

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

11 November to 24 November 2016

(Extract from book 18)

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

(to 9 November 2016)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	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

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

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(from 10 November 2016)

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Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

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 Elasmr, 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.

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

Joint committees

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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 Elasmr 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**

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Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

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The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

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The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

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Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Mr G. BARBER

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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	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁴ Appointed 12 October 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.

11 November to 24 November 2016**Western Metropolitan Region**

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 14 September 2016

ANSWER:

Thank you for your continued advocacy on behalf of the people of Melbourne's west.

The Taylors Hill West Secondary College is scheduled to open in Term 1, 2018. The principal will be appointed 12 months before the new school opening.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 15 September 2016

ANSWER:

It is acknowledged that the Liberal Opposition has used the impact on trees as an excuse to call for the delay to the construction and delivery of the Metro Tunnel project.

As the Member has outlined in her constituency question, the impact on trees from the construction of the Metro Tunnel project was assessed as part of the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process.

The EES report is before the Minister for Planning and its recommendations, including in relation to trees, will be incorporated into the design and procurement process.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Tierney
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 11 October 2016

ANSWER:

As of 27 October 2016, 48 local government areas have been impacted by the ongoing flooding and storms in Victoria. As part of assessing the impact of these events on communities, local governments and VicRoads undertake detailed impact assessment on local and state road networks. Both local government and VicRoads share assessment criteria, collaborating to speed up the recovery and reduce long term impact on the community.

In recognition of the scale of the recent floods and storms, and the number of local councils affected, the State Government has established a State Crisis and Resilience Committee Flood Recovery Subcommittee, which will oversee the coordination of impact assessment and the progress of recovery initiatives, with a focus on the restoration of essential public assets, including roads, bridges, stormwater drainage and culverts.

Restoration of the local and state road network will be jointly funded through the Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. The Victorian Auditor-General's Office will perform an audit and assurance role to ensure funding is used appropriately.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 11 October 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian State Government supports the safeguarding of Melbourne Airport and the communities living and working nearby. The airport site, which included a significant buffer, was selected in 1958. Successive state and Commonwealth governments have subsequently planned to ensure that the airport's ultimate capacity for a four runway layout remains curfew-free since 1990. Over time, as the airport and Melbourne have grown, the State has introduced planning protections, including legislation, State Planning Policy, the Melbourne Airport Environs Overlay planning scheme control and, more recently, the National Airports Safeguarding Framework, to protect the airport's current and future flight paths from further urban encroachment and to minimise the number of residents exposed to aircraft noise. The Melbourne Airport Environs Overlay requires acoustic attenuation to the Australian Standard for aircraft noise. Compensation is not a planning consideration when land is not reserved for a public purpose, nor where, as is the case for Melbourne Airport, the planning system is transparent in its objectives and provision for the protection of this state significant infrastructure.

I intend to undertake a ministerial amendment to update the five planning schemes which contain the Melbourne Airport Environs Overlay after the outcome of Melbourne Airport's third runway development proposal process is known. The airport expects the formal consideration process for the third runway to commence in 2018 and for the runway to be operational between 2022-2024, should the Commonwealth approve its development. The ministerial amendment will be progressed in consultation with local governments and property owners affected by the Melbourne Airport Environs Overlay, once the airport submit their proposals.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Eideh
Directed to: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 12 October 2016

ANSWER:

It is heartening to hear how the funding provided by LaunchVic will work at the local level to help support local communities and stimulate economic opportunities.

LaunchVic's role is to provide the right environment for entrepreneurs to develop, incubate and grow early-stage innovative businesses. The Dream Factory— a co-working space and creative hub located in Footscray — is a great example of the type of support that will make this happen.

Through its Round One funding, LaunchVic has already allocated \$6.5 million to a raft of projects— including The Dream Factory— that improve Victoria's startup infrastructure. These projects will underpin startup growth across regional areas, for different sectors, such as agriculture and cybersecurity, and allow access to startup development for groups such as women and youths.

On 30 September, LaunchVic announced its second funding round. Once again there is an opportunity to support startup communities, such as those in the Western Metropolitan Region, to develop projects that will drive new ideas, create economic momentum and lead to high-skill jobs.

LaunchVic is looking for small and large proposals that will improve collaboration, build capacity and grow Victoria's startup capability.

Businesses and innovative enterprises in the Western Metropolitan Region, and across Victoria, that have great ideas to develop the startup ecosystem can apply by going to LaunchVic's website: www.launchvic.org. There they

will find further information, including the round guidelines and frequently asked questions, and can download and submit their applications on line.

