

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

3, 4 and 5 May 2016

(Extract from book 7)

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

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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 Leane, Mr Morris and Mr Ondarchie.

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

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): 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**

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Deputy President: Ms G. TIERNEY

Acting Presidents: Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmar, Mr Finn, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

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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

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Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	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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WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Tuesday, 3 May 2016

Dingley Village bus services

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mrs Peulich

Raised on: 23 February 2016

REPLY:

I am advised that a school bus special operates through Dingley Village to Parkdale Secondary College school day mornings, departing from Dingley Village at 8.15 am. This service is well patronised, and transports students directly to the school.

A public bus (Route 811) leaves Dingley Village at 8.08 am each morning and travels close to the school (5 minute walk to school from the Lower Dandenong Road bus stop). This service is operated with a larger bus with more seating available. Students may wish to consider using this route, where appropriate.

I have asked PTV to continue to monitor the travelling patterns of the students travelling from Dingley Village to the Parkdale Secondary College and identify whether more buses are required on this route.

Keysborough South schools

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Mrs Peulich

Raised on: 8 March 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government has a strong and ambitious agenda to grow educational opportunity for all Victorians and has provided the single biggest injection of education funding in Victoria's history as part of the 2015-16 State Budget. This includes almost \$4 billion in additional funding to early childhood, schools and training.

The funding provided through the 2015-16 State Budget represents a crucial first step in creating the Education State, and we will continue to invest in school infrastructure throughout this term of government. Providing a first class education for our students starts with investment in school buildings and infrastructure.

The Department of Education and Training is aware that there is residential development underway in the Keysborough South area and the population is expected to grow in the future.

The Department met with a representative from the Keysborough South Action Group in December 2015 and the City of Greater Dandenong Council in September 2015. The Department will continue to work with these and other relevant stakeholders, to review the school provision needs of the area and ensure all Victorian students have access to high quality education as the population continues to grow.

Kingston planning scheme amendment

Raised with: Minister for Planning

Raised by: Mr Davis

Raised on: 8 March 2016

REPLY:

On 14 January 2016 the Mentone Activity Centre (MAC) was rezoned to the Activity Centre Zone. The purpose of the Activity Centre Zone (ACZ) is, 'to encourage a mixture of uses and intensive development of the activity centre,' and 'to deliver a diversity of housing at higher densities to make optimum use of the facilities and services.'

The blanket application of mandatory height controls across the MAC would be inconsistent with the purpose of the zone. It would also be inconsistent with Planning Practice Note 60 which states that 'the application of discretionary height controls combined with clear design objectives is the preferred form of height and setback controls.'

The recommendations of the 2013 Panel Report were considered in making this decision, together with other sources of advice, including the advice of my Department. The decision is also consistent with all my previous decisions for all other Activity Centre Zones in the metropolitan area.

The approved heights in the Mentone Activity Centre range from 2 — 4 storeys. The schedule to the Activity Centre Zone encourages applicants to build within the discretionary height controls by "switching off" third party notice and appeal rights for proposals that comply with the height controls. If an applicant seeks to exceed the discretionary height controls, they face a full public notice and appeal process. The community would have input into these proposals if they arise, and Council would be required to consider this input in their decision-making.

Monash Freeway widening

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Mr O'Donohue

Raised on: 8 March 2016

REPLY:

The Western Distributor market-led proposal submitted by Transurban to the Andrews Labor Government included the Monash Freeway Upgrade, which provides a network-wide solution. An extra lane will be added in each direction between the EastLink interchange and Clyde Road, Berwick.

Upgrades to freeway management technology between Warrigal Road and Koo Wee Rup Road will provide better flow and help reduce stop-start conditions. Widening from East Link to Clyde Road will boost capacity and reduce travel times.

The extra lanes on the Monash Freeway, together with the smart management technology, will give 200 000 motorists a day, a safer, shorter and more reliable trip, and will provide ample capacity to support the rapid growth of Melbourne's south east.

The Victorian Government has shortlisted three tenderers who are currently tendering for the Monash Freeway Upgrade-construction will commence before the end of 2016, and the works will be completed before the end of 2018.

New freeway ramp signals will be installed at the Old Princes Highway Beaconsfield, Cardinia Road, McGregor Road, and at the Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road interchanges to improve the flow of traffic onto and along the freeway.

Strathmore Secondary College

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Ms Dunn

Raised on: 9 March 2016

REPLY:

The modelling undertaken by AECOM Australia is consistent with that required by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria. The EPA Victoria's State Environment Protection Policy — Air Quality Management 2001 (SEPP-AQM) specifies that proposed transport corridors must be assessed using one of the regulatory models for near-road modelling or as approved by the EPA Victoria.

The model applied in the assessment, CAL3QHCR, is a steady-state Gaussian dispersion model, designed to determine near-road air pollution concentrations at receptor locations downwind of highways.

The model was specifically approved for use in the CityLink Tulla Widening project by the EPA Victoria.

Modelling shows noise and air pollution will be no more than it currently is. These results have been shared with the college.

SEPP-AQM provides that the background concentration for the development should be the 70th percentile of one year's observed concentrations. The assessment has applied the 75th percentile, a stricter level than required. Further, the maximum 75th percentile was conservatively applied from not one but five previous years.

The model accounted for hour-by-hour variability in vehicle count, vehicle emissions, fleet composition (both vehicle type and fuel) and meteorology, including identifying and modelling morning and afternoon peak traffic details.

Key assumptions applied in the assessment were specifically chosen to produce conservative predictions and do not account for improvements in technology, such as associated with likely future reductions in vehicle emissions.

The assessment did not account for the positive influence that noise barriers are likely to have on reducing roadside pollutant concentrations.

The model was based on free-flowing traffic along CityLink and on/off ramps connecting with CityLink. The model did not include slow-moving traffic queuing at on-ramps or slow-moving traffic at peak times because the main line CityLink traffic volumes are significantly higher than on/off ramps and would therefore have a higher mass emission of pollution.

