

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

22, 23 and 24 March 2016

(Extract from book 5)

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

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

Legislative Council committees

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

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

Legislative Council standing committees

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Morris, Mr Ondarchie and Ms Tierney.

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

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

President: The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President: Ms G. TIERNEY

Acting Presidents: Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr 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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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.

Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Tuesday, 22 March 2016

Families and children

2532. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: During the September 2015 quarter, what was the average daily number of children in:

- (1) foster care;
- (2) kinship care; and
- (3) residential care.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Quarterly data relating to the average daily number of children in foster care, kinship care, permanent care and residential care is published in the Department's Annual Report. Figures relating to the September 2015 quarter will be available in the upcoming Department of Health & Human Services Annual Report.

Agriculture

3779. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: In relation to each consultancy commissioned by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources since December 2014:

- (1) When did it take place.
- (2) How much did it cost.
- (3) What was its purpose.
- (4) What was the name and address of the consultant.
- (5) Were any tenders called.

ANSWER:

Department of Economic Development Jobs Transport and Resources has published Consultants details in its FY 14/15 Annual Report. Consultants engaged since December 2014 to the end of FY14/15 reporting period can be found on the Department's internet page (<http://economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au/about-us/annual-report>).

Information regarding "consultants addresses" and information on the number of "tenders called" are not required to be reported on as part of the Annual Report process and to do so would require substantial additional effort

Roads and road safety

4724. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the Western Distributor Business Case:

- (1) Why were reduced HCV movements on Francis Street and Somerville Road the only key performance measures of a more liveable Melbourne.
- (2) Why were reduced air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, retention and expansion of green space, reduced noise pollution in the area, or increased road safety, not key performance indicators of a more liveable Melbourne.

- (3) Why were the residential streets of Buckley Street and Moore Street not considered as key performance measures of a more liveable Melbourne and why have they not been considered for truck curfews.
- (4) Will the Government consider making Buckley Street and Moore Street key performance indicators of a more liveable Melbourne.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Considerations of reducing air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, retention and expansion of green space, reduced noise pollution in the area and increased road safety were factored in as part of the Western Distributor business case.

The Western Distributor project will allow for a more liveable Melbourne.

Roads and road safety

4727. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the Western Distributor Business Case and travel times:

- (1) Given the Western Distributor could create new bottlenecks in traffic, why have travel times to the inner north of Melbourne, the CBD or destinations south of the CBD not been modelled.
- (2) Will the Government model travel times to the inner north Melbourne, the CBD or destinations south of the CBD so that a full picture of the travel time impacts can be established.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The Western Distributor will reduce congestion on the M1, take trucks out of the inner west and improve freight access to the Port of Melbourne.

A significant amount of modelling and analysis has been undertaken to demonstrate how the Western Distributor will ease congestion.

The project will also better distribute traffic around the CBD, relieving traffic on key routes such as Spencer Street and King Street.

Roads and road safety

4729. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the Western Distributor Business Case and the proposed 24 hour curfews on Francis Street and Somerville Road:

- (1) What increase or decrease in the number and percentage of truck traffic is expected on Buckley Street, Moore Street and Geelong Road/Princes Highway in 2031 relative to expected traffic in 2021.
- (2) What increase or decrease in the number and percentage of truck traffic is expected on Buckley Street, Moore Street and Geelong Road/Princes Highway relative to levels in 2022 when the Western Distributor is complete.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The Western Distributor Project is expected to remove up to 28 per cent of trucks from the inner west including Buckley Street, Moore Street and the Geelong Road/ Princes Highway as well as up to 75 per cent of trucks along Francis Street and Somerville Road.

Trucks in the west will continue to need to use existing arterial roads including for local goods deliveries.

We appreciate that residents want more trucks off their streets. That's why VicRoads will work with the community and the freight industry to maximise the opportunities created by the project and through broader strategies to further reduce trucks in residential areas and improve freight efficiency.

Agriculture

4754. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: In 2014-15, what was the value of Victorian almond exports.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The almond industry continues to grow rapidly. In 2014-15, the value of Victoria's almond exports was \$381 million, according to the Victorian Food and Fibre Export Performance Report 2014-15, up from \$137 million two years earlier. Victoria is the biggest producer of almonds at 65 per cent of national production.

With 16 per cent of existing orchards either not bearing or yet to reach full production, coupled with planned orchard expansion in the next few years, the farmgate value of the almond industry nationally will far exceed \$1 billion by the early 2020's. The majority of production will be in Victoria's Sunraysia region.

The Victorian Government is firmly committed to supporting the almond industry through research, development, biosecurity and business engagement programs, in partnership with industry.

Agriculture

4755. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: What is the Victorian Government's financial contribution to establishing a new experimental almond orchard in Mildura.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting Victoria's rapidly growing almond industry through research, development, biosecurity and business support programs, in partnership with industry.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) has been in discussions with the Almond Board of Australia (ABA) to jointly establish an experimental almond orchard, under a long term collaboration agreement. The experimental orchard would be established on 20 ha of land at the DEDJTR's Mildura site and would support research on advanced production systems.

The ABA Board of Directors met on 4 February 2016 to consider options for entering into the collaboration with DEDJTR. The Board decided that due to the uncertainty of co-funding from Horticulture Innovation Australia (HIA), who invest funds on behalf of growers, and from the Commonwealth, it was not currently in a position to sign an agreement.

My department will continue to work with the ABA and HIA on the project.

Agriculture

4756. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: What is the breakdown per location of increased fish stocks as part of the Target One Million between 1 December 2014 and 30 June 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Every year the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources, through Fisheries Victoria, stock many of Victoria’s inland lakes, impoundments and rivers with key recreational angling species to improve fishing opportunities for fishers across the State.

