

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**6 and 8 October 2015**

**(Extract from book 14)**

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## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

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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

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FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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**Leader of the Greens:**  
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Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina <sup>2</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>1</sup>	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
Elasmr, 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
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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			

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>2</sup> 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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**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Tuesday, 6 October 2015**

**Waverley Park powerlines**

**Raised with: Minister for Planning**

**Raised by: Mr Davis**

**Raised on: 24 June 2015**

**REPLY:**

Following the call-in of the application last year, the Waverley Park Transmission Lines Advisory Committee was appointed to give an independent assessment of the merits of the request by the developer to remove the obligation to underground the powerlines.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning has been undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the Advisory Committee report, and the full report will be released once I have considered this advice.

**V/Line services**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Ms Lovell**

**Raised on: 4 August 2015**

**REPLY:**

Historically, regional areas see their highest patronage on a Saturday and Sunday. To ensure seating capacity on these regional services, concession customers using V/Line paper tickets on these days have not been offered an off-peak discount.

This is a long standing policy on V/Line services. I am advised that it has been in place for more than three decades, including the period when the member was a Minister in the former Coalition government.

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) takes account of customer feedback and works closely with operators to regularly review fares policy issues.

I am also pleased to remind the Member of the exciting work currently being undertaken on the Network Development Plan for regional Victoria. After four years of Coalition neglect of regional public transport, the Andrews Labor Government is developing a plan to address the transport needs of regional Victoria in the short, medium and long term. Fares and issues related to fare policy will also be considered.

### **Mernda rail extension**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Mr Ondarchie

**Raised on:** 4 August 2015

**REPLY:**

The Government has committed to extending the South Morang rail line to Mernda to cater for significant growth in population in Melbourne's north.

The 2015-16 Victorian State Budget allocated \$9 million to further investigate demand and capacity, site conditions, design development, economic assessment and planning approvals.

Planning for the project is well advanced. Site investigations relating to environmental issues and ground conditions have been completed. Initial community consultation on the project was completed in August 2015. The outcomes from these activities are informing the design considerations for the project.

Construction of the project will commence within the Government's first term, and the project will be delivered during the 2018/19 financial year.

### **Huntingdale railway station**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Ms Fitzherbert

**Raised on:** 4 August 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government will upgrade the teardrop gravel car park and build a new \$5 million bus interchange, turning the Huntingdale Station precinct into a modern, safe and accessible transport hub.

I joined Member for Oakleigh Steve Dimopoulos and representatives from Monash Council and University at Huntingdale Station on 10 September 2015 to announce that the existing gravel car park across Huntingdale Road from the station will be paved and painted with proper line markings.

The current car park was ignored by the previous Liberal Government and is prone to pot holes, flooding and rubbish dumping. Asphaltting it will improve safety for passengers who park and ride from Huntingdale station.

The car park upgrade will cost approximately \$2.6 million and comes on top of the \$5 million that the Andrews Labor Government has invested in the new Huntingdale Bus interchange. The new interchange will include facilities for buses, taxis and bikes, as well as a drop off area for passengers getting a lift to the station.

The combined \$7.6 million transformation of transport links at Huntingdale will make it easier for the 6000 students, staff and other passengers who travel to and from the station and surrounding precinct every weekday.

The new bus interchange and upgraded car park will be delivered by Public Transport Victoria, in close consultation Monash City Council and Monash University, who contributed \$200 000 to the bus interchange upgrade.

Onsite investigations will begin in the coming weeks, with construction expected to start next year and be complete by the end of 2017.

**Caulfield–Dandenong rail corridor**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Ms Dunn

**Raised on:** 5 August 2015

**REPLY:**

The designs for the Level Crossing Removal Project: Caulfield to Dandenong will not preclude the future provision of a third or fourth track along the Cranbourne- Pakenham rail corridor.

The project, when combined with the works under the Cranbourne Pakenham Rail Upgrade, will boost capacity along the Cranbourne-Pakenham line by 42 per cent-making room for an additional 11 000 passengers per weekday.

**Cobden sports hub**

**Raised with:** Minister for Regional Development

**Raised by:** Mr Purcell

**Raised on:** 6 August 2015

**REPLY:**

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is in discussions with Corangamite Shire Council in relation to this project. I have been advised that a feasibility study is currently being conducted by SEO Consulting for the combined community groups and will be complete in November 2015. Opportunities for further support post the completion of the feasibility study will be considered by the RDV Barwon South West Office and Corangamite Shire.

The Victorian Government's Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund "Rural Development" stream provides opportunities for multi-purpose infrastructure projects within the 38 rural Local Government areas. Given the nature of the proposed facility, it may also align with Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) funding criteria. Therefore RDV will include SRV in discussions going forward.

I understand that the RDV Barwon South West Office has provided you with the contact details of the relevant departmental officer to enable the project to be discussed further;

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

**Ballarat electricity supply**

**Raised with:** Minister for Energy and Resources

**Raised by:** Mr Morris

**Raised on:** 6 August 2015

**REPLY:**

On 3 July 2015, one of the two transformers feeding electricity into the Ballarat Terminal Station failed. A replacement transformer was brought on line by AusNet Services, the transmission provider and asset owner of the Terminal Station, on 23 July 2015.

