

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**8, 9 and 10 December 2015**

**(Extract from book 18)**

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## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

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Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence . . . . .	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Planning . . . . .	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

### Legislative Council committees

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

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

### Legislative Council standing committees

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

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

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

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

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

### Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Heads of parliamentary departments

*Assembly* — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

*Council* — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

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The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

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

**Leader of the Greens:**  
Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina <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
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			

<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, 8 December 2015**

**Family violence**

**Raised with: Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence**

**Raised by: Mr Eideh**

**Raised on: 7 May 2015**

**REPLY:**

There is no issue of more importance to the Andrews Labor Government than the prevention of family violence. It is a harm that lurks in every corner of our community, regardless of geography or status.

In early 2015, the Royal Commission into Family Violence held 44 group consultation sessions for individuals affected by family violence and those who work closely with them. Approximately 850 people participated in the sessions across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Throughout the public hearings that were held a number of stakeholders that are located in the western metropolitan region spoke directly to the Royal Commission about their experiences, views and recommendations. This included organisations such as the Western Community Legal Centre, McAuley Community Services for Women, Women's Health West, the Sunshine Magistrates' Court and Maribyrnong City Council. The evidence that was collected by the Royal Commission will help to guide the recommendations and contribute to the Victorian system becoming one of best practice.

Royal Commissions shine light on an issue unlike no other and while this spotlight is vital in creating the awareness necessary to eradicate this harm, we know it does increase demand on services. The 2015-16 Budget responds this growth in people seeking support and provides targeted funding for those particularly vulnerable to family violence. The Budget provides \$81.3 million over five years for family violence.

In order to truly eradicate family violence, prevention initiatives are necessary. I am proud that the Andrews Labor Government has implemented the first Victoria Against Violence campaign. Victoria Against Violence aims to turn attention towards the devastating impact that family violence has on the lives of so many through a range of activities held by the Victorian Labor Government, community organisations and individuals.

**Local government rates**

**Raised with: Minister for Local Government**

**Raised by: Mr Davis**

**Raised on: 1 September 2015**

**REPLY:**

The Government announced in its response to the Essential Service Commission's final report for their Local Government Rates Capping & Variation Framework Review, that Councils will not be charged a fee to apply to the ESC for a higher cap in 2016.

The ESCs final report also outlines that applications have been designed to utilise existing reporting documents to the greatest extent possible.

**Carranballac P-9 College**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Mr Finn**

**Raised on: 3 September 2015**

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The SFO measure was introduced in 2005, based on research undertaken by the University of Melbourne, which found that SFO was the single biggest factor determining differences in outcomes between schools.

Further refinement of the equity funding model in 2016 will now add parental education, further strengthening the allocation of resources to students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

From 2016, the Victorian government, as part of the Education State, will invest \$158 million in equity reform which has been designed to raise student achievement and retention and as a result Carranballac will receive an additional \$188 000.

This school has experienced a significant decline in enrolments, with 166 fewer enrolments since 2012, equating to a decline in funding of approximately \$1 million over the time. The school has also been able to maintain a bank balance of almost \$800 000 in 2015.

**Hadfield Park, Wallan**

**Raised with: Minister for Local Government**

**Raised by: Ms Symes**

**Raised on: 17 September 2015**

**REPLY:**

Thank you for your question regarding the Interface Growth Fund.

I note that the Member for Northern Victoria has been a strong advocate for this project. As with many other investments in her region, the Members' keen advocacy has helped secure funding for this project.

I was proud to announce that the Andrews Labor Government is investing \$950 000 in the Hadfield Park Play Space. The project will create a play space with wet and dry areas. It will be an important piece of community infrastructure.

This significant \$50 million dollar investment in the new Infrastructure Growth Fund from the Andrews Labor Government is an initial investment towards meeting the critical infrastructure needs of communities in Melbourne's diverse and fast-growing outer suburbs. This funding will enable councils to begin a program of work to deliver the types of infrastructure communities need to deliver economic benefits, provide local jobs and improve access to services for growing communities.

I would like to again thank the Member for Northern Victoria for her advocacy and I look forward to working closely with local members and local governments to deliver positive outcomes for communities.

**Wodonga West Primary School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Ms Lovell

**Raised on:** 17 September 2015

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

Thank you for taking the time to raise your concerns with me regarding timeframes for demolition and building works at Wodonga West Primary School.

Demolition of the main building was completed during the school holidays, which has provided the space necessary for construction of the school's new facility. I am further advised that documentation for the new works is complete. Tenders were also released on 29 October 2015, thereby enabling construction to commence in the new year.

**Oberon High School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Ms Tierney

**Raised on:** 6 October 2015

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

I thank Ms Tierney for the invitation to visit Oberon High School and I am pleased to advise that I am scheduled to visit the school on 14 December 2015.

I commend Oberon High School for its endeavours to provide a comprehensive curriculum for its students and the provision of diverse pathways for students including VCE, VCAL and VET programs, traineeships and new apprenticeships. When I visited the school in July this year I observed these programs in action and talked to a number of dedicated and enthusiastic staff and students.

The Department is conducting a review into the provision of education in the South Geelong area, and Oberon High School will play an integral role in relation to this work. This review will assess provision and seek solutions that will best address current and future education needs. The changing demographics, enrolment pressures and the building of new schools will be taken into consideration.

**Local government legislation review**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government

**Raised by:** Mr Davis

**Raised on:** 7 October 2015

**REPLY:**

The Discussion Paper for the Local Government Act Review canvasses a wide range of ideas from an extensive field of sources in order to promote discussion.

The idea referred to by Mr Davis was suggested in the Georgiou Review that was commissioned by the former Government, of which he was a Cabinet Minister.

