

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS**

**26 February to 10 March 2016**

**(Extract from book 4)**

**Internet: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard)**

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# HANSARD<sup>150</sup>



1866–2016

Following a select committee investigation, Victorian Hansard was conceived when the following amended motion was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 23 June 1865:

That in the opinion of this house, provision should be made to secure a more accurate report of the debates in Parliament, in the form of *Hansard*.

The sessional volume for the first sitting period of the Fifth Parliament, from 12 February to 10 April 1866, contains the following preface dated 11 April:

As a preface to the first volume of “Parliamentary Debates” (new series), it is not inappropriate to state that prior to the Fifth Parliament of Victoria the newspapers of the day virtually supplied the only records of the debates of the Legislature.

With the commencement of the Fifth Parliament, however, an independent report was furnished by a special staff of reporters, and issued in weekly parts.

This volume contains the complete reports of the proceedings of both Houses during the past session.

In 2016 the Hansard Unit of the Department of Parliamentary Services continues the work begun 150 years ago of providing an accurate and complete report of the proceedings of both houses of the Victorian Parliament.



## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry**

Premier . . . . .	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education . . . . .	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer . . . . .	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
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Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade . . . . .	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Industry, and Minister for Energy and Resources . . . . .	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports . . . . .	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans . . . . .	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
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Minister for Training and Skills . . . . .	The Hon. S. R. Herbert, MLC
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Special Minister of State . . . . .	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water . . . . .	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Police and Minister for Corrections . . . . .	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing . . . . .	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development . . . . .	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence . . . . .	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Planning . . . . .	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

### Legislative Council committees

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

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

### Legislative Council standing committees

**Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure** — #Ms Dunn, 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, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

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

### Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

**President:** The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:** Ms G. TIERNEY

**Acting Presidents:** Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

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The Hon. G. JENNINGS

**Deputy Leader of the Government:**  
The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

**Leader of the Opposition:**  
The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

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

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

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

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

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

**26 February to 10 March 2016****Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 11 November 2015

**ANSWER:**

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 front line which includes an increase of 91 police in the Western Region Division 1. Division 1 include the Greater Geelong and Surf Coast Police Service Areas.

Since coming to office in November 2014, the Andrews Government has funded almost 700 additional police personnel reflecting the Government working with the Chief Commissioner to identify additional resources needed to keep our community safe. This commitment has seen additional resources for Victoria Police with more police officers, Protective Services Officers, intelligence experts, forensic analysts, and new Police Custody Officers.

The Government when in Opposition understood that additional resources were required in the Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula area. This was in stark contrast to the then government who failed to listen to the community or provide any additional resources.

After consultation with Victoria Police the Andrews Government committed in our first budget to provide an additional 15 police officers to the Geelong Police Service Area, which includes the Bellarine.

I am pleased to see recent advice from the Chief Commissioner that these additional police have already been deployed and are now providing additional patrols to the Bellarine Peninsula and Geelong.

I am further advised that the increased police hours at the three stations on the Bellarine Peninsula has now commenced.

As you are aware, 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.

I am assured by the Chief Commissioner of Police that the allocation of police resources is continuously monitored by respective command officers, with a view to maintaining an optimum law enforcement response and ensuring community safety. The Chief Commissioner recently wrote an open letter to the Geelong Advertiser informing the community of Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula that further to the additional 15 police for the Geelong Police Service Area, dedicated police vehicles have been allocated to patrol the Bellarine Peninsula and foot patrols had increased in Geelong.

Local command is reviewing rostering and security arrangements at Portarlington and Drysdale police stations and the counter service will be expanded to seven days per week. The Queenscliff police station counter service will increase to four days per week. The Chief Commissioner expects these services to be in place prior to Christmas.

The Andrews Government has also committed \$30 000 to support crime prevention initiatives being developed by the Bellarine Community Safety Group, which is chaired by local member Lisa Neville MP and Victoria Police.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Davis  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 26 November 2015

**ANSWER:**

Victoria Police provided advice on the deployment of transit police and PSOs based on their New Year's Eve deployment model. The Government will always take advice on the best model for community safety during the Night Network trial from Victoria Police rather than the Liberal Party.