Air quality information from Footscray was used because Footscray is the closest EPA Victoria monitoring station to the project. It is worth noting that the Footscray site is located close to the port industrial area as well as Melbourne's central business district, so measured levels at this site are expected to be higher than those likely at Bulla Road. As such, its use in the model is considered conservative.

Modelling of the following pollutants was undertaken: NO₂, PM₁₀ and CO. A qualitative assessment of PM_{2.5} was also made.

PM_{2.5} is a subset of PM₁₀, which was measured. The emissions of PM_{2.5} cannot exceed that of PM₁₀. Therefore, because the PM₁₀ levels did not exceed the PM_{2.5} standard, the PM_{2.5} levels would not be exceeded. As such, PM_{2.5} was not originally modelled. A review of modelling data shows that PM₁₀ emissions at Strathmore Secondary College would be approximately 25 per cent lower than the reported maximums in the model. This is because the maximum receptors are generally the receptors closest to the designated section of highway, and the college is set back from the freeway compared to other receptors.

Ozone was not considered because it is not emitted from vehicles during the combustion of vehicle fuel. Sulfur dioxide was not measured because the EPA Victoria report Future air quality in Victoria (2013) identified that

sulfur dioxide concentrations were “extremely low in Melbourne, and this is expected to remain the case”. The allowable sulfur content in fuel standards legislated by the Federal Government has and will continue to decrease with time. Lead was not measured because it was effectively phased out of vehicle fuel on 1 January 2002 by the Federal Government.

Melbourne Youth Justice Centre

Raised with: Minister for Families and Children

Raised by: Ms Crozier

Raised on: 9 March 2016

REPLY:

I can advise the Member that there have been no changes to incident reporting requirements for incidents within youth justice centres since December 2015.

Under the previous Coalition Government a number of changes were made to how incidents were reported.

By contrast, I have directed my Department to publish Category one incident reports on a quarterly basis from April 2016. Under the former Government, this data was only available on an annual basis on the Department’s website.

The Andrews Labor Government does not shy away from transparent government. Since coming to office, I have instructed my Department to make more data publicly available in relation to child protection and youth justice than was ever previously the case under the former Coalition Government. It is unfortunate the Member has difficulty locating data on the Department’s website.

Following amendments to the Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012, as of 16 March 2016 all Category One incident reports are also being provided to the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People to assist its role of overseeing the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

The Andrews Labor Government takes the safety of staff and clients of youth justice centres very seriously and supports robust reporting and review processes.

Water policy

Raised with: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

Raised by: Mr Ramsay

Raised on: 9 March 2016

REPLY:

The Melbourne to Geelong pipeline has been turned on for the first time. Barwon Water (BW) is intending to access six gigalitres of water from its entitlements in the Melbourne system.

This is the result of extremely dry conditions across Barwon Water’s service region, which, has seen storages drop to levels not seen since the millennium drought. BW’s storage levels are currently at 35 per cent, last year they were at 60%.

There will be no additional cost to BW’s customers as a result of using the Melbourne Geelong Interconnector or switching on the desalination plant. BW’s transfer costs, including using the interconnector are already factored into the prices that BW’s customers pay.

BW is also readying the Barwon Downs bore field for operations. The bore field is a crucial emergency water source for greater Geelong when surface storages are low. Accessing back-up sources is part of a balanced

approach to managing the region's water resources, ensuring that local families, businesses and industries in Geelong have peace of mind about their future water security.

Caroline Springs artificial lakes

Raised with: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

Raised by: Mr Melhem

Raised on: 9 March 2016

REPLY:

The artificial lakes at Caroline Springs are used for stormwater management by Melbourne Water. The City of Melton is responsible for managing the public open space around the lakes.

Melbourne Water has been working with the City of Melton and other relevant agencies such as the Environment Protection Authority to monitor and manage the avian botulism outbreak in the area. Since becoming aware of the outbreak, Melbourne Water has been removing deceased birds from around the lake.

Since the 11th of March, Melbourne Water has not found any deceased birds around the lake.

V/Line customer compensation

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Morris

Raised on: 9 March 2016

REPLY:

Given the impact of the rail replacement coach services (and as a small acknowledgement of the frustration experienced by passengers due to service disruptions), I declared free travel on all V/Line services between Saturday 23 January to Sunday 7 February 2016.

Passengers without a ticket were able to board any V/Line train or coach and not pay a cent during that period. For those passengers who held myki passes, an automatic reimbursement was offered and Public Transport Victoria (PTV) has advised that all eligible pass holders were automatically reimbursed.

Subsequent to this free travel period, passengers travelling on rail replacement coaches continue to travel for free and myki pass holders are able to apply for reimbursement of their travel. This will continue until further notice.

Any passenger who believes that they have not been reimbursed or requires more information on their reimbursement calculation are asked to contact PTV on 1800 800 007, providing their myki card number for PTV to investigate.

Goulburn Valley Health helipad

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 10 March 2016

REPLY:

After \$1 billion in cuts by the former Liberal Government and four years of underinvestment in capital, hospitals right across Victoria are under immense pressure.

The previous Liberal Government let down the Goulburn Valley community by wasting four years in office and failing to invest in Goulburn Valley Health.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to enhancing Goulburn Valley Health and its capacity to fulfil its role as regional health services for the Hume region.

The Government has committed \$1.0 million to progress planning and development work for Goulburn Valley Health. This work is well underway with recommendations from the recently released Service Plan incorporated into the subsequent masterplan.

A key focus of this planning has been the improvement of timely access to care and enhanced patient experience through strengthening service capacity.

Whilst the former helipad at Goulburn Valley Health was closed some years ago, the longer term masterplan allows for a potential helipad to be included at a future stage. However, this is not likely to be a priority in the short term.

Sixteen Victorian hospitals — the Alfred, Ballarat, Dandenong, Frankston, Geelong, Kilmore, Kyneton, Latrobe, Leongatha, Clayton, Royal Children's, Royal Melbourne, Seymour, Warragul, Wonthaggi and Yarram hospitals — have protection for Emergency Medical Services helicopter flight paths within their relevant planning scheme.