I appreciate Mr Davis' feedback that the ideas of his former government are greatly concerning to small business and I will take that into account throughout the process of the review.

### **Destination Rosebud**

**Raised with: Minister for Local Government**

**Raised by: Mr Mulino**

**Raised on: 20 October 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Eastern Victoria for his question.

The Government is committed to supporting local councils and communities respond to the changing demographics and growth patterns of our city and proudly initiated an Interface Growth Fund in the 2014-2015 Victorian Budget.

This is an important Government program delivering on the commitment to support the provision of much needed community infrastructure across metropolitan Melbourne's ten interface councils.

The fund is helping these councils on Melbourne's urban fringe to improve, build and deliver community spaces that matter to local residents, while creating jobs and growth.

The project, 'Destination Rosebud' was a worthy recipient of more than \$4 million from the State Government, supporting a total project value of \$5.5 million. The initiative, 'Destination Rosebud' by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council will deliver an integrated place making project by creating a central community space, playground, enhanced beach access and footpaths.

I would be proud to visit council and the community in early 2016 as the project takes shape, to view the delivery of this important piece of community infrastructure that supports and enhances the Rosebud foreshore by providing for much needed infrastructure and environmental improvements.

### **Cobains and Ellinbank primary schools**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Ms Shing**

**Raised on: 20 October 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to providing a first-class education for students, and this starts with investing in school buildings and infrastructure.

I understand that the plumbing issues at Cobains Primary School and Ellinbank Primary School have presented significant challenges to both schools. I am, however, pleased to confirm that \$10 000 has recently been allocated to Cobains Primary School for a new water tank, and \$15 000 to Ellinbank Primary School for two new water tanks.

I am advised that the Department of Education and Training's South Eastern Victoria Regional Office has been in regular contact with both schools, and that project works will soon commence. I have asked the Department to

continue to work closely with both Cobains and Ellinbank Primary Schools throughout the delivery of the project, to ensure that the best outcome is achieved with this funding.

I trust that the new tanks will address the schools plumbing issues, and help guarantee access to a safe and secure water supply.

### **Regional and rural roads**

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

**Raised by:** Mr Purcell

**Raised on:** 21 October 2015

#### **REPLY:**

VicRoads advises me that an extensive program of pavement renewal was delivered successfully in this past financial year, with many of those projects on the Henty Highway, Hamilton Highway, Hopkins Highway, Colac-Ballararat Road, Timboon-Colac Road and Woolsthorpe-Heywood Road, renewing and strengthening important road sections.

A similar extensive program of renewal will be delivered in the current 2015-16 financial year, with further sites on the Hamilton Highway, Timboon-Colac Road, Colac-Ballararat Road and the Princes Highway to the west of Heywood being rebuilt. Along with sites on a major port access route to Corio Quay in Geelong, sites on the Geelong — Portarlington Road and Portarlington-Queenscliff Road, on the Bellarine Peninsula, are all being rebuilt to carry large, modern, freight vehicles, now and into the future. Construction on many of these projects is expected to commence soon and continue over the summer period.

These projects are in addition to an extensive annual program of major repairs and resurfacing that is currently being delivered across the region.

### **St Andrews Primary School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Ms Symes

**Raised on:** 21 October 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. This represents a crucial first step in creating the Education State, and we will continue to invest in school infrastructure throughout this term of government.

As Minister for Education, I appreciate the significant role local schools play within rural communities. I am therefore delighted to confirm that St Andrews Primary School will receive \$30 000 to upgrade the school's outdoor play area. These funds will ensure the playground continues to benefit school students and the local community.

I have asked the Department of Education and Training to continue to work with St Andrews Primary School to determine the scope of the project and ensure a smooth and timely completion. I feel certain that this funding will help achieve an outcome which further supports the school's engagement with the community and the high educational ideals of the St Andrews teaching staff.

### Regional and rural roads

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

**Raised by:** Ms Bath

**Raised on:** 21 October 2015

**REPLY:**

It is important that the Government keeps as many of our roads open for business as possible. With this in mind, the Andrews Labor Government has guaranteed funding of at least \$1 billion over eight years for the upgrade and repair of unsafe and congested roads and level crossings across regional Victoria. The Government is also committed to working with local councils to identify road infrastructure needs in local communities.

To support this commitment, the Government recently announced more than \$35.8 million to strengthen bridges in country Victoria and \$50 million for the Safer Country Crossings Program. This funding will go towards strengthening bridges along major regional freight corridors and improving safety at 52 regional level crossings. This key investment will assist economic development and will grow jobs across Victoria.

The Federal Government also provides direct funding to local councils for the maintenance of local roads and bridges. These programs include the Roads to Recovery Program and the Bridge Renewal Program. The Federal Government also provides financial assistance grants to local councils that can be used for roads and for general purposes.

The objective of this program is for the Federal Government to contribute to the maintenance of local roads. The focus of the program is on improving road safety, increasing productivity and improving social outcomes.

Under the program, direct funding to local councils is distributed according to a formula based on population and road length set by the Local Government Grants Commissions in each state and the Northern Territory. Each council's Roads to Recovery allocation is fixed for the life of the program. Untied grants for local roads are part of annual financial assistance grants to councils.

### Youth policy

**Raised with:** Minister for Youth Affairs

**Raised by:** Mr Eideh

**Raised on:** 21 October 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to addressing the specific needs of and improving outcomes for all young Victorians.

The new whole of government Youth Policy Framework will amplify the voices of young people in all areas of government policy development to help address the hurdles and problems confronting disadvantaged and vulnerable young people.

