

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

2 September to 15 September 2016

(Extract from book 13)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

HANSARD¹⁵⁰



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

(from 20 June 2016)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, and Minister for Emergency Services (from 10 June 2016) [Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation 10 June to 20 June 2016]	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	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
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, Minister for International Education and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. S. R. Herbert, MLC
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources	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 G. A. Tierney, MLC

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Hartland, Mr Herbert, Ms Mikakos, Mr O’Donohue, 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 Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, Mr Morris and Mr Ondarchie.

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

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

Port of Melbourne Select Committee — Mr Barber, 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 and Ms McLeish.

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*): 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:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

Leader of the Government:

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 Greens:

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
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 Jaclyn	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	SFFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; VILJ — 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.

2 September to 15 September 2016**South Eastern Metropolitan Region**

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Premier
Asked on: 8 June 2016

ANSWER:

Due to the advocacy of the Member for Frankston this issue has been resolved. Upon hearing that City Life would be closing, the Member for Frankston worked tirelessly to ensure that the vital services provided by City Life would continue to be provided for people living in Frankston.

Our Government has contributed \$300 000 to Wintringham Specialist Aged Care who will partner with Wallara to provide affordable housing, outreach services and training opportunities for people with disabilities. These two organisations will also provide the important meal production that is so crucial for many living in Frankston.

We are working hard to ensure every Victorian, regardless of ability, can share in the life of their community and these services will help people be a part of that.

I am very pleased that we were able to play an important role to secure the future of these vital services and commend the Member for Frankston for his work on behalf of his constituents.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 9 June 2016

ANSWER:

All members of the Sunbury community had the same opportunities to contribute to the discussion and debate about whether Sunbury should separate from Hume City Council. This included all Hume City Councillors, all members of Parliament and the Australian Services Union in its role representing the interests of employees at Hume City Council.

Consultation and engagement processes included public forums organised by Local Government Victoria in Sunbury and Broadmeadows, forums organised by the Transition Auditors including one on one meetings and the public meeting attended by over 250 people held in Sunbury on Friday 24 July 2015. Those named by the Honourable Member played no role greater than any other participant in these processes.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Drought Concessional Loans scheme is a Commonwealth Government initiative that has been available in Victoria in 2014-15 and 2015-16.

The Commonwealth designs the scheme and sets the eligibility criteria. The Commonwealth has decided to extend the current 2015-16 scheme until 31 October 2016.

Rural Finance delivers the scheme in Victoria to a high standard under agreement with the Commonwealth.

Victoria has engaged the Commonwealth on multiple occasions and highlighted design issues with the scheme that can impact uptake and the approval rate.

In addition, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) has identified a number of shortcomings regarding the Commonwealth's design and implementation of the Drought Concessional Loans scheme. The ANAO has highlighted significant underspending of scheme funds across Australia, including Victoria.

Since 23 October 2015, 113 Drought Concessional Loan applications have been received from farmers in Victoria. 62 applications have been approved and 15 were declined. Eight withdrew, and the remaining 28 applications are being processed.

The Western Victoria Region includes all or part of the Ararat, Buloke, Central Goldfields, Colac Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Loddon, Moyne, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Southern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack local government areas (LGAs). Of the 113 applications received from farmers in Victoria, 83 were from farmers in these LGAs. To date, 50 of the 83 applications have been approved.

The Victorian Government will continue to work with the Commonwealth to ensure that Victoria receives an adequate share of national drought assistance.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 17 August 2016

ANSWER:

The former Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Frankston line. In contrast the Andrews Government is removing eleven with three already gone.

Ormond station presents an ideal opportunity for residential and commercial development that would support 300 ongoing jobs. No development has been approved and no contracts with any developer have been signed.

Any future development at Ormond Station is dependent on a planning process that will involve public exhibition and consultation.

The Liberal party, including Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, has strongly advocated for public transport infrastructure projects to be funded by taxes and levies on nearby residents and businesses. The Andrews Government has rejected this approach.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 18 August 2016

ANSWER:

Twenty people lost their lives on roads in Gippsland last year. This is 20 too many.

The Government recently released the Towards Zero (2016–2020) Victoria's Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan which has an immediate goal to reduce Victoria's road toll to fewer than 200 deaths by the year 2020 and reduce serious injuries by 15%.

Ultimately the vision is for a future free of deaths and serious injuries on our roads. To achieve this ambitious target, the Strategy and Action Plan adopts a Safe System approach which works on the premise that road trauma should not be accepted as inevitable. Within the safe systems model, if a mistake is made on the road the impact is severely reduced or negated by safer roads, safer vehicles, safer speeds and safer people.

VicRoads is making a number of infrastructure improvements in Gippsland to make roads safer which include:

- The installation of safety barrier along a number of roads with a combined total investment of \$13.11 million;
- Improvements to the intersection of Inverloch — Venus Bay Road and Tarwin Lower Road, \$0.42 million;
- Improved delineation treatments on a number of roads with a combined investment of \$3.98 million; and
- The installation of roundabouts at three priority intersections with a combined total investment of \$9.44 million. These roundabouts are to be constructed on the Hyland Highway at Loy Yang, Korumburra Wonthaggi Road at Lance Creek, and Traralgon West Road at Morwell.

These road safety initiatives are scheduled to be completed throughout the 2016 and 2017 calendar years.

The Toward Zero 2016–2020 includes packages to target unsafe behaviours such as speeding and drink and drug driving and supports young drivers to gain the experience they need to be safe drivers.

Drivers will be supported to travel at safer speeds through continued education about the science of speed and human vulnerability and through technological support such as a free Intelligent Speed Assist app to alert drivers when they are travelling over the limit.

There is a focus on enforcement of drink and drug driving laws and interventions, including alcohol interlocks and brief counselling interventions to support offenders to separate drinking and drug use from driving.

Young drivers will be supported to gain the experience they need to become safe drivers through the development of the practical safe driving program and the extension of the L2P learner driver mentor program.

In Gippsland, approximately 25% of all fatal and serious injury crashes involve motorcyclists, compared to a State average of 16%. Since the inception of the TAC Motorcycle Safety Levy Program, more than \$10 million has been invested in infrastructure improvements on Gippsland roads to improve motorcycle safety.

In Gippsland, VicRoads will deliver motorcycle safety improvements on three popular motorcycle routes with a combined total investment of \$5.40 million.

VicRoads leads a Gippsland Motorcycle Working Group which comprises of a number of partners including Victoria Police, local Councils and various motorcycle group and association representatives. The working group develops and implements various rider behavioural and education initiatives to advise motorcyclists of the road safety risks within Gippsland.

VicRoads will continue to implement rider education initiatives and develop further road safety projects and for consideration under the TAC Safe System Road Infrastructure Program and TAC Motorcycle Safety Levy Program.