

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

27 May to 9 June 2016

(Extract from book 9)

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 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

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Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Kairouz, 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 — #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, Ms McLeish and Ms Sheed.

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

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

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

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): 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 Elasmar, 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 ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFP	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	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

² Appointed 15 April 2015

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
SFP — Shooters and Fishers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

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ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

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

27 May to 9 June 2016**Western Metropolitan Region**

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

ANSWER:

As the Member has previously been told, the advice of the independent Transition Auditors, that the split should not proceed due to the long-term and significant financial impact on Sunbury residents has been accepted.

The Hon Frank Vincent AO QC and Mr John Watson, were appointed to examine the previous Government's plan to create a standalone Sunbury Council. They based their recommendation to not proceed with the separation on the likelihood of greatly increased council rates and significantly reduce services for the people of Sunbury. They noted separation was likely to create an unviable, unsustainable stand alone Sunbury council.

The Auditors found that the previous process lacked adequate community consultation, in particular by not making relevant information easily accessible to local residents of both Sunbury and the rest of Hume. This meant people had no information about the potential detrimental impact of separation when they were asked to vote on the desirability of separation.

The Auditors provided their advice following extensive consultation with the local residents in Sunbury and other areas across Flume, community groups, businesses, current councillors, local members and local government peak bodies, culminating in a public information evening where all community members were given the opportunity to have their say. Over 100 written submissions were received and a summary can be found in the Transition Auditors Report.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 24 February 2016

ANSWER:

I have been advised by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) that recent changes to Australia Post's service delivery arrangements will see the cost of postage doubled from the time of the last council elections in 2012. This will have an unavoidable impact on the cost of running both future postal elections and attendance elections, which have a significant postal program.

There are also other cost pressures faced by the VEC relating to council elections. These include the doubling of costs for its computer infrastructure largely in response to the NBN roll out, significant cost increases since 2012 which consist of advertising, rate of pay to election staff, transport and logistics on delivery of equipment.

The VEC has also advised councils that the State Government continues to subsidise costs, but only where direct costs are covered. It does not recover salaries for core staff working on local government elections, or certain overheads such as head office accommodation.

I also note, last year the Andrews Government introduced a number of important reforms to the local government electoral arrangements in advance of the general elections, including formalising the Victorian Electoral Commission's long standing role as the provider of election services to all councils.

This reform was implemented because of the overwhelming support from councils and also due to the fact that no other parties responded to the tenders. Therefore it has removed the unnecessary and costly requirement for councils to tender for their election services.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 22 March 2016

ANSWER:

The removal of the level crossing at Grange Road is one of the 50 level crossings that Labor committed to in the lead up to the last election. It is acknowledged that the Liberal party declined to include Grange Road in the level crossings they outlined for removal.

The cost of relocating the gas pipeline near Grange Road and the accompanying disruption to the gas supply to a large section of Melbourne's population were key considerations to determine the best engineering solution to remove the nine level crossings between Caulfield and Dandenong. Additional factors included a high water table along the corridor and the fact that a 4km long open cut trench would continue to divide communities and would result in a significant loss of mature trees. Consideration in selecting the elevated rail design for the level crossing removal project was also given to limiting the impact of construction on the local community and more widely on the transport network.

Elevating the rail allows funds that would otherwise be allocated for costly excavation and the relocation of utilities to be reinvested in high quality urban design, landscaping and new activity spaces.

Replacement of the gas pipeline in the future can be achieved without affecting the operation of the rail line on this busy route.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 24 March 2016

ANSWER:

The matter raised does not fall under my portfolio responsibilities. Please redirect the question to the Minister for Police.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 12 April 2016

ANSWER:

As you are aware, under Victorian law, I cannot direct the Chief Commissioner about the allocation or deployment of police officers to or at particular locations in accordance with section 10 of the Victoria Police Act 2013. The decision of how and where police resources are deployed is appropriately a matter for the Chief Commissioner.

I assure you that the residents of Casey continue to receive a 24 hour police response from across the police service area. If any person requires urgent police assistance, they should contact Victoria Police on the emergency number '000'. Calls made to '000' are processed and responded to by the closest appropriate police personnel.