As part of the consultation process for the Youth Policy Framework, young people were asked to share their thoughts on a range of core issues, including health and mental health, education, public transport, employment, recreation and issues of participation and inclusion. The consultation process also provided the opportunity for young people to raise other issues that are important to them, thereby helping to set the agenda for the Government's youth policy priorities.

The Department received 161 responses from young people within the Western Metropolitan Region to the Youth Central survey. This included a broad demographic representation with 7 per cent identifying as Aboriginal or

Torres Strait Islander, 18 per cent with a disability, 19 per cent identifying as LGBTI, and 14 per cent culturally and linguistically diverse.

These young people have identified education, mental health and employment as their top issues, as well as discrimination, marginalisation and belonging. There has been overwhelming support from these young people to continue to be heard, with 93 per cent stating they would be interested in working alongside government to tackle these issues.

In addition, two young people from the Western Metropolitan Region are represented on the government's youth reference group. The Department has also funded non-government organisations to consult with young people in the west, including Scouts Victoria in Sydenham and Melbourne City Mission in Sunshine.

### **myki fares**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Ms Patten**

**Raised on: 22 October 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

In Melbourne, concession passengers pay a maximum of \$3.76 per day to travel anywhere in Zones 1+2. The daily fare cap is a significant benefit of Melbourne's ticketing system, and avoids the situation that occurs in many other Australian cities where passengers can be charged multiple times over the course of a day.

When a myki is touched on, a 2 hour 'product' is created. This allows unlimited travel in the zone(s) travelled in for two hours. Provided a customer touches on prior to the expiry of their product, they may complete their journey after the expiry time of their ticket. For example, a passenger who first touches on at 2.15pm, can board services until 4.15pm.

In addition, passengers who first touch on after 6pm can travel until 3am for the cost of a 2-hour fare.

### **Maryborough Education Centre**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Ms Tierney**

**Raised on: 22 October 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government is committed to investment in education and school infrastructure. We believe that every student deserves the best possible environment in which to learn, and that is why \$730 million was provided in the 2015-16 State Budget to help achieve this.

I am advised that the Department of Education and Training has been working closely with Maryborough Education Centre regarding solutions to improve its school grounds and enhance the overall outdoor amenity. I am pleased to confirm that \$250 000 has recently been allocated to the school for ground works and landscaping.

While I understand that Maryborough Education Centre may have additional needs that extend beyond this, I trust that this funding is an important step in the redress of what remains a challenging outdoor situation.

**Regional and rural roads**

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

**Raised by:** Mr Morris

**Raised on:** 22 October 2015

**REPLY:**

VicRoads advises me that the major roads carrying timber to the Port of Portland, such as the Princes Highway West, Henty Highway, Portland-Casterton Road, Portland-Nelson Road and Woolsthorpe-Heywood Road, are declared arterial roads managed and maintained by VicRoads under the Road Management Act 2004.

Consequently, they did not qualify for funding under the previous Country Roads and Bridges program, as it targeted local council roads, not arterial roads.

VicRoads also advises me that an extensive program of pavement renewal was successfully delivered in this past financial year, with many of those projects on the Henty Highway, Hamilton Highway, Hopkins Highway, Colac-Ballarat Road, Timboon-Colac Road and Woolsthorpe-Heywood Road renewing and strengthening important road sections.

A similar extensive program of renewal will be delivered in the current 2015-16 financial year, with further sites on the Hamilton Highway, Timboon-Colac Road, Colac-Ballarat Road and the Princes Highway to the west of Heywood being rebuilt. Along with sites on a major port access route to Corio Quay in Geelong, sites on the Geelong — Portarlington Road and Portarlington-Queenscliff Road, on the Bellarine Peninsula, are all being rebuilt to carry large, modern, freight vehicles, now and into the future. Construction on many of these projects is expected to commence soon.

These projects are in addition to an extensive annual program of major repairs and resurfacing that is currently being delivered across the region.

VicRoads advises me that, in conjunction with scientists from the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB), it is currently undertaking detailed modelling of Victoria's arterial road network to predict future performance against various funding scenarios. This will enable optimised and better targeted annual works programs to be delivered more effectively.

In the meantime, VicRoads will continue to inspect and monitor the road and perform maintenance works as needed. In addition, proposals for undertaking further pavement strengthening or resurfacing will be developed as required.

**Sunbury rail crossing**

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

**Raised by:** Mr Finn

**Raised on:** 22 October 2015

**REPLY:**

In its capacity as a key stakeholder, VicRoads has been working closely with the Metropolitan Planning Authority on the development of the Sunbury South and Lancefield Road Precinct Structure Plans.

The development of these Precinct Structure Plans includes investigating opportunities that would improve connectivity between the established areas of Sunbury and its growth areas.

The Sunbury South Precinct Structure Plan outlines a potential crossing of the railway line to the south of the Sunbury Town Centre, and the Lancefield Road Precinct Structure Plan outlines two potential crossings of the railway line to the north-east of the Sunbury Town Centre.



Further information on the structure planning in Sunbury is available from the Metropolitan Planning Authority's website <[mpa.vic.gov.au](http://mpa.vic.gov.au)>

### **Albert Park Primary School**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert**

**Raised on: 22 October 2015**

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

Albert Park Primary School approached the City of Port Phillip Council, the Department of Education and Training and the Member for Albert Park regarding a proposed site extension. It is seeking an opportunity to utilise an additional section of road, primarily the intersection of Moubray Street and Bridport Street West, following its closure.

I am advised that productive discussions have been held between the school, Council, and representatives from the Department on this issue.

On Friday 27 November the Member for Albert Park announced the Government is funding a traffic study to expedite the road closure process.

The chronic lack of investment in school capital across the state by the previous government has left schools struggling to deal with enrolment pressures-including schools in Albert Park.