To support the Night Network trial of 24 hour public transport on weekends, the Government has provided funding to Victoria Police for an additional 109 protective services officers (PSOs) and 62 police officers.

During the trial, a typical night will see approximately 160 PSOs and 70 Transit Police working across the rail network. PSOs will be stationed at 78 of the network's premium rail stations, while Transit Police patrol all train lines throughout the night on weekends.

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

Victoria Police will continually assess the situation during the Night Network trial to inform any requirement to change the deployment of resources.

In addition to PSOs and Transit Police, other security measures already on the network will be in place, including monitored CCTV, emergency assistance buttons and staff presence.

I trust this information is of assistance.

**Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Bourman  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 9 December 2015

**ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government is committed to assisting low-income earners in being able to access and utilise essential services such as housing, water, energy, health, education and transport. The provision of concessions enables more people to maintain access to necessary goods and services, in order to maintain better living standards and improved health and well being.

While such concessions are not available for firearms licences, I am however advised by Victoria Police that individuals can make a request for a shorter duration firearm licence due to financial hardship. The Victorian Police Licensing and Regulation Division will take such applications into consideration on a case by case basis, having regard to the frequency of each individual's requests when determining whether to approve them or not.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Young  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 10 December 2015

**ANSWER:**

I acknowledge the Member's interest in local historical groups and the benefit they can provide to local communities.

Victoria Police has advised that its Licensing and Regulation Division has not received an application, nor any formal enquiries, from clubs or guilds seeking approval from the Chief Commissioner in the last 18 months. I am also advised that there would be no reason for the regulator not to recognise and approve applications from such groups so long as they comply with the requirements in section 123H of the Firearms Act 1996.

I would encourage the North East Muzzle Loaders and Colonial Firearms Club to make direct contact with the Licensing and Regulation Division to enquire about making an application for a relevant licence.

### **Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Tourism and Major Events  
**Asked on:** 9 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

Successful applicants of the Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure (TDDI) Program were announced on Thursday, 18 February 2016 and details of this announcement is available online.

There was strong competition in this round of the TDDI Program, with a high number of applications seeking funding for a wide range of products across the state. Successful projects were selected by an independent panel assessing projects against a list of published criteria. Unfortunately, Kyabram Fauna Park's application was unsuccessful at this time.

I am advised that there were a number of projects that the independent panel believed had considerable merit and clearly demonstrated that they would increase visitation and spend in the area, but could not be accommodated within the TDDI budget. I would encourage unsuccessful applicants to consider resubmitting their proposals in subsequent TDDI Program rounds.

I further note that it was the previous government that was slow off the mark in relation to this project and that my government has worked effectively with the federal government to announce this round of funding.

### **South Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Springle  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 9 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

The funding for the construction and maintenance of the new public open spaces will be provided by the Victorian Government. The City of Monash and the City of Greater Dandenong will be consulted on the ownership and maintenance program delivery of these public facilities.

### **Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Mulino  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 9 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for your question. As you know from your role as Ambassador for the Yarra Ranges Tech School, the Victorian Government's Tech School initiative will establish ten innovative learning centres across the state. The Tech Schools will prepare students for the world beyond the classroom and will equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to connect them to their futures.

I thank you for your contribution in chairing meetings that have contributed to the development of the vision for the Yarra Ranges Tech School through extensive consultation. This exciting innovative project is an important part of

the Education State Initiative, and is being developed as a collaborative local effort. The Yarra Ranges Tech school partnership includes:

- 20 local schools from the Government, Catholic and Independent sectors
- Box Hill Institute
- Outer Eastern LLEN
- Yarra Ranges Council

The Department of Education and Training has appointed Regional Project Leaders to lead the local establishment of each Tech School. In Yarra Ranges, consultation has included school visits, workshops and industry link meetings. The broader partnership will continue to be involved in the establishment of the Tech School as we move through the planning, design and construction phases of the Tech School and into provision of services for the local schools and community.