The Victorian Government will commence consultation with communities in Ararat, Bacchus Marsh, Bairnsdale, Bendigo, Charlton, Cohuna, Donald, Heathcote, Kerang, Kyneton, St Arnaud, Stawell and Wycheproof in April 2016 about safeguarding helicopter flights paths for their hospitals and is working with Albury City Council to protect the helicopter flight path for the Albury Hospital helipad.

At the completion of this project later in 2016 all eight public hospital helipads in Northern Victoria — Bendigo, Cohuna, Heathcote, Kerang, Kilmore, Kyneton, Seymour and Wycheproof — will have their flight paths protected through the local planning scheme.

It is anticipated that any potential future flight path for Goulburn Valley would be protected through similar planning mechanisms.

Elevated rail proposal

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Mulino

Raised on: 10 March 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government understands the importance of easing congestion and reducing travel times for the growing population in south-east Melbourne. This is why we are investing in the Level Crossing Removal Project: Caulfield to Dandenong. When combined with the purchase of the 65 new high capacity trains, the project will boost capacity by up to 42 per cent on the Cranbourne-Pakenham line every day — accommodating an extra 11 000 passengers in the morning peak.

The project will also create 225 000 square metres of community open space for parks, playgrounds, sporting facilities, car parking, and pedestrian and bicycle paths.

This 1.6 billion dollar investment will deliver significant benefits to Melbourne's busiest rail corridor including V/Line passengers, who will notice significant improvements in the reliability of V/Line services that operate on the line.

Firearms

Raised with: Minister for Police

Raised by: Mr Bourman

Raised on: 10 March 2016

REPLY:

Victoria's legislative requirements regarding the safe storage of firearms and ammunition represent some of the most fundamental conditions of a firearms licence, imposed to ensure safety for both the licensee and the community more broadly.

Licence holders must ensure that they comply with the various storage requirements set out in the Firearms Act 1996 (the Act). The storage requirements were enacted following the establishment of the 1996 National Firearms Agreement and aim to minimise the risk of firearms falling into the hands of inexperienced or unauthorised persons and to significantly reduce the risk of firearm theft.

The Victoria Police website at www.police.vic.gov.au provides guidelines and supporting material on the transportation and safekeeping of firearms to assist firearms licensees to comply with the law. These guidelines are designed to provide practical advice and assistance to firearm licence holders in order to ensure that their registered firearms are handled safely and securely at all times.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that firearms laws balance the interests of those who lawfully and responsibly use, carry and store a firearm, such as sporting shooters and primary producers, with the need to keep Victorians safe from the criminals who flout our laws.

That is why the government will continue to work closely with Victoria Police to identify improvements to our laws that are aimed at enhancing the powers of police to address illegal firearms in the community. As you are aware, in December 2015 amendments came into effect that are already assisting Victoria Police to take action in relation to illegal firearms manufacturing and trafficking; the possession of illegal firearms and firearm theft. The new offence of 'theft of a firearm' under the Crimes Act 1958 carries a significant maximum penalty of 15 years imprisonment.

The Government has also asked Victoria Police to review firearms laws in other jurisdictions to see whether there are interstate or overseas initiatives that they consider may enhance Victoria's fight against the illicit firearm market. I can confirm that the government will carefully consider each of the recommendations Victoria Police make for potential improvements that can be implemented to enhance community safety.

The government will also continue to work closely with and consider advice from the Victorian Firearms Consultative Committee, which reflects the views of a range of stakeholders and community experts.

While the Act falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Police and it is the government and ultimately the Parliament that is responsible for making and changing the law, the administration and enforcement of the Act is an operational decision which clearly rests with the Chief Commissioner of Police. This is in accordance with section 10 of the Victoria Police Act 2013.

Mount Waverley railway station

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Leane

Raised on: 10 March 2016

REPLY:

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) is developing a program of works for the installation of Tactile Ground Surface Indicators (TGSIs) on platforms at Mount Waverley station and other priority metropolitan railway stations.

PTV is currently engaging with Metro to determine the scope of the program at Mount Waverley, and timelines for completion of the project. However, it is anticipated that the TGSIs should be fully installed by the end of 2016.

PTV is currently in the process of advising this outcome to customers who have requested that the TGSIs be installed at Mount Waverley.

Warrnambool and Port Fairy health services

Raised with: Minister for Agriculture

Raised by: Mr Purcell

Raised on: 10 March 2016

REPLY:

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) provides a valuable service to the community and government through its inspectorate function. The RSPCA is provided with two government grants for the work of its inspectorate under both the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 and Domestic Animals Act 1996.

Ongoing government funding of \$1 million per annum is provided to the RSPCA to support its inspectorate and enforcement costs. Funding is directed only toward the cost of its inspectorate and the RSPCA have advised that government funding does not fully cover the cost of delivering this service. The balance is funded by money raised from the Victorian community who value the important role the inspectorate fulfils.

There is a memorandum of understanding in place which sets out the expectations of myself and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources regarding the conduct of the RSPCA Inspectorate including reporting requirements.

The Victorian Government has also provided \$5 million over four years to the RSPCA to strengthen its inspectorate capacity to deal with illegal and non-compliant domestic animal breeding establishments. The first year of funding will be complete in June 2016. There is a funding agreement in place which specifies reporting requirements including provision of financial statements.

RSPCA have advised that there were a total of 5762 cruelty complaints, including over 120 reports of alleged non-compliant breeding activities, addressed by its inspectorate for the July to December 2015 period. In this period they resolved 37 cases at court, with 21 cases receiving animal ownership disqualification orders as a result of these prosecutions.

Other than its spending of grant funding, the Government has no oversight role in respect of RSPCA's general financial operations. However, the RSPCA have provided me with information in regard to your concerns around their financial spending.

Of the organisation's annual income of around \$30 million, government grants account for less than 3% on average, noting that income from government sources has increased slightly in 2015-16 due to the additional grant provided by this Government to investigate illegal and non-compliant puppy and kitten farms.