The Andrews Labor Government is not only investing in two new primary schools for the community, but will continue to work productively with existing schools regarding their needs.

### **Health system performance**

**Raised with: Minister for Health**

**Raised by: Ms Wooldridge**

**Raised on: 10 November 2015**

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government is committed to being open and transparent about the elective surgery occurring in our health services. The Victorian Health Services Performance Report released on 30 October 2015 demonstrated that waiting times for surgery were reduced for the last quarter. Over 80 per cent of elective surgery undertaken in Victorian public hospitals is captured in these waiting list reports.

Small health services, such as those in rural locations, are currently not required to report elective surgery waiting list data due to the significant resources needed to do so. The performance of these health services is monitored to ensure smaller health services continue to deliver high quality surgical care.

My department is considering the future requirements for health services not currently reporting and will work with organisations to ensure all data and policy requirements are fully met before this information is included in public reports. The importance of elective surgery waiting list data warrants a well-considered, coordinated approach to any changes or expansion.

In addition, these non reporting services are not excluded from the one off funding made available to provide more surgery for public patients. In fact a number of them including South West Healthcare have benefitted this year.

Unlike the former Liberal Government that cut \$1 billion from the Victorian health system, the Andrews Labor Government is committed to investing in health. As a result of the 2015-16 State Budget hospitals right across Victoria have benefited from the additional \$2.1 billion investment in health. This includes an extra \$5.5 million in funding for South West Healthcare; an extra \$13.4 million for Albury Wodonga Health; and an extra \$6.5 million for Mildura Base Hospital.

### **Goulburn Valley Health**

**Raised with:** Minister for Health

**Raised by:** Ms Lovell

**Raised on:** 10 November 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to enhancing Goulburn Valley Health and its capacity to fulfil its role as regional health services for the Hume region.

Planning for future services, by its nature, takes time to ensure that the right decisions are made and that the correct processes are followed. This starts with a detailed analysis of health service needs for the region. Recognising this, Goulburn Valley Health completed a service plan, which was released in June this year.

The service plan acknowledges that the level of community demand for emergency services has significantly increased and will continue to grow. The service plan also notes that a priority for redevelopment will be an improvement of timely access to emergency care and enhanced patient experience through strengthening service capacity and doubling the treatment space capacity.

Following completion of service planning for Goulburn Valley Health, capital planning consultants have been engaged to develop a robust and achievable masterplan and feasibility study for the Shepparton campus of Goulburn Valley Health.

Meanwhile, the Department of Health and Human Services is supporting health services to implement a range of strategies to improve patient flow in the emergency department and the timeliness of commencement of patient treatment. These strategies include implementing new models of care, such as Goulburn Valley Health's new short stay observation unit, which provides an alternative to admission to an inpatient bed, fast tracking of low acuity patients and supporting alternative care options for patients attending the emergency department.

I am pleased to advise the Member for Northern Victoria that the first meeting of the Community Advisory Group was held at Goulburn Valley Health on the evening of Monday 16 November 2015. I note that the next scheduled meeting of the Community Advisory Group will be held on the evening of 14 December 2015 and will take the form of an open community forum.

Again, I thank you, and the community of Shepparton, for your interest in shaping the future of health service developments within the community.

### **Bayswater level crossing**

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

**Raised by:** Mr Leane

**Raised on:** 10 November 2015

**REPLY:**

The Bayswater Level Crossing Removal Project will significantly improve cycling and pedestrian facilities in Bayswater by filling in missing gaps in the existing cycling and walking paths in the area. The project scope

includes the construction of a shared user path that will provide unimpeded access to Bayswater Station from the popular Dandenong Creek Trail via the construction of a new cycling and pedestrian bridge over the rail corridor and an underpass under the Mountain Highway on the Ringwood to Belgrave Rail Trail.

The Knox City Council and VicRoads have worked closely together on the final configuration of the Mountain Highway through the Bayswater Activity Centre to alter its current formation to provide two lanes each way along the Mountain Highway, in addition to a bicycle lane and increased space for pedestrians through the strip shopping centre. This will ensure that the removal of the level crossing on the Mountain Highway will significantly benefit bicycle users, improve pedestrian connectivity and give the strip shopping centre a much needed lift while improving the safety for all road users.

This option better meets the strategic context of VicRoads' Smart Roads Framework, with the Bayswater Activity Area along the Mountain Highway as a designated Pedestrian Priority Area and a Bicycle Priority Route. These works will allow the vision in the Knox City Council's Structure Plan 2005 to ensure that "Pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users have priority over cars, and movement to and within the centre by all modes of transport is easy" is delivered.

The removal of the level crossing on Scoresby Road will significantly improve conditions for traffic on this priority traffic route. This means that the Bayswater Level Crossing Removal Project will deliver benefits for all modes of transport via a fully integrated solution with train users, bus patrons, cyclists, pedestrians and motorists all benefiting from this project.

### **Bacchus Marsh traffic management plan**

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

**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay

**Raised on:** 10 November 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to the Bacchus Marsh Traffic Improvement Package and is currently seeking a funding contribution from the Federal Government to enable the works to be delivered.

In July 2015, I wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Warren Truss MP, to seek an agreement to the reallocation of the federal savings from the current Commonwealth Infrastructure Investment Programme to fund the Bacchus Marsh Traffic Improvements Package.

### **Grand Final Friday**

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

**Raised by:** Mr Morris

**Raised on:** 10 November 2015

**REPLY:**

The Government made a clear commitment prior to the 2014 election to introduce the Friday before the AFL Grand Final as a public holiday. I acknowledge that there is opposition to the public holiday, however the Government did not commit to the new public holiday for the purposes of economic stimulus. We govern for all Victorians, and made an election commitment to give Victorian families more quality time with friends, family and loved ones.