A commitment has been made under the Victorian Government’s Target One Million plan to increase fish stocking from 3 million to 5 million fish per year by 2018.

Significant planning in regard to growing and sourcing additional fish, as well as identifying suitable waters for stocking was undertaken in the last 12 months.

In 2014–15, 2 196 850 fish were planned to be stocked (comprising 609 400 salmonid and 1 587 450 native fish) and 2 578 800 fish were actually stocked.

In 2015–16, 3 239 225 fish are planned to be stocked, comprising 754 225 salmonid and 2 485 000 native fish. The 2015–16 stocking program is on track to meet this target.

It is anticipated that fish stocking will increase to 4 million in 2016–17 and 5 million in 2017–18.

Please refer to media releases issued by me and by Fisheries Victoria in relation to specific locations.

Agriculture

4757. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: What is the breakdown per location of increased fish stocks as part of the Target One Million between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Every year the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources, through Fisheries Victoria, stock many of Victoria’s inland lakes, impoundments and rivers with key recreational angling species to improve fishing opportunities for fishers across the state.

A commitment has been made under the Victorian Government’s Target One Million plan to increase fish stocking from 3 million to 5 million fish per year by 2018.

Significant planning in regard to growing and sourcing additional fish, as well as identifying suitable waters for stocking was undertaken in the last 12 months.

In 2014–15, 2 196 850 fish were planned to be stocked (comprising 609 400 salmonid and 1 587 450 native fish) and 2 578 800 fish were actually stocked.

In 2015–16, 3 239 225 fish are planned to be stocked, comprising 754 225 salmonid and 2 485 000 native fish. The 2015–16 stocking program is on track to meet this target.

It is anticipated that fish stocking will increase to 4 million in 2016–17 and 5 million in 2017–18. Please refer to media releases issued by me and by Fisheries Victoria in relation to specific locations.

Regional development

4760. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Regional Development: What was the financial contribution of the Victorian Government to the May “Put Victoria on Your Table” initiative.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, the Victorian Government’s financial contribution to the “Put Victoria on Your Table” initiative at the Regional Victoria Living Expo was zero.

All costs associated with the cooking demonstration initiative was covered under contract by the event provider, Informa Pty Ltd.

Regional development

4761. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Regional Development: In relation to each of the ten Regional Community Leadership Programs:

- 1) what is the names of each organisation;
- 2) where is each program located; and
- 3) what is the funding commitment from the State Government for each of the ten Regional Community Leadership Programs.

ANSWER:

The Government has committed \$8 million over four years (2015-2019) through the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund to the Regional Community Leadership Program (RCLP). The table below identifies ten community leadership programs that are eligible for funding under the RCLP and provides the name of each organisation and their location:

Community Leadership Program Organisation	Location
Gippsland Community Leadership Program	Warragul
Fairley Leadership Program for the Goulburn Valley	Shepparton
Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program	Broadford
Leaders for Geelong Community Leadership Program	Geelong
Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program	Donald
Leadership Great South Coast Program	Port Fairy
Northern Mallee Leadership Program	Mildura
Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program	Wangaratta
Leadership Ballarat and Western Region	Ballarat
Leadership Wimmera	Horsham

While each of the ten programs is based in the towns listed above, it should be noted that they cover regions of various size, collectively extending to all of regional and rural Victoria.

Funding of \$714 286 over four years has also been approved under the RCLP to the Victorian Regional Communities Leadership Secretariat to support the collective activities of the ten community leadership programs.

Regional development

4762. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Regional Development: In relation to the Regional Victoria Living Expo what was the attendance at the event on:

- (a) 1 May 2015;

- (b) 2 May 2015; and
- (c) 3 May 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The attendance break down at the 2015 Regional Victoria living Expo was 1573 visitors on Friday 1 May; 3826 on Saturday 2 May; and 4757 on Sunday 3 May.

Regional development

- 4763. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Regional Development: In relation to the Regional Victoria Living Expo what is the financial contribution of the Victorian Government to the expo in 2014–15 and 2015–16.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The financial contribution from the Victorian Government to the Regional Victoria Living Expo in the 2014–2015 financial year was \$2 584 000 (Ex GST) which delivered the 2015 event.

The financial contribution in the 2015–2016 financial year is \$49 241.25 (Ex GST).

Mental health

- 4764. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): Prior to 31 December 2015, how many Victorians have received support as part of the Family Drug Education Program, and how much of the \$4.7 million Family Drug Education Program has been expended.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian Government's \$45.5 million Ice Action Plan directs additional support for families responding to drug use—especially ICE—through intensive support and localised community based responses across the State through community health centres and local community organisations. The reporting and performance data for the period referred to is currently being brought together by the Department of Health and Human Services and will be publicly released as soon as possible through the normal reporting procedures of the department.

Mental health

- 4765. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to Victorian community groups that have received grants to help combat ice in their local communities between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015, in table format:

- (1) what is the list of organisations; and
- (2) what is the funding allocation of Victorian community groups that have received grants of up to \$10 000.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian Government acted on the advice of the expert Ice Action Taskforce established in the first 100 days of this term, following evidence that ICE use levels had grown substantially. The Victorian Ice Action Plan, released on 5 March 2015, is supported by \$45.5 million in new funding.

The reporting and performance data for the period referred to will be brought together and published in accordance with the normal procedures of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mental health

4766. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): Prior to 31 December 2015, what has been the Departmental expenditure to undertake the 10-year Mental Health Plan for Victoria as announced by the Minister.

ANSWER:

The expenditure for work associated with the development, consultation and finalisation of the Andrews Labor Government delivery of its 10 year mental health plan was for the period identified a part of the Department of Health and Human Services general expenditure-which is subject to annual reporting, independent auditing and will be released in the usual manner. I would refer the honourable member to that public information when it becomes available.