Opened in 2010, the Animal Care Centre and kennels at RSPCA Victoria's state headquarters at East Burwood were funded entirely from community bequests at a cost of approximately \$31 million to build. The Animal Care Centre at Burwood East includes a large veterinary clinic which treats both shelter animals and private clients, and an extensive quarantine and adoption area from which dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs are rehomed. The facility also includes education, training and animal support facilities as well as offices for staff and volunteers to work in.

The RSPCA investment in its kennel facilities at Burwood East, and at regional facilities for Victoria at locations such as Bendigo and Portland, directly support animals and their owners across the state.

The RSPCA financial statements are freely available on its website www.rspcavic.org.

Note: This adjournment matter directed to the Premier by Mr Purcell on 10 March remains unanswered as at this date. The response shown is to a matter directed to the Attorney-General by Mr Purcell on 8 March relating to RSPCA funding (redrafted response published in correct form on 21 June 2016).

Goulburn Valley Health

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 22 March 2016

REPLY:

After \$1 billion in cuts by the former Liberal Government and four years of underinvestment in capital, hospitals right across Victoria are under immense pressure.

The previous Liberal Government let down the Goulburn Valley community by wasting four years in office and failing to invest in Goulburn Valley Health.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to enhancing Goulburn Valley Health and its capacity to fulfil its role as regional health services for the Hume region.

The work resulting from the Government's \$1 million commitment to progress planning and development work for Goulburn Valley Health is well underway with recommendations from the recently released Service Plan incorporated into the subsequent masterplan.

I welcome the recent announcement that Goulburn Valley Health and the University of Melbourne are working together on research to determine the future health needs of the Goulburn Valley Community. This work will complement the newly completed service plan.

A key focus of this planning has been the improvement of timely access to emergency care and enhanced patient experience through strengthening service capacity.

The Andrews Labor Government is providing additional funding to Goulburn Valley Health to support it to improve emergency access. As a result of last year's budget, Goulburn Valley Health has received \$161 million, an increase of over \$10 million compared to the previous year and funding through the \$200 million Hospital Beds Rescue Fund which has enabled the opening of 8 extra beds to expand acute inpatient capacity.

In addition, the Department of Health and Human Services is supporting the health services to implement strategies to improve patient flow including a new short stay observation unit and scheduling a nurse practitioner in the emergency department during peak periods.

I am pleased to advise the Member for Northern Victoria that the Goulburn Valley Health Community Advisory Group has held a number of meetings, including an open community forum. I look forward to continuing to report on the activities being undertaken by this group.

West Gippsland Healthcare Group**Raised with: Minister for Health****Raised by: Ms Shing****Raised on: 22 March 2016****REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government committed to develop a Strategic Services Plan to identify service delivery issues, current and emerging health needs, and to recommend the scope of health service to be delivered in the longer term by West Gippsland Healthcare Group in conjunction with other service providers for the growing population in the Baw Baw Shire.

The area based Strategic Health Services Plan will identify the current and emerging health service needs of the local communities, and recommend how these health services are best delivered to the community of Baw Baw Shire. This will include the scope of health services to be delivered in the longer term by West Gippsland Healthcare Group and neighbouring providers to best meet those needs, including recommended partnerships. A key provision will be accessibility for the local community.

The department engaged independent consultants in August 2015 to undertake the project. The project has been overseen by a steering committee which includes representation from West Gippsland Healthcare Group, Latrobe Regional Hospital, Monash Health and the department.

The final report is near completion and will provide a 'road map' for the future development of healthcare services to meet the changing needs of the communities of the Baw Baw Shire over the next five years and will provide a foundation for medium and long term strategies based on population growth expectations to 2031/32.

The Strategic Services Plan will inform all future planning and options development for the West Gippsland Healthcare Group.

On 31 March 2016, I visited West Gippsland Healthcare Group and have developed a deeper understanding of the hospital's needs. I have met with board members and the Chief Executive Officer and understand the population and infrastructure challenges being faced by the health service.

I am committed to working together with West Gippsland Healthcare Group and other local health organisations in strengthening and building upon the existing health system and infrastructure to ensure the Baw Baw community access quality, contemporary and sustainable health services into the future.

I look forward to continuing to discuss these issues with you as you continue to advocate on behalf of the West Gippsland community to ensure local residents have access to quality health services and facilities into the future.

Jumps racing**Raised with: Minister for Racing****Raised by: Mr Purcell****Raised on: 22 March 2016****REPLY:**

The Grand National Steeplechase meeting held at Ballarat in August 2015 was a success and I note that it will be held again in Ballarat in 2016 with increased prizemoney (up \$100 000 to \$350 000).

I am pleased to note that Racing Victoria has significantly boosted prizemoney for the 2016 jumps racing season, with an additional \$510 000 on offer across the 42 hurdle and 21 steeplechase races programmed this year.

I thank the Member for Western Victoria for his invitation. I am sure that I will see him at the Grand Annual in Warrnambool on 5 May, and I will endeavour to attend the Grand National Steeplechase meeting this year if my schedule permits.

Boroondara planning scheme amendment

Raised with: Minister for Planning

Raised by: Mr Davis

Raised on: 22 March 2016

REPLY:

Boroondara Planning Scheme Amendment C108 introduced new mandatory building height controls into 31 Neighbourhood Activity Centres and the three commercial corridors of Tooronga Road, Canterbury Road and Burwood / Camberwell Road.

The Panel report for Amendment C108 included a recommendation that Boroondara City Council modify and adopt the amendment with discretionary height controls for its neighbourhood centres and commercial corridors. Despite this recommendation, Council adopted Amendment C108 with mandatory height controls to apply to its neighbourhood centres and commercial corridors. The amendment was submitted for approval in June 2014, and was approved under delegation in December 2014 without changes.

Since the approval of Amendment C108, there have been changes in the planning policy landscape. The application of mandatory height controls across Boroondara's residential areas and neighbourhood centres has created a greater onus on larger centres to accommodate mixed uses including an increasing share of future housing needs.

