

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**8 and 10 November 2016**

**(Extract from book 17)**

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer



# 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 9 November 2016)

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

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Minister for Planning . . . . .	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Ms M. Thomas, MP

### Legislative Council committees

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

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

### Legislative Council standing committees

**Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure** — Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr 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, Mr Eideh, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

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

# 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 and Ms McLeish.

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

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

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

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

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

### Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

**President:**

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:**

Mr K. EIDEH

**Acting Presidents:**

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Mr Melhem, 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:**

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

**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	SFFP	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	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew <sup>4</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin <sup>3</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

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

<sup>3</sup> Resigned 27 May 2016

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

<sup>4</sup> Appointed 12 October 2016

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;  
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;  
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;  
SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; 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, 8 November 2016**

**Government procurement policy**

**Raised with:** Treasurer  
**Raised by:** Ms Shing  
**Raised on:** 30 August 2016

**REPLY:**

The matter you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Robin Scott MP as the Minister for Finance.

**Timber industry**

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 31 August 2016

**REPLY:**

Vicforests' harvest contractors from East Gippsland met with my office in mid-August and I travelled to Bairnsdale early last month to also meet with these hard working people personally.

On 9 September 2016, the Forest Industry Taskforce publically released its Statement of Intent detailing issues that will need to be addressed to inform its final recommendations to government.

VicForests has been positively engaging with the Taskforce while it deliberates on its important work. This has resulted in some changes being made to VicForests' operations. I am aware that harvest and haulage contractors have been impacted by changes to VicForests operations in East Gippsland. The Taskforce and VicForests are aware of their concerns

**Hurstbridge rail line**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Wooldridge  
**Raised on:** 31 August 2016

**REPLY:**

As previously stated, at the last election Labor promised to increase inbound services on the Hurstbridge line in the morning peak. There was no commitment for an increase in services from the Liberal Party.

The Andrews Labor Government is working with PTV on the best options to deliver the extra services.

## Drug Court

**Raised with:** Attorney-General  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 13 September 2016

### REPLY:

The Drug Court of Victoria commenced operations in 2002 and the Magistrates' Court commissioned an independent evaluation of its effectiveness in 2013. The evaluation found that the Drug Court is achieving its stated objectives of improving the health and wellbeing of participants and reducing the frequency and severity of offending behaviours.

The evaluation also confirmed that the Drug Court achieved savings through a reduction in imprisonment and recidivism, and that a Drug Treatment Order is a more cost effective sentencing alternative to a term of imprisonment.

The 2016-17 State Budget allocated \$32 million over four years for the expansion of the Drug Court to Melbourne Magistrates' Court. The funding will enable an additional 170 participants at any one time to access the targeted support provided by the Drug Court, which has proven to be an effective intervention for reducing entrenched drug use, and associated recidivist criminal activity.

The choice of Melbourne Magistrates' Court as the location for this expansion is due to the high volume of