Applications for Round 2 funding close 18 November 2016 and must include a commitment to match any LaunchVic funding being sought.

The Andrews Labor Government is investing heavily in startups and the state's tech sector, to drive high-skill jobs across the state and make Victoria the number one startup business destination across the Asia Pacific.

Recent moves to Victoria by leading US tech companies show we are gaining momentum. Companies that have chosen to expand or establish operations in Melbourne over the past 12 months include CultureAmp, GoPro, Slack, Square and Cognizant.

LaunchVic will continue to create a startup environment that will support these companies and Victoria's own entrepreneurs through its funding rounds and other activities. I encourage you to continue to promote the new round to your electorate to create projects with real impact.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 12 October 2016

ANSWER:

Buses play an important role in meeting the travel needs of many people living in Melbourne's suburbs. The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and Public Transport Victoria continuously review the entire metropolitan bus network to help it better meet the needs of Melburnians.

Residents in Skye and Sandhurst near McCormicks Road and Wedge Road are able to access bus route 832. This service runs to Frankston, operating every half hour on weekdays and hourly on weekends.

Unlike the previous Liberal Government who slashed funding to bus services, the Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving Victoria's bus network, investing \$100 million to building a better bus network.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 12 October 2016

ANSWER:

On 21 September 2016, I was delighted to announce that the Andrews Labor Government was providing \$1.2 million funding to support the construction or refurbishment of 32 new or existing men's sheds across Victoria.

Monash Men's Shed is one of the successful recipients in this funding round, and will receive \$30 000 to assist in refurbishing the scout hall adjacent to the existing Monash Men's Shed.

I thank you for your advocacy on behalf of this important community resource.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 12 October 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government understands that air quality is an important issue for residents of Melbourne's inner west with many concerned about emissions from trucks travelling through their local area. In direct response to feedback from the local community that they want a better understanding of local air quality, we have put in place a monitoring program to ensure air quality is measured thoroughly and transparently.

Monitoring stations have begun operation in Yarraville Gardens and in Francis Street near the Yarraville Community Centre. The remaining stations will be operational in the coming months. The monitoring stations will operate for 12 months and collect information on the key pollutants associated with vehicle exhaust emissions at these sites.

Additionally, the Victorian Government's new nation-leading air quality standards relating to air particle limits in impact assessments are being considered in the Western Distributor Environment Effects Statement (EES).

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 12 October 2016

ANSWER:

A new V/Line timetable will be announced shortly.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 12 October 2016

ANSWER:

VicRoads recently completed a detailed planning investigation for a link between Melbourne Airport and the future Outer Metropolitan Ring Road transport corridor, which included a bypass of Bulla.

The Minister for Planning has asked me to consider further options that address safety and congestion, as well as future traffic demands for the Sunbury and Bulla communities.

VicRoads is currently undertaking that work.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Elasmarr
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 13 October 2016

ANSWER:

I am pleased to announce that the Northern Metropolitan Region received funding of \$2 357 546 in the 2016-2017 rounds of the Multicultural Festivals and Events, Capacity Building, and Participation and Community Harmony grants programs.

For the Capacity Building and Participation Program, this funding consisted of:

- Two strategic partnership agreements totalling \$350 000 towards migrant settlement services and capacity building initiatives for refugees and asylum seekers.
- 11 Medium grants totalling \$530 958 for programs supporting:
 - culturally diverse LGBTI community;
 - asylum seeker and refugees;
 - family violence and gender equality;
 - women; and
 - youth.
- 56 small grants totalling \$76 610 for a range of senior and other organisational programs, and community language school programs.

For the Community Harmony Program, this funding consisted of:

- eight large grants totalling \$343 928, and ten small grants totalling \$80 650, to support and deliver a range of programs, including:
 - intercultural and interfaith dialogue, and expansion of local government interfaith networks;
 - anti-racism training for young people;
 - leadership capacity building for migrant women; and
 - an education program for school children to address negative perceptions associated with refugees in Australia.