The remaining transformer at the Ballarat Terminal Station had sufficient capacity to continue meeting the electricity needs of Ballarat. One of the reasons for having two transformers in place is to provide a contingency on the rare occasions that such a failure occurs. There were no outages in Ballarat arising from the failure of the first

transformer with power continuing to be supplied to homes and businesses throughout the period in question. Whilst I understand there were some minor and very localised outages of short duration that occurred in the Ballarat area during this period, these were unrelated to the transformer issue.

Despite the very low probability that the remaining transformer also failed, AusNet Services and the local electricity distributor Powercor, worked together to implement additional contingency measures. This included work to establish additional network linkages which would have allowed electricity to be sourced from Terang and Bendigo.

AusNet Services and Powercor also worked with the various arms of the Victorian Government as well as with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) during this period to ensure that relevant parties were provided with timely updates and other appropriate contingency measures and preparatory steps could be put on standby.

The continued provision of essential services such as the hospital and water supply were treated as a priority. In the event of widespread and prolonged electricity outages, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) receives reports from distribution businesses that identify power dependent customers. DHHS has processes in place to deal with such situations.

The Victorian Government has a strong focus on providing an all-agencies, all-hazards approach to emergencies and this was demonstrated in the response to these recent event. A number of well-established processes came into play including the triggering of the Victorian Energy Emergency Communications Protocol and convening of the State Emergency Management Team. Such measures ensure a coordinated whole of Government response and seek to mitigate potential impacts upon the Victorian community on those occasions when emergencies do arise.

### **Noise pollution**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety

**Raised by:** Mr Melhem

**Raised on:** 18 August 2015

#### **REPLY:**

VicRoads advises me that it is currently reviewing its Traffic Noise Reduction Policy. The Government is aware of the impact that noise from traffic has on the community throughout Victoria. As our State grows, the number of people living near busy roads is increasing. In addition, Victoria is seeing more trucks on the road at night.

These factors have increased the impact of noise on the community since the VicRoads Traffic Noise Policy was last updated in 2005.

VicRoads published a discussion paper on traffic noise, having benchmarked its policy against Australian and international best practice. All Victorians were invited to read the discussion paper and respond to it through a consultation hub on the VicRoads web site at: [consult.vicroads.vic.gov.au/trafficnoise](http://consult.vicroads.vic.gov.au/trafficnoise). The consultation ended on 13 September 2015.

### **Stonehaven roads**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety

**Raised by:** Mr Morris

**Raised on:** 18 August 2015

#### **REPLY:**

VicRoads advises me that it has investigated the intersection of the Hamilton Highway and Friend in Hand Road following the recent crash.

The shoulder on the Hamilton Highway at the intersection is sealed to a width of 3 metres to allow a vehicle to pass another vehicle waiting to turn right into Friend in Hand Road.

This treatment is known as a 'basic right turn,' and is considered appropriate for the volume of vehicles turning right at Friend in Hand Road. VicRoads advises me that signage on the approach to the intersection was also reviewed and considered appropriate for the conditions.

In 2008, a project was completed to improve sight distance at the intersection by removing a row of pine trees and cutting back the batter on the inside of the curve on the Hamilton Highway.

Following the most recent investigation, including a review of the reported crash history, VicRoads advises me that they will continue to monitor the road safety at this location.

In regard to the condition of Friend in Hand Road, VicRoads also advises me that it has developed a project proposal to repair the road, which is to be submitted for consideration for funding under the maintenance program.

### **Public holidays**

**Raised with: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade**

**Raised by: Mr Ramsay**

**Raised on: 19 August 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government understands how vital it is for families across the state to enjoy well deserved leisure time with their families and friends. Public holidays provide a crucial and necessary opportunity for families and friends to join together as a community. As the Grand Final public holiday falls within school holidays, it will also help take the pressure off families juggling work and child care, giving Victorian families more time they can spend together.

In its 2014 election platform, the Government committed to appointing Easter Sunday and the Friday before the Australian Football League (AFL) Grand Final as public holidays in Victoria, leading to a public expectation that these public holidays would be introduced.

Following the Government's decision to introduce Easter Sunday and the Friday before the AFL Grand Final as public holidays via notice in the Victorian Government Gazette, the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers to undertake a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) to analyse the potential impact of the policy on the Victorian economy as required under the Subordinate Legislation Act 1994.

As part of the RIS process, consultations were had with 16 entities including business groups and industry associations representing members across metropolitan and regional Victoria, as well as small businesses the AFL and employee unions, to gauge the, anticipated impact of the policy. The RIS was then released for a 28 day period of public submissions, and all submissions were considered.

Victoria has over 532 000 small businesses. Nearly 63% of them are micro businesses that do not employ staff. The RIS process saw 109 submissions from those 532 000 businesses.