Attorney-General

4778. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): For the period between 4 December 2014 and 30 June 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;
- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Flights required to perform ministerial responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report Guidelines for the use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Principles, which is available online.

Attorney-General

4779. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): For the period between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;
- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Flights required to perform ministerial responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report. Guidelines for the use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Principles, which is available online.

Environment, climate change and water

4782. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): For the period between 4 December 2014 and 30 June 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;
- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

ANSWER:

Flights required to perform ministerial responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report. Guidelines for the use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Travel Principles, which is available online.

Environment, climate change and water

4783. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): For the period between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;
- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

ANSWER:

Flights required to perform ministerial responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report. Guidelines for the use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Travel Principles, which is available online.

Health

4790. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): For the period between 4 December 2014 and 30 June 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;
- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: Flights required to perform ministerial responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report.

Guidelines for use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Travel Principles, which is available online.

Health

4791. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): For the period between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;
- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: Flights required to perform ministerial responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report.

Guidelines for use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Travel Principles, which is available online.

Public transport

4820. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport):

- (1) What are the current position titles of the three PTV executives that received a remuneration increase greater than 15% in 2014–15; and
- (2) What are the current position titles of the two PTV executives that received a remuneration increase between 10% and 15% in 2014–15.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Publicly available information of PTV executives is available in the PTV Annual Report at www.ptv.vic.gov.au.

Public transport

4839. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 2 and 3 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for each metropolitan railway station operating during the Night Network trial.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network trains is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4840. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 9 and 10 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for each metropolitan railway station operating during the Night Network trial.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network trains is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4841. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 16 and 17 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for each metropolitan railway station operating during the Night Network trial.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network trains is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4842. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 23 and 24 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for each metropolitan railway station operating during the Night Network trial.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network trains is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4843. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 30 and 31 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for each metropolitan railway station operating during the Night Network trial.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network trains is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4844. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 6 and 7 February 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for each metropolitan railway station operating during the Night Network trial.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network trains is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Racing

4847. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Racing): For the period between 4 December 2014 and 30 June 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;
- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Flights required to perform ministerial responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report. Guidelines for the use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Principles, which is available online.

Racing

4848. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Racing): For the period between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;
- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Flights required to perform ministerial responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report. Guidelines for the use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Principles, which is available online.

Ambulance services

4856. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Ambulance Services): For the period between 4 December 2014 and 30 June 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;
- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Flights required to perform ministerial responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report.

Guidelines for use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Travel Principles, which is available online.

Ambulance services

4857. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Ambulance Services): For the period between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;
- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Flights required to perform ministerial responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report.

Guidelines for use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Travel Principles, which is available online.

Environment, climate change and water

4870. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to tyre stockpiles in Victoria:

- (1) how many tyre pile sites with over 5000 tyres are there and where are they located;
- (2) how many tyre pile sites with under 5000 tyres are there and where are they located;
- (3) how often are tyre pile sites inspected;
- (4) is there a limit to the number of tyres that can be stockpiled on a site;
- (5) are CFA and MFB guidelines regarding the storage of tyres enforceable; and
- (6) what are the consequences of not complying with CFA and MFB guidelines.

ANSWER:

The primary powers and duties for fire prevention and management are shared between the MFB, CFA and local government. The storage and handling of hazardous materials is regulated by WorkSafe Victoria. Based on incidents where the emergency service agency has notified EPA, the number of incidents which were categorised as fires since the establishment of EPA’s contemporary business information system in 2012-13 is as follows:

Financial Year	Reports
2012/2013	69
2013/2014	71
2014/2015	54
2015/2016	18

Since the introduction in April 2015 of Regulations governing the large-scale storage of tyres, EPA has been directly involved in tyre storage facilities. From this recent experience, EPA can report the following fires relating to tyre storage sites:

- CN Ruggiero, Brooklyn, 13 February 2016
- TyreCrumb, Broadmeadows, 11 January 2016

There have been other fires where the EPA haven't been notified or emergency services were not required.

A fire was reported at a metals recycling site in Laverton at approximately 12:30am on 24 July 2015. EPA was notified of the fire, but was not requested to attend by the fire authority.

Last year the Government introduced new regulations to address the environmental risks posed by tyre stockpiles in Victoria. The regulations require that premises storing more than 5000EPU or 40 tonnes of waste tyres at any time require an EPA works approval before they are built or modified and an EPA licence to operate. Businesses storing more than 40 tonnes or 5000 EPU of waste tyres prior to 29 April 2015 had a transitional period until 29 October 2015 to apply for a licence.

There are approximately ten sites going through the licencing process. The specific numbers will vary throughout the transition as operators optimise their operations in response to the new requirements. Licence non-compliance will then be assessed by EPA in accordance with EPA's Compliance and Enforcement Policy, and sites (including those below the threshold) will be inspected in accordance with EPA's Annual Plan. EPA is working with industry groups to identify further tyre facilities and to obtain intelligence on operations. EPA is also working with fire authorities to ensure the licencing process is completed in a timely manner while ensuring that licence applicants have suitable strategies in place to address any outstanding risks at their operations.

Environment, climate change and water

4871. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the Broadmeadows tyre pile fire on 11 January 2016:

- (1) can the Minister confirm that the fire started at 9.00 a.m. yet the rapid response air monitoring equipment was not set up until 7.00 p.m., and if so;
 - (a) is this normal practice; and
 - (b) on what evidence were residents told that the air was safe before the air monitoring equipment was in operation;
- (2) given the number of air pollution incidents in this area (particularly Broadmeadows and Campbellfield), will the EPA be setting up a permanent local air quality monitoring station in the area.