The operational need for new and upgraded police stations is identified by Victoria Police and projects are considered in the context of other priorities across the state. Where the need for additional police infrastructure funding is identified, the status of projects is determined by government through the budget process.

As you would expect, the government works closely with the Chief Commissioner to ensure Victoria Police is appropriately resourced to tackle law and order issues facing the Victorian community.

The Andrews Labor Government recently announced a \$596 million Public Safety Package as part of the 2016-17 State Budget, delivering on our promise to give police the necessary resources to respond to gang-related crime, gun crime, terrorist threats and family violence.

Victoria Police will soon have an extra 406 sworn police officers and 52 support personnel bringing the total number of new police personnel funded by the Andrews Government since it came to office to 1156.

Of the additional 406 sworn police officers, 300 will be general duties frontline police deployed across Victoria. The Chief Commissioner has stated that deployment of those 300 general duties police will focus on responding to local crime issues in growth corridors and other areas of greatest need, to be determined in consultation with The Police Association.

The remaining 106 sworn police officers will be specialist police officers appointed to teams targeting issues such as gangs and illicit trafficking.

The government is giving Victoria Police the officers, equipment, and powers to respond to some of the most serious issues facing our community today including family violence, gun crime and the scourge of ice.

We are also making a major investment in police equipment and technology to put Victoria Police at the forefront of providing smarter more responsive policing. For the first time, police will have mobile technology, including mobile tablets, enabling police to access and exchange up to date information while in the field. Combined with new body worn cameras, this investment will significantly enhance Victoria Police's frontline operations.

The City of Casey has established a Community Safety Advisory Committee, bringing together Victoria Police and other law enforcement agencies, emergency services and community members to collaborate on issues of public safety, amenity and crime. This committee also provides an appropriate forum for discussion of local community concerns and the development of appropriate strategies under council's Community Safety Strategy.

I am informed that Victoria Police recently attended a Tooradin community forum meeting to discuss community concern about crime. Officers in the Casey-Cardinia Proactive Unit of Victoria Police, based at Cranbourne Police Station, are available to provide specific, practical advice to residents and businesses about effective crime prevention strategies, tailored to local issues of concern.

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

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 12 April 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving public transport in Melbourne's growing suburbs. I am pleased to advise that under the Government's Better Bus Package, three new bus services were introduced in January 2016 in Epping North and Wollert to extend the network to local areas, providing greater choice, flexibility and connectivity for passengers. This new bus network was tailored to better reflect local residents' travel needs following a series of community consultation sessions.

The Andrews Government is getting on with building Melbourne's Metro Tunnel and in the 2016/17 State Budget announced full funding for the extension of the South Morang line to Mernda. The project will build around eight kilometres of duplicated track between South Morang and Mernda, and stabling facilities for trains north of Bridge Inn Road.

A new Premium Station will be built in Mernda, a second will be built near Marymede Catholic College, and bidders have been asked to price a third station near Hawkstowe Parade. Mernda Rail builds on the former Labor Government's extension of the Epping line to South Morang. The rail line is desperately needed to ensure people in these booming communities can get to school and work.

In addition to the Mernda rail extension, we are also duplicating the Hurstbridge line so that trains can run more reliably and frequently.

\$5 million has been committed in the 2016-17 budget to plan for track upgrades between Upheld and Somerton to support services to Wallan.

These projects are critical to meet demand in some of the fastest growing suburbs in Victoria.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 12 April 2016

ANSWER:

I note your concerns regarding the Puckle Street, Park Street and Buckley Street level crossings.

The Labor Government is removing 50 of Victoria's worst level crossings in Victoria. The level crossing at Buckley Street in Essendon is including in this 50.

The Liberal party did not make any commitment, or allocate any funding, to remove level crossings at Buckley Street, Park Street and Puckle Street.

The removal of Buckley Street is currently in the early planning stages and the local member for Essendon Danny Pearson has been busy consulting with the community and council on options for its removal.

