

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS**

**10 June to 23 June 2016**

**(Extract from book 10)**

**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 (to 22 May 2016)**

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
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Employment . . . . .	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
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
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 Emergency Services, and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation . . . . .	The Hon. J. F. Garrett, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services . . . . .	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills . . . . .	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 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

## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

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## **The ministry** (from 23 May 2016)

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
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 Emergency Services, and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation .....	The Hon. J. F. Garrett, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services .....	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
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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 M. Kairouz, MP

## **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
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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, #Ms Hartland, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing, Mr Somyurek, Ms Tierney 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 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:** Ms G. TIERNEY

**Acting Presidents:** Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, 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 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 <sup>3</sup>	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 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

<sup>3</sup> 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;  
SFP — Shooters and Fishers 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.*

**10 June to 23 June 2016****Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 11 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering the first short, medium and long term plan for regional public transport— the Regional Network Development Plan (RNDP).

The RNDP is informed through consultation with local communities, with over 15 000 pieces of feedback received from people right across Victoria, including Shepparton. Workshops were held in Shepparton for both the community and local stakeholders, and I am advised that those were amongst the best attended of the 38 workshops held across the State.

The local State Member Suzanna Sheed, Federal Member Cathy McGowan and the community-driven All Aboard campaign should be congratulated on their advocacy for better regional services for the Shepparton community.

The feedback gathered during this active consultation process was used to formulate the RNDP and prioritise the plan's actions.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Davis  
**Directed to:** Minister for Planning  
**Asked on:** 11 February 2016

**ANSWER:**

The Government's Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) assessed the project against the Ministerial Guidelines for the assessment of environmental effects under the Environment Effects Act 1978.

On 27 May 2016, Amendment (GC37) was Gazetted to facilitate the Caulfield Dandenong Rail Upgrade Project.

In approving the amendment, I took into account any social, environmental and economic effects in accordance with section 12(2) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

I have also required, as a condition of the approval, that LXRA prepare an Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) for the project. The EMS will provide an overarching framework for the site, or specific measures to reduce and manage environmental and amenity effects during the construction of the project. The approval also includes conditions relating to heritage management, flood management, urban design, development of newly created open space areas, native vegetation removal and offsets, telecommunications facilities, substations, and tie stations, potentially contaminated land and noise.

In addition to this approval, the project is required to be delivered in accordance with the Passenger Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy and must comply with the relevant requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, Conservation, Forests and Land Act 1987, Environment Protection Act 1970, Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1995, Heritage Act 1995, Water Act 1989 and Wildlife Act 1975.

I am satisfied that the planning approval and other policies and regulations provide appropriate safeguards and management measures to ensure an acceptable environmental outcome for Victoria.

The incorporated document provides a streamlined planning approval process with either myself, the Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning or other relevant approving authority responsible for approving any secondary matters in the incorporated document. This approach is commensurate with a project of this scale and is consistent with the approach of the previous government with respect to the Cranbourne Pakenham Rail Corridor Project which was approved via Amendment GC15.

### **Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Wooldridge  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 13 April 2016

**ANSWER:**

The 2016 State Budget allocated \$10.2 million for the design and construction of the Bolton Street upgrade.

Preliminary planning works have commenced, including the development of concept design options that will be discussed with the community in mid 2016. Construction is expected to commence by late 2017.

### **South Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 13 April 2016

**ANSWER:**

Please direct your question to the Minister for Public Transport, Hon Jacinta Allan MP.

### **Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 3 May 2016

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that concerns regarding this stop were raised by local member Geoff Howard MP on behalf of the Buninyong Community Association directly to Public Transport Victoria (PTV) in late 2015.

At the time, PTV investigated options for removing this stop and identified the following:

1. The area in question has two stops relatively close together. One stop is located outside the Pig and Goose Restaurant, and the other is approximately 150 metres north, near the intersection of Warrenheip Street and Eyre Street.
2. The stop outside the Pig and Goose Restaurant is serviced by the Ballarat — Buninyong (Route 10) service, the Geelong — Bendigo via Ballarat V/Line service and school town services. The stop at Eyre Street is serviced by the Ballarat — Buninyong (Route 10) service and school town services only.
3. Average daily passengers at the two stops across the Ballarat — Buninyong and school town services are approximately 30 for the Pig and Goose Restaurant stop, and approximately 10 for the Eyre Street stop. The Pig and Goose Restaurant stop has a mix of passengers made up of school students, disabled passengers and regular bus users whereas the Eyre Street stop is primarily used by school students. Passenger statistics for the V/Line service were not obtained.

