

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Thursday, 12 November 2015

(Extract from book 16)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

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The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

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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*): Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kealy, 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**

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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
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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
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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.

23 October to 12 November 2015**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 18 August 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has a clear reform agenda for local government as outlined in the Ministerial Statement on Local Government. An important part of that reform agenda is ensuring that councils are encouraged to consult and engage with their community more effectively. We are driving this important part of our reform agenda through the Fair Go Rates System and the review of the Local Government Act.

We respect the rights of local government to make their own decisions and understand that they have decided to retain Illoura Early Childhood.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 19 August 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has announced a series of initiatives to boost performance on the Ballarat line in the wake of significant patronage growth, network changes and service reliability since the introduction of the Regional Rail Link on 21 June 2015.

Since June there has been a significant increase in patronage, with thousands more people choosing to catch services on the Ballarat line. To meet demand, there has been a 30 per cent increase in services across the V/Line network, and the opening of the largest public transport infrastructure project in Victoria's history: Regional Rail Link.

The network has struggled with this huge change, particularly on the Ballarat line. The Andrews Labor Government recognises further improvements are needed on the Ballarat line to improve the capacity and reliability of Ballarat services.

Since June, the Andrews Labor Government has delivered extra peak hour services and seven new carriages, providing room for more than 800 extra passengers every day. These extra carriages are long overdue, given the previous Liberal Government's failure to order a single carriage for two years.

At the same time, a series of small but important changes has stabilised the performance of Ballarat services. Punctuality ran at 87.1 per cent in September, up slightly from the previous month.

On 14 September I joined local Labor Members Sharon Knight and Geoff Howard to announce next steps in improving travel for Ballarat line passengers.

Construction of a new passing loop at Rowsley will start within weeks, providing another point for trains to pass each other. This will help services recover from unexpected delays more quickly, improving reliability and punctuality. A new passing loop on the Ballarat line was promised by the previous Liberal Government but never delivered.

Wendouree Station car park will undergo a \$2.5 million expansion. The project will add 200 spaces, nearly doubling the capacity of the existing car park.

I have also provided an update on the progress of the timetable review currently being undertaken. The review has identified a range of options to improve the performance of Ballarat line services, including changes to where trains stop, the spacing of services and the way carriages are used across the network.

These options will be developed over the coming months and implemented as part of a new timetable in January next year. Extensive information will be provided to passengers in the coming months, as service details are finalised.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 1 September 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government stands by the commitment to return direct services to the Altona Loop passengers to the city. PTV is currently working on a new timetable that fixes the problems on the Altona Loop to ensure that cancellations, services gaps and loop skipping does not occur.

The Andrews Labor Government made a commitment to stamp out the practice of station skipping. Since coming to government, we have made sure that Metro publish their station skipping data so that there is more accountability to passengers.

In the meantime, I have requested that PTV and Metro identify what needs to be done to improve passenger experience, communication and provide passengers with reliability and confidence in planning journeys.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 1 September 2015

ANSWER:

The contract with Great Southern Rail, the operator of the Overland train service, has been extended for a period of 6 months under the same terms and conditions as the previous contract.

The Coalition Commonwealth Government has announced it will no longer provide financial support for Overland services. While the South Australian government has committed to provide \$1 million funding to the Overland over the next three years. The Victorian Government currently provides \$3 million each year.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 3 September 2015

ANSWER:

A forum was held in Sunbury on 28 October 2015. I had the opportunity to listen to the concerns of the community and respond. I note Josh Bull MP, Member for Western Metropolitan Region, attended the forum.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 16 September 2015

ANSWER:

The City of Kingston wrote to me seeking advice on a potential rezoning of land within their municipality from the Green Wedge Zone to a residential zone. Specifically, Council is investigating a potential rezoning of land located south of Kingston and Heatherton Road to a Rural Living Zone. The rezoning of this area will require changes to the subdivision controls within the Green Wedge.

Council is also investigating a rezoning to residential land for the area on the western side of Springvale Road, Braeside. The rezoning of this area would require a change to the Urban Growth Boundary.

Council is yet to formally request my authorisation to prepare any such amendments to the Kingston Planning Scheme. Both areas in question are located outside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

Government policy does not support any changes to the UGB. Strengthening and maintaining the UGB is key to ensure orderly development of land and helps preserve non- metropolitan and rural uses. The State Planning Policy Framework further highlights the importance of protecting Melbourne's green wedges from inappropriate development. Any changes to the Urban Growth Boundary or the subdivision controls within the Green Wedge would also require ratification by both Houses of Parliament.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 16 September 2015

ANSWER:

The introduction of the new public holiday provided additional coordinated leisure time for people to spend with family and friends, and resulted in increased social and community benefits for Victorians.