Consequently, I am considering introducing discretionary building height controls to Boroondara's three commercial corridors, while retaining mandatory height controls in the 31 neighbourhood centres. Discretionary controls provide more flexibility to accommodate variations and innovative design, and align more appropriately with the intended role of these commercial corridors and the State Planning Policy Framework.

I recently met with the Mayor of Boroondara City Council and Council officers about the draft Amendment C255 following a six week period of consultation undertaken in January and February this year. I will shortly consider the draft amendment in light of feedback provided during this meeting and from the community during the consultation period.

Chandler Highway bridge

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Mr Ondarchie

Raised on: 22 March 2016

REPLY:

VicRoads has confirmed that the Chandler Highway Upgrade will not require the compulsory acquisition of land from residents of Rex Avenue or the Chandler Highway. The Chandler Highway Upgrade will be built within the existing road reserve on the west side of the existing Chandler Highway Bridge.

The map shown on the VicRoads website is being used to form a basis for further detailed design of the project. This plan has been used for previous consultation sessions with the community. VicRoads is currently working on finalising the detailed design of the project and has informed me that when a detailed design is confirmed, the details will be published on its website.

Environmental impacts of the project are available on the VicRoads website. As shown, the impact under the Government's chosen alignment is significantly less than the impacts of the alternative, east alignment. The Government's chosen alignment also minimises impacts to significant native trees and avoids impact to Willsmere Chandler Park and Yarra Bend Park.

VicRoads is currently arranging consultation for engagement with the community and local councils. This consultation is expected to commence in the coming months and will include discussions with residents regarding noise and visual impacts, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, use of the existing bridge and the final design. A detailed design of the project will be made available throughout these consultations, allowing residents to ask questions from experts involved in the Chandler Highway Upgrade Project.

Shepparton Festival

Raised with: Minister for Creative Industries

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

The Shepparton Festival currently receives ongoing funding through Creative Victoria's Organisations Investment Program. The deadline for funding applications to the program from small to medium organisations recently closed. Shepparton Festival has submitted an application and it will be assessed on its merit.

Kindergartens

Raised with: Minister for Families and Children

Raised by: Mr Eideh

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

As the Member rightly points out, a key barrier for disadvantaged children is the availability of kindergarten places when and where they are needed, including outside established enrolment times. That is why the Andrews Labor Government is piloting pre-purchased kindergarten places in 2016.

All kindergarten cluster managers and standalone kindergartens in areas of high need were invited to submit an expression of interest for up to four pre-purchased places per service in 2016. In total, 569 kindergarten places have been reserved across 196 services in metropolitan and regional Victoria. These places will be available for children experiencing vulnerability, such as children in Out-of-Home Care, children whose families are transient and recently arrived refugees. Any child exposed to family violence and known to child protection is eligible for pre-purchased places.

In the Western Metropolitan region, 29 services have 90 pre-purchased places for children who may not otherwise have been able to access kindergarten in 2016.

The Department is working with kindergarten services and key referring agencies, such as Child FIRST and local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, to identify eligible children and refer them to local kindergarten services with available places. Participating kindergarten services are also encouraged to engage directly with their communities to link children with available places.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to ensuring all children experience the benefits of kindergarten. The intention of this pilot is to ensure places are available for children who are most at risk of missing out.

Additional funding of \$548 000 will enable targeted Participation Support in four catchment areas with high numbers of pre-purchased places and children in out of home care. This will help ensure children experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage can access available kindergarten places.

Monash University Berwick campus

Raised with: Minister for Training and Skills

Raised by: Mrs Peulich

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

I understand Monash University has been considering the future of its Berwick site since 2013, under the former government. However the Andrews Government is committed to the continued provision of tertiary education at the Berwick campus which is vital to the economic growth of the region.

While the State Government has a limited role in the operation of universities, which are self-governing bodies and primarily the funding responsibility of the Commonwealth, the Victorian Government is offering any assistance it can to ensure that there is a positive outcome for both the community and University.

To date, this has included discussions with a number of key stakeholders including the Monash University Vice-Chancellor. I have also written to the Commonwealth Minister urging him to give serious consideration to the approval of any transfer of student load from Monash University Berwick Campus until an appropriate alternative model for tertiary delivery from the site is presented.

The Federal Government's lack of action on higher education policy has subjected the sector to uncertainty.-This policy hiatus is having an impact on regional university campuses.

Monash Freeway widening

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Mr Somyurek

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

Transurban submitted the Western Distributor proposal to the Victorian Government. It included the Monash Freeway upgrade which provided network-wide solution. An extra lane will be added in each direction between the EastLink interchange and Clyde Road, Berwick. Upgrades to freeway system technology between Warrigal Road, Chadstone, and Koo Wee Rup Road, Pakenham, will provide improved traffic flow and help reduce stop-start conditions; the widening from East Link to Clyde Road will boost capacity and reduce travel times.

The extra lanes on the Monash Freeway, together with the smart technology, will give 200 000 motorists a day a safer, shorter and more reliable trip and will provide additional capacity to support the rapid growth of Melbourne's south east.

The Government has shortlisted three tenderers who are currently tendering for the Monash Freeway Upgrade works. The contract for the works is expected to be awarded by mid-2016, and construction will be well underway by the end of 2016.

The Monash Freeway Upgrade will be completed before the end of 2018.

Firearms licences

Raised with: Minister for Police

Raised by: Mr Bourman

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

The Victorian Government is committed to a consistent national approach to firearms regulation. With the enactment of the Firearms Act 1996 (the Act), Victoria implemented each of the Resolutions of then Australasian Police Ministers' Council Special Firearms Meeting of 10 May 1996. These Resolutions constitute the National Firearms Agreement (NFA) which sets out minimum requirements in relation to the regulation of firearms. Every Australian jurisdiction committed to implement the NFA in full following the tragedy of the Port Arthur shootings.