On 19 August 2015, I published a Notice in the Victorian Government Gazette appointing the new public holidays, delivering on the Government's election commitment.

**Active Transport Victoria**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety

**Raised by:** Ms Dunn

**Raised on:** 19 August 2015

**REPLY:**

I would like to thank Ms Dunn MP for her question about the establishment of Active Transport Victoria. The Victorian Government is committed to promoting cycling and walking as a mode of transport. Making cycling and walking safer for all Victorians will increase participation in active transport, contributing to a healthier community and environment, and deliver economic benefits.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources is working to establish Active Transport Victoria by 1 July 2016. In the interim, the Government is continuing work on important cycling and walking initiatives.

The department has developed and recently published guidelines to assist local councils to develop Principal Pedestrian Networks. The Principal Pedestrian Networks plan for higher quality walking environments on key routes to local activity centres such as shops, schools and transport hubs. This new approach ensures pedestrians are appropriately prioritised in transport planning and investment.

The department is also preparing for community consultation in October to update the Victorian Cycling Strategy and new action plan. This whole of government strategy will set the direction for cycling in Victoria and outline key actions the Government will achieve by 2019. One of these key actions includes work with VicRoads to finalise development of safe and direct Strategic Cycling Corridors, in order to fill the 'missing links' in the existing bicycle network and guide investment in cycling infrastructure.

Infrastructure improvements to make cycling and walking safer for all Victorians are currently being considered for funding through the TAC Safer Cyclists and Pedestrians Fund. Allocating funding from the Fund requires detailed planning and assessment. The Government looks forward to providing details of these initiatives in the coming months.

**Autism support groups**

**Raised with:** Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing

**Raised by:** Mr Finn

**Raised on:** 19 August 2015

**REPLY:**

This Government is committed to improving the outcomes of all people with a disability and supporting their families. This commitment is demonstrated by the allocation of funding in the 2015-16 State Budget of \$151 million over four years for 827 new individual support packages. Some of these packages will provide support to families with a child with high support needs and young people with a disability leaving school.

It is also why this Government continues to work with the Commonwealth to ensure a successful transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The NDIS will provide more supports for people with a disability, including those with autism.

An important component of the NDIS is Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) which highlights the importance of self-advocacy and peer support in building the capacity of individuals with a disability and their families.

The ILC Framework recognises the important role peer support has in providing support and information to families through sharing and acknowledging the wisdom of lived experience.

We are expecting ILC to be implemented and funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency as part of full scheme NDIS rollout across Victoria.

More immediately, the department provides funding to Amaze to provide information and support to people with Autism Spectrum Disorder, their families and professionals working with them. The Government also provides 24 community organisations approximately \$2.7 million annually to provide advocacy support to 1700 people with a disability. One of these organisations, the Association for Children with a Disability, works to improve the lives of many children with autism and their families.

In regard to groups such as the Autism Angels, many parent run support groups are eligible for Disability Self Help Grants. These grants are targeted to groups that focus on disabilities that are not related to age or mental illness, and provide mutual peer support and education programs to members, as well as community information about disability.

The Government will have more information regarding these grants at a later date and will be pleased to provide these details to the Autism Angels of Brimbank.

### **Rail passenger safety**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Mr Davis**

**Raised on: 19 August 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government's Homesafe trial of all night public transport on weekends is about getting people home safer and sooner.

Based on advice of Victoria Police, there will be a range of security and safety measures in place during the trial to keep passengers safe.

The Andrews Labor Government has invested in an additional 109 PSOs to be stationed at the premium stations operating during the trial.

Additional transit police will patrol all 15 train lines and non-premium stations, Hawksburn, Toorak, Windsor and Prahran.

Hawksburn, Toorak, Windsor and Prahran stations, like all stations on the metropolitan network, have CCTV coverage and an emergency assistance button for passenger safety.

Victoria Police's priority is to ensure delivery of the Homesafe commitment. Victoria Police will continually assess the Situation during the Homesafe trial and redeploy resources as needed.

### Wind energy

**Raised with:** Minister for Energy and Resources

**Raised by:** Ms Tierney

**Raised on:** 20 August 2015

**REPLY:**

I refer to the matter raised during the Adjournment Debate in the Legislative Council on 20 August 2015, regarding Victorian Government support for renewable energy.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that our state obtains its share of the economic and environmental benefits that will come from investing in renewable energy. In addition to the changes made to Victoria's wind farm planning laws earlier this year, the Victorian Government has recently announced a number of actions that will encourage investment in wind power and other forms of renewable energy in Victoria in the years ahead.

On 21 August 2015, the Premier and I visited the Keppel Prince manufacturing facility in Portland to announce the release of the Government's Renewable Energy Roadmap, which outlines a set of initiatives aimed at accelerating the development of renewable energy projects in Victoria. Roadmap initiatives of particular significance for wind energy investment in south-west Victoria include:

- establishing a renewable energy target of no less than 20 per cent by 2020;
- using the Government's electricity purchasing power to support the creation of hundreds of renewable energy jobs; and
- supporting clean energy jobs through the \$20 million New Energy Jobs Fund.