Furthermore, we made the conscious decision to not place any trading restrictions on any business, so those who chose to open were able to do so.

**School asbestos removal**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Ms Lovell**

**Raised on: 11 November 2015**

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government's top priority is student and staff safety.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to investing in school infrastructure and has allocated \$730 million in the 2015-16 State Budget to build, upgrade and maintain schools across the state. This funding represents a crucial first step in creating the Education State.

Our first Budget provided \$42 million as part of an extensive \$100 million asbestos-removal program. This is a significant increase from the \$7.5 million allocated under the previous government. This program represents the first phase in the Government's commitment to remove asbestos from government schools.

The program involves a state-wide audit to identify and prioritise those school buildings containing asbestos, remove all hazards posing an immediate risk, and retire asbestos-containing relocatable classrooms.

As a result of this audit program, all schools will have an audit no more than three years old. Any damaged or exposed asbestos containing materials identified during the audits is immediately removed.

Schools that receive capital works funding have all asbestos removed from within the construction zone of a project.

The Department has an Asbestos Management Co-ordinator, which operates a 24-hour telephone hotline. The Asbestos Management Co-ordinator provides schools with expert advice and can arrange site inspections, assessments and any necessary removal works.

If a school has concerns about the condition of asbestos, it should contact the hotline for immediate and expert support.

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.

**National assessment program — literacy and numeracy**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Ms Pennicuik**

**Raised on: 11 November 2015**

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The VCAA is the Test Administration Authority for all Victorian schools and school sectors.

After a competitive tender process, NCS Pearson was appointed as the VCAA's lead contractor for the services listed in my previous response on this matter.

The VCAA and the DET treat matters of this nature very seriously and a rigorous procurement process was undertaken as part of the tender process prior to the awarding of the NAPLAN contract. All tenderers were required to nominate whether or not any of their employees or officers had any conflicts of interest related to the project.

Prior to being awarded the contract, NCS Pearson advised the VCAA in writing that they had no existing or anticipated interests, relationships or clients which may give rise to a conflict of interest.

NCS Pearson's response also stated that should a future conflict of interest arise, the personnel involved would be excluded from any involvement in the delivery of the contract. This response was signed by NCS Pearson's Managing Director and any breaches of the contract would be vigorously pursued by the VCAA.

The VCAA has neither discovered nor been informed of any conflict of interest related to NAPLAN contracts to this time.

In addition to the assurances provided by NCS Pearson and the checks undertaken as part of the procurement process, national-and school-level results data are published annually by ACARA. This information is comprehensive and highly detailed and readily available in the public domain.

### **Kalianna School Bendigo**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Ms Lovell**

**Raised on: 12 November 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to ensuring that all of Victoria's children and young people, including those with disabilities, have access to a supportive school system and the best possible learning opportunities. I would like to acknowledge the contribution to this goal made by the staff of Kalianna School who provide their students with a positive and inclusive learning environment.

The Government is aware that many schools, including Kalianna School, have capital works and maintenance needs. This is why the Government has used its first Education State Budget to allocate \$730 million to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state. As part of this funding, Kalianna has received \$1 million for completion of a masterplan for the extension and redevelopment of the school's specialist facilities.

In regard to the school's more immediate maintenance needs, Kalianna has been allocated \$233 000 as part of the 2015-16 Planned Maintenance Program. The School will also benefit from the Government's new equity funding model which delivers an additional \$158 million in targeted funding per year to address the needs of Victoria's most disadvantaged students. Under this fairer model, Kalianna School will now receive \$443 273 in equity funding for the 2016 school year, which is \$220 619 more than the school received in 2015.

### **Special religious instruction**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Dr Carling-Jenkins**

**Raised on: 12 November 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

SRI has had a long history in Victorian government schools, and this change does not seek to downplay its important place in many school communities. Moving SRI to non-curriculum time strikes the balance between ensuring that SRI is still able to be delivered in schools where there is parent demand and available resources, and

giving all children and young people access to the full amount of curriculum delivery time, which is critical for Victoria as the Education State.

Schools offering SRI, either at lunchtime or before or after school, will continue to provide an appropriate space for the program and teacher supervision required for the session. SRI remains a school-based extra-curricular activity and the change to the scheduling of SRI does not alter the current duty of care and insurance responsibilities.

Religion does have a unique and valued place in Victoria's history and in our contemporary society. In recognition of this importance, the Victorian government has introduced new curriculum requirements to ensure students learn about global cultures, ethics, traditions and faiths and to build strong and respectful relationships.

The new curriculum will be taught by qualified teachers, who will receive training and guidance to deliver the new content across four existing curriculum areas: Civics and Citizenship, Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding, and Personal and Social Capability.

These changes are an example of the rich, contemporary education that Victorians can expect from our government schools. They reflect the importance of religion and ethics in our society and ensure that all school students, regardless of their background or faith, can learn about the ideas and values that define a modern, multicultural Victoria.

### **Police resources**

**Raised with: Minister for Police**

**Raised by: Mr O'Donohue**

**Raised on: 12 November 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

I appreciate your concerns regarding police resources in the Mooroolbark area. The government recognises that a well-resourced police force, with a strong commitment to community engagement and policing, is critical to keeping communities safe.

In May 2010, the Labor Government committed funding for an additional 1966 police to the frontline which has included an increase of 58 police in the Eastern Region Division 2, which covers the Yarra Ranges Police Service Area.

Since coming to office in November 2014, the Andrews Government has funded almost 700 additional police personnel reflecting the Governments commitment to work with the Chief Commissioner to ensure we provide the resources to police that will keep our community safe. Our continued investment in policing has seen a record \$2.5 billion budget for Victoria Police in 2015/16 to continue their important work.