The stewardship of the Tech School will sit with representatives from the broader partnership including local schools, industry and council and will plan and oversee the Tech School operations in collaboration with Box Hill Institute to ensure that the curriculum meets the need of the community. The primary goal is to enhance the curriculum of local schools, and to extend the use of the Tech School to the Lilydale Lakeside campus of the Box Hill Institute and the broader community.

The new Yarra Ranges Tech School is an essential addition to the Lilydale TAFE campus following the reopening of the precinct in February 2015. The campus closed its doors in June 2013 following years of neglect under the former Liberal Government.

I am proud Labor has delivered on its election commitment to return TAFE and Higher Education to Lilydale and I am excited to be delivering a new Tech School on site as part of the campus.

I thank you again for your contribution to this initiative.

### **Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Bath  
**Directed to:** Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing  
**Asked on:** 9 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

We are rapidly approaching the commencement of NDIS roll out, with North East Melbourne Area scheduled to transition first from July 2016, and with Central Highlands and Loddon Areas to follow soon after.

In 2015, the Victorian Government hosted seven community forums to provide people with disability and families an opportunity to ask questions about the NDIS and what it will mean for them. These forums were very well attended by people with disability, their families and carers, and community members.

In response to the great interest of communities in learning more about the NDIS, I have committed to continuing these information forums in 2016 and am making every endeavour to meet with as many families as possible across the state. Further information about these forums can be found at [www.vic.gov.au/ndis/community-forums](http://www.vic.gov.au/ndis/community-forums).

On 17 February we hosted our first forum for 2016 in Craigieburn, with over 80 attendees. We are currently scheduling more events across regional and metropolitan Victoria, where people with disability, and their families and carers are welcome to attend. Details of the upcoming forums will be available online as they are finalised.

### Northern Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Ms Symes  
**Directed to:** Minister for Health  
**Asked on:** 9 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government is committed to reducing the burden of skin cancer, and announced \$15 million for skin cancer prevention initiatives and programs in the 2015-16 Victorian State Budget.

The new Community Shade Grants Program provides grants for shade development in community based settings, such as parks, sports clubs and playgrounds. The first application round of grants has seen tremendous interest, with many applications being received.

On Monday 15 February, I was pleased to announce that 323 shade grants were awarded to a range of organisations to fund much needed shade provision, including Numurkah Football and Netball Club, Panton Hill Football Club, Beechworth Montessori Children's Group and Towong Shire Council with respect to the Corryong swimming pool and the skate park.

All applicants will receive written notification of their grant application outcome in the coming week.

### Southern Metropolitan Region

**Question asked by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 9 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

Construction on the removal of the nine level crossings will start this year with exact dates to be announced following consultation. The Andrews Labor Government has rejected the call from the Liberal Opposition to delay the removal of these nine level crossings. Projects of this scale represent a major change and there will be impacts during construction and operation that need to be thoroughly understood and considered. Feedback is being sought on all aspects of the proposed designs from the structure, to the additional car parking, to the new landscaping as well as the best way to use the 11 MCGs worth of community space being created as part of the project. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to engaging closely with local residents at every stage of these level crossing removals.

### Western Metropolitan Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Eideh  
**Directed to:** Treasurer  
**Asked on:** 10 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

Western Melbourne is a key beneficiary of the 2015-16 Victorian Budget which committed up to \$22 billion for infrastructure. The removal of level crossings, major road construction and expanding and building new hospitals are among the key infrastructure projects that will benefit the Western Melbourne region.

The removal of level crossings in Melbourne's west will reduce congestion, help decrease the road toll and allow more trains to run. Construction has started on the removal of the Main Road level crossing in St Albans with the project to be completed by mid-2017. Early works are also underway to remove the level crossing at Furlong Road in St Albans, with major construction to start shortly.

Consultation and detailed planning has commenced to remove crossings on Melton Highway, Sydenham, and on Kororoit Creek Road, Williamstown. Early planning has also commenced to remove crossings at Aviation Road, Cherry Street and Werribee Street in Werribee as well as Ferguson Street, Williamstown.