In relation to basic licence requirements, Resolution 4(b) of the current NFA provides that firearm licences must, among other things, bear a photograph of the licensee, be endorsed with the category of firearm and be endorsed with the holder's address.

In accordance with these specific terms of the NFA, section 35 of the Act, regarding particulars of the majority of firearm licences, and section 67, regarding particulars of dealers licences, provides that a licence must contain the name and address of the holder of the licence and contain a photograph of the person to whom it is issued or of the nominated person where that is applicable.

The inclusion on the licence of the firearms category for which the person is licensed, along with the person's details and photograph, provides a means by which a person can verify that they are appropriately licensed and authorised to possess, carry and use their firearm or carry out the business in dealing in firearms. This also protects the person in going about their licensed activities and provides immediate evidence to police that the firearm is lawfully in the hands of the person.

Just as responsible firearm licensees know to refrain from publicising their ownership of firearms, it is of the utmost importance that licensees also take all necessary steps to protect their personal privacy by keeping their licence secure at all times. Licensees must also notify the Victoria Police Licensing & Regulation Division in writing as soon as practicable if their plastic licence is lost, stolen or damaged.

You may also wish to note that, on 2 December 2015, the Commonwealth Minister for Justice formally announced that CrimTrac is developing the National Firearms Interface which will provide a single record of each event associated with every firearm in Australia, from importation or manufacture for sale in Australia, through to its exportation or destruction. The capability is intended to assist police and firearms registration authorities register firearms, license firearms owners, and track the movement of firearms in and out of Australia. Again, this work is being progressed through the Ministerial Council.

Nurse registration

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Ms Bath

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

I approved Rural Isolated Practice Endorsed Registered Nurses working in Victoria's 15 bush nursing centres on 22 July 2015. However, approval was conditional on an appropriate legal and clinical governance framework being adopted prior to gazetting of the bush nursing centres.

To facilitate the gazettal notice I approved the Department of Health and Human Services to work with bush nursing centres to develop a suitable legal and clinical governance framework. This included consulting and meeting with the eastern bush nursing centres and their committees of management.

The Department has now met with all nurse managers and committee of management representatives of the 15 bush nursing centres and has established a process, involving expert assistance to the centres to develop a suitable clinical governance model. This will ensure safety and quality requirements are addressed before the gazettal notice is issued, which the East Gippsland community must be assured of before the nursing services can be provided.

The Australia Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has recently released its guide to implementing the National Safety and Quality Service Standards in community health. This guide includes a specific standard on clinical governance that will need to be factored into the development of a suitable clinical governance model.

Unfortunately, at the same time this work has been underway the National Nurse and Midwifery Board of Australia launched a public consultation to discontinue the endorsement for the rural isolated practice nurses. Victoria is currently in discussions with the other Australian jurisdictions to continue the endorsement. This will ensure access for isolated rural communities like East Gippsland to this level of accredited nursing care.

I am committed to getting Rural Isolated Practice Endorsed Registered Nurses safely working in bush nursing centres and hope that staff, committees of management and communities will continue to work with the Department to see successful implementation.

VICSWIM Summer Kidz program

Raised with: Minister for Sport

Raised by: Mr Ondarchie

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

Basic water safety knowledge and skills are something all Victorians should have.

That is why the Victorian Government provided \$400 000 in 2016 to Aquatics and Recreation Victoria to conduct VICSWIM Summer Kidz, a water safety and awareness program designed to provide children with some basic water safety knowledge and skills.

Funding for the VICSWIM Summer Kidz Program represents only one part of the Victorian Government's support for water safety programs. For example, Life Saving Victoria is funded by the Department of Justice and Regulation to deliver the Play it Safe by the Water program. The Government has also recently funded a pilot program administered by Life Saving Victoria to test the viability of a universal learn to swim program for primary school children.

Decisions about funding in future years of VICSWIM Summer Kidz will be made following release of the 2016-17 Budget.

Geelong convention and exhibition centre

Raised with: Minister for Planning

Raised by: Mr Ramsay

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

I acknowledge the Member for Western Victoria's encouragement for progressing investigations into the development of a possible convention and exhibition centre in Geelong, including working with possible project supporters such as Deakin University.

I established the Geelong Authority to provide advice on specific State actions and on major development proposals to implement Vision 2 (the central Geelong revitalisation plan), including the merits of a Geelong conference and exhibition centre.

Geelong region employment

Raised with: Minister for Employment

Raised by: Mr Ramsay

Raised on: 24 March 2016

REPLY:

Since the election of the Andrews Labor Government, we have seen a number of positive trends occur in the Geelong labour market, including:

- A decrease in the unemployment rate from 8.2 per cent to 7.1 per cent;
- A 4.7 per cent increase in the participation rate;
- A rise in the total number of people employed (up 14 100);
- A rise in the total number of people employed full-time (up 12 000); and
- A fall in the total number of people unemployed (down 400).

Additionally, we have seen a significant fall in the 12-month average youth unemployment rate from 18.7 per cent to 15.7 per cent.

We recognise that some young people face complicated barriers to gaining sustainable employment, which the Government is addressing through investment in work readiness, education and employment services, and we will have more to contribute on this matter in the near future.

While we know that labour force statistics for regional areas and young people tend to have a high degree of volatility, these figures run in stark contrast to the atrocious record of the former failed Liberal Government which oversaw a rise in Geelong's unemployment rate from 5.0 per cent to 8.2 per cent.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to driving job creation, facilitating new investment and improving infrastructure in regional Victoria through the establishment of our \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.

As part of the 50-year lease of the Port of Melbourne, a new \$200 million Agriculture Infrastructure and Jobs Fund will also be established to drive economic growth in our regions.

The Government has also announced the relocation of the WorkCover Authority, which will see 550 positions move to Geelong, with the transition commencing in late 2016.

Furthermore, the Government has made a number of significant commitments to Geelong, including \$30 million for the GPAC upgrade, \$70 million for the upgrade of Skilled Stadium, \$3 million towards a Geelong Manufacturing Hub at Deakin, \$3 million for the Leopold Hub and \$4 million towards the Royal Geelong Yacht Club for the Geelong Waterfront Safe

Harbour Precinct Public Access and Infrastructure Development Project.

