victorian coalition government is serious about responding to community concerns about graffiti vandalism, such as those experienced in Port Phillip, and is tackling the issue through prevention, removal and enforcement.

The Community Correctional Services' Graffiti Removal Program has eliminated over 2 million square metres of graffiti — enough to cover more than 100 MCG playing fields — from Victorian communities since the program commenced. This amount of graffiti would cost over \$50 million to remove at commercial rates and has instead been achieved through offenders undertaking more than 620 000 hours of unpaid community work as reparation for their offences.

I recently announced a \$350 000 funding boost to support a renewed crackdown on graffiti vandalism on public transport and freeways. \$150 000 is funding an innovative new Crime Stoppers campaign — Dob in a Tagger. Under the campaign, anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest or charge of a person who has tagged our public transport or freeways could receive a reward of up to \$500. VicRoads has also received an extra \$200 000 for a targeted blitz on graffiti on our freeways.

In addition to these initiatives, the Victorian coalition government has made available over 300 free portable graffiti removal systems to local councils and community groups to support community-based graffiti removal activities across Victoria.

The Victorian coalition government is also directly supporting local communities to tackle graffiti vandalism, with grants of up to \$25 000 for councils to partner with a range of community groups to develop and support local responses to graffiti. More than \$1.4 million has been provided in grants to local communities for 83 projects to deter, prevent and clean-up illegal graffiti.

I am pleased to advise that Port Phillip City Council has been awarded over \$32 000 for two projects through the latest round of the Graffiti Prevention and Removal grants.



On 27 August I announced funding for the Graham Street Underpass Street Art Project. The project will see a new public street arts space created at the Graham Street Skate Park to increase local community ownership and address illegal graffiti. Council will be working with local police and community groups to engage local young people in the project.

On 15 September I was pleased to announce funding for the Albert Park Reserve Sports Clubs project. The project aims to prevent and remove graffiti at the facilities of the Powerhouse and St Kilda Hockey Club, South Melbourne Districts Sports Club and Collegians Football Club. These sporting clubs will work together with Port Phillip City Council and Parks Victoria to address graffiti through clean-up operations, the installation of a mural and anti-graffiti coating measures at their club premises.

I am delighted the coalition government is supporting local community in the City of Port Phillip by funding these initiatives. These projects are an excellent example of the local community working together to develop appropriate local responses to address the graffiti issues they are facing.

### **Eastern Victoria Region crime prevention**

**Raised with:** Minister for Crime Prevention

**Raised by:** Mr Ronalds

**Raised on:** 20 August 2014

#### **REPLY:**

The Victorian coalition government recognises that local communities are best placed to identify and prioritise local crime and safety issues and is supporting them to do so.

The coalition government's \$35 million Community Crime Prevention Program supports and encourages community groups, sports groups, businesses and councils to implement community safety initiatives through the following grant programs:

- Community Safety Fund grants — up to \$10 000 for councils and community groups for local crime prevention projects;
- Graffiti Removal and Prevention grants — up to \$25 000 for councils to partner with communities to tackle illegal graffiti;
- Public Safety Infrastructure Fund grants — up to \$250 000 to councils for public safety and security infrastructure; and
- Reducing Violence Against Women and Children Grants — three-year programmatic grants for primary prevention and early intervention partnership projects

Communities right across the Eastern Victoria Region have benefited from these initiatives, with nearly \$4.5 million in grants allocated to support over 170 individual community initiated crime prevention projects.

I have just approved funding to the following projects in the Eastern Victoria Region under the most recent round of the Graffiti Prevention and Removal Grants:

- Bass Coast Shire Council is receiving \$16 945 to deliver the Stop Tagging, Start Street Art project in Wonthaggi. This project will remove existing graffiti, and introduce initiatives to prevent its recurrence. It will establish a community steering committee and develop and install street art in graffiti hotspots. The project model developed from the pilot will be used elsewhere in the municipality.
- Latrobe City Council is receiving \$8000 to install a mural to prevent graffiti at the Churchill underpass, an area that links the residential area with a shopping centre. The project will involve the appointment of an

artist, and involvement of the community in the mural through workshops. Council will work with the Churchill District Community Association to deliver this project.