Further, in the rail space, geotechnical investigations are being undertaken to progress the Melbourne Metro project, which will connect the Sunbury line to the Cranbourne/Pakenham line through an underground tunnel. The Government recently released the business case for the project to the public and to the Commonwealth for funding consideration. Major construction works are expected to commence on the Melbourne Metro Rail project by 2018.

The Government is also upgrading and building new roads in Western Melbourne. The Government has progressed Transurban's Western Distributor proposal to stage 4 of the Market Led Proposal guidelines and has submitted the business case to the Commonwealth Government and Infrastructure Australia for assessment and funding consideration. The project involves widening the West Gate Freeway from 8 to 12 lanes between the M80 and Williamstown Road as well as building a second river crossing for Melbourne.

On 5 October 2015, work commenced on the CityLink portion of CityLink Tulle Widening Project. Major construction is expected to begin on the Melbourne Airport to Bulla Road section by mid-2016. The project involves widening the freeway to reduce congestion by increasing capacity on the corridor by up to 30 per cent.

The State and Federal governments have each committed \$150 million to the upgrade of the M80 Ring Road, with the section between Sunshine Avenue and the Calder Freeway currently at the tender phase. The upgrade is expected to improve the safety of the road through more lanes and less congestion.

The Government has been putting families first and the 2015-16 Budget invested \$560 million in new hospitals and equipment for Victoria. To cater for the rapidly growing population in the Western Metropolitan Region, the Government funded the expansion of acute health services at the Werribee Mercy Hospital in Werribee with an investment of \$85 million and the new Joan Kirner Western Women's and Children's Hospital in St Albans with an investment of \$200 million. The Joan Kirner Hospital project is currently in the tender phase and the Werribee Mercy project is seeking expressions of interest for work packages.

### Western Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Ms Tierney  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 10 February 2016

#### ANSWER:

Thank you for your acknowledgement of the Andrews Labor Government's commitment to provide funding of \$13.7 million for breakfast clubs across Victoria. Our commitment was to establish a School Breakfast Club Program in 500 of the most disadvantaged government primary schools in Victoria over the next four years.

We are currently rolling out the program in partnership with Foodbank Victoria, prioritising those schools with the highest need. State wide, 175 schools have commenced their breakfast clubs this term, with 75 schools beginning in Term 2 and a further 250 schools in Term 3.

I am delighted to confirm that further to the 36 schools across your electorate in the Western Victoria Region already participating, the program is being rolled out further in your electorate, reaching more than 100 schools in total by Term 3.

The School Breakfast Clubs program is one way the Government is tackling disadvantage so that all children can reach their potential, regardless of their circumstances.



**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Purcell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water  
**Asked on:** 10 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

Long-billed Corellas are seasonal visitors to the south-west of Victoria, usually between the months of November and March. They can be particularly prevalent in drier years.

Victoria has a process for managing wildlife where they are causing damage. Landholders who are adversely affected by wildlife can apply to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW). The application process includes an examination of all practical options for control, such as scaring, dispersing or trapping. In some instances this permit allows for the destruction of wildlife.

Under certain conditions an ATCW is not required. Long-billed Corellas have been declared unprotected wildlife where they are causing serious damage to trees, vineyards, orchards, recreational reserves or commercial crops. In these situations, Long-billed Corellas may be taken or destroyed using prescribed methods by the land owners or occupiers, or in some cases, by committees of management.

DELWP officers have found that in built-up or residential areas, combining control options is the most effective way to minimise damage from Corellas. In urban areas these options include scaring, excluding with a physical barrier, and removing sources of attraction such as bird feeders.

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Melhem  
**Directed to:** Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade  
**Asked on:** 10 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government knows Victoria's 532 000 small businesses are an essential part of the success and strength of Victoria's economy. They account for 97 per cent of all businesses, and 47 per cent of all Victorian private sector jobs. The Andrews Government is committed to creating an environment in which our small businesses can grow, thrive and create local jobs.