The Government recently announced funding to nearly double Victoria Police's counter terrorism investigative capacity. This new investment will fund 88 counter terrorism specialists, including 40 dedicated sworn officers, as well as intelligence experts, forensic analysts, and equipment.

The Government is investing \$148.6 million over four years to free up 400 police to undertake frontline duties protecting our community 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.

Victoria Police takes the safety of its employees extremely seriously. The organisation has introduced an Operational Safety policy to enhance the safety and well-being of all employees. The Safety Policy was developed in consultation with police officers and The Police Association and focuses on operational safety equipment, single officer activities and the security of marked police vehicles.

Police are encouraged to conduct risk assessments before and throughout their duties and apply a consistent and common sense approach when responding to operational responsibilities.

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 Victorian community.

While the government determines the level of funding required to resource Victoria Police, the Chief Commissioner is responsible for determining how such resources are allocated, based on operational need. This includes the installation of security measures, such as anti-jump barriers, which are prioritised based on risk assessments.

I note your concerns regarding temporary closures of reception facilities at Mooroolbark Police Station. With the increase of the threat level against police facilities and employees, Victoria Police advises it is required to roster police members to work in pairs to maintain police reception duties. Where this is not possible, police reception facilities may be required to close temporarily to ensure the safety of police members.

Victoria Police advises that police continue to provide a 24 hour police response to the Mooroolbark community, including patrols across the area. In all cases where a person has immediate concerns about their safety or the safety of others, or an offence is in progress, the matter should be reported to Victoria Police through the emergency number '000'. Calls made to '000' are processed and responded to by the closest appropriate police personnel.

### **Port of Hastings**

**Raised with: Minister for Ports**

**Raised by: Mr Mulino**

**Raised on: 12 November 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

The Government is committed to ensuring Victoria plans ahead for the future capacity and efficient operation of Victoria's commercial ports to support ongoing economic growth.

The Port of Hastings is well suited to meet some of Victoria's future bulk capacity needs. The port had 65 ship visits in 2014-15 for exports/imports as well as a further 9 ships including rig tenders and project cargo ships. There is significant capacity at the Port of Hastings for increased ship visits.

The Port of Hastings will continue to service bulk needs of the State and is very much 'open for business'. The Port of Hastings is an existing, operating port which currently handles the import and export of oil and gas products. The port has existing infrastructure including the Crib Point liquid berths, the Long Island Point liquid berth, the BlueScope Steel jetty and the Stony Point facilities. These port operations will continue to service Victoria for the foreseeable future.

I welcome the opportunity to visit the port of Hastings with yourself to discuss future development opportunities at the port and for related industries.

### **Derrimut Hotel**

**Raised with: Minister for Police**

**Raised by: Mr Finn**

**Raised on: 12 November 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

The Victorian Government is committed to a well-resourced police force, with a strong commitment to community engagement and policing. In May 2010, the Labor Government committed funding for an additional 1966 police to the frontline. This led to an increase of 147 police in North West Metro Region Division 3, which includes the Brimbank police service area.

Since coming to office in November 2014, the Andrews Government has funded almost 700 additional police personnel reflecting the Government's commitment to work with the Chief Commissioner to ensure we provide the resources to police that will keep our community safe.

Our continued investment in policing has seen a record \$2.5 billion budget for Victoria Police in 2015/16 to continue their important work.

The Government recently announced funding to nearly double Victoria Police's counter terrorism investigative capacity. This new investment will fund 88 counter terrorism specialists, including 40 dedicated sworn officers, as well as intelligence experts, forensic analysts, and equipment.

The Government is also investing \$148.6 million over four years to free up 400 police to undertake frontline duties protecting our community 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.

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 Victorian community, including family violence and the use of ice and other illicit drugs. These issues remain a key focus for Victoria Police.

While the government determines the level of funding required to resource Victoria Police, the Chief Commissioner is responsible for determining how such resources are allocated, based on assessed operational need. The decision of how and where resources are deployed is appropriately a matter for the Chief Commissioner.

Under Victorian law, I cannot direct the Chief Commissioner about the allocation or deployment of police officers to or at particular locations in accordance with section 10 of the Victoria Police Act 2013.

Victoria Police is working with the Brimbank City Council targeting community crime prevention responses to local amenity issues and patron behaviour, which impact on the local community and perceptions of safety.

I am advised that Sunshine police conduct regular operations to target local issues in the area. In particular, police are preparing several operations that will include stakeholder involvement to tackle the public order issues surrounding the Derrimut Hotel and the Sunshine Central Business District (CBD).

In addition, police recently conducted an audit of the Pollard Gardens, adjacent to the Derrimut Hotel. The audit outcomes will assist local police and the council in planning future operations and the long term plan for the park and surrounding areas.

I understand that the recently signed Brimbank Liquor Accord has assisted in developing improved stakeholder relationships between Victoria Police, Brimbank liquor licensees, the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) and other community stakeholders, resulting in increased responses to licensing issues.

I also note that as of 12 September 2015, the Sunshine CBD was declared a designated area in which the consumption of alcohol is currently prohibited. Councils have the power to ban both the consumption of alcohol and the possession of alcohol in unsealed containers in specified areas within their municipal boundaries. I confirm that Victoria Police assists local councils in enforcing such local laws.

Police are encouraging all venue operators, local traders and patrons in the Brimbank region to work proactively to implement initiatives to address alcohol-related problems in the area.



**Make Moe Glow**

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

**Raised by:** Ms Bath

**Raised on:** 12 November 2015

**REPLY:**

Thank you for your adjournment of 12 November regarding the work of Make Moe Glow Inc.

