

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**7 and 8 June 2016**

**(Extract from book 9)**

Internet: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard)

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# HANSARD<sup>150</sup>



1866–2016

Following a select committee investigation, Victorian Hansard was conceived when the following amended motion was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 23 June 1865:

That in the opinion of this house, provision should be made to secure a more accurate report of the debates in Parliament, in the form of *Hansard*.

The sessional volume for the first sitting period of the Fifth Parliament, from 12 February to 10 April 1866, contains the following preface dated 11 April:

As a preface to the first volume of “Parliamentary Debates” (new series), it is not inappropriate to state that prior to the Fifth Parliament of Victoria the newspapers of the day virtually supplied the only records of the debates of the Legislature.

With the commencement of the Fifth Parliament, however, an independent report was furnished by a special staff of reporters, and issued in weekly parts.

This volume contains the complete reports of the proceedings of both Houses during the past session.

In 2016 the Hansard Unit of the Department of Parliamentary Services continues the work begun 150 years ago of providing an accurate and complete report of the proceedings of both houses of the Victorian Parliament.

## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry (to 22 May 2016)**

Premier .....	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education .....	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer .....	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Employment .....	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade .....	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Industry, and Minister for Energy and Resources .....	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports .....	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans .....	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries .....	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation .....	The Hon. J. F. Garrett, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services .....	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills .....	The Hon. S. R. Herbert, MLC
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations .....	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State .....	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs .....	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water .....	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Police and Minister for Corrections .....	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing .....	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development .....	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence .....	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs .....	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Planning .....	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary .....	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

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Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development . . . . .	The Hon. L. D’Ambrosio, MP
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Minister for Planning . . . . .	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

### Legislative Council committees

**Privileges Committee** — Ms Hartland, Mr Herbert, Ms Mikakos, Mr O’Donohue, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips and Ms Wooldridge.

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

### Legislative Council standing committees

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

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

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

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

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

### Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

**President:** The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:** Ms G. TIERNEY

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

**Leader of the Government:**  
The Hon. G. JENNINGS

**Deputy Leader of the Government:**  
The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

**Leader of the Opposition:**  
The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**  
The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

**Leader of The Nationals:**  
The Hon. D. K. DRUM

**Leader of the Greens:**  
Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina <sup>2</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>1</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	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
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>2</sup> Appointed 15 April 2015

**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, 7 June 2016**

**Kindergarten funding**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government

**Raised by:** Ms Crozier

**Raised on:** 23 February 2016

**REPLY:**

This is a matter for the Minister for Families and Children. I advise you to direct your question where appropriate.

**Maitreya Festival**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government

**Raised by:** Mr Morris

**Raised on:** 24 February 2016

**REPLY:**

Thank you for your question regarding the proposed Maitreya Festival.

The Buloke Shire Council is the responsible planning authority for the area. I understand from public statements that the Council had no objection to allowing the festival to go ahead, provided the required documents were provided, and consents were achieved, by the applicant to enable a planning permit to be issued.

I am advised that Buloke Shire Council worked closely with the event promoter over several months however it reached a decision that a planning permit could not be issued.

The details for that decision can be found at the Council's website: <http://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/>

I am also advised that the applicant appealed the decision to VCAT and that the decision of the Council was supported.

I would note that as Minister for Local Government I have no authority to intervene in planning matters such as this.

**Local government reform**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government

**Raised by:** Mr Eideh

**Raised on:** 8 March 2016

**REPLY:**

The initial stages of the review have provided opportunity for councillors, council employees and members of the public to identify issues to be addressed and present ideas for reform. To date, approximately 350 written submissions have been received on a Discussion Paper released in September 2015. In February and March 2016

nine community forums were held throughout Victoria to provide feedback on submissions to the discussion paper and give the community and stakeholders further opportunity to present suggestions for reform.