165 festivals in the northern region also received grant funding totalling \$900 800. This grant funding will help support new and established communities to hold events which engage the broader community in multicultural celebrations as well as enhancing cross-cultural awareness and understanding.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 13 October 2016

ANSWER:

The Western Distributor project is currently undergoing an Environment Effects Statement (EES) under the Environment Effects Act 1978. The proponent is the Western Distributor Authority, an administrative office within the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

The EES Scoping Requirements identify the matters to be investigated and documented in the EES, and it includes noise. Where it relates to noise, the Scoping Requirements set out the priorities for characterising the existing environment to:

- Identify residences and other sensitive land uses, including nearby urban renewal precincts, community facilities, parklands and open spaces that may be vulnerable to changes in air quality and noise environments from the project.
- Collect local noise and vibration data.

- Characterise existing local background noise conditions and trends relative to relevant standards, including known factors that may lead to local exceedances.
- Describe ground conditions that may influence the transmission of vibrations and regenerated noise from construction works and road tunnel operations.

The EES is in the process of gathering data and predicting impacts. At the end of the process, the EES document will describe the proposed project, existing conditions and its potential environmental effects and it will be publicly exhibited to seek feedback from the community in the first half of 2017 for at least 30 days.

EPA Victoria is providing advice to the proponent as part of the EES process but is not responsible for the collection or verification of data. This is the responsibility of the Western Distributor Authority.

The EES process ensures that noise data will be available for the community to review at a time when it has been verified, analysed and integrated into engineering designs to inform management measures and minimise risks from the project.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Water
Asked on: 13 October 2016

ANSWER:

In maximising environmental outcomes, wetlands are managed in line with the Victorian Environmental Water Holders Seasonal Watering Plan, which outlines intended environmental watering under a range of climatic scenarios from drought through to flood. The plan is developed in consultation with local communities.

Environmental watering regimes can include the need to allow some wetlands time to naturally dry if possible, which can be critical for wetland health.

Site-specific information

To take advantage of the wet conditions, North Central CMA requested that GMW divert up to 5000 ML to Lake Cullen. This will leave additional airspace in the wetland in case it is required for flood mitigation later in spring. In line with the Seasonal Watering Plan, of 6 November approximately 5000 ML of water has been diverted into Lake Cullen.

McDonalds Swamp has received its full watering needs during late winter/early spring, and is currently full. The wetland cannot receive further water due to risks to private land.

NCCMA has recommended GMW do not divert water to Johnson Swamp or Hird Swamp if possible. These sites are now due to have a drying phase and wetting them now would undermine longer term objectives to create improved water bird and fowl habitat at the wetlands. This recommendation aligns with the Seasonal Watering Plan, and was supported by the community-based Environmental Watering Advisory Group.

I am happy to organise a briefing if you require any further information.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Water
Asked on: 25 October 2016

ANSWER:

I have asked DELWP to investigate the complaints about delays in completing Crown land sales and will be advising the affected landholders on the progress of their applications shortly.

I have asked the DELWP Loddon Mallee region office to work with Goulburn-Murray Water and other partner agencies to streamline the processes associated with the sale of surplus Crown land channels from the Connections Project. These improvements will ensure that Crown land sales associated with the project are completed in a timely manner.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 25 October 2016

ANSWER:

The Quarry Hills Precinct Structure Plan identifies the infrastructure projects needed for a new community, responsibilities for delivery and timing triggers. Projects will occur with subdivision/development activity and respond to access and demand from anticipated population growth that occurs within the precinct over the next 20+ years.

Developer contributions of approximately \$38 million will deliver internal roads and intersections; bridges over Darebin Creek on Lehman's Road, north-south connector, Harvest Home Road, and on shared pathways; a multipurpose sports reserve; and the Quarry Hills Community Centre. Growth Areas Infrastructure Contributions of approximately \$25 million will support the delivery of state funded public transport and community infrastructure.

The plan supports early provision of community facilities and service spaces, including a town centre, primary school and local parks, which will help to facilitate social interaction opportunities and encourage resident relationships. An interim community facility for the short to medium term could be accommodated within the local convenience centre in the north of the precinct. Further information is available on City of Whittlesea and Victorian Planning Authority websites

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 25 October 2016

ANSWER:

The Shade Grants Program has awarded over 490 grants to date, totalling \$5 million in funding, including \$2.9 million to schools. Already 139 schools across Victoria have benefitted from this program.

With the completion of the latest round of shade grants, the Andrews Labor Government has enhanced protection for children and the broader community from the dangers of skin cancer right across rural, regional and metropolitan Victoria.

The next round of the School Shade Grants Program will open in mid-2017.

