

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

27 November to 10 December 2015

(Extract from book 18)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
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Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
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Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Police and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Mr Drum, Ms Hartland, Mr Herbert, Ms Mikakos, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips and Ms Wooldridge.

Procedure Committee — The President, Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Pennicuik, Ms Pulford, Ms Tierney and Ms Wooldridge.

Legislative Council standing committees

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Morris, Mr Ondarchie and Ms Tierney.

Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning — Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, #Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing, Mr Somyurek and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — Ms Fitzherbert, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

Port of Melbourne Select Committee — Mr Barber, Mr Drum, Mr Mulino, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O'Brien, Mr Pakula, Ms Richardson and Mr Walsh

Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmarr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Nardella and Ms Ryall.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Council*): Ms Patten and Mr Somyurek. (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon, Mr Northe and Ms Spence.

Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson, Mr Tilley and Ms Ward.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards, Ms Kealy, Ms McLeish and Ms Sheed.

House Committee — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O'Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson and Mr Wells.

Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee — (*Council*): Mr Eideh and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing. (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O'Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath and Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Blandthorn, Mr J. Bull, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto.

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 A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

President: The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President: Ms G. TIERNEY

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Deputy Leader of the Government:
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Deputy Leader of the Opposition:
The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:
The Hon. D. K. DRUM

Leader of the Greens:
Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

² Appointed 15 April 2015

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
SFP — Shooters and Fishers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

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ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers and received by Hansard in the period shown.

27 November to 10 December 2015**Western Metropolitan Region**

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 2 September 2015

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Western Metropolitan for his question.

The Government made a pre election commitment to implement the Fair Go Rates System in its term of government and it is getting on with the job.

A recent analysis by the MAV put the average rate increase this financial year at 3.8%, the lowest in a decade. This demonstrates that most councils are lowering their rate rises ahead of the Fair Go Rates System start date.

To ensure a quality and well-designed framework, the Government commissioned the Essential Services Commission (ESC) to undertake an inquiry and recommend how best to implement this policy. I also established the Fair Go Rates Reference Group to give councils, communities and stakeholders more opportunity to have their say on the Fair Go Rates System. The Reference Group assisted the ESC to work through the issues raised by the submissions and advise on a system that will ensure fairer rates.

The ESC is handed its final report to the Government at the end of September 2015, one month earlier than originally scheduled, to ensure that the Fair Go Rates framework is implemented in the 2016–17 financial year. The Government has released its response to the ESCs recommendations, accepting almost all recommendations.

The Andrews Labor Government has engaged in a proper and open process to implement its election mandate. If the parliament approves that mandate by passing the appropriate legislation, Victorians will have more certainty about the largest bill they face after their mortgage repayments.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 15 September 2015

ANSWER:

The Colac Otway Shire Council submitted a Project Proposal to the 2016-17 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund for the Central Reserve Redevelopment Project. Council requested a grant amount of \$650 000 from the Major Facilities category.

The Project Proposal was assessed against the eligibility and assessment criteria and was compared to other proposals from across Victoria. The proposal was not supported to proceed to full application under the Major Facilities Category.

I am advised that in comparison to other projects, this proposal wasn't as strong in terms of community participation outcomes. I have been advised that some of the proposed outcomes are elite level VFL-AFL pre-season games which do not align strongly with the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund. I have also been advised that other areas of the application could have been strengthened in relation to the inclusion of lights and Council's proposed funding contribution.

There are a range of other funding opportunities that Council could apply to for support towards components of this project, including the Minor Facilities and Female Friendly Facilities categories of the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund or the recently released Country Football and Netball Program.

Colac Otway Shire Council are encouraged to continue to liaise with Sport and Recreation Victoria for further feedback and advice on funding opportunities. Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 20 October 2015

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question regarding the Portland Bay School feasibility study.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to investing in education and school infrastructure so that every student, including those at Portland Bay School, has access to a first class education. This has been demonstrated through the allocation of \$730 million into school facilities in the 2015-16 State Budget.

I had the opportunity to visit Portland Bay School on 22 July 2015 and discuss this issue with the Principal, Mr Stephen Crossley, who gave me first hand insight into the infrastructure needs of the school. I understand the importance of finding a long-term and sustainable option to resolve the accommodation issues being experienced at Portland Bay School.