Reform options are currently being considered to address weaknesses in the current Act that will provide benefits to your constituency and indeed, the rest of Victoria.

Options being considered will aim to provide a logical, streamlined and contemporary Act to ensure that communities can better understand and value the role of councils in delivering local services, amenity, infrastructure, leadership and advocacy to the community.

The review will seek to ensure that decisions affecting citizens will be transparent and the processes to arrive at them clear and accountable by exploring more deliberative engagement by councils within their community and providing simpler and more enforceable offence provisions.

The review will also seek to create a culture of efficiency and innovation in council operations by considering options to encourage collaboration between both councils and state agencies and to reinforce sound financial practice across the sector.

There will continue to be opportunity for the community and sector to inform the review. A directions paper will be released later this year and it is proposed that an exposure draft of a new Local Government Act will be released for consultation in 2017.

All persons with an interest in local government, including Members of Parliament, can participate in the review by reading submissions and background papers on issues identified as well as putting forward their own reform ideas on the review website at [www.yourcouncilyourcommunity.vic.gov.au](http://www.yourcouncilyourcommunity.vic.gov.au)

### **Acland Street, St Kilda, pedestrian mall**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Ms Pennicuik**

**Raised on: 8 March 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The Acland Street tram terminus upgrade is being undertaken by Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and Yarra Trams.

The new tram stop/terminus will improve accessibility and safety.

Yarra Trams and PTV will continue to work together on this important project.

I have asked PTV to monitor bus services once the tram is upgraded to identify whether further improvements to transport connections are required.

### **Level crossings**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Mrs Peulich**

**Raised on: 10 March 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The previous Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Frankston line and only planned to remove 4 level crossings between Caulfield and Dandenong. The Andrews Labor Government is removing

11 level crossings on the Frankston line and all 9 level crossings between Caulfield and Dandenong. Construction on the removal of crossings on the Frankston line and Dandenong corridor is underway.

The previous Government's plans for the Caulfield to Dandenong corridor involved two tracks, as does the current Government's project.

Social pinpoint is a valuable community engagement tool that the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) is using to capture feedback on the Andrews Government's commitment to remove 50 of Victoria's worst level crossings and other major projects.

To protect the integrity of the process people who decline to provide a name, email or postcode are unable to use Social Pinpoint and comments that are picked up by the Social Pinpoint profanity filter are moderated off.

### **Duck season**

**Raised with: Minister for Agriculture**

**Raised by: Mr Young**

**Raised on: 24 March 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

Ms Pennicuik's motion listed on the notice paper as at 24 March 2016 would, if agreed by the House, have had the effect outlined by the Member.

The Government however, does not intend on removing restrictions placed on the 2016 duck season as published in the *Victorian Government Gazette* 532 on Monday 29 February 2016.

The joint decision-making on arrangements for 2016, undertaken by myself and the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, was based on independent advice from the Game Management Authority. Various factors were considered to ascertain whether duck hunting and duck populations can be sustained. These include duck numbers and species distribution across South Eastern Australia, breeding indices, habitat availability, and other environmental factors.

Seasonal conditions play an important role in duck populations. This year's analysis indicated that below average rainfall has reduced duck numbers and habitats. The government took note of the dry seasonal conditions in many parts of Victoria in deciding to modify the normal daily limits down to eight ducks for opening day and four ducks for the remainder of the season, and to prohibit the hunting of Blue-winged Shoveler.

### **Ballarat police resources**

**Raised with: Minister for Police**

**Raised by: Mr Morris**

**Raised on: 13 April 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

I appreciate your continued interest in policing in the Ballarat area. I am informed that police in the Ballarat area have established a range of new crime response teams, including a team focusing on burglary and recidivist offenders.

A Family Violence Unit has also been created for the Ballarat area. I am advised that the new unit will focus on recidivist family violence offenders and provide an increased capacity to support repeat victims, as well as support community based initiatives, like the Koori Family Violence Protocol.