Under the energy purchasing initiative, the Government will source renewable energy certificates from new projects in Victoria. This initiative alone is expected to bring forward around \$200 million of new investment in renewables and generate around 1000 direct and indirect jobs, most of which will be created through the construction of new projects in regional Victoria. Guidelines for the renewable energy purchasing initiative will be released soon.

Public consultation on the Roadmap, which has occurred in September 2015, feeds into the development of the Victorian Renewable Energy Action Plan. The Action Plan will set long-term actions to drive renewable energy investment in our state.

### Swan Hill bridge

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning

**Raised by:** Mr Young

**Raised on:** 20 August 2015

**REPLY:**

The primary responsibility for alignment of the bridge lies with VicRoads and my colleague, the Minister for Roads and Road Safety.



**University Hospital Geelong****Raised with: Minister for Health****Raised by: Mr Ramsay****Raised on: 20 August 2015****REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is providing hospitals with the extra funding required to ensure Victorians can get the care they need when they need it.

As a result of the 2015-16 State Budget Victorian hospitals will share in a record \$9.4 billion in funding, which is \$451.8 million more than provided last year. Barwon Health will receive \$440.9 million, this is an increase of \$20.2 million on the previous year and includes funding for a new intensive care unit bed.

Decisions around service delivery and bed configuration are a matter for health service management. However, new facilities are often built with additional capacity in order to respond to future demand through phased opening of new facilities. The new ward at University Hospital Geelong will enable expansion of services in response to increasing demand for years to come.

Not only is the Andrews Labor Government investing more in health than the previous Liberal Government, we are also making important reforms so that our health system improves.

After four years of cuts to the health system by the former Liberal Government, the Andrews Labor Government is doing everything it can to fix the health system. We want to ensure families right across Victoria and in Geelong can access the health services they need and deserve.

**Rural drainage schemes****Raised with: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water****Raised by: Mr Purcell****Raised on: 20 August 2015****REPLY:**

The 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Committee (ENRC) inquiry into rural drainage infrastructure found significant policy gaps in rural drainage. ENRC recommended that the Victorian Government develop a strategy for managing rural drainage. Funding has been provided to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to commence the development the strategy. I have recently appointed a chair, Ms Peta Maddy, of a reference committee to oversee the strategy's development. I have also requested DELWP, in establishing the reference committee, to include representatives from local government, Municipal Association of Victoria, Environment Victoria and community drainage groups. The Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy will confirm roles and accountabilities for the management of rural drainage. The strategy will be developed with significant involvement by stakeholders and community.

**Northern Victoria Region schools**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Ms Symes

**Raised on:** 20 August 2015

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

I was delighted to visit the schools in Ms Symes' electorate, and meet the teachers, students and school communities there. I applaud the positive work that is being done at those schools in terms of arts, craft and community engagement.

The demolition at Wangaratta Primary School is demonstration of our commitment to ensuring that schools have safe, modern facilities to support the development of Victoria as the Education State. Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for this Government, with \$730 million being invested over the next four years in building and modernising schools.

Cobram Secondary College received \$331 407 for planned maintenance to address three buildings-Block A, Block B and Block F. I understand that the Department of Education and Training has been working closely with the College to address maintenance and demolition issues. I am advised that, following extensive consultation with the school, the Department has agreed to demolish Block F as part of its 2015-16 demolition program. The Department will absorb the costs associated with demolishing Block F, and the funding allocated through the Planned Maintenance Program to specifically address Block F will be re-allocated to the maintenance of Blocks A and B, as agreed with the school.

All Victorian government school buildings containing asbestos are labelled; this is part of a state-wide health and safety plan created in partnership with the Victorian Workcover Authority. Labelling helps schools and the Department to safely induct contractors on site, as well as manage potential risks and ensure that contractors comply with occupational health and safety legislation.

**Public holidays**

**Raised with:** Minister for Tourism and Major Events

**Raised by:** Mr Eideh

**Raised on:** 1 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government has delivered on its commitment to make Grand Final Friday and Easter Sunday public holidays. The public holidays have the potential to stimulate Victoria's tourism industry through an increase in regional travel and will enhance Victoria's reputation as a sporting state.

On 8 July 2015, the Acting Minister for Small Business, the Hon Gavin Jennings MP, released the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for the two public holidays. Conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers, the RIS analyses the potential costs and benefits of their introduction.

The RIS estimates that the new public holidays will deliver between \$156 million and \$312 million annually in benefits to the Victorian economy. The RIS also identifies several benefits which have not been included in its estimate. Accordingly, the benefits could be much higher. From a tourism perspective, these benefits include up to \$51 million in increased tourism expenditure within regional Victoria, up to \$49 million in increased expenditure from complementary sporting events and activities, and an increase in interstate and international tourists. Grand Final Friday also gives Victorians more time to spend with family and friends.