Through Small Business Victoria (SBV), the Government provides a wide range of low cost information, programs and services to support small businesses, including business start-ups.

All of the Government's business information, programs and services can be conveniently accessed online, by phone on 13 22 15, and through the Victorian Government Business Office (VGBO) network. The Western Metropolitan VGBO in Tottenham - Level 1, 67 Ashley Street, is the nearest VGBO to your constituents and can be reached on (03) 9334 1300.

In the first instance; I would encourage your constituents in Braybrook, Altona North, Seddon and Newport to visit the Business Victoria website at [business.vic.gov.au](http://business.vic.gov.au), which acts as a central portal for all small business information. Of particular interest might be the SBV workshops found under 'Small Business workshops and events' on the website. For example, a workshop on 'Your Business in, a Digital World' is currently scheduled for Thursday 21 April 2016 at the Hobson's Bay Civic Centre in Altona.

As you have already noted, your constituents might consider discussing their business plans with a small business mentor on the Small Business Bus. Operated by SBV, the Small Business Bus visits Melbourne and regional Victoria as a 'travelling office on wheels'. It offers friendly, professional assistance from an information officer and specialist advice from an experienced business mentor.

Supported by the Government, the business mentors are highly experienced business people from the Small Business Mentoring Service (SBMS) and they can assist with objective business advice. The Small Business Bus

visited Altona, Braybrook, and Newport on 16-18 February 2016. More information on future scheduling is available at [business.vic.gov.au](http://business.vic.gov.au).

There are also various grants, vouchers and assistance programs aimed at improving business productivity and innovation that are intended for established businesses that can demonstrate an ability to grow and that can be enhanced with selective Government support.

In addition, Victoria's Small Business Festival is an annual, month-long program of events held across metropolitan and regional Victoria every August. The festival gives small businesses the opportunity to network with other small business owners, learn practical skills and access new ideas to help boost their productivity and competitiveness. To find out more about the new 2016 event program and subscribe to the festival's e-newsletter, your constituents could visit [business.vic.gov.au](http://business.vic.gov.au).

The Government is also committed to establishing a Victorian Small Business Commission and is implementing a number of policies to reduce the regulatory burden on small business.

### Western Metropolitan Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 10 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

I appreciate your concern and can assure you that the Victorian Government, through the Department of Education and Training, is committed to the safety of students, staff and visitors at all government schools.

With regard to Footscray Primary School, following a visit from an occupational health and safety consultant on Monday 23 November 2015, the school's oval was closed to students due to the presence of legacy building materials, the erosion and unevenness of the playing surface, and possible trip hazards.

The Department's asbestos removal contractors attended the school, completed an investigation, and undertook all necessary clean-up works. An expert hygienist has also provided the school with follow-up clearance certificates and air-quality monitoring reports. I note that advice tendered to the Department is that the asbestos-containing materials found are in a stable form and present no increased health risk.

In conclusion, I can confirm that the Department commenced remedial work on the oval over the summer holidays. This involved removing soil, laying a special geo-fabric, and installing a new grass surface. The Department will continue to assist the school throughout Term 1 to ensure that the turf takes root and is ready for use in Term 2, 2016.

I can assure you that the Department will work closely with Footscray Primary School to maintain the highest level of student safety.

### Western Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Directed to:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Asked on:** 11 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

State Government and Council have only commenced preliminary options analysis for the potential future use of the site. There have been no discussions at this very early stage relating to the ownership of the site. The Queens Caveat does not impact the ability to relocate livestock sales to a new modern facility.

Should the City of Ballarat consider alternative uses for the site in the future, the Queens Caveat would be required to be removed by application of section 89A of the Transfer of Land Act 1958. There is no decision of Council to seek removal of the caveat at this stage.

The City of Ballarat has indicated that it will consider this site as part of its master planning for the broader precinct, involving community consultation and the application of land use planning processes.

### **Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 11 February 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government established Australia's first Royal Commission into Family Violence and allocated \$83.1 million in new funding in the 2015-16 State Budget to support its work and to address the tragic impacts of family violence.