I have asked PTV to investigate the option of removing the stop at Eyre Street to free up additional parking in Warrenheip Street. The Labor Government is committed to improving the Ballarat bus network. PTV is currently reviewing the network and community consultation is underway. I have asked PTV to consider this as part of the consultation.

### Western Metropolitan Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Eideh  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 4 May 2016

#### ANSWER:

I was pleased to recently announce the opening of the 2016-17 Children's Facilities Capital Program major grant round. This grant round is part of the Andrews Labor Government's \$50 million commitment to building and upgrading early learning education and care facilities across the State.

As you are aware, the 2016-17 Victorian Budget provided an additional \$10 million to the Children's Facilities Capital Program to will assist with the development and expansion of early childhood facilities in Melbourne's growth areas, and an improved approach to planning for our future needs.

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
- promoting integrated service delivery at one location where families can access early childhood education and care, health and development and family services
- improving access to local and responsive early childhood services for children from vulnerable and/or disadvantaged families
- establishing early childhood infrastructure on or near school sites.

The Major Infrastructure Grants round closes at 4pm on 12 August 2016.

For further details, including eligibility requirements and selection criteria, organisations are encouraged to visit the Children's Facilities Capital Program website at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/funding/Pages/capitalprogram.aspx>

Organisations may also contact the Children's Facilities Capital Program staff on 03 9651 3399 or by email: [childrens.capital.program@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:childrens.capital.program@edumail.vic.gov.au). Applications will close at 4pm on 12 August 2016.

### Eastern Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Ms Shing  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 4 May 2016

#### ANSWER:

The Morwell Regeneration Project affords a wonderful makeover of what has become worn and weary primary school infrastructure in the Latrobe Valley. Regrettably, the previous Liberal National Government failed to invest a single dollar towards this regeneration project in its time in government. Addressing this neglect through the regeneration is an example of how the Andrews Labor Government is making Victoria the 'Education State'.

The project includes the development of two new schools, one of which, Morwell Primary is currently under construction and scheduled for completion in readiness for the 2017 school year. This new development, designed

to accommodate 475 students, will replace existing facilities at Crinigan Road, Commercial Road, and the Tobruk Street campuses.

The other exciting school component, Morwell Park Primary is about to be tendered for construction and should be completed by mid-July 2017. When operational, it will accommodate a further 375 students in state of the art facilities.

These two elements of the Morwell Regeneration Project will provide local students with the amenity needed to better accommodate modern pedagogical approaches in teaching and learning. As larger schools, they will provide a greater range of curriculum options, thereby enhancing the learning experience of students.

This upgrade of primary school infrastructure will help give students the start they need to succeed in their lifelong educational journeys. The Andrews Labor commitment to the 'Education State' in the Latrobe Valley is about making our system great by fixing our schools, early learning facilities and skill centres.

Solid, safe and efficient infrastructure, this is the physical foundation of what we aspire to provide in terms of the best learning environments possible.

### **South Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Rich-Phillips  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 5 May 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

In the 2010-11 State Budget of the former Labor Government, \$35 million was allocated to the first stage of the project for the duplication of Hallam Road between Pound Road and Ormond Road. This section of Hallam Road was completed in November 2014.

The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$38.4 million in the 2016-17 State Budget to the duplication of Hallam Road between Ormond Road and the South Gippsland Highway, this being the second stage of the broader Hallam Road duplication. Clearly, Labor Governments deliver on roads for the South-East.

With the funding of this project now confirmed, delivery of this project will commence with VicRoads undertaking the necessary pre-construction activities required for the effective and efficient delivery of this project.

The timing for completion of the project is dependent on the outcome of these activities.

### **Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Dunn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 5 May 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The recent Victorian Budget 2016–17, allocated a \$140.2 million investment to duplicate 1.2 kilometres of single-track between Heidelberg and Rosanna.