**Ferrars Street primary school**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Ms Fitzherbert

**Raised on:** 1 September 2015

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to investment in education and school infrastructure, and this has been demonstrated through the allocation of \$730 million to school facilities in the 2015-16 State Budget. This record funding boost to school infrastructure will start repairing the damage done by four years of chronic under-investment by the previous government.

The Government is committed to establishing the new South Melbourne Primary School at Ferrars Street, a project which will adopt a vertical model. Election commitments and other high-priority projects not funded in the 2015-16 State Budget will be considered as part of the 2016-17 Budget process.

The Department of Education and Training has commenced planning for all schools in receipt of budget funding, including the new South Melbourne Primary School at Ferrars Street. A preliminary master plan has been developed and is currently undergoing further refinement. These planning and construction documents are expected to be completed early in 2016, and it is anticipated that the school and community facilities will be open in 2018.

**Healesville freeway reservation**

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

**Raised by:** Mr Leane

**Raised on:** 1 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is working with VicRoads to implement the commitment to transfer the Healesville freeway reserve land from freehold land to Crown land.

The transfer of land is proposed to occur in stages, so that parcels that are clearly open space and unencumbered, can transfer as a priority.

As there are a number of parcels along the freeway reserve that have existing uses, including residential uses, a staged approach will ensure existing leases and licences are not adversely impacted.

The initial transfer of unencumbered land is on track to occur this year. At the same time the department will work with local council, VicRoads, and other local interests to find an appropriate land manager for the reserve.

**Building industry**

**Raised with:** Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

**Raised by:** Ms Springle

**Raised on:** 2 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government is committed to increasing protection for consumers from home building malpractice.

The government welcomes the Auditor-General's report on Victoria's Consumer Protection Framework for Building Construction and supports the recommendations made in the report. The relevant agencies have each made firm commitments in response to the recommendations. The government will ensure that these commitments are met.

In relation to my portfolio responsibilities, Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) has committed to review its dispute resolution and conciliation services and advise the government on options to improve their effectiveness. I am advised that this work is ongoing and that CAV is expected to complete its review by 30 June 2016.

CAV, along with the Victorian Building Authority (VBA), has also committed to review its consumer awareness activities to ensure consumers have access to straightforward and timely information and advice. I am advised that CAV and the VBA have established a working party to address this commitment and that this work is expected to be completed by 31 December 2015.

The issue you raised relating to the regulation of building surveyors falls under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Planning. I note that the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning has committed to develop policy options for consideration by the government that support building surveyors to better perform their statutory functions.

The issue you raised relating to domestic building insurance falls under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Finance. I note that the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority and the Department of Treasury and Finance have each made commitments in response to this issue.

### **Fire services review**

**Raised with:** Minister for Emergency Services

**Raised by:** Ms Bath

**Raised on:** 2 September 2015

#### **REPLY:**

I appreciate your concerns that firefighters of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in your region and across the state be allowed more time to be engaged in the review process. However, I have requested that Mr O'Byrne deliver a report to me before the beginning of the summer fire season so that all agencies involved can focus on preparations in advance of the season.

This comprehensive review of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFB) and the CFA will ensure our outstanding firefighters have the support they need to protect our communities from challenging emergencies into the future. The review will inquire into and make recommendations on the resourcing, operations, management and culture of both fire services.

As publicly stated by me the review is not designed to amalgamate the CFA and the MFB, and Victoria's fire services and boundaries will remain intact.

The Terms of Reference identify the key stakeholders for the purpose of the review. These stakeholders have been contacted and requested to provide written submissions responding to the issues identified in the Terms of Reference. In order to allow time to review the submissions, obtain clarifications and further information, undertake independent research and then prepare his report and recommendations, Mr O'Byrne requested all stakeholders to provide their submissions by 31 August 2015.

Given the importance of the issues being considered by the review, Mr O'Byrne has also invited written submissions from interested members of the public to be provided by 31 August. Members of fire services brigades were also welcome to make an individual submission.

As the review must be completed in advance of the summer season, it is not possible for Mr O'Byrne to extend the nominated time frames. Should you have any queries about the review process, please contact the Review Secretariat at fireservicesreview@justice.vic.gov.au.

Thank you for your interest in the Fire services review.

### **Portland Bay School**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Ms Tierney**

**Raised on: 2 September 2015**

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

As you are aware the Department of Education and Training has undertaken a feasibility study to identify suitable long-term solutions for Portland Bay School, including options to rebuild or relocate. As part of this process, a regional Department representative has met with the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Glenelg to consider and view a range of government-owned sites which may be available for the potential relocation of the school, if that is a feasible option.

The Department's South-Western Victoria regional office is conducting the feasibility study, and an initial review of findings is currently being drafted.

On present timeframes, I will receive the findings of the study in mid-October. The final report will then be used to inform strategic decision-making and budget processes. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the Portland Bay School community to achieve the best outcome for the students at this school.