Women's sporting facilities

Raised with: Minister for Sport

Raised by: Mr Leane

Raised on: 24 March 2016

REPLY:

I refer to the Adjournment Debate matter regarding future funding possibilities for female friendly facilities.

Firstly I'd like to commend you for your commitment to advocating the importance of sport and recreation in your electorate, especially for women. Providing high quality sport and recreation infrastructure is a key aim of the government, and is integral to the health and well-being of all Victorians.

In 2015 I launched the \$100 million Community Sport Infrastructure Fund to support the upgrade and development of community sports facilities over the next four years. This includes \$10 million for the Female Friendly Facilities category. The 2017/2018 funding round of the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund opened on 12 April 2016.

The Female Friendly Facilities category will continue to give local councils funding to build new and upgrade existing, out-dated change facilities around the state that cater for traditional and non-traditional female sport and recreation, with a focus on promoting female and family friendly environments.

Waste management

Raised with: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

Raised by: Dr Carling-Jenkins

Raised on: 24 March 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is doing significant work to increase resource recovery and reduce the need for landfills. The 30 year Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan was released last year to assist planning and delivery of waste and resource recovery infrastructure across Victoria. A key goal of the plan is that landfills will only be used for receiving and treating waste streams from which all materials that can be viably recovered have been extracted.

Increasing resource recovery to divert waste from landfill will require the use of new technologies, education programs and improved markets for recovered materials. The Victorian Organics Resource Recovery Strategy provides a strategic, statewide approach to better manage organic wastes and proposes a transition to advanced technologies and improved treatment and processing of organics. The draft Victorian Market Development Strategy for Recovered Resources, currently in development, will stimulate markets for recovered resources in Victoria by reducing barriers and developing the right conditions for recovered material markets to grow and mature.

A big focus of both strategies will be diverting food and green waste away from landfills. Around 42% of all material landfilled in Melbourne is food and green waste. Building the organics recovery network will divert more of this waste from landfill, also reducing odour and leachate issues that impact on local communities.

A well-planned and managed waste and resource recovery system, developed and delivered in co-operation with communities, can deliver significant benefits to the community, the environment and the economy. This is the first time Victoria, or any Australian jurisdiction, has had such an integrated, long-term planning framework to guide the development and management of its waste and resource recovery needs. It will put Victoria in a good position to ensure more waste is recovered, reused and recycled, and less ends up in landfill.

Goulburn Valley Health

Raised with: Treasurer

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 12 April 2016

REPLY:

Regional Victoria is the big winner in the 2016-17 Victorian Budget. This budget delivers the highest regional infrastructure investment on record and will create new jobs, bring new industries to regional cities, boost tourism and build the projects that locals and businesses need.

Recognising the increasing demand for health services in the Goulburn Valley region, the 2016-17 Victorian Budget provides funding of \$168.5 million to redevelop the Shepparton campus of Goulburn Valley Health.

The redevelopment focuses on the high priority areas within the service and master plans. It will deliver significantly increased capacity and improved site integration, including doubling the Emergency Department and the significant expansion of inpatient wards.

A new four-storey tower will provide three new operating theatres and two new wards and existing theatres will be refurbished. The hospital's maternity unit will be refurbished and a new Special Care Nursery will be constructed. Medical imaging and dialysis services will also be expanded and modernised.

The redevelopment will ensure Goulburn Valley Health is able to treat patients in modern, state of the art facilities, with reduced wait times in both the emergency department and for elective surgery. The redevelopment is expected to be completed in late 2020.

The redevelopment project follows on from \$1 million in planning money provided in last year's budget to get the project on track after four years of inaction by the former Coalition Government.

Last year Goulburn Valley Health also received funding through the Government's \$200 million Hospital Beds Rescue Fund to open eight more acute inpatient beds, enabling an extra 635 patients to be treated every year.

The Shepparton community will continue to be extensively involved in planning the redevelopment, with Independent Member for Shepparton, Suzanna Sheed chairing the Community Advisory Group.

Victoria University Sunbury site

Raised with: Minister for Training and Skills

Raised by: Mr Finn

Raised on: 12 April 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

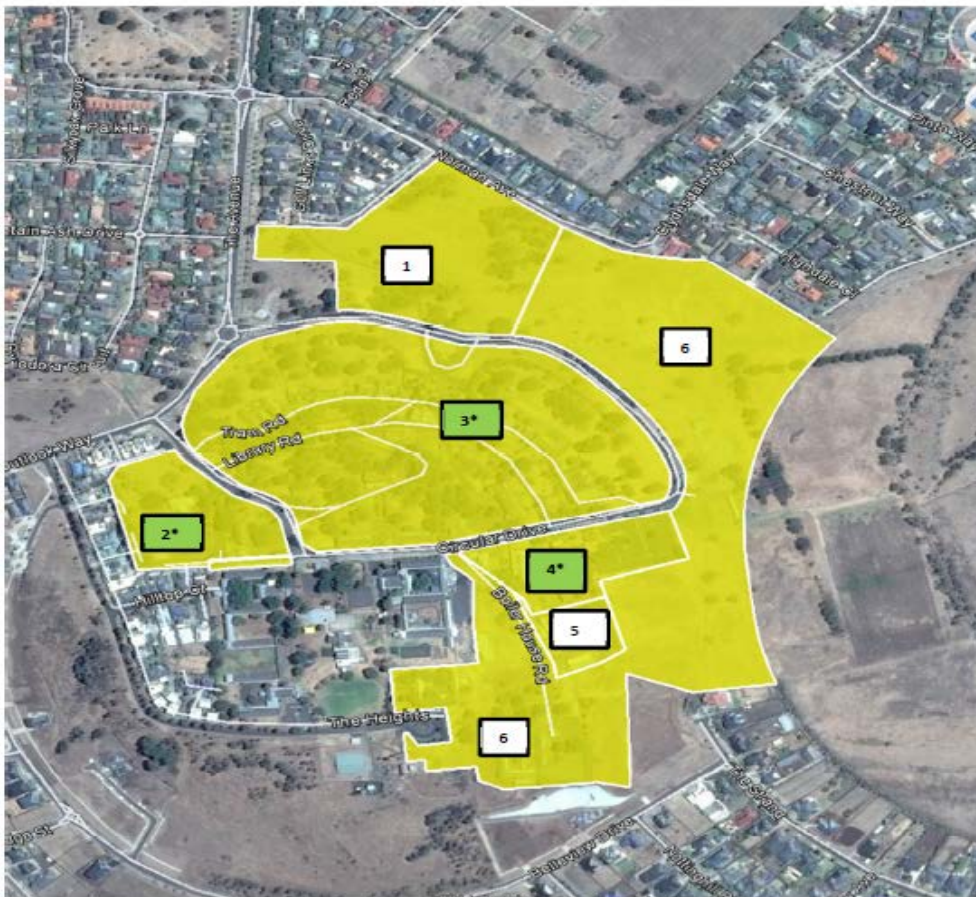
Victoria University own the entire Sunbury site. In 1994, parcels 2, 3 and 4 (see attached) were transferred to the University by the Urban Land Authority. The University then purchased parcels 1 and 5 in 1996 for \$696 000 and parcel 6 in 2004 for \$1 540 000. Victoria University decided to close the Sunbury campus in 2009 as it was no longer viable for vocational training. I am aware that Victoria University is considering options for the Sunbury site; however I have not approved the sale of the site.