Building a second track will allow trains to run in both directions at the same time, which will enable more frequent, reliable services for thousands of passengers along the line to Melbourne's north east.

These works will include additional services as part of a redesigned timetable for the Hurstbridge line, including an additional morning peak train service to start at Hurstbridge, shift morning peak train service currently starting at Greensborough to instead start at Eltham, and an additional morning peak service to start at Eltham.



As part of the plan, the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) will also undertake the planning work on possible future rail duplications on sections between Greensborough and Eltham, to further boost services.

### **Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 5 May 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government is removing 50 of Victoria's worst level crossings. In addition to this project, five level crossings will be removed between Gordon and Dunnstown as part of the \$518 million Ballarat Rail Upgrade project. All major work on this project will occur to the west of the Mount Derrimut Road Level Crossing. It should be noted that the former Liberal Government did not fund and remove a single level crossing in Melbourne's west and has made no commitment to remove the Mount Derrimut Road Level Crossing.

### **Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Melhem  
**Directed to:** Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade  
**Asked on:** 24 May 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government recognises the significant contribution Victoria's 540 000 small businesses make to local communities, particularly in providing jobs, growing the economy and building social cohesion.

The Government also recognises the challenges and pressures small business owners face. That is why we are committed to providing support services to small business operators across the State to help them grow and succeed.

I would like to inform the Member that there are several ways in which business owners seeking to expand into overseas markets can access services, business mentoring and support in the Western Metropolitan Region.

Firstly, the Victorian Government has a network of metropolitan and regional offices across all areas of the State, which is focused on supporting investment and job creation. The Western Metropolitan office is located in Tottenham, where local businesses can go to access the full range of Government support.

All offices are staffed with Business Development Managers (BDM) who are specialists in business and industry. They support businesses by helping to navigate Government services, programs and regulations. BDMs are also specialised in guiding businesses in exporting for the first time, providing step-by-step guidance to get a business export-ready and in-market information on target export markets.

The Government is also committed to enhancing the capability of small business owners to effectively plan, run and manage their business through low-cost services such as business mentoring and workshops.

The Small Business Mentoring Program provides small businesses and prospective business owners with access to low-cost business mentoring and expert advice. In addition to the Small Business Mentoring Program, the Government also offers the Small Business Victoria Workshops program, which provides businesses and prospective business owners with the skills and knowledge to make informed business decisions.

More information on all of these initiatives is available at the Business Victoria website at <http://www.business.vic.gov.au/> or by phoning 13 22 15.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 24 May 2016

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government supports communities with grants to build and upgrade early childhood facilities in areas where services are needed the most. As you are no doubt aware, in order to deliver on this we have already committed \$60 million in two budgets to develop modern and flexible early childhood centres. This compares to \$37 million appropriated for early childhood facilities by the previous Coalition Government over four years.

As I have stated on many occasions, this Government stands by its commitment to kindergarten services in Ballarat.

In January of this year, the City of Ballarat wrote to the Department of Education and Training stating that they did not wish to proceed with an early years project at Canadian Lead Primary School.

We will redirect the entire \$2 million funding to improve early childhood education and care services in Ballarat, so that local families can access a high-quality kindergarten program close to home.

The Department of Education and Training is in discussions with the City of Ballarat regarding the best use of this \$2 million. The council is in the process of assessing what location/s may be suitable for grant funding.

Unlike the previous Government, we are listening to the advice of local council and the community about where this investment is needed most.

**Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Barber  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2016

**ANSWER:**

Two new relocatable buildings are being installed to relieve enrolment pressure at North Melbourne Primary School. These buildings will provide teachers and students with modern learning environments, and deliver the facilities necessary for a first-class education.

The Andrews Government is aware that some local residents have raised concerns about the loss of vegetation during building works. I am advised that the Victorian School Building Authority has consulted with the school regarding the logistics of installing the new buildings, and together have examined a number of options to try and retain as much vegetation as possible. Although a small number of trees have been removed to install the buildings, a landscaping package is part of the detailed planning around this project. This package includes planting four mature trees elsewhere on site and developing plans for a sensory garden. The school principal has been consulted with, and is highly supportive of this approach.