The Andrews Labor Government recently announced a \$596 million Public Safety Package as part of the 2016-17 State Budget, delivering on our promise to give police the necessary resources to respond to gang-related crime, gun crime, terrorist threats and family violence. This reflects the government's commitment to work with the Chief Commissioner to ensure we provide the resources to police that will keep our community safe.

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

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

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

The government will also deliver \$36.8 million to replace or refurbish 22 regional and rural police stations and 10 residences, to give our police officers in country Victoria the resources they need. This significant investment will mean more police and new and upgraded police stations across regional Victoria.

The full deployment of 400 Police Custody Officers, funded in last year's budget will be fast tracked by six months to the end of 2017, further freeing up police officers to return to the frontline.

On 11 January 2016, Ballarat became one of the first six locations to receive Police Custody Officers (PCOs). Victoria Police advises that five PCOs have been deployed to Ballarat and have already shown themselves to be valuable assets in prisoner management, freeing up police personnel.

Policing across Ballarat and the surrounding area is managed in a flexible manner to ensure the best possible use of available police resources for community safety.

As you would expect, the government works closely with the Chief Commissioner to ensure Victoria Police is appropriately resourced to tackle law and order issues facing the Victorian community, including family violence and the use of ice and other illicit drugs. These issues remain a key focus for Victoria Police.

While the government determines the level of funding required to resource Victoria Police, the Chief Commissioner is responsible for determining how such resources are allocated, based on assessed operational need.

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

### **Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture

**Raised by:** Mr Bourman

**Raised on:** 14 April 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) is an important animal welfare organisation in Victoria, undertaking valuable work both in the areas of advocating for better animal welfare outcomes and the work undertaken by its inspectorate in investigating and resolving cases of animal cruelty reported to it. These are complimentary yet clearly separate functions of the same organisation. Government funding supports the latter function.

On 25 May, the RSPCA announced an independent review of its Inspectorate to be conducted by the former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, Mr Neil Comrie, and a report is expected to be released in September 2016.

It is crucial that organisations such as the RSPCA that receive Government funding, look to ways to improve operational performance and efficiency so that it is able to deliver a quality inspectorate service.

The Government will take a keen interest in the review and its findings.

### **Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road**

**Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety**

**Raised by: Mr Ramsay**

**Raised on: 3 May 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

I can confirm that the section of Bacchus Marsh Road between Little River Ripley Road and Ballan Road is ranked amongst the highest in terms of crash rates within the region. As such, the Andrews Government has committed to improving this section of Bacchus Marsh Road as part of Victoria's new Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan, Towards Zero 2016-2020.

The Victorian Government has set the most aggressive road safety target in Victoria's history, a 20 per cent reduction in road deaths over the next five years. Our Towards Zero Action Plan is about putting more effort and investment where most fatalities happen, on country roads.

Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road has seen a tragic number of deaths and serious injuries, and that is why we are working on innovative solutions to keep Victorians safer. VicRoads is now talking to the local community in the area about these infrastructure solutions, and how this road can be made safer for the community.

The project will involve the installation of centre median safety barrier, overtaking lanes to reduce overtaking risks, sections of left side barrier to shield unprotected hazards (trees, power poles, steep batter slopes, culverts), increased traffic lane and road shoulder widths and improvements to key intersections to make them safer. The project will provide safer local access arrangements to properties and side roads, with some breaks in the barrier and enhanced turning arrangements at selected locations.

This project aligns with the focus of the Safe System Road Infrastructure Program, aspiring to eliminate death and serious injury from Victorian roads by embracing a 'Towards Zero' vision.

VicRoads will provide regular community updates as that project scope is finalised. Work is expected to commence in 2017. I commend VicRoads for working with the community on this important safety initiative.

### **Cowes police station**

**Raised with: Minister for Police**

**Raised by: Mr O'Donohue**

**Raised on: 3 May 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Government is committed to providing Victoria Police appropriate facilities to support police in the work they do in keeping our communities safe.