Western Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

VicRoads advises me that it has investigated the road safety concerns you have raised, and is aware of the traffic growth in the area and, in particular, future increases to traffic volume along Barwon Heads Road.

The provision of turning lanes for improved access to Barwon Heads Airport is the responsibility of the operators of the airport. VicRoads will consider any proposal made by the airport operator for the same.

With regard to the condition of the pavement on this section of Barwon Heads Road, VicRoads advises me that it has developed a pavement upgrade proposal for approximately 700 metres between Lower Duneed Road and the airport.

VicRoads has also developed a proposal at the intersection of Barwon Heads Road/Blackrock Road/Stacey Road to improve traffic safety in the area.

In the meantime, VicRoads will continue to inspect and monitor the road and perform maintenance works as required.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 14 April 2016

ANSWER:

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Victorian Government. This has been demonstrated through its 2016-17 State Budget allocation of \$1.1 billion to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state, ensuring that every community has access to a great local school, and every child gets the chance to succeed. The Victorian School Building Authority will be established to deliver this construction boom that will not just benefit students, but also create jobs for construction workers and local tradespeople.

I am delighted to confirm that, as part of this funding, the Victorian Government has allocated \$12.6 million to undertake significant upgrades at Montmorency Secondary College. The Department of Education and Training will work closely with the school to plan and deliver this exciting capital project, ensuring the best outcome for the school and local community.

The Department is also working closely with Catholic Education Melbourne to deliver the Government's election commitment of \$850 000 to modernise Saint Francis Xavier Primary School. I am advised that the school is currently finalising its design development drawings. The funding agreement between the school and the sector body is expected to be signed in June, triggering the first milestone payment.

The Department is excited to be working closely with the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria and Independent Schools Victoria to deliver \$120 million to build and upgrade non-government schools, and is committed to ensuring that available funding is targeted to the areas of greatest need.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 14 April 2016

ANSWER:

Mr Leane (Eastern Metropolitan), thank you for your constituency question of 14 April 2016 in relation to the Federal shadow Transport Minister's commitment that a Shorten Federal government would provide \$100 000 to improve the Box Hill transport interchange if elected. The Victorian Government would welcome a similar pre-election commitment from the Turnbull federal government.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 3 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government condemns all forms of violence and Victoria Police will continue to investigate and act to bring to justice those who break the law.

In addition to increasing police responses, the engagement of Victoria's youth is especially important to secure the future of our State. This is why a focus on youth crime prevention strategies and early intervention is a priority for

the Government, recognising that a collaborative, holistic response, working across portfolios is required to effect change.

Specific 2016-17 Budget commitments include:

- a \$596 million Public Safety Package to ensure that police have the necessary resources to keep the community safe. This includes funding for 300 new front line police.
- \$38.3 million over five years to support refugee and asylum seekers through the multicultural affairs, health and education portfolios.
- \$53 million allocated to the Jobs Victoria Employment Network to assist disadvantaged Victorian job seekers, including those with multicultural, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds.
- \$39.7 million over four years allocated to the English as an Additional Language Program, and Community Language Schools.

Victorian Government departments and agencies will also continue to work closely with community leaders and representatives from Victoria's culturally diverse communities to identify the underlying issues of social disengagement and to ensure communities are an integral part of responses.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 4 May 2016

ANSWER:

On 11 May 2016, the Wildlife (Prohibition of Game Hunting) Notice, which was published in the Government Gazette No. S 73 on 24 March 2016 and prohibited the taking, destroying or hunting in Victoria of specified indigenous game birds (waterfowl) at Lake Elizabeth State Game Reserve, was revoked. On 11 May 2016, Lake Elizabeth State Game Reserve reopened to duck hunting.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Industry and Employment
Asked on: 4 May 2016

ANSWER:

The \$20 million New Energy Jobs Fund was launched in December 2015 to help Victorian communities and businesses develop projects that create jobs and support a clean energy future. The Fund supports growth in the uptake of renewable energy generation, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, drives innovation in new energy technologies, and assists community groups to develop renewable energy projects.

The Community category of the Fund supports feasibility studies and projects being developed by community groups that assist families to access renewable energy and energy efficiency services. The other categories of the fund support businesses to manufacture new energy technology components or systems, and to optimise, adapt or integrate commercially available new energy technologies into their business.

The first round of the Fund made \$5 million available and received strong interest from both community and business. I look forward to making announcements regarding the successful applicants shortly.

Businesses in the west are also able to access the Local Industry Fund for Transition (LIFT) that supports capital investment to set-up or expand operations in the communities most affected by the closure of the major car manufacturers.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 4 May 2016

ANSWER:

The last kilometre into the Port of Geelong is majority owned by private landholders comprising the Port of Geelong, (including Lascelles Wharf), and others such as Incitec Pivot.

The Murray Basin Rail Business Case did not assess building a rail connection on privately owned land for a private company. Instead, the focus of the Business Case was to improve competition and access to Victoria's ports and increase the potential for private investment across the rail network and associated supply chains.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Veterans
Asked on: 5 May 2016

ANSWER:

I will be happy to consider the option for future years — consideration needs to be given to the requirements of the Parliament, but I agree that some dedicated time for this important annual commemoration is very worthwhile. I thank the Member for his suggestion and I will be happy to take the matter further, for consideration.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 5 May 2016

ANSWER:

I do not have the power to exempt individuals or organisations from Victorian law.

Northern Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

V/Line has advised that automated announcements are made at unstaffed stations on the Shepparton line, including Murchison. There are no plans to install Passenger Information Displays (PIDs) at this station.

Murchison does not have the facilities to sell tickets at the station. Passengers are able to purchase tickets from the Murchison Post Office which acts as the ticketing agent.

Further, passengers can subscribe to SMS and email alerts that notify passengers of delayed and cancelled trains. This information is also distributed via twitter, the V/Line mobile phone app and the V/Line website. Passengers can visit <https://www.vline.com.au/Timetables/Staying-in-touch> for a complete guide to passenger information channels.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 5 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Kew Residential Services project is compliant with the requirements of heritage permit conditions. Major Projects Victoria (MPV) is working closely with stakeholders, including Kew Development Corporation (KDC), a subsidiary of Walker Group Holdings Pty Ltd; the Department of Health and Human Services and Heritage Victoria to ensure the site's heritage values continue to be protected.

The heritage outcomes achieved to date by the project include the following:

- preservation of heritage listed trees on the site;
- installation of interpretive signage (currently underway); and
- preliminary works carried out on buildings in the Heritage Core.

Heritage works remaining to be completed prior to the expiry of the heritage permit include the completion of required works on the buildings in the Heritage Core. An application for an extension of the Project Term has been received from KDC. MPV is considering whether KDC is entitled to an extension of the Project Term under the terms of the Project Agreement, taking into account the status of the project and expert advice.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Veterans
Asked on: 5 May 2016

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Eastern Victoria for her question, and commend her interest in acknowledging the important service of those who served in other roles, such as nurses, in past conflicts. It may not be possible to amend the Honour Roll at the local shire, as it is now a heritage item and the sentiments and thinking of the period did not always include nurses in official recognition of service, even though many men serving owed their lives to the gallant nurses who risked a great deal to care for them. The Anzac Centenary Community Grants program however exists to assist communities in remembering important people like Louise Blanche Riggall, and you may wish to encourage the local community to devise an appropriate way to recognise her service and sacrifice, and apply for a grant to assist in delivering that recognition. Full information on veterans' grants is available on the DPC website, or you may wish to contact the Veterans Branch direct.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 5 May 2016

ANSWER:

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the National Breast Cancer Foundation run in Geelong on Mother's Day, however I acknowledge and thank all of the runners who raised funds to support the National Breast Cancer Foundation and the local organisers of the event.

With over 4000 Victorians diagnosed with breast cancer and over 700 Victorians dying every year from the disease, it is events such as these that raise both awareness of breast cancer and much needed funding for research

into the disease. I'm pleased that the Victorian Government provides over \$42 million every year to screen for breast cancer, as well as funding for world-class treatment services and research.

I commend the National Breast Cancer Foundation for raising money for vital research into the prevention and cure of breast cancer.