- Cardinia Shire Council is receiving \$19 094 for the Graffiti Free Cockatoo project which will deliver a graffiti prevention program to young people through primary and secondary schools in Cardinia shire and bring the Cockatoo community together to develop a local graffiti prevention action plan.

The following local community groups in Eastern Victoria Region have also received grants under the latest round of the Community Safety Fund:

- Dandenong Ranges Music Council is receiving \$10 000 to deliver the Monbulk Respect project involving the local community, sporting clubs, businesses and family violence service providers working in partnership to develop a film and song as the basis for a localised campaign to prevent violence against women in the Yarra Ranges.
- The Akoonah Park Men’s Shed in Berwick is receiving \$3030 to install an alarm system to deter burglaries and protect the group’s equipment.
- The Cardinia Civic Concert Band is receiving \$3608 to install security doors at the Army Road Hall, to protect the Band’s valuable equipment and improve safety.
- The Maffra and District Historical Society is receiving \$1000 to install a security alarm system at the Sugar Beet Museum to prevent burglary and property damage.
- The Sale Scout group is receiving \$1691 to install a security alarm system to help to prevent break-ins and ensure equipment is secure.
- The Mawarra Centre in Warragul, a supported employment business service for people with disabilities, is receiving \$4587 to install a security alarm system and safety gate to deter burglaries and theft.
- The Cape Paterson and Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Clubs are receiving \$5750 and \$4350 respectively to improve security at these important community facilities to deter burglary and theft.
- The Lindenow South Recreation Reserve Committee is receiving \$1787 to install security lighting to increase visibility around the reserve buildings and protect against break-ins, property damage and graffiti.
- The Princes Highway Reserve Committee is receiving \$8623 to install security lighting and locks to deter burglaries at the Old Rosedale Primary School Building used by local community organisations.

Reducing violence against women is a key priority of the Victorian coalition government. We are committed to preventing family violence, holding perpetrators accountable and working to ensure women and children are safer.

I am proud the coalition government has invested \$7.2 million from the Community Crime Prevention Program to fund the 12 ‘Reducing Violence Against Women and their Children’ projects across Victoria. This includes \$4.8 million for eight regional projects and \$2.4 million for a further four projects specifically focusing on addressing violence in Koori communities. All of these projects are playing a critical part in state-wide action to tackle violence against women and their children and to developing the evidence base to inform future work.

\$1.8 million is supporting the three projects across the Eastern Victoria Region:

- Casey, Cardinia and Greater Dandenong councils are leading the Challenge Family Violence project, engaging local male leaders to mentor culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and faith communities, student leaders and members of sporting clubs to promote respect and challenge violence-supportive attitudes in these communities.
- Gippsland Women’s Health Service is leading a project to develop and implement a Gippsland-wide strategy to prevent violence against women, bringing together councils, community groups and agencies in this important work.

- Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association (Yoowinna Wurnalung Healing Service) is delivering the Strong Men, Strong Communities project, supporting Koori men in East Gippsland to become community leaders and mentors and choose alternatives to violence through participation in cultural camps and groups.

These are just a few of the great local community projects that I'm proud the Victorian coalition government is supporting through its Community Crime Prevention Program, building safer communities right across Victoria.

For further information about the Community Crime Prevention Program, including a searchable database of grants funded across Victoria, visit [www.crimeprevention.vic.gov.au](http://www.crimeprevention.vic.gov.au).

### **Employment**

**Raised with: Minister for Innovation**

**Raised by: Ms Tierney**

**Raised on: 21 August 2014**

#### **REPLY:**

The commonwealth government has primary responsibility for employment services in Australia and as such, questions about employment services should be directed to the commonwealth Minister for Employment, the Senator Hon. Eric Abetz.

The Victorian government's focus is on creating a supportive business environment which is achieved by investing in infrastructure, supporting economic development and generating new jobs.