Cowes police station has been announced as a one of seven police stations that will be built by June 2018 in a \$36.8 million package for regional areas in the recent 2016-17 Victorian Budget. This package also includes funding to upgrade a further 15 police stations and 10 police residences.

Funding of \$3 million has been allocated for the new Cowes police station. The new station will enhance service delivery in the area. Rebuilding the station will provide for the capacity to accommodate additional resources, specialist units, or external agencies such as family violence partner agencies and victim support services. The new station will also allow offenders to be held and processed in Cowes rather requiring transportation to Wonthaggi police station.

The Andrews Labor Government recently announced a \$596 million Public Safety Package as part of the 2016-17 State Budget, delivering on our promise to give police the necessary resources to respond to gang-related crime, gun crime, terrorist threats and family violence. This reflects the government's commitment to work with the Chief Commissioner to ensure we provide the resources to police that will keep our community safe.

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

An extra 300 frontline general duties police will be deployed across Victoria. The Chief Commissioner has indicated that deployment will focus on responding to local crime issues in growth corridors and other areas of greatest need, to be determined in consultation with The Police Association.

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

The community safety package will ensure police officers stationed in regional areas have secure and modern facilities.

### **Centre Road, Bentleigh, level crossing**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Ms Crozier**

**Raised on: 3 May 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The previous Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Frankston line. The Andrews Labor Government is removing 11 level crossings on the Frankston line.

Work is progressing quickly with removals at Centre Road, Bentleigh Road and North Road all fast tracked and due for removal by August this year.

The Level Crossing Removal Project has put in place a number of specific initiatives to support local traders which are detailed at the "Open for Business" website <http://northmckinnoncentre.com.au/>

Further detailed information on all aspects of this exciting project, including car parking, can be found at [www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](http://www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au).



**Prostitution exit programs**

**Raised with:** Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence

**Raised by:** Dr Carling-Jenkins

**Raised on:** 4 May 2016

**REPLY:**

The Royal Commission into Family Violence heard evidence on the impact of family violence on sex workers' health and wellbeing. In particular, the Commission paid specific attention to the challenges that sex workers face in reporting family violence to police and specialist services. The Commission recommended that Victoria Police amend its Police Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family Violence to describe the difficulties that women in the sex industry face in reporting this harm to police.

The Commission also heard evidence that for some sex workers, it was their experience of family violence that led them to enter the sex industry. These women can be particularly vulnerable to further harm.

Throughout Victoria there are a range of services and organisations that cater for the diverse needs of individuals within the sex industry, including those people who do not want to leave. For women who do wish to leave the sex industry, they often face a range of challenges including finding alternative employment. That's why the 2016-17 State Budget allocates \$1.7 million over four years to the Inner South Community Health Service in St Kilda to support their Pathways to Exit program. This initiative provides case management and pathways to education, training and job placement opportunities for individuals wishing to leave the sex industry.

The Victorian Labor Government also provided \$60 000 in 2015-16 to Project Respect. Since it was established in 1998, Project Respect has worked with women to support them in leaving the sex industry as well as those who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation. This funding will enable Project Respect to redesign its funding and service delivery model, so that it can continue to support women wishing to leave the sex industry.

**Gum Scrub Creek primary school**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Mr Mulino

**Raised on:** 5 May 2016

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

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

I was delighted to confirm funding of \$13 million to build the proposed Gum Scrub Creek Primary School in Officer. This funding will allow for construction of Stage 1 works at the school. I have asked the Department of Education and Training to work closely with the local community in delivery of the project, and I very much look forward to hearing about the progress of these works as they get underway, and of course visiting the community there.