Schools that were unsuccessful in the previous two rounds will automatically be notified when the next round opens.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 25 October 2016

ANSWER:

The 2016-17 Victorian Budget provided \$3 million to undertake a Duplication Planning Study for Barwon Heads Road between Breakwater Road and Lower Duneed Road in Armstrong Creek.

The Study will investigate alignment options and preferred treatments. Input from the community and stakeholders about their travel movements will provide valuable information into the development of treatment options.

The Study will include the preparation of a business case for funding consideration by Government and is expected to be completed by mid 2018. The Study will also enable a planning scheme amendment process to reserve the necessary land for the preferred duplication alignment.

The timing of any proposed works will be guided by the outcomes of this Study.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 26 October 2016

ANSWER:

I acknowledge that the issue of heavy vehicles along the Beach Road corridor is causing some concern to the local community with regard to safety and health. To further clarify, the existing truck curfews are in operation from 8pm to 6am Monday to Saturday and from 1pm Saturday to 6am Monday.

VicRoads advised me that it has collected data using camera technology to identify truck movements along Beach Road between Bay Street and Glen Huntly Road. This data is currently being validated using other data to provide clarity on truck movements and the compliance with the existing curfews.

This data will be used to assess the impact of any proposed changes to truck curfews and to further target enforcement of the existing curfews. This will be undertaken in partnership with stakeholders including councils, the community and the transport industry, as we work towards finding a balance that meets the needs of truck operators and the local community.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 26 October 2016

ANSWER:

Night Network is a trial with a limited number of destinations for services. In regional areas, the destinations being serviced are those on existing intercity corridors that currently have comparatively frequent services during the day time to assist with comparisons: Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Traralgon, and now Seymour.

The purpose of the trial is to give us valuable information to help inform future service planning, including those to regional destinations in northern Victoria. Community feedback is a key part of the evaluation of the trial, to help inform whether services should be expanded to other areas in the future.

The Member will be aware that the regional television services operates across multiple cities and towns.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 27 October 2016

ANSWER:

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and Public Transport Victoria recognise the important role that buses play in meeting the travel needs of people living in Melbourne's suburbs and continuously review the entire metropolitan bus network. The proposal to deliver a bus service to Sandown Park Station will be considered in future planning.

Unlike the previous Liberal Government who slashed funding to bus services, the Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving Victoria's bus services, investing \$100 million to build a better bus network.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 27 October 2016

ANSWER:

The new maintenance and stabling facility is critical infrastructure needed to house and maintain a modern fleet of regional trains. The facility will not only house and maintain Victoria's newest regional trains, it will also offer local education and training opportunities, supporting apprenticeships and depot staff.

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) has and continues to have, ongoing dialogue with the Larcombe family in relation to the possible acquisition of property for the stabling yards.

PTV respects the Larcombe family's request for PTV to liaise with them via their lawyers, Aitken Partners, which they will continue to do.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 8 November 2016

ANSWER:

This matter does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities. Please redirect this question to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 9 November 2016

ANSWER:

The Government is removing all nine level crossings between Caulfield and Dandenong. The Liberal Party's opposition to the removal of these crossings is well understood by the community.

The independent Office of the Victorian Government Architect (OVGA) has supported the Government's design solution for the removal of these crossings.

OVGA has dismissed the allegations of the Member for Southern Metropolitan and has confirmed that no employee of the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) has threatened, bullied or monstereed anyone from OVGA.

That fact that the Member for Southern Metropolitan believes that it is possible for an employee of the LXRA to force the OVGA to change their position provides an insight into the governance approach of the Liberal Party.

The Member for Southern Metropolitan has previously accused institutions such as Melbourne University and RMIT of lacking independence in relation to their advice supporting the Government's approach to the removal of congested level crossings.

In contrast to the Liberal Party, the Government respects the advice of independent experts and will continue to consider their advice and respect their expertise as we remove fifty of Victoria's worst level crossings.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 10 November 2016

ANSWER:

Bernie Finn and the Liberal Opposition have no public transport agenda and are trying to create controversy where there is none. We have no plans to remove services from Sunbury.

Bernie Finn and the former Liberal Government didn't start a single major public transport project, order any regional carriages for two years and ripped \$120 million out of V/Line.

We've already delivered more than 80 extra services to Sunbury, and V/Line trains will continue stopping there in the future.

We've also re-instated and increased funding to V/Line, ordered 48 new carriages and are getting on with delivering the Metro Tunnel, which will provide more services and high-capacity trains to Sunbury.