Since 1 December 2010 (as at 25 August 2014) the Victorian government has facilitated the creation of more than 20 000 jobs and more than \$8.6 billion in capital investment — including over 6300 new jobs and \$2.6 billion in investment in the 2013–14 financial year alone.

The following Department of State Development, Business and Innovation (DSDBI) programs focus on businesses, young people, and Aboriginal job seekers.

Employment Start Up for Business is a grant program that offers a direct response to Victorian small to medium sized businesses that are experiencing difficulty in filling skilled vacancies. The program has funding of \$7.5 million over four years to achieve the placement of at least 1750 young unemployed Victorians into job vacancies in metropolitan and regional businesses. Eligible businesses can apply for up to \$4000 to employ and train a young person.

Youth Employment Scheme, places young Victorians aged 15 to 24 into traineeships in the public sector and associated agencies. In 2014–2015, the Youth Employment Scheme has a target to place 280 young Victorians into employment.

Employment Start Up for Indigenous Jobseekers program contracts specialist providers to work with Indigenous jobseekers, and has a target of 650 employment outcomes by June 2015.

Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Employment Program is managed by DSDBI on behalf of the Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS has allocated \$1.5 million to assist some of Victoria's most disadvantaged young people to gain employment. This program will place 84 eligible unaccompanied refugee minors into employment.

The government has also introduced the Business in Transition Support program with funding of \$3 million over four years to help reduce the adverse impacts of retrenchments. This support program provides a timely, proactive and coordinated information and referral service, to inform affected workers and businesses facing retrenchments.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Wednesday, 17 September 2014**

**Safe Schools Coalition Victoria**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Ms Pulford**

**Raised on: 26 June 2014**

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The safety and wellbeing of students is our top priority, and the Victorian government is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive teaching and learning environment for all students and teachers.

To that end, we are committed to a number of anti-bullying and mental health initiatives, including:

- \$124 million to increase the number of Primary Welfare Officers to support over 800 schools in Victoria;
- \$10.5 million for the roll-out of the eSmart anti-cyber bullying program with the Alannah and Madeline Foundation;
- \$4 million in Bully Stoppers grants and resources for students, parents, teachers, and principals;
- \$750 000 partnership with headspace, to deliver training for school staff to identify student mental health issues;
- \$200 000 over two years for SSCV to promote safe and tolerant school environments for same-sex attracted or gender diverse students; and
- the development of a Resilience Framework in conjunction with the University of Melbourne.

Our state's classrooms and schoolyards should be bully free zones, and every Victorian student should be able to pursue an education without the fear of being bullied. The diversity of our student population should be something celebrated, as it reflects the richness of our wider community.

Our schools, in partnership with families and communities, play an important role in demonstrating, and informing students about, the kind of respectful behaviour expected of them in all circumstances.

SSCV is a voluntary program, and it is up to each school principal to determine if and how to use the resources provided by SSCV to best support students and create an inclusive, safe and tolerant school community.

Victorian school principals are best placed to understand the specific needs of their schools and students. Our role as a government is to deliver programs and resources that meet these needs, with flexibility for school communities to implement them as required.

**Park Orchards bus service**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Mr Leane

**Raised on:** 5 August 2014

**REPLY:**

Since its election in late 2010, the government has introduced more than 10 000 extra weekly bus, train or tram trips in Victoria, including almost 4000 extra trips with the most recent timetable change on 27 July 2014.

Transdev has worked closely with Public Transport Victoria to improve the efficiency, coverage and connections to other modes offered by Melbourne's bus network.

Most changes made were received well in line with research showing that passengers want bus routes to be direct. On 3 September 2014, the government announced that bus route 303 would resume operation on Monday 13 October 2014 while bus route 271 would be deviated to serve Blackburn residential streets in place of the former route 286 bus from the same date.

The government acknowledges the welcome feedback from community information sessions as well as the input from the members for Box Hill and Mitcham.

**Rushworth P-12 College**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Ms Lewis

**Raised on:** 19 August 2014

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is aware of the issues that Rushworth P-12 College has experienced as a result of leaks in the roof of the Building the Education Revolution (BER) building.