Furthermore, there were no trading restrictions imposed on Grand Final Friday, so business opening hours were a matter for individual owners and operators.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 16 September 2015

ANSWER:

I can advise that on 5 March 2015, the Andrews Government released the Ice Action Plan, which was developed on the advice of the Premier's Ice Action Taskforce. The government has committed \$45.5 million to focus on things that cannot wait to reduce the supply, demand and harm of a drug that is ruining lives.

Under the Plan, the government will spend \$18 million over four years to expand drug and rehabilitation services so that more users can get the assistance they need to get off the drug. A new Ice Help Line on 1800 ICE ACTION (1800 328 423) and use the dedicated website – www.ice.vic.gov.au. These services have been set up to support families, service providers and other community members as part of a \$4.7 million investment in broader community support services.

The Plan recognises the need to clamp down on the production and distribution of the drug. The government is investing \$4.5 million to expand the capacity of the Victoria Police Forensic Drug Branch to help drug profiling

and intelligence gathering. As a result of this finding, Victoria Police will recruit and train eight additional forensic officers and forensic intelligence analysts.

To further support the Plan by helping to reduce the incidence of motorists driving under the influence of illicit drugs and alcohol, the government recently announced a total of \$17.7 million for new booze and drug buses and to ensure that 100 000 roadside random drug tests are undertaken on our roads each year, for the next two years, taking more alcohol and drug affected drivers off our roads. The 200 000 extra tests also come as 700 highway patrol officers have now completed their training and can now administer random roadside drug tests that can be used in court.

In terms of a well-resourced police force, a strong commitment to community engagement and policing is critical to keeping communities safe. In our first year, the Andrews Labor Government's first budget in 2015-16 delivered a record \$2.5 billion to Victoria Police to continue their important work in keeping our community safe.

This includes \$148.6 million over the next three years to redeploy 400 police to our communities where they are needed. This will occur by recruiting, training and deploying 400 custody officers to initially supervise prisoners at around 22 police stations across Victoria.

Further, we have provided additional transit police, specialist police to manage those on parole as well as Protective Services Officers.

I also note that in May 2010, Labor committed funding for an additional 1966 police to the frontline. This led to an increase of 25 police in the Western Region Division 2, which includes the Southern Grampians police service area.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Attorney-General
Asked on: 17 September 2015

ANSWER:

As the matter you raised falls within my portfolio responsibilities I will respond on behalf of the Minister for Police.

The government has allocated \$80 000 to Court Services Victoria (CSV) in the 2015-16 Budget to undertake a safety audit of all Magistrates' Courts, as part of a whole-of-government response to family violence.

An independent safety expert has been engaged by CSV to assist in the development of a methodology and safety audit approach. Stakeholders will be engaged throughout the process to ensure that their views and ideas in relation to safety are captured and utilised to develop solutions and approaches that are deliverable and mutually beneficial. The audit is underway, and will include the Colac Magistrates' Court.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 6 October 2015

ANSWER:

I understand Veolia has been in contact with the Leongatha South community with information about a proposed landfill.

This has, unfortunately, given the community the impression that a decision on the landfill's location has been made. I can assure you that no decision has been made.

The Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan was released in early June and provides the road map and vision for long term planning (30 years) for waste and resource recovery.

Following the release of the SWRRIP, seven Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plans (RWRRIPs) will be developed to capture the needs and priorities of each region of Victoria.

The Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan will be developed and integrated into the statewide plan over the next 18 months.

According to the legislation, Implementation Plans must look at options for future landfill capacity and will need to decide if new landfill sites need to be scheduled or if there is enough capacity in existing sites to meet its landfilling needs.

Under the process set out in the legislation, to apply for a new landfill, Veolia, or any other business for that matter, would need to be listed on the schedule of required waste and resource recovery infrastructure contained in the Implementation Plan. This is a prerequisite before the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) can consider a works approval for a new landfill.

Implementation Plans do not, however, make decisions about whether a site should be approved through the planning system, or given a works approval.

Planning decisions are the responsibility of local government and, in some instances, the Minister for Planning.