The government has committed to implement all of the Royal Commission's recommendations, and further investment in prevention initiatives will be guided by the Commission's findings, which are due to be handed down on 29 March 2016.

The government acknowledges the dedication and hard work of the communities involved in the Reducing Violence Against Women and their Children (RVAWC) grants projects, including Challenge Family Violence.

A key objective of the grants program was to help build the evidence base for the primary prevention of family violence. Accordingly, under the terms of the funding each project was required to undertake an independent evaluation.

These evaluations have just been submitted to the Department of Justice and Regulation and will provide a valuable resource for government in implementing the Royal Commission's recommendations.

### **Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 24 February 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government will construct a new bus interchange and upgrade the car park at Huntingdale railway station. The 2015-16 State Budget allocated capital funding of \$5 million over three years and an additional \$2.6 million towards car parking improvements.

PTV is currently working closely with Monash University, Monash City Council, VicTrack, MTM and VicRoads to implement this initiative. Design for the precinct is underway.

The new bus interchange and car park upgrade will improve safety and provide better access to the station for passengers.

### **Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Elasmarr  
**Directed to:** Treasurer  
**Asked on:** 25 February 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The Northern Metropolitan Region is a key beneficiary of the 2015-16 Victorian Budget which committed up to \$22 billion for infrastructure. The removal of level crossings, major road construction and the refurbishment of schools and cultural agencies are among the key infrastructure projects that will benefit the Northern Metropolitan Region.

The removal of level crossings in Melbourne's north will reduce congestion, help decrease the road toll and allow more trains to run. Consultation and detailed planning is underway to remove level crossings at Bell Street in Preston, High Street in Reservoir and Grange Road in Alphington. Early planning and engineering assessments are underway to remove level crossings at Camp Road in Campbellfield, Bell Street in Coburg, Moreland Road in Brunswick and Glenroy Road in Glenroy.

Further, in the rail space, geotechnical investigations are well progressed for the long overdue Melbourne Metro Rail project. This critical project will provide capacity on the rail network to move an additional 39 000 passengers in each peak period from the first day of operations. By linking the Sunbury and Dandenong lines through the new tunnel, it will free up existing train paths on the Northern Group for more services and will directly benefit residents of the Northern Metropolitan Region. The Government recently released the business case for the project to the public and to the Commonwealth for funding consideration. Major construction is expected to commence on the Melbourne Metro Rail project by 2018.

The 2015-16 Budget also invested an initial \$9 million for planning and to commence land acquisition to extend the South Morang rail line to Mernda to cater for significant population growth in Melbourne's north. Approximately eight kilometres of dual tracks and two new stations will be constructed, one integrated with the proposed Mernda Town Centre, and another near Marymede Catholic College with extensive car parking, bike storage and bus facilities. This project has subsequently been fully funded, and the Government has recently called for Expressions of Interest to design and construct the new rail line.

The residents of the Northern Metropolitan Region will also be major beneficiaries of the CityLink-Tulla Widening project. This project involves widening the freeway to reduce congestion by increasing capacity on the corridor by 30 per cent. Works commenced on 5 October 2015 and major construction is expected to begin on the Melbourne Airport to Bulla Road section by mid-2016.

The Government is committed to Victoria's education sector being recognised as world leading. That is why the 2015-16 State Budget invested \$730 million to upgrade, modernise and build new school infrastructure. Schools in the Northern Metropolitan Region that are expected to benefit from this include Brunswick Secondary College, Carlton Primary School, Clifton Hill Primary School, Craigieburn North West Primary School, Northcote High School, Richmond High School, Westbreen Primary School and William Ruthven Secondary College.

The State Library of Victoria, which resides in, and services the Northern Metropolitan Region, has embarked on a major redevelopment funded from a \$55.4 million Government budget allocation and philanthropic contributions. The redevelopment includes restoring historic Queen's Hall as a public reading room and opening up additional space for public use. The project is scheduled for completion by 2020.