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Eideh  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2016

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government recognises that access to high quality early years services is central to giving every Victorian child the best start in life.

Last year, we committed \$50 million over four years to the Children's Facilities Capital Program (CFCP) to develop modern and flexible early childhood centres across the state.

The 2016-17 Victorian State Budget builds on that significant investment, providing an additional \$10 million to the CFCP, earmarked for capital projects in Victoria's fastest-growing areas and an improved approach to planning for Victoria's future needs. These additional funds will target the 7 Metropolitan Planning Authority defined growth areas — Casey, Cardinia, Hume, Mitchell (in urban growth zone), Melton, Whittlesea and Wyndham.

I was pleased to recently announce the opening of the 2016-17 Children's Facilities Capital Program major grant round. Applications will close at 4pm on 12 August 2016.

Further details regarding eligibility and assessment criteria for grant categories can be accessed on the Department of Education and Training's website. If your constituents have any queries, or would like any further information, they may contact the Children's Facilities Capital Program team on (03) 9651 3399 or by email at: [childrens.capital.program@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:childrens.capital.program@edumail.vic.gov.au).

### Western Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Ms Tierney  
**Directed to:** Minister for Veterans  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2016

#### ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to respecting and honouring the service and sacrifice of our veterans, to ensuring future generations of Victorians understand and appreciate the service of our veterans and to protecting Victoria's war heritage.

The Government funds a number of Grant programs to achieve these aims, including support for local commemorations, these can be found at <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/veterans/veterans-grants>.

Other initiatives that support local commemorations and participation include:

- \$5 million over five years for the Anzac Centenary (2014-2018);
- \$1 million over two years to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan;
- grants programs to restore community war memorials and avenues of honour and support veteran welfare;
- the annual Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize;
- annual operational funding for the Shrine of Remembrance; and
- funding to the RSL for the annual ANZAC Day Service.

As the Member for Western Victoria Region rightly points out, the volunteer base which has served the veteran community so well for so long is changing, and we will need to work collaboratively to plan effectively for change. I am confident that the Victorian RSL will, as usual, be a leading force in the development of new initiatives for the future.

**Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2016

**ANSWER:**

The government has listened to the community and has committed \$15 million to build a new police station for the growing areas of Mernda and Doreen. The funding will support the purchase of land and construction of a police station in Mernda.

In November 2015, the government announced that the new Mernda Police Station would be located on the corner of Bridge Inn Road and Pimpinella Pass.

Construction is due to begin this year. With the new police station expected to become operational in late 2017, Victoria Police is currently considering resourcing and service delivery options for the Whittlesea Police Service Area, which incorporates the Epping Police Station.

Victoria Police advises that it is in the process of renewing the lease for Epping Police Station with Whittlesea Council, which is standard government practice.

The government will continue to consult with Victoria Police about overall police resourcing across the state. I am assured by the Chief Commissioner that the allocation of police resources across Victoria is continuously monitored by the respective command officers to ensure the best possible policing service is delivered to the Victorian community. Keeping the community safe is a core priority for Victoria Police.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Pennicuik  
**Directed to:** Minister for Planning  
**Asked on:** 26 May 2016

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for your question regarding the London Hotel in Port Melbourne.

A planning permit application (P1313–2015) was lodged with the City of Port Phillip in December 2015, for the construction of a new eight (8) storey apartment building at 92 Beach Street, Port Melbourne. The proposed redevelopment of the site would involve demolition of the existing building. There is currently no Heritage Overlay applied to the site, and accordingly no planning permit is required for demolition.

The applicant has now lodged a Section 79 Application for Review with the Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), which is listed for hearing on 22 August 2016.

A building permit for demolition has been issued by a private building surveyor dated 25 June 2015.

The City of Port Phillip has requested that I exercise my powers under section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, to apply an interim Heritage Overlay (H0498) to 92 Beach Street, Port Melbourne (London Hotel) through Amendment C128 to the Port Phillip Planning Scheme.

Amendment C128 as an interim measure, proposes to protect the property from demolition while Council undertakes a thorough heritage assessment of the site.

I have received Amendment C128 and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning are currently assessing Council's request prior to a decision being made.

The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria has not received a request for an interim protection order under the Heritage Act 1995.