### **Maryborough Airport**

**Raised with: Minister for Regional Development**

**Raised by: Mr Rich-Phillips**

**Raised on: 3 September 2015**

**REPLY:**

The Regional Aviation Fund (RAF) grant program was an initiative of the former government.

The Andrews Labor Government has committed to delivering a range of new initiatives to assist Victorian business adapt and grow, including:

- \$500 million in strategic investment to be guided by the Premier's Jobs and Investment Panel;
- A \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund to support investment in regional Victoria; and
- A \$200 million Future Industries Fund to support business investment in high growth industries.

State investment in airport infrastructure, such as proposed at Maryborough Airport by the Member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region, may be considered for funding under one of these new program initiatives.

The Maryborough Airport, located in the Loddon Mallee Region, is owned by the Shire of Central Goldfields.

The Council are encouraged to continue to engage with Regional Development Victoria's Bendigo office on the proposed Maryborough Airport redevelopment and potential funding assistance.

**Bart Cummings**

**Raised with:** Minister for Racing

**Raised by:** Mr Leane

**Raised on:** 3 September 2015

**REPLY:**

Bart Cummings is one of the great names in Australian sport training the winners of 268 Group 1 races. Mr Cummings is revered for his 12 Melbourne Cup wins that started with Light Fingers in 1965 through to Viewed in 2008. His race record at Flemington also features 13 Australian Cups, 9 VRC Oaks, 8 Newmarket Handicaps and 5 VRC Derbys.

On 12 September 2015, the government announced that it will contribute \$850 000 from the Victorian Racing Industry Fund towards a project to refurbish the Undercroft at Flemington Racecourse. As part of that project, the Victoria Racing Club will develop a dedicated memorabilia area that will house a large portion of Mr Cumming's racing memorabilia in tribute to the great trainer.

**Multicultural affairs grants**

**Raised with:** Minister for Multicultural Affairs

**Raised by:** Mrs Peulich

**Raised on:** 3 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Social Cohesion and Community Resilience Advisory Group includes the following members:

Mr Oussama Abou-Zeid (co-chair); Ms Safa Al Mahoun (co-chair);

Mr Dean Sherr;

Mr Zuben Rustomjee; Ms Rachael Davies; Mr Omar Abdo;

Mr Greg Kennedy;

Mr Lucas Ryan; Dr Anna Halafoff;

Ms Carmel Guerra;

Ms Saara Sabbagh; and Mr Adel Salman.

The Advisory Group has met twice, and the insights provided by its diverse members have been of considerable value.

Mr Andre Oboler from the Online Hate Prevention Institute met with the Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship and provided a proposal which is currently under consideration.

**St Peter's Primary School, East Bentleigh**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Ms Crozier

**Raised on:** 3 September 2015

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

I received advice from the Department of Education and Training that the Department is aware of the Arrowsmith Program, and the trial of the Program across a small number of Catholic schools including St Peter's Primary School.

In Victoria, schools decide which programs are most appropriate for their student population and the Department of Education and Training provides funding for intervention programs through the school's annual budget.

The Arrowsmith Program is one of many programs available to support students with learning difficulties. The trial at the Holy Trinity parish is a parish based initiative in the Catholic education sector and the Department is following the outcomes of the trial closely.

**Mornington Peninsula schools**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Mr Mulino**

**Raised on: 15 September 2015**

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

I thank Mr Mulino for the invitation to visit schools in his electorate and I would like to take him up on the offer to visit when my schedule allows.

I am pleased to hear that recent increases in funding are benefiting education in the area and that additional support for teachers and principals is available to help students with additional needs.

**Bannockburn P-12 school**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Ms Tierney**

**Raised on: 15 September 2015**

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

I thank Ms Tierney for the adjournment matter raised regarding the new Bannockburn Prep-Year 12 School.

I am thrilled to confirm that the Bannockburn Prep-Year 12 School is being delivered as part of 15 high priority new schools through the New Schools Public Private Partnership (PPP) Project. The new schools-with a capital value totalling \$291 million-make this the largest ever schools building project in Victoria.

Government has expanded and fast-tracked the Project to deliver more new schools earlier with the inclusion of Bannockburn and Mernda Central secondary school components. Government has also enhanced the project scope to support delivery of much needed additional community facilities.

The existing Bannockburn Primary School community will be relocated from the current constrained site on High Street to brand new facilities at a larger site on Milton Street in Bannockburn. In line with Government's commitment to local families and residents, the new school will be expanded to provide full Prep to Year 12 facilities to meet long-term needs of this growing community.

The school will provide first class, contemporary learning spaces for students as well as a range of flexible meeting and recreation spaces for community use. The facilities for all years from Prep-Year 12 will be constructed together and the Principal in conjunction with the Department of Education and Training Regional Office will determine how the secondary curriculum will be phased in. The new school will open for students for Term 1, 2018 and enrolments for the secondary school component to be accepted approximately six to twelve months prior to the new school opening.

Extensive consultation will continue to be undertaken with the existing Bannockburn Primary School community to input into and shape the identity of their new school as it relocates to a new site and expands to include secondary education. Local families and the community will be kept up to date with information sessions to be held in the lead up to the opening of their new school.