It's the role of the EPA as the environmental regulator to consider applications for works approvals. It's also the role of the EPA to ensure that companies operate in compliance with their licences and manage the day to day operation of their waste facilities to minimise impacts on the community.

The Andrews Labor Government has increased the level of community engagement in the implementation plans and there will be a variety of ways in which the community can contribute to their development.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 6 October 2015

ANSWER:

I thank the member for this question and can correct the record for those Barwon Water customers and let them know that they can be confident that the new Barwon Water board appointees have made it through 1400 other applicants, a robust and fair process run by a selection panel of highly credentialed water people who chose to recommend a cross section of skills required to tackle water challenges in this region.

Mr Ramsay is incorrect in his assertions that all board members live in Melbourne. I think Barwon Water's customers and communities will recognise many of the locals appointed.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 6 October 2015

ANSWER:

On 6 October 2014, the former Minister for Planning approved Whitehorse Planning Scheme Amendment 0160 under section 20(4) of the Act and requested that the Residential Zones Standing Advisory Committee review the Neighbourhood Residential Zone schedules that were proposed as part of the Amendment C160. This subsequently became draft Amendment C174.

Amendment C174 was placed on exhibition between 9 February and 6 March 2015 and the committee received 55 submissions. A public hearing was held on 31 March and 1-2 April 2015 at the Whitehorse Civic Centre where the Committee heard from Council and a number of individuals and community group representatives.

The Committee has presented its report and the amendment is currently under active consideration. I will take all relevant matters into consideration when I make a final decision on the matter.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 6 October 2015

ANSWER:

I am advised that the South Eastern Victoria Region is presently undertaking a review of all schools within the region that have a Neighbourhood Enrolment Boundary. As part of this review, the views of neighbouring schools will be sought as to the impact of the Neighbourhood Enrolment Boundary on their operations. The review process is designed to provide greater clarity and transparency to the student placement process.

Following consideration of all feedback received through the consultation process, as well as analysis of the enrolment trends and site limitations affecting schools, a decision will be made as to the retention, modification or removal of a neighbourhood enrolment boundary. It is expected that this process will be completed by the later part of term 4 2015.

A state-wide condition assessment audit of all Victorian Government schools has been undertaken to establish a clear and consistent picture of schools' needs. Parkdale Secondary College will be considered for further capital works within this context against other state-wide priorities.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 7 October 2015

ANSWER:

Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) have been working with government, non-government agencies and community members to reduce the risk of vehicles striking kangaroos and other wildlife in the Tower Hill State Game Reserve Area. These measures include:

- reduced speed limit on a section of Lake View. Road from 100 to 80 km/hr; and
- installation of kangaroo warning signage on secondary roads bounding the reserve and on the Princes Highway.

Parks Victoria and DELWP hold ongoing discussions with reserve neighbours about the movement of kangaroos across boundaries. VicRoads is also reviewing its maintenance and reporting records to identify and provide to Parks Victoria relevant data sets to assist in trend analysis.

Parks Victoria and DELWP will continue to foster inter-agency cooperation to address this issue.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 7 October 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of Country Fire Authority (CFA) volunteers, who selflessly devote their time and skills to promote the safety and wellbeing of the community. Volunteers including volunteers of the Colac CFA Brigade play a vital role in protecting Victoria from all manner of disasters. The government will continue to support both our volunteer and paid firefighters.

The Victorian Emergency Management Strategic Action Plan 2015-18 includes the development and implementation of a sector-wide emergency management Investment Plan. The plan will identify shared procurement and co-location opportunities and future investment requirements across all asset types and capital infrastructure. Emergency Management Victoria continues to work with the CFA on capital works priorities.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 7 October 2015

ANSWER:

I am pleased to advise that I have approved funding of \$69 950 in support of the biennial Big West Festival, to be held in and around Footscray from 20 to 28 November 2015. The festival is a significant intercultural event on Victoria's calendar, promoting community unity and celebrating the cultural vibrancy of the region. I encourage all Victorians to attend.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 7 October 2015

ANSWER:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of six new Commissioners to the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

The new appointments include: Mr Peter Khalil, Mr Tsebin Tchen, Mrs Sonia Vignjevic, Dr Mimmie Claudine Watts, Dr Sundram Sivamalai (Community Representative Commissioner) and Ms Tina Hosseini (Youth Commissioner).

Each Commissioner boasts a great diversity of skills, a passion for multiculturalism, and experiences and community connections to draw upon that will no doubt help us imbed positive change.