I commend Make Moe Glow Inc on the work it's doing to help promote and support tourism in the region. I understand this work has included distributing 9000 visitor guides for Moe, with a further 10 000 on the way.

As you may be aware, I was recently in the Gippsland area, where I had the pleasure of visiting several tourist attractions, including Narkoojee Winery and Cowwarr Art Space. It was also my pleasure to see the new Moe Group Bookings publication during this trip.

I am unable to return to the region this year, but have asked the Parliamentary Secretary for Tourism and Major Events Danielle Green to add Make Moe Glow Inc to her itinerary should she visit the region in coming months.

The Andrews Labor Government understands the importance of Victoria's tourism industry, particularly to regional economies such as Moe's. Tourism creates jobs and brings much needed expenditure to regional areas. That's why we've committed \$3 million to the most ambitious regional tourism campaign this State has seen, to be rolled out in 2016.

The creation of Visit Victoria, which will combine Tourism Victoria with the Victorian Major Events Company with a dedicated conventions arm, will ensure Victoria stays ahead of our competitors in attracting events and visitors.

I have written to Make Moe Glow Inc wishing it the best of luck with emerging tourism projects in the region, including the proposed Chinese Garden at the Moe Botanic Gardens and the planned upgrade to the Blue Rock Motor Cycle facility.

I have encouraged the organisation to work with the local Regional Tourism Board on these projects.

I look forward to visiting these assets when I next travel to the Moe region.

**Maiden Gully Primary School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Ms Lovell

**Raised on:** 25 November 2015

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian 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. This funding represents a crucial first step in creating the Education State, and we will continue to invest in school infrastructure throughout this term of government.

Ensuring school premises are safe and secure is a shared responsibility between schools and the Department. Where urgent maintenance or repair issues occur that are beyond the school's budget capacity to remedy, and which directly impact on student or staff safety, an application for funding can be made under the Department's

Emergency Management Program. I would encourage the school to contact their regional office for further assistance or advice.

The Government is aware that Maiden Gully Primary School, as with many other schools in Victoria, may have capital and maintenance needs. Our ongoing challenge is to responsibly balance and prioritise the infrastructure needs of over 1500 government schools. Maiden Gully Primary School's infrastructure needs will be considered throughout the State Budget process and when determining future priorities for the Government's capital works program.

### **Safe Schools program**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Dr Carling-Jenkins

**Raised on:** 25 November 2015

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

Students and staff deserve to feel safe at school. Nobody deserves to be bullied and every person deserves to be understood and respected.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure Dr Carling-Jenkins that the Safe Schools Coalition program is among a suite of programs and resources that teach our students life skills in building resilience and respectful relationships.

The Andrews Labor Government is making Victoria the Education State by ensuring that every community has access to great schools, supporting our teachers and principals to be their best, and ensuring that every student experiences the chance to succeed, in learning and in life. That is why the Government has recently introduced respectful relationships education into the Victorian Curriculum from next year.

The suite of resources developed by the Department of Education and Training are available to all Victorian schools, and include Bully Stoppers, the Building Resilience Social and Emotional Learning materials, and the Building Respectful Relationships: Stepping Out Against Gender-Based Violence resource. These resources and programs also equip young people with the skills they need to live happy and healthy lives, and to play their part in building respectful relationships and communities.

In many ways the RULER program has the same focus as the programs and materials I have just described.

Victorian government schools make their own decisions on which programs and resources they would like to use in educating students about the important values of respect, fairness and equity.

### **Aurora School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Mr Leane

**Raised on:** 26 November 2015

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have signed a Bilateral Agreement to roll out the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) across Victoria. The Agreement is an important milestone in the development of the NDIS and outlines how the Scheme will roll out across Victoria from 1 July 2016.

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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It is anticipated the NDIS will provide an opportunity to double the disability services workforce and drive opportunities for jobs for both participants and their carers, boosting economic growth across Victoria, particularly in regional areas.

I am informed that the Department of Education and Training is working with Aurora School, at the invitation of the school principal, to identify any implications of the NDIS for the early intervention program run by the school and to ensure that the school is supported in its planning for and delivery of its programs and services into the future.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Wednesday, 9 December 2015**

**Poppy cultivation**

**Raised with: Minister for Agriculture**

**Raised by: Mr Purcell**

**Raised on: 16 September 2015**

**REPLY:**

Thank you for raising this question regarding the poppy industry in Victoria. I note your interest in Sun Pharmaceutical Industries (Sun Pharma) and its opiate interests in the state, particularly its recent acquisition of the Glaxo Smith Kline processing plant at Port Fairy.

I assure you that the Victorian Government remains committed to working closely with Sun Pharma and other key industry stakeholders to explore development options for this important industry. In many respects, 2014 was a 'trial' year for commercial poppy growing. Plantings in Victoria were on a relatively small scale and cropping success was mixed. However, indications for the 2015-16 season are that there will be significantly larger areas planted and that this pattern will continue.

Naturally, the Victorian Government and the pharmaceutical companies are also very mindful of working with the Australian Government to fulfil important commitments to the International Narcotics Control Board and the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961. These commitments include ensuring the security of poppy crops and ensuring poppy production does not exceed limits set by the International Narcotics Control Board.

I agree with your sentiments about the potential of this industry in Victoria and to this end the Department of Economic Development Jobs Transport and Resources continues to interact with and meet with key players in this industry and has invested significant staff resources to assist this industry to develop. I would also welcome an opportunity to meet with Sun Pharma — and of course the other key industry personnel in this space, to discuss developmental options for this important industry.