Victoria University and Hume City Council have established a Learning Link Centre at the Sunbury Neighbourhood House and Community Centre to provide educational, technical and vocational services in the area. This is part of a transition arrangement for a proposed Global Learning Centre currently planned for Sunbury by the Hume City Council.

Following a study conducted by the Hume City Council to assess possible locations and training courses to be offered at the Sunbury Global Centre, the City Council purchased a separate site for the Centre in February this year. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between Victoria University and the Hume City Council to establish the Sunbury Global Learning Centre and provide training opportunities for the community.

I visited the site with my colleague Josh Bull, Member for Sunbury, and met a delegation from the Sunbury Alliance in September last year who expressed an interest in the site to be retained for broader educational and community activities. Any proposal for the Sunbury site needs to consider the proposed Global Learning Centre and community needs for the provision of higher education in the Sunbury area.

Victoria University Sunbury Campus – Land Title Details (Crown Grants in green)



Source: TAMS Extract, 11 August 2014

Land title details (All freehold, three Crown Grants)^A.

1. Vol. 10465/Fol.392 — 4.318 hectares — VU Purchased^B -1996
2. Vol. 10139/Fol.036 — 1.932 hectares-Crown Grant* -1994

3. Vol. 10139/Fol.035 — 10.990 Hectares — Crown Grant * -1994
 4. Vol. 10139/Fol.037 — 1.656 hectares — Crown Grant* -1994
 5. Vol. 10265/Fol.554 — 0.6767 hectares — VU Purchased^B – 1996
 6. Vol.10447/Fol.249 — 13.38 hectares — VU Purchased^C – 2004
- A. Please note: A Crown Grant title is not Crown Land, it is a freehold Torrens title, This terminology is used the first time that land is alienated in freehold by the Crown. In other words, when a parcel of unreserved Crown land is purchased, after paying the purchase price in full, the new owner would receive a freehold Crown Grant for this land that is administered under the Transfer of Land Act 1958. All freehold Crown Grants are limited to a depth of 15 metres under s 339 of the Land Act, due to an Order in Council from 1973, unless special dispensation is obtained to go deeper. All of the titles at the Sunbury Campus (i.e. not only the Crown Grant titles) currently include this depth limitation.
- B. 1 & 5 were purchased for \$696 000 in 1996
- C. 6 was purchased for \$1.540 mil plus 266 sqm off title 1 in 2004

Shepparton rail services

Raised with: Treasurer

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 13 April 2016

REPLY:

The Government will embark on a massive upgrade of the regional rail network, to give regional Victorians the reliable public transport they deserve.

The 2016-17 Budget invests \$1.3 billion to boost the reliability and frequency of regional rail is one of the largest investments in regional public transport services that regional Victoria has ever seen. This includes:

- over \$1 billion in infrastructure investments to ensure the regional network is set up to meet service standards and deliver reliable services now, and into the future; and
- \$131 million to increase train services for regional areas.

These investments will have benefits statewide in transporting Victorians to and between regions and supporting accessibility and economic growth.

More specifically, the 2016-17 Budget provides \$9.7 million to provide additional rail services on the Shepparton line. This is in addition to works that will improve passenger experience through upgrades to bus stop shelters and the waiting area at Shepparton station funded from the Road and Rail Minor Works Fund.

This investment follows extensive community consultation to consider how to provide regional Victorians with the public transport services they need, and will inform Government's long term strategy for transport services on the regional network.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Wednesday, 4 May 2016

Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade

Raised with: Premier

Raised by: Ms Wooldridge

Raised on: 14 April 2016

REPLY:

The Member has asserted that there is a 'full-time jobs crisis' yet the unemployment rate inherited from the former Government was 6.7%. Currently it is 5.7%.

Since coming to government over 112 000 jobs were created — 71 000 of them full time. In stark contrast, the previous government only managed to create 16 000 full time jobs in their entire four year term.

Take up for the Back to Work program has increased so much that the Treasurer has been advised the program will have to be finalised ahead of schedule.

This is only one example of the incorrect assertions made by the Member throughout her Adjournment matter.

The Government's position on capability reviews remains unchanged. Capability reviews will be conducted when and if required.

A full and thorough capability review was conducted on 29 November 2014 into the Member and her party by Victorians.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Thursday, 5 May 2016

Wyndham City Council

Raised with: Minister for Local Government

Raised by: Mr Finn

Raised on: 24 February 2016

REPLY:

I have asked my department to contact the council to ensure they consider his request.