I am advised the department has been in contact with the school to provide assistance in making the area safe and hazard free, and has engaged an independent contractor to inspect the areas affected by the leaks and immediately take action to make these areas safe. I am further advised the contractor will also provide a scope of works for the reinstatement and repair of the affected classrooms.

I have asked the department to work closely with the college to ensure students and staff have access to facilities that are safe and free from hazards.

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Thursday, 18 September 2014**

**Graffiti**

**Raised with:** Minister for Crime Prevention

**Raised by:** Ms Crozier

**Raised on:** 6 August 2014

**REPLY:**

The Victorian coalition government is serious about responding to community concerns about graffiti vandalism, and is tackling the issue through prevention, removal and enforcement.

The Community Correctional Services' Graffiti Removal Program has eliminated over 2 million square metres — enough to cover more than 100 MCG playing fields — of graffiti from Victorian communities since the program commenced. This amount of graffiti would cost over \$50 million to remove at commercial rates and has instead been achieved through offenders undertaking more than 620 000 hours of unpaid community work as reparation for their offences.

The Victorian coalition government is also supporting local communities to tackle graffiti vandalism with grants of up to \$25 000 for councils to partner with a range of community groups to develop and support local responses to graffiti. More than \$1.4 million has been provided in grants to local communities for 83 projects to deter, prevent and clean up illegal graffiti.

I recently announced the 'Dob in a Tagger' Graffiti Initiative, providing \$150 000 in funding to Crime Stoppers for a campaign to encourage people to dob in graffiti taggers. A \$500 reward is available to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest or charge of a person who has tagged on our public transport or freeways.

In addition to these initiatives, the Victorian coalition government has made available over 300 free portable graffiti removal systems to local councils and community groups to support community-based graffiti removal activities across Victoria.

Portable graffiti removal systems are valuable assets in the fight against graffiti in local neighbourhoods. They are ideal for use by community groups and local traders' associations to remove graffiti in situations that are too small to warrant the use of a community trailer and too large to be tackled with graffiti removal wipes or small graffiti removal kits. Their size, transportability and the inclusion of a high-pressure water system means they can meet many community needs.

The system consists of a 120-litre wheelie bin, a high pressure water system, graffiti removal products and personal protective equipment. The products are stored in the bin that is used to transport the system as well as collect water for use in graffiti removal by high-pressure water spray.

I am delighted to be able to join you on 19 September 2014 to deliver a portable graffiti system for use by the local community in Oakleigh.

**Office of Living Victoria procurement process**

**Raised with:** Minister for Water

**Raised by:** Mr Somyurek

**Raised on:** 7 August 2014

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Ombudsman's report Investigation into allegations of improper conduct in the Office of Living Victoria contains four recommendations.

The Victorian government has accepted these recommendations in full.

In accordance with s11 of the Public Administration Act 2004 (Vic), the Office of Living Victoria (OLV) was abolished as an Administrative Office by Order published in the Government Gazette on 1 July 2014.

OLV is now operating as a business group in the Department of Environment and Primary Industries.

**Palais Theatre**

**Raised with:** Minister for Environment and Climate Change

**Raised by:** Ms Pennicuik

**Raised on:** 21 August 2014

**REPLY:**

The Victorian government understands the great community benefits and enjoyment the Palais Theatre provides to thousands of Victorians every year.

The Department of Environment and Primary Industries has worked closely with the City of Port Phillip as the committee of management responsible for the Palais Theatre over a number of years, to carry out repairs and refurbishment works on the building.

This included a \$2.75 million grant to the City of Port Phillip, which enabled the City of Port Phillip over the past three years to replace the theatre's roof as well as undertake fire protection works and electrical and safety fixes.

The Palais Theatre has always been run by private enterprise operators with the expertise to operate the theatre. I am advised that the City of Port Phillip is interested in securing a long-term tenant as the best way to preserve the theatre and allow it to develop as a great venue for the future.