**Body safety education**

**Raised with:** Minister for Training and Skills

**Raised by:** Ms Patten

**Raised on:** 5 May 2016

**REPLY:**

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Education. I am informed as follows:

Body safety education and teaching that focuses on 'protective behaviours' enables children to recognise and respond to situations in which their personal space and sense of safety might be compromised. Effective respectful relationships education in schools should include a focus on protective behaviours and provide developmentally appropriate information and skills building.

As well as what we know about how the curriculum should be delivered by classroom teachers and lessons embedded throughout the year, we also know that for respectful relationships education to be delivered successfully, applying a whole school approach, we need to build the capacity and professional judgement of teachers to deliver this education. In some cases, schools may wish to consider using external providers, or invite experts in to support delivery, but this should only be to complement core curriculum being taught by teachers. It is for this reason that the establishment of specialist accreditation for body safety educators and extra funds to increase the number of external providers with this specialism is not deemed necessary or appropriate in this context.

**St Georges Road median strip**

**Raised with:** Minister for Water

**Raised by:** Mr Barber

**Raised on:** 5 May 2016

**REPLY:**

Melbourne Water (MW) acknowledges that the pathway along St Georges Road is one of the busiest and most significant cycle routes in Melbourne. The challenge therefore is to consider the existing uses of St Georges Road, community amenity, safety, and the requirement to ensure a safe, secure water supply for our city.

MW has been actively engaging with State and local government and multiple community stakeholders, including Bicycle Network Victoria, Darebin Bicycle User Group and Protect St Georges Road Landscape Group to develop a reinstatement master plan. This has focused on balancing diverse requirements and helping ensure St Georges Road is a safe, active and visually appealing transport corridor for all users.

MW has already held a series of interviews and workshops with all concerned stakeholders to assist with this project and continues to consult to further develop details such as arrangements for a temporary bike path and revegetation selection.

More information and ongoing updates can be found on the MW website:

<http://www.melbournewater.com.au/whatwedo/projectsaroundmelbourne/Pages/Preston-Reservoir-to-Merri-Creek-Water-Main-Renewal-Project.aspx>.

**Council of Single Mothers and their Children**

**Raised with:** Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence

**Raised by:** Ms Springle

**Raised on:** 5 May 2016

**REPLY:**

I commend the Council of Single Mothers and their Children for the valuable work they do to support mothers and their families.

In its submission to the Royal Commission into Family Violence, the Council of Single Mothers and their Children outlined how children are often used as a means to monitor and control women's behaviour by their abusive partners. My cabinet colleagues and I are deeply concerned with the reality of perpetrators using shared parental responsibilities as a means to further traumatise their victims.

The Royal Commission into Family Violence made a series of recommendations in relation to reforming the justice system to better protect victims and hold perpetrators to account for their actions. The Royal Commission has tasked the Victorian Labor Government to amend the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic) to establish a rebuttable presumption that, if an applicant for a family violence intervention order has a child who has experienced family violence, that child should be included in the applicant's family violence intervention order or protected by their own order.

However, if we are going to achieve the generational reform we pursue, our responses must go beyond the justice system that is all too often described as a re-traumatising experience for victims. That's why our 2016-17 State Budget provides a \$104 million boost to specialist family violence services. We have also invested \$122 million to help ensure children impacted by this harm receive more support, so they are no longer silent victims.

My office will be in contact shortly to arrange a meeting with the Council of Single Mothers and their Children to learn more about their advocacy.

**Athletics funding**

**Raised with:** Minister for Sport

**Raised by:** Mr Leane

**Raised on:** 5 May 2016

**REPLY:**

I refer to the Adjournment Debate you have raised in the Legislative Council on 5 May 2016 regarding support for athletics facilities across Victoria.

Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities is a key aim of the Victorian Government, and is integral to the health and well-being of all Victorians.

In 2015 I launched the Government's \$100 million Community Sports Infrastructure Fund that will facilitate the upgrade and development of community sports facilities over four years. I have recently approved over \$1.7 million towards 13 projects that benefit athletics through the 2016-2017 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund.