The Commissioners understand the issues facing ethnic communities and are actively involved on a local level. They play a vital role in assisting networks, and in liaising between faith and community groups and Government.

I welcome the new appointees to the Victorian Multicultural Commission and look forward to working with them to promote participation, cohesion and harmony across Victoria.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Drum
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 7 October 2015

ANSWER:

The Government sets the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's (DELWP) statewide target for planned burning in the State budget. For 2015-16, this target is 275 000 hectares.

While the Government does not set regional targets, DELWP has allocated this statewide planned burning target by region. These indicative figures are produced to guide preparation of the Fire Operations Plans.

Burning is highly weather dependant and targets may not be achievable in some areas in a given year. When conditions are favourable, targets may be locally exceeded to make up for poor years.

I can advise that the following regional breakdown of the statewide target has been established within DELWP for 2015-16. The electoral boundaries of Mr Drum's district of Northern Victoria approximately correspond with the combined area of DELWP's Loddon Mallee and Hume regions.

Region	Target
Barwon South West	18 517
Gippsland	115 625
Hume	58 975
Loddon Mallee	49 211
Port Phillip	4302
Grampians	28 371

Typically only about 20 per cent of the planned burning program is achieved in spring, most of which occurs in the west of the state.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 8 October 2015

ANSWER:

The 2015-16 State Budget provides \$35 million for 100 new relocatable buildings to ease enrolment pressure and reduce overcrowding at schools. These modern relocatable buildings will accommodate approximately 6000 students over the coming years.

This funding includes provision for 10 new double-storey relocatable buildings. These double-storey buildings allow sufficient classroom space to be provided at schools with small sites and growing enrolments, whilst retaining as much open space as possible. The Department assesses the need for double-storey relocatable buildings on objective criteria related to school enrolment and site size.

In 2015-16, Port Melbourne Primary School and Middle Park Primary School are two of the ten schools identified as having significant need for a double-storey relocatable. The other eight schools on the list have also experienced significant growth and occupy very small sites. Albert Park Primary School has no further capacity on their site to accommodate any additional buildings, therefore I have asked the Department to explore alternate solutions to increase the capacity of the school.

Further funding for double-storey relocatables will be subject to the 2016-17 State Budget announced in May 2016.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 21 October 2015

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Tech Schools initiative is an integral part of the Andrews Government's vision to make Victoria the Education State. We are investing \$125 million to establish ten Tech Schools across metropolitan and regional Victoria, including one at Lilydale.

A local partnership is in the process of being established to lead the planning and development, and eventually manage the Yarra Ranges Tech School to be located in Lilydale. Participating government and non-government schools will be working in conjunction with Box Hill Institute, Deakin University and William Angliss Institute, with the support of industry and local government, to developing the course offerings and design of the Tech School. This local partnership will be driven by the needs of the local community.

Being located at the Lilydale Community Education Precinct, the Yarra Ranges Tech School will introduce students to the tertiary education environment and strengthen their pathways into postsecondary education and training. The local partnership will ensure that the Tech School extends and enriches students' opportunities using leading edge technology while complementing existing local education provision.

This is a really exciting initiative that will provide new opportunities for young Victorians to discover and develop the skills they need for lifelong learning and future careers.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Asked on: 22 October 2015

ANSWER:

I am sorry to hear of your constituents' situation, which, I understand, was brought about when the developer became insolvent before completion of the construction of the village. I also understand that arrangements for the new owner of the village to complete the works have not proceeded.

The role of Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) in this situation is limited to providing information and advice on the Retirement Villages Act 1986 and on the other consumer-protection legislation it administers, and to offer its conciliation services if the parties to a dispute desire it and the dispute is reasonably likely to be settled.

Where claims, such as those by your constituents of misleading or deceptive conduct or of false representations, are not amenable to conciliation, recourse can be had to the courts or to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal to resolve the matter. In this regard, your constituents can seek legal advice from a community legal centre. In addition, CAV funds the Consumer Action Law Centre (CALC), which provides free legal advice and, according to its criteria and within its resources, can pursue legal action on behalf of vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers.

While the Australian Consumer Law contains protections for consumers where misleading, deceptive or unconscionable conduct is involved, the financial problems caused when developers become insolvent are not easily amenable to legislative solution.

However, the issues you have raised will be taken into account when the Retirement Villages Act is next reviewed.