The Portland Bay School feasibility study has been completed following extensive consultation with government schools in the Portland area, the Glenelg Shire Council and the Department of Education and Training. The study assessed the suitability of both co-location and relocation options for Portland Bay School. Potential site options were identified and assessed based on key criteria such as location, traffic issues, site size, access to community organisations and long-term viability.

Portland Bay School has been provided with a summary version of this feasibility study, and the Department is working with the school to discuss its findings.

I trust this information is of assistance.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 20 October 2015

ANSWER:

Westall Road Extension from the Princes Highway East to the Monash Freeway is an important strategic link which will provide improved accessibility to important employment and industrial precincts in the Cities of Kingston, Monash and Greater Dandenong.

As well as relieving congestion on the surrounding road corridors, the Westall Road Extension will also play an important role in facilitating the development of the Monash National Employment Cluster.

VicRoads advises me that it is developing a business case for the Westall Road Extension, and that once finalised, it will seek funding in a future Roads Program.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 21 October 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of volunteer and career firefighters of the Eltham Country Fire Authority (CFA) Brigade who selflessly devote their time and skills to promote the safety and wellbeing of the community.

Regarding the opening of the Eltham fire station, CFA has advised that it is continuing to make a number of modifications at the station.

I am advised CFA wishes to ensure that the modified station can operate efficiently as a fully integrated fire station before resuming operations from it.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 21 October 2015

ANSWER:

The former Coalition government significantly reduced Parks Victoria's funding between 2010 and 2014 and also increased camping fees with no commitment to reinvest these funds.

All camping fees contribute to the ongoing maintenance of camping facilities and for services in parks managed by Parks Victoria. Funding to upgrade parks and reserves is based on a statewide priorities schedule.

A new toilet block at Aire East Campground in Glenaire in the Great Otway National Park is scheduled for the 2015–2016 financial year.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 10 November 2015

ANSWER:

Parks Victoria is still negotiating with the Department of Education and Training regarding the relocation of the Parks Victoria office and depot in Albert Park. Parks Victoria has identified a preferred site within the park, however, the location will be subject to final validation as part of the design process.

The proposal is for Parks Victoria to relocate from its current site by December 2016.

Funding will be provided through standard whole-of-government appropriations processes.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 10 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to investing in education and school infrastructure, and this has been demonstrated through the allocation of \$730 million to improving school facilities in the 2015-16 State Budget. The funding provided through the State Budget represents a crucial first step in creating the Education State.

The timing and allocation of funding for the delivery of new schools is considered annually as part of the State Budget process. Residential growth, demographic change and enrolment trends are analysed across Victoria to ensure new schools are delivered in areas of highest need.

The Department of Education and Training is aware that Keysborough South is a growing community and has recently met with the City of Greater Dandenong to discuss the long term school provision needs in the area.

I am advised that there is currently capacity in the Keysborough network, which includes Chandler Park Primary, Wallarano Primary and Keysborough Primary, to accommodate short term growth forecasts.

The Department are reviewing local enrolment figures and population forecast data to identify when the acquisition of a school in Keysborough South is likely to be required, in relation to other new schools needed across Victoria.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 11 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to delivering a \$63 million transformation of the Frankston Station precinct to deliver a safer, more modern place of business and activity and grow investment towards the long term vision of a revitalised Frankston city centre.

The government is working in close partnership with Frankston City Council, key stakeholders, and the community on this project. The Hon Paul Edbrooke, MP, Member for Frankston, chaired the Frankston Station Precinct Redevelopment Taskforce. Frankston City Council has endorsed the outcome of the Taskforce, the Frankston Station Precinct Redevelopment Master Plan.

The Metropolitan Planning Authority (MPA) is a strategic planning agency with its role specified in the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The MPA has worked closely with Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) to assist with development of the Master Plan, including the secondment of a senior MPA officer to support finalisation of the Master Plan.

It is not appropriate for the MPA to oversee detailed planning of an integrated public transport project with its associated operational and construction considerations, as MPA does not have the necessary capability, resources or authority. DEDJTR will continue to oversee the project in partnership with Council and other agencies, including MPA, as appropriate.

I will be writing to the Federal Member for Dunkley to advise him that DEDJTR will continue to oversee the project in partnership with Council and other agencies, including MPA, as appropriate.