The 2017-18 funding round is currently open and the guidelines for this program can be found at [www.sportvic.gov.au/grants-and-programs](http://www.sportvic.gov.au/grants-and-programs). I would note however that only local government authorities are eligible to apply for funding. Any athletics clubs wishing to apply for funding should speak directly with their local government authority.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust this information has been of assistance to you.

**Post-correctional housing****Raised with: Minister for Corrections****Raised by: Ms Patten****Raised on: 24 May 2016****REPLY:**

In my first two weeks as the Minister for Corrections I too have seen first-hand the hard work and dedication of staff at prisons including the Metropolitan Remand Centre and the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre.

In January 2015, Corrections Victoria implemented a new approach to providing prisoners with transitional support for their successful reintegration into the community upon release. Assessment and planning for a prisoner's transition back into the community commences upon entry into prison, and transitional activities continue throughout a prisoner's sentence.

Prisoners participate in Offending Behaviour Programs, education, training and prison-based employment, which help develop their skills and employability. Exiting prisoners receive relevant pre-release services that focus on practical information and strategies to support reintegration into the community, which include referrals to Centrelink, Drug and Alcohol services, financial support services and Legal Aid. Those prisoners with the greatest transitional need receive targeted, intensive pre-release assistance and individualised support post-release. As part of a prisoner's transition needs assessment, where a post-release housing need is identified, appropriate referrals are made.

Since 2009, Corrections Victoria has administered two housing programs for exiting prisoners, in acknowledgement of the importance of stable, supported accommodation in the successful transition from prison to the community. These programs are the:

- Corrections Victoria Housing Program (CVHP)
- Corrections Housing Pathway Initiative (CHPI)

The CVHP provides additional accommodation options for exiting prisoners who have a history of homelessness or are at risk of being homeless upon release through the provision of 47 dedicated properties to exiting prisoners.

The CHPI is a joint Department of Justice and Regulation and Department of Health and Human Services initiative, established in 2002, which aims to reduce homelessness among people exiting prison by directly connecting prisoners with specialist housing services and support prior to release.

The CHPI provides specialist outreach workers in prison locations that assist prisoners find accommodation prior to exiting. The CHPI also provides access to 40 transitional housing properties managed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Corrections Victoria continues to work with the Department of Health and Human Services to assist exiting prisoners with housing.

**VicRoads relocation**

**Raised with:** Treasurer

**Raised by:** Mr Morris

**Raised on:** 25 May 2016

**REPLY:**

The matter you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Hon Luke Donnellan MP as the Minister for Roads.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Wednesday, 8 June 2016**

**East Gippsland planning scheme amendment**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning

**Raised by:** Mr Davis

**Raised on:** 9 February 2016

**REPLY:**

I refer to the Adjournment debate matter you raised on 9 February 2015 in respect of East Gippsland Planning Scheme Amendment C115 (the amendment).

You have requested that I ask my department to meet with representatives of the East Gippsland Shire Council to discuss my decision to refuse the amendment and for me to subsequently reconsider my decision. I am pleased to confirm that I met with representatives of the East Gippsland Shire Council on 23 March 2016 to discuss my decision.

It should be noted that my decision resulted in no change to the existing planning provisions for the affected areas on the Gippsland Lakes.

My decision was fully informed by the information available at the time and made on the basis of ensuring that the risk to communities is not increased through an inability to provide emergency service access to new dwellings and residents in remote locations around the Gippsland Lakes.

My department was involved in discussions with East Gippsland Shire Council (council) officers throughout the amendment process and had indicated to them that there was significant concerns with what was being proposed. Despite this, the council determined to proceed and the former Minister for Planning authorised preparation of the amendment.

I understand that council is intending to undertake further investigations into how development could be allowed in these locations and my department had indicated to them that any such efforts should first involve an assessment of risk (eg. bushfire, flooding and climate change) and environmental impact.