**Kangaroo control**

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

**Raised by: Mr Drum**

**Raised on: 10 November 2015**

**REPLY:**

Kangaroos are a protected species in Victoria however, they can impact on agriculture and other assets, competing with livestock for pasture, damaging crops and causing landholders and managers to suffer financial losses.

The Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) system enables affected landholders to apply to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for an ATCW permit to control kangaroos when there is a demonstrated need to protect their property or assets from damage.

The ATCW system seeks to achieve a balance between the conservation of native wildlife, the mitigation of property damage and the protection of human health and safety.

DELWP officers work with landholders and managers to advise on kangaroo control methods, to determine appropriate numbers that should be controlled under an ATCW permit and to encourage coordinated approaches between neighbours for more effective management.

Officers from DELWP Regional Services will continue to work closely with Mr Storey regarding the impacts kangaroos are having on his property, including inspecting the damage and issuing permits to control kangaroos as required.

### **City of Brimbank**

**Raised with: Minister for Local Government**

**Raised by: Mr Eideh**

**Raised on: 11 November 2015**

#### **REPLY:**

The return to elected councillors is an important milestone for the Brimbank community.

I also place on record my appreciation of the performance of the Administrators who have been acting as Council and who over the period of administration have successfully completed a range of significant community projects.

I advise I have met with Mr Watson the Chair of the Administrators and with the previous CEO Mr Jaboor in February this year to emphasise with them the need to fully prepare the community for the return of elected councillors.

I am advised that they have put in place a framework to do just that-through a comprehensive Return of Councillors Framework to facilitate the transition process which includes an election preparation plan, a communications plan, an election plan and an induction plan for incoming councillors.

This is in addition to an innovative leadership and engagement program that has been held over a number of years aimed at developing community leaders within the municipality-this has been a longstanding and successful program with over 400 participants.

More recently the council has commenced running information sessions that will continue into 2016 ensuring interested persons can learn about council processes and consider standing for election.

The council has also commenced late this year an awareness campaign designed to continually remind the community that the return to elected councillors is coming in 2016 and encouraging them to contact council offices if they have questions about how to be involved.

This campaign includes regular advertisements in local newspapers under the banner Brimbank Votes.

These steps have to be seen alongside the Government's enactment of the Local Government Amendment (Improved Governance) Act 1989 which includes measures to improve the election process and to improve councillor standards of behaviour.

Together this new legislation and the steps taken by the Brimbank Administrators will ensure an orderly and successful return to democracy in Brimbank.

**Melbourne Metro rail project**

**Raised with:** Treasurer

**Raised by:** Mr Davis

**Raised on:** 24 November 2015

**REPLY:**

Melbourne Metro Rail Project will create significant benefits for Melbourne, reflecting the project's city shaping nature. Given the scale of investment, the Government is seeking an appropriate funding contribution from the Commonwealth Government. The State Government will also investigate commercial value capture opportunities.

The allocation of funding of \$1.56 billion in the forward estimates in the 2015-16 Budget for the Melbourne Metro Rail Project represents the funding profile for the next four years only. The Government will consider the final Business Case for the Melbourne Metro Rail Project in early 2016. Further funding for this project beyond the current forward estimates will obviously be provided for this project.

The Melbourne Metro Rail Authority is looking to leverage development and commercial opportunities from this project.

Currently, there are no proposals before Government to introduce a property based levy or tax in relation to this project.

**Brimbank planning scheme**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning

**Raised by:** Mr Eideh

**Raised on:** 26 November 2015

**REPLY:**

On 25 November 2015 I approved Amendment C105 to the Brimbank Planning Scheme which applies the Activity Centre Zone to the Sunshine town centre.

The new zoning communicates a strong message to the public and potential investors that the Sunshine town centre is an identified location for investment and growth. Extensive private and public development is expected to take place within the Sunshine Activity Centre Zone over the next 20 years. It will be a mix of high-density residential, retail and commercial uses in locations well serviced by existing transport infrastructure. The approval of the amendment is anticipated to enable some \$300 million of development that was prohibited by the previous industrial land zoning.

The amendment includes a Development Contributions Plan Overlay across the town centre, providing a funding stream for community services, improved connectivity and revitalised public spaces.

The new zone will take effect when the amendment is gazetted, which is anticipated to be before the end of 2015.





**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Thursday, 10 December 2015**

**Bass Valley Children's Centre**

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children

**Raised by:** Ms Shing

**Raised on:** 25 November 2015

**REPLY:**

The Minister for Families and Children: I am informed as follows:

Education is the Andrews Labor Government's number one priority. This is why we have committed \$50 million over four years to support local governments and other service providers to invest in early childhood infrastructure. This investment will support the provision of high quality early years programs for children and their families by increasing infrastructure capacity to deliver kindergarten programs for children in the year before school.

I would like to commend the work of the Bass Coast Shire Council in providing an excellent early-years service to the children of the area. It is a testament to the passionate commitment of all involved that the services provided strive to break a cycle of social disadvantage.

I am delighted to confirm that the Bass Coast Shire Council has been successful in receiving a grant of \$900 000 as part of the 2015 Children's Facilities Capital Program. They have now been invited to submit a full application of their project to progress the works.

As the local Member, I congratulate you on working with Council and your local communities to achieve the best outcome for families and children in Corinella. This project will provide improved services to a number of rural, isolated townships of Bass Coast Shire.

I recognise that access to high quality early years services are central to giving every Victorian child the best start in life and I look forward to hearing about the continuing good work of the community and Council of Bass Coast Shire.

**Motorsports**

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

**Raised by:** Mr Bourman

**Raised on:** 25 November 2015

**REPLY:**

I thank the member for his adjournment debate, however this would be best redirected to the Hon. John Eren MP in his capacity as the Minister for Sport.