ANSWER:

TyreCrumb in Broadmeadows is a tyre facility with more than 5000EPU waste tyres. The facility has applied for a licence pursuant to the Waste Tyre Regulations. EPA is currently assessing the application.

At approximately 9am on 11 January 2016 there was a fire at the facility. The Incident Controller formally requested EPA to deploy a SmokeTrak at about 7pm.

Prior to the formal request, EPA, in consultation with the Incident Controller, had deployed equipment to address community concern about smoke from the fire and to test equipment and practices; in particular, linking of Rapid Response air data to the EPA AirWatch. EPA deployed initial monitoring equipment at about 4pm and further equipment at about 7:30pm following the request from the Incident Controller. EPA's deployment was within the agreed protocol timeframes.

As the control agency, MFB provided advice to the community on smoke impacts as part of its warnings and advice messages. EPA updated its website with a notification of the fire and a link to the Emergency Management website at www.emergency.vic.gov.au.

The smoke tracker was demobilised at approximately 1pm the following day, once the fire had been declared extinguished and there was no more visible smoke. As the fire was extinguished by the end of the first 24 hour

monitoring period, the data was not publicly transmitted to AirWatch. EPA in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services will publish a report summarising the air monitoring from the fire.

EPA is working with Hume City Council and TyreCrumb representatives in the recovery phase to facilitate containment and clean up. EPA has issued statutory clean up notices on the site. EPA has prepared a brief of evidence and is assessing whether there have been any breaches of the Act.

Environment, climate change and water

4872. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the Broadmeadows tyre pile fire on 11 January 2016:

- (1) did the company have works approval and licence from the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA), and if so,
 - (a) what were the parameters on EPA licence agreements;
 - (b) was the company compliant with the parameters of their EPA licence agreements; and
 - (c) if the company was not compliant with their licence agreements, what will the penalties be.
- (2) how many tyres were stored at the site;
- (3) were tyres stored indoors or outdoors;
- (4) how close are the tyre piles from residential houses and business workplaces;
- (5) did the tyre pile sites comply with MFB guidelines on stockpiling and safe storage of tyres, including maximum pile dimensions of 20 m long x 6 m wide x 2 m high;
- (6) how many piles compliant to MFB guidelines existed on each site; and
- (7) will there be any consequences for the company for the fire occurring.

ANSWER:

TyreCrumb in Broadmeadows is a tyre facility with more than 5000 EPU waste tyres. The facility has applied for a licence pursuant to the Waste Tyre Regulations. EPA is currently assessing the application.

At approximately 9am on 11 January 2016 there was a fire at the facility. The Incident Controller formally requested EPA to deploy a SmokeTrak at about 7pm.

Prior to the formal request, EPA, in consultation with the Incident Controller, had deployed equipment to address community concern about smoke from the fire and to test equipment and practices; in particular, linking of Rapid Response air data to the EPA AirWatch. EPA deployed initial monitoring equipment at about 4pm and further equipment at about 7:30pm following the request from the Incident Controller. EPA's deployment was within the agreed protocol timeframes.

As the control agency, MFB provided advice to the community on smoke impacts as part of its warnings and advice messages. EPA updated its website with a notification of the fire and a link to the Emergency Management website at www.emergency.vic.gov.au.

The smoke tracker was demobilised at approximately 1pm the following day, once the fire had been declared extinguished and there was no more visible smoke. As the fire was extinguished by the end of the first 24 hour monitoring period, the data was not publicly transmitted to AirWatch. EPA in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services will publish a report summarising the air monitoring from the fire.

EPA is working with Hume City Council and TyreCrumb representatives in the recovery phase to facilitate containment and clean up. EPA has issued statutory clean up notices on the site. EPA has prepared a brief of evidence and is assessing whether there have been any breaches of the Act.

Environment, climate change and water

4873. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the Laverton tyre pile fire on 24 July 2015:

- (1) did the company have works approval and licence from the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA), and if so,
 - (a) what were the parameters on EPA licence agreements;
 - (b) was the company compliant with the parameters of their EPA licence agreements; and
 - (c) if the company was not compliant with their licence agreements, what will the penalties be.
- (2) how many tyres were stored at the site;
- (3) were tyres stored indoors or outdoors;
- (4) how close are the tyre piles from residential houses and business workplaces;
- (5) did the tyre pile sites comply with MFB guidelines on stockpiling and safe storage of tyres, including maximum pile dimensions of 20 m long x 6 m wide x 2 m high;
- (6) how many piles compliant to MFB guidelines existed on each site; and
- (7) will there be any consequences for the company for the fire occurring.

ANSWER:

At approximately 12:30am on 24 July 2015 there was a fire at a metal recycling site, Norstar Steel. EPA was notified of the fire, but was not requested to attend by the fire authority.

EPA followed up with Norstar Steel and was advised that the fire occurred in a stockpile of shredded material containing rubber and plastic, which was a by-product of the material sorting process onsite. Run-off related to firefighting activities was contained onsite in a dam. EPA requested Norstar Steel to provide additional information on the cause, current and future measures to prevent fires, the environmental impact and measures taken to minimise the impact. Norstar Steel responded to EPA's information request on 30 July 2015.

EPA inspected the site, with MFB, on 8 November 2015, following another fire at the site. At that inspection, MFB provided advice to the operator on fire management and noted it would work with the operator to assist and advise on fire management procedures and plans specific to the site.

EPA's knowledge of the site indicates that it is unlikely to be captured by the Waste Tyre Regulations given the number/volume of waste tyres onsite. However, this site has been identified as one of the priority sites for the joint inspection program.

Environment, climate change and water

4874. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to landfill tip sites in Victoria:

- (1) how many licences landfill and tip sites are there and where are they located;
- (2) how many unlicensed landfill and tip sites are there and where are they located;
- (3) how often are licensed landfill sites inspected;
- (4) how often are unlicensed landfill sites inspected; and
- (5) given that at least three rubbish fires have occurred since November 2015, what is being done to reduce the risk of further fires.

ANSWER:

There are currently 85 landfills across Victoria with a licence pursuant to A05 of Schedule 1 of the Scheduled Premises Regulations. However, not all of these accept waste. Around 20 are at various stages of closing and moving to management under a Post Closure Pollution Abatement Notice (PC PAN), which will result in surrender

of the licence. A further eight are for internal waste only (that is, they are for waste generated by the duty holder as part of its operations).

In consultation with the landfill sector, EPA has commenced the periodic review of standard landfill licence conditions. The review assesses how well the wording of the existing conditions produces the intended result. In addition, the review has included the development of licence conditions that may be applied to a landfill licence based on a review of the risk posed by the site.

Landfills are a priority industry for compliance inspections under EPA's strategic priorities (as noted in section 1). Landfills are inspected regularly, based on a risk assessment for each site in addition to inspections conducted in response to pollution reports. There is no predetermined number of inspections per year for landfills.

Licence holders must also develop a monitoring program for compliance with licence conditions and report to EPA annually on compliance. Monitoring programs must be endorsed by an environmental auditor and set a frequency for audits.

More information on how EPA regulates landfills is available online at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/your-environment/waste/landfills>. EPA has produced a number of guidelines for licenced landfills, which can be found at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/business-and-industry/guidelines/landfills-guidance/landfill-operators-guidance-documents>.

Environment, climate change and water

4875. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the tip fire at Brooklyn on 26 January 2016 and the rubbish fire at Somerton on 20 November 2015:

- (1) did the fires occur at a licensed or unlicensed landfill site;
- (2) what was the cause of the fires;
- (3) was there any temporary air monitoring set up in the immediate proximity of the fires;
- (4) how were communities notified of the potential air pollution health risk; and
- (5) what measures are in place to prevent another fire occurring.

ANSWER:

On 26 January 2016 there was a fire at an EPA licensed landfill situated at 124 Jones Road, Brooklyn, owned by Western Land Reclamation Pty Ltd. This a priority site for EPA in Brooklyn. EPA is currently investigating a number of non-compliances of the operator's landfill licence conditions and deposition of waste.

On 8 January 2016, EPA issued Western Land Reclamation with a Request for Interview relating to offences detected in October and November 2015 (relating to mud, dust and daily cover). This investigation is continuing.

EPA has inspected this site on multiple occasions. In the last 12 months, EPA has conducted four inspections, most recently (before the fire) on 4 November 2015. EPA has also been involved in commenting on planning applications for the site and VCAT hearings over dust notices, special charge schemes and the planning scheme amendment.

MFB did not request EPA's attendance at the fire on 26 January 2016. MFB has not yet advised EPA of the possible causes of the fire. EPA attended the premises on 27 January 2016 to assess whether there was any subsequent and/or ongoing environmental impact from the fire and to investigate if any clean up advice was required. EPA deemed that neither was necessary.

EPA established a Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Station in Brooklyn Reserve, Brooklyn in October 2009. The station is approximately 1km south-east of the Western Land Reclamation site. This station records real time particle (PM10) and visibility data which is published to the AirWatch website and used to assess compliance with the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure 1998 air quality objectives. The data recorded

during the fire did not indicate any significant impact on ambient air quality and the air quality target was not exceeded on the day of the fire.

Environment, climate change and water

4876. MS DUNN — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the revegetation and rehabilitation of Mount Disappointment State Forest, devastated by the 2009 Black Saturday bushfire, there is community concern that there is further damage to the State Forest from off-road vehicles, including motor bikes and four wheel drives:

- (1) what action has the Minister taken to rehabilitate and revegetate the areas burnt in the Black Saturday fires;
- (2) what is the extent of usage and damage to the Mount Disappointment State Forest by off-road vehicles;
- (3) have any assessments been undertaken in relation to any damage caused by off-road vehicles; and
- (4) what were the results of any such assessment.

ANSWER:

Following the 2009 fires a large amount of rehabilitation and recovery works were undertaken in Mt Disappointment State Forest. Works included closing and rehabilitating fire control lines and a revegetation program.

In terms of the revegetation program a total of 288 ha of forest that was too young to regenerate naturally was sown by the Department, using approximately 285 kg of Messmate seed and 57 kg of Mountain Ash seed. The remainder of the forest regenerated naturally due to the high volume of seed that was in the tree crown during 2009.

In response to community concerns, local staff are liaising with both Mitchell Shire and VicPol to monitor usage and respond to unlawful usage both in and adjacent to the forest.

Seasonal closures are in place on many forest roads through winter to reduce the impact on water catchment areas.

Works crews continually repair and maintain forest roads and seasonal gates to reduce environmental damage.

Mt Disappointment State Forest is relatively close to the Melbourne metropolitan area and receives very high visitor numbers for most forest activities, especially trail bikes and four wheel drive vehicles. For the most part recreational driving and vehicles utilise the forest road network. Given the open nature of the forest there is also a degree of illegal four wheel drive and trail bike activity off the defined road network, on old logging coupes and on fire breaks.

Local staff are aware of the high visitation and the corresponding impact on forest values from the large range of recreational activities in a relatively small forest area.

Prior to Black Saturday the extent of off-road tracks were mapped and a process undertaken in consultation with user groups (i.e. trail bike riders, 4WDs, horseriders and neighbours) to close and rehabilitate many single lane tracks.

Local staff have noted over the past couple of years there has been an increase in trail bike riders and 4 wheel drive vehicle users thought to be linked to the expansion of Melbourne's northern suburbs.

Prior to and since 2009 there has been an ongoing program to patrol the forest. Newly established single tracks and four wheel drive tracks are closed when detected and rehabilitated where possible.

Last winter local staff addressed issues with off-road driving on the Mt Disappointment fire break by working with 4-wheel-drive Victoria to undertake a month long compliance patrol plan in which 64 offences were observed. Our Authorised Officers educated users, issued 6 infringements notices, with a number still under investigation and 10 warnings were issued.

Public transport

4877. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Victorian Auditor General Office report on Tendering of Metropolitan Bus Contract and the recommendations in relation to Public Transport Victoria’s lack of adequate bus performance monitoring:

- (1) what is the status of the recommendations;
- (2) how many of the recommendations have been partially or fully implemented and which ones are they;
- (3) for those recommendations that have been partially implemented, what current work has been undertaken;
- (4) for any recommendations, which have not been implemented, do you have future plans to implement these recommendations and how; and
- (5) for any recommendations, which have not been implemented, what is the reason that they have not been implemented?

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

PTV has accepted recommendations of the Auditor General and will continue to make further improvements to this important contract and the bus industry generally.

Bus services are a core part of the public transport network. Improvements to this network are essential and we work with all operators to continuously improve the customer experience.

Environment, climate change and water

4879. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): How many fires were there involving tyre piles each year in Victoria between 1996 and 2016.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor government is aware of community concerns about fires at tyre stockpiles and is actively working to address these concerns.

Last year we passed regulation to force operators of tyre stockpiles to apply for an approval and a licence from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). This process will require operators of these sites to have a fire management plan that has been reviewed by the relevant fire authority.

The EPA is making tyre stockpiles a priority issue in 2016 and will be inspecting sites to ensure they are complying with the new regulations.

Background

The Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) has no data on the number of fires in Victoria involving tyre piles between 1996 and 2016. EPA’s data in this area is limited because not all fires are reported to EPA and EPA’s emergency report data does not classify fires based on the source or materials involved. EPA attends fire emergencies at the request of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and Country Fire Authority (CFA), so only has records of fire emergencies that it has been requested to attend.

In preparing the regulatory impact statement for the Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises and Exemptions), (Fees) and (Industrial Waste Resource) Amendment Regulations, EPA sought data on tyre fires, but was only able to identify two fires at tyre stockpiles (at Rockbank on 30 January 2013 and Numurkah on 2 May 2013). EPA is aware of four fires at tyre stockpiles since then, of which two have occurred this year.

Anecdotally, EPA is aware (through consultation with CFA and MFB) that there have been more fires at these types of sites, but there is no verifiable data.

Public transport

4887. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to Williams Landing Station:

- (1) does the Government intend on creating formal commuter parking at Williams Landing Station on the south, Point Cook side of the freeway;
 - (a) if so, when;
 - (b) if not, why not.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$20 million to improve car parks at railway stations. As part of this, Public Transport Victoria is reviewing car parks at railway stations across Victoria to identify which car parks require additional car parking.

Public transport

4892. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail (MPCT) and user safety, which has been impacted by the CityLink Tulla Widening Project, creating a dangerous blind corner near the entrance to Strathmore Secondary College:

- (1) What was the process which allowed for changes to be made to the MPCT, which has now resulted in this blind spot being created.
- (2) Was the safety of school children, pedestrians, cyclists and workers of the CityLink Tulla Widening taken into account and if so, in what way.
- (3) How long do you anticipate the changes to the MPCT, from the CityLink Tulla Widening, creating the blind spot, to be in place.
- (4) Will you now install convex mirrors to mitigate the dangers faced by school children, pedestrians, cyclists and workers of the CityLink Tulla Widening, as well as anyone else who is a user of the MPCT.

ANSWER:

This question should be redirected to Luke Donnellan MP, the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, as it falls within his portfolio.

Treasurer

4899. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Ambulance services

4904. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Ambulance Services): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Creative industries

4905. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Creative Industries): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Equality

4906. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Equality): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Ports

4908. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Ports): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Women

4912. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Women): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Health

4913. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Housing, disability and ageing

4914. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Mental Health

4915. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Prevention of family violence

4917. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Prevention of Family Violence): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Veterans

4919. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Veterans): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Tourism and major events

4920. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Attorney-General

4923. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Racing

4924. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Racing): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Education

4927. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Local government

4930. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Local Government): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Roads and road safety

4936. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Premier

4976. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Sport

4984. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Sport): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

The tenure and funding is consistent with best practice for Ministerial Staff.

The salary band, remuneration and roles of Ministerial Staff vary depending on the level of responsibility and experience.

Veterans

4985. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Veterans): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

The tenure and funding is consistent with best practice for Ministerial Staff.

The salary band, remuneration and roles of Ministerial Staff vary depending on the level of responsibility and experience.

Premier

5064. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): Since appointing the Minister for Education as Deputy Premier, as at 29 February 2016, in his capacity as Deputy Premier please advise —

- (1) how many ministerial staff based in the Deputy Premier's office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) what is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) what are their job titles.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.

Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Wednesday, 23 March 2016

Police

4895. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to the recent Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission report which revealed a disturbing culture of sexual harassment within Victoria Police, police suicides from bullying, the repeated concerns raised by the Police Association about bullying within Victoria Police and the call for a complete overhaul of how complaints of bullying are handled, and reports that class actions against Victoria Police for bullying are being prepared by Victorian law firms:

- (1) Will there be an independent external review of the extent of bullying within Victoria Police and how complaints of bullying are being handled.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

In August 2015, the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) released a special report concerning police oversight, which also covered the issue of bullying. This report documented a range of reviews conducted by the IBAC over the past financial year, including a review of Victoria Police's investigation into the death of a police officer following allegations of bullying. In response to the IBAC's review and recommendations, Victoria Police is taking active measures to address inappropriate workplace behaviour in response to the issues raised in the report.

In December 2015, the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC) released its report into sex discrimination and sexual harassment, including predatory behaviour, amongst Victoria Police personnel. The report examined the prevalence, drivers and impacts of sex discrimination and sexual harassment, but also covered the issue of gender-based bullying within Victoria Police. The information gathered by the VEOHRC review will be used by Victoria Police to develop an action plan, which VEOHRC will independently monitor and report on publicly over three years.

While the findings of the reports are deeply concerning, the government is pleased that the IBAC and VEOHRC reports contain a number of recommendations aimed at improving processes and providing better support to victims.

The government supports Victoria Police in this endeavour and will not tolerate sexual harassment, sexism or bullying in any workplace or the community.

Corrections

4896. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to the 25 per cent increase in the number of women in Victorian prisons in the last 5 years and the factors that lead to incarceration of women such as lack of housing and support services, and backgrounds of abuse, what is Corrections Victoria doing to:

- (1) Improve the provision of counselling and mental health support services for women;
- (2) Improve access to drug and alcohol programs in prison and post release;
- (3) Ensure that secure accommodation is available to women prisoners seeking parole or at the end of their sentence;

- (4) What consultation, if any, occurred with female prisoners on the expansion of the Dame Phyllis Frost centre and the upgrade of facilities, particularly with regard to safety and security within the new units;
- (5) How will the priority areas within the Corrections Victoria Strategic Plan be actioned and funded with particular reference to the various support services for women; and
- (6) Given many female prisoners have backgrounds of physical and/or sexual abuse, what protocols are in place with regard to strip searches.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) Inpatient forensic mental health services are provided at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (DPFC) and outpatient services are available at both DPFC and Tarrengower Prison.

As part of the 2015-16 Budget, funding was secured for a new purpose built 44-bed mental health precinct at the DPFC. This will enable the co-location of existing inpatient mental health services, Marmak, (funding for which was due to sunset in 2015) and women receiving outpatient care.

The 2015 State Budget also provided \$9.5 million to build a new eight-bed high dependency unit to address a critical shortfall in beds at the Thomas Embling Hospital.

Since the forensic mental health services contract commenced in 2012, there has been an 11 per cent increase in mental health nursing hours at DPFC and additional psychiatrist clinic hours at Tarrengower Prison.

In July 2015, a new service delivery model for the delivery of specialist mental health services for women at DPFC was finalised. The new model incorporates a trauma-informed approach, a multi-service response for women with psychotic disorders, and mental health education and training for corrections officers.

- (2) Alcohol and other drug (AOD) programs at DPFC and Tarrengower Prison have increased since the new AOD contract commenced on 1 July 2012. Currently there is a total of 3614 hours of AOD program offerings at the DPFC and 1138 hours of AOD program offerings at Tarrengower Prison.

To support the increasing number of prisoners entering prison with ice use histories, a range of new ice-specific treatment programs have commenced.

- (3) A new transitional support pathway commenced on 1 January 2015. All women prisoners are eligible for post-release support through this pathway. A key component of the assertive outreach support provided through ReConnect is supporting participants to secure stable accommodation. Additionally, women, particularly those with children in their custody, are prioritised for transitional housing through the Corrections Victoria Housing Program. The Department of Justice and Regulation is working with the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that housing for exiting prisoners is a component of the broader housing sector reforms in the future.

- (4) The Prisoner Liaison Group at the prison meets regularly and is provided with updates on the expansion and upgrades currently taking place.

- (5) The 2015 Budget provided funding for a number of projects included in the Corrections Victoria Strategic Plan, including:

- expanding the medical centre and prison industries at DPFC
- significant expansion of DPFC to meet demand for women’s prison beds
- constructing a new 44-bed mental health unit at DPFC, to replace the existing 20-bed Marmak unit
- continuation funding for the Targeted Women’s Correctional Response including funding for specialist mental health services and other services, such as sexual assault counselling programs.

- (6) Corrections Victoria has specific guidelines for strip searching female prisoners.

Guidelines dictate that all strip searches are to be conducted in as respectful and non-threatening a manner as possible. Searches must be efficient and the least invasive possible, avoiding any unnecessary force, embarrassment or indignity. Officers conducting a strip search should be responsive to the individual prisoner, particularly in relation to issues of culture and previous life experience.

As an alternative to a full strip search, women prisoners at both women's prisons have the option of a 'top-bottom' strip search where only half of the prisoner's clothes are removed at any one time.

Random searches no longer occur, however targeted searches will continue to be used where the safety of prisoners and staff or the security of the prison are thought to have been compromised.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.

Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Thursday, 24 March 2016

Environment, climate change and water

4878. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the Laverton tyre pile fire on 24 July 2015:

- (a) was rapid response air quality monitoring set up adjacent to the fire;
- (b) how long was the rapid response air monitoring in place;
- (c) what were the hour by hour results of the air monitoring;
- (d) how were the community notified of the potential air pollution hazard;
- (e) what measures are in place to prevent another fire occurring; and
- (f) will there be any penalties for the companies involved for this fire occurring.

ANSWER:

A fire was reported at a metals recycling site in Laverton at approximately 12:30am on 24 July 2015. EPA was notified of the fire, but was not requested to attend by the fire authority.

Environment, climate change and water

4880. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): How many fires were there involving rubbish and landfills each year in Victoria between 1996 and 2016.

ANSWER:

The primary powers and duties for fire prevention and management are shared between the MFB, CFA and local government. The storage and handling of hazardous materials is regulated by WorkSafe Victoria. Based on incidents where the emergency service agency has notified EPA, the number of incidents which were categorised as fires since the establishment of EPA’s contemporary business information system in 2012-13 is as follows:

Financial Year	Reports
2012/2013	69
2013/2014	71
2014/2015	54
2015/2016	18

Since the introduction in April 2015 of Regulations governing the large-scale storage of tyres, EPA has been directly involved in tyre storage facilities. From this recent experience, EPA can report the following fires relating to tyre storage sites:

- CN Ruggiero, Brooklyn, 13 February 2016
- TyreCrumb, Broadmeadows, 11 January 2016

There have been other fires where the EPA haven’t been notified or emergency services were not required.

Environment, climate change and water

4881. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): How many fires were there involving factories or sites that handle hazardous materials each year in Victoria between 1996 and 2016.

ANSWER:

The primary powers and duties for fire prevention and management are shared between the MFB, CFA and local government. The storage and handling of hazardous materials is regulated by WorkSafe Victoria. Based on incidents where the emergency service agency has notified EPA, the number of incidents which were categorised as fires since the establishment of EPA’s contemporary business information system in 2012-13 is as follows:

Financial Year	Reports
2012/2013	69
2013/2014	71
2014/2015	54
2015/2016	18

Since the introduction in April 2015 of Regulations governing the large-scale storage of tyres, EPA has been directly involved in tyre storage facilities. From this recent experience, EPA can report the following fires relating to tyre storage sites:

- CN Ruggiero, Brooklyn, 13 February 2016
- TyreCrumb, Broadmeadows, 11 January 2016

There have been other fires where the EPA haven’t been notified or emergency services were not required.

Environment, climate change and water

4882. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): How many fires were there involving Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) monitored and licenced sites in Victoria each year between 1996 and 2016.

ANSWER:

The primary powers and duties for fire prevention and management are shared between the MFB, CFA and local government. The storage and handling of hazardous materials is regulated by WorkSafe Victoria. Based on incidents where the emergency service agency has notified EPA, the number of incidents which were categorised as fires since the establishment of EPA’s contemporary business information system in 2012-13 is as follows:

Financial Year	Reports
2012/2013	69
2013/2014	71
2014/2015	54
2015/2016	18

Since the introduction in April 2015 of Regulations governing the large-scale storage of tyres, EPA has been directly involved in tyre storage facilities. From this recent experience, EPA can report the following fires relating to tyre storage sites:

- CN Ruggiero, Brooklyn, 13 February 2016
- TyreCrumb, Broadmeadows, 11 January 2016

There have been other fires where the EPA haven’t been notified or emergency services were not required.

Environment, climate change and water

4883. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to incidents involving release of pollutants into soils and waterways in breach of Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) guidelines or approvals:

- (1) how many occurred each year in Victoria between 1996 and 2016;
- (2) where did each incident occur;
- (3) what pollutant was released;
- (4) how much of that pollutant was released;
- (5) how was this incident remediated; and
- (6) what were the penalties for this breach.

ANSWER:

This same question was put to the EPA in a separate, written request by the member. The EPA stated the question asked was too broad in scope and providing a response would create an unreasonable burden on the EPA's resources. As such, I invite the member to resubmit her question with a narrower scope. Otherwise the EPA can arrange a briefing with the member on the topic.

Corrections

4897. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to the Ombudsman's report into the rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners in Victoria which highlighted concerns about group therapy programs, long waiting lists and ineffective programs:

- (1) What reduction if any has occurred on waiting lists for access to rehabilitation programs for prisoners as soon as they enter prison;
- (2) What reduction if any has occurred on waiting lists for access to rehabilitation programs required for parole;
- (3) What changes have been made to make offending behaviour programs more effective;
- (4) Will one on one therapy be made available to all prisoners undertaking offending behaviour programs;
- (5) What changes have been made to ensure that prisoners on remand have access to rehabilitation programs including drug and alcohol programs; and
- (6) What measures have been introduced to recruit and retain clinicians for offending programs in both metropolitan and rural locations.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) There has been a significant reduction in waitlists for access to offending behaviour programs as a result of recent initiatives.
- (2) There has been a significant reduction in waitlists for access to rehabilitation programs required for parole.
- (3) A number of key reforms have been implemented to the Offending Behaviour Programs Service Delivery Model to enhance access and the effectiveness of Corrections Victoria's rehabilitative effort. These are:
 - expansion of the service catchment to target 100 per cent of Serious Violent Offenders (SVOs) and 80 per cent of General Offenders (GOs) deemed to be moderate or high risk of reoffending. This represents an expansion of the service by 40 per cent for SVOs and 100 per cent for General Offenders.

- introduction of a hybrid service delivery model, whereby service delivery is provided by both CV staff complemented by community based providers.
 - The prioritisation of group-based services to maximise the capacity of the system to meet demand in advance of parole eligibility and positively impact on system demand and rehabilitative opportunities.
- (4) Where indicated and required, individuals who are unable to participate in group based interventions will receive individual one-on-one treatment by exception. Evidence supports group-based interventions as being most effective in reducing recidivism.
- (5) Prisoners on remand now have access to drug and alcohol, prison entry and skills development programs. These are designed so they can be completed relatively quickly, to meet the varying time periods associated with remand.
- (6) The Department of Justice and Regulation developed a recruitment strategy to attract, select and retain suitably qualified and skilled clinicians. This included a statewide campaign promoting work with Corrections Victoria, job briefing and information sessions, and high profile advertising on a statewide basis.

Sport

- 4918. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Sport): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —
- (a) the donor;
 - (b) the gift;
 - (c) the value of the gift; and
 - (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Aboriginal affairs

- 4931. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —
- (a) the donor;
 - (b) the gift;
 - (c) the value of the gift; and
 - (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Treasurer

4966. **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.