Further details regarding enrolments and community consultation for the new school will be made available on the New Schools PPP Project website over the coming months.

### **Colac police station**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police

**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue

**Raised on:** 15 September 2015

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Government recognises that Victoria Police requires appropriate facilities to support police in the work they do in keeping our communities safe. That is why in the recent State Budget we provided additional funding to see Victoria Police record its largest ever budget of \$2.5 billion.

The operational need for new and upgraded police stations is determined by Victoria Police. Where the need for additional police infrastructure funding is identified, the status of projects is determined by government through the Budget process.

As you would expect, the government works closely with the Chief Commissioner to ensure Victoria Police is appropriately resourced to tackle law and order issues facing the Victoria community.

### **Custody officers**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police

**Raised by:** Ms Tierney

**Raised on:** 16 September 2015

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government's is investing \$148.6 million over four years to redeploy 400 police to our communities where they are needed. This will occur by recruiting, training and deploying 400 police custody officers to supervise people in police custody at an initial 22 police stations across Victoria.

I can advise that Geelong will be among the first police stations to receive police custody officers, along with Ballarat, Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Heidelberg and Sunshine.

Police custody officers will undertake custody management duties including processing and supervising detained people, managing visitors to police cells, facilitating access to health services and appearance before court.

Work is underway to implement the government's commitment, including the development of a legislative framework to create the police custody officer role and provide appropriate powers, protections and accountabilities to perform these important duties.



Recruitment for the police custody officers has already commenced with the first squad due to start training at the Victoria Police Academy in December. As part of their training officers will be working in police stations towards the end of December, with initial deployment in January.

Custody officer legislation will be introduced into Parliament in the coming weeks.

I trust this information is of assistance.

### **National disability insurance scheme**

**Raised with: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing**

**Raised by: Ms Lovell**

**Raised on: 16 September 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

- The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have agreed to a staged geographic roll out of the NDIS across Victoria (as did New South Wales), with an accelerated transfer of eligible participants on waiting lists based on need. This roll out of the NDIS in Victoria will commence in July 2016 and will be completed by July 2019. This is the same timetable agreed by the previous government in the 2013 Intergovernmental Agreement on the NDIS.
- The NDIS roll out in Victoria has been carefully planned to give Victorians with disability their families and carers the time, information and resources to move from the current state based system to the NDIS.
- In making the decision to have an area-based transition both Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have considered many factors including:
  - the number and needs of people with a disability (existing Victorian disability clients) living in the area
  - the time to get the rights supports and services in place
  - experience to date from the NDIS trials.
- This is one of the biggest policy reforms that Victoria, and the Nation, has embarked upon and therefore the roll out will be undertaken sensibly, so participants can have confidence that services in all areas across the state have the capacity to be delivered at a high quality and that the sector can offer the diversity to deliver on the promise of real choice.
- The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that people with urgent needs are prioritised when the NDIS is rolled out.
- The roll out of the NDIS will occur over three years, with roll out to conclude by 2019. To ensure the needs of people with disability are met during this period, the 2015-16 State Budget included \$151 million over four years for 827 new individual support packages. This record investment in individual support packages far exceeded any such investment by the former government in its term of office.
- The new Individual Support Packages will assist:
  - Young people leaving school and young people completing the Futures for Young Adults program who need ongoing support
  - Children and their families to get the support they need
  - Younger people with high and complex needs, who are at risk of entering residential aged care, to have a greater choice about where they will live.

**Winchelsea Primary School****Raised with: Minister for Education****Raised by: Mr Ramsay****Raised on: 17 September 2015****REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

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 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, and we will continue to invest in school infrastructure throughout this term of government.

I understand that, following advice from the Department, Winchelsea Primary School made an application for \$30 000 to fix the school's gutters and downpipes through the Emergency Maintenance Program. I am advised that the school must seek three quotes from contractors to fulfil the scope of works, as per the Department's standard procurement procedure. I understand that since this adjournment matter has been raised, the school is currently procuring quotes to address these issues. I have also scheduled a visit to Winchelsea Primary School for later this year and look forward to meeting the school community.

In regards to Birregurra Primary School, the Government is aware that schools may have additional maintenance or capital needs. However, financial constraints do not allow for all school building projects to be immediately funded, and the needs of all government schools must be balanced and prioritised accordingly. The Government uses all available data, including condition assessment reports and pre-existing project plans, when allocating funding in State Budgets, and I can assure you that the capital needs of all schools will be considered when determining future priorities for the Victorian Government's capital works program.

Lastly, as you are aware, the former Colac High School site is currently vacant and has been declared surplus to educational needs. The Department undertakes a maintenance program for all vacant former school sites, and through its regular inspections, is aware of vandalism at the former school. I am advised that the former school site is to be disposed during the 2015-16 financial year and that the Department is currently developing a report which will determine the future use of the site. I have asked the Department to continue monitoring the site until a decision is made on its future use.

Thank you for raising your concerns with me and I trust this information is of assistance.

**State Netball and Hockey Centre****Raised with: Minister for Sport****Raised by: Mr Drum****Raised on: 17 September 2015****REPLY:**

The State Netball and Hockey Centre in Parkville is one of the terrific facilities managed by the State Sport Centres Trust. The Andrews Labor Government is committed towards a master plan for the Trust's facilities that will guide capital investment in the years to come. My Department and the State Sport Centres Trust staff are working hard on this plan.

**Cheshire School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Mr Leane

**Raised on:** 17 September 2015

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria the Education State, providing better educational and life outcomes for all Victorian children and young people.

The Department of Education and Training recognises the benefits of specialised programs offered by a range of organisations, including the Cheshire School, for students at risk of disengagement due to social, emotional or behavioural issues.

I understand the Cheshire School provides an intensive intervention program with high teacher to student ratios, enabling students to achieve success and eventually integrate back to mainstream school settings.

I would be pleased to visit the Cheshire School as soon as my diary commitments permit.

**Cairnlea land rezoning**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning

**Raised by:** Mr Eideh

**Raised on:** 17 September 2015

**REPLY:**

In late 2013, Places Victoria consulted with the local community and invited submissions regarding the final stage of the Cairnlea estate.

I am advised that as a result of feedback from information sessions, written submissions and dedicated meetings in late 2013 and early 2014, Places Victoria significantly changed its plan and is now committed to pursuing a largely residential development on the remaining land at Cairnlea.

The new master plan, which was sent by mail to more than 800 Cairnlea residents in April 2014, proposes two thirds of the remaining land at Cairnlea to be zoned residential, with a small commercial area confined to the southern part of the site along Ballarat Road. The remaining land is dedicated to public open space and wetlands/retarding basins.

At this time the land is under Commonwealth ownership and cannot legally be given a zone under Victorian planning legislation. Once the land is transferred from the Commonwealth to Places Victoria, I will be able to consider a planning scheme amendment to zone the land.

### **Drug law reform**

**Raised with:** Attorney-General

**Raised by:** Ms Patten

**Raised on:** 17 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government believes a multi-faceted approach based on reducing demand, supply and harm is the most effective response to the problem of illicit drugs in our community.

This is an accepted approach to drug policy at both the federal and state levels and is supported by an extensive evidence base built under the National Drug Strategy since the mid-1980s.

Victoria's Ice Action Plan, in which the government committed \$45.5 million to tackle the problem of ice, is an example of the government's balanced approach. The plan commits \$18 million to expand drug treatment, with a focus on rehabilitation for users in rural and regional areas, and \$1.8 million for needle and syringe programs to make harm reduction more effective. There are other initiatives to help families, support frontline workers and shut down clandestine laboratories.

The plan also sets out priorities for the future including options to expand diversion programs and other effective justice responses, prevention initiatives such as evidence based education programs, and building capacity for early intervention and specialist treatment.

The Inquiry into the supply and use of methamphetamines, particularly ice, in Victoria, undertaken by the Parliamentary Law Reform, Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee in 2014, provided a comprehensive evidence base that informed the Ice Action Plan and is continuing to inform the Victorian Government's longer term policy response to ice and other drugs.

The government does not support a broad inquiry into all illicit drugs with a focus on decriminalisation. Instead, we will continue our efforts to support demand, supply and harm reduction measures and target them to the areas where they are most needed.

### **Crime prevention**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police

**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue

**Raised on:** 17 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Community Crime Prevention Program was left with an uncertain future due to the former government's failure to continue to ensure funding in the forward estimates. The government has committed funding of \$5.8 million to enable the program to continue while a review is undertaken by the Parliamentary Secretary for Justice. Once completed, it will be considered by Government.

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Thursday, 8 October 2015**

**Ocean access boat ramps**

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture

**Raised by:** Mr Bourman

**Raised on:** 3 September 2015

**REPLY:**

I'd like to thank the Member for East Gippsland for his question regarding funding ocean access ramps through the government's Target One Million recreational fishing program.

The government has already begun delivery on a range of commitments under the Target One Million program to grow recreational fishing in Victoria. I can tell you that in August boating restrictions were changed at Blue Rock to improve access for fishers to this important fishery and Australia's first trout cod fishery was officially opened in Beechworth.

Work is well underway with regards to other important commitments such as the removal of commercial netting in Port Philip Bay and increasing recreational fish stocking to 5 million fish per year.

One of the key components of the Target One Million program is the delivery of the Better Fishing Facilities Fund which will develop new fishing reefs, improve access for land and boat based fishers and deliver better recreational fishing facilities across Victoria.

The program is currently open for funding applications and a number of projects have already been funded and works are underway.

In the case of new or upgraded boat launching facilities, the program will typically target projects involving smaller facilities in regional areas.

The government has a dedicated funding program, the \$8 million Boating Safety and Facilities Program which is specifically designed to fund new boat launching facilities such as the one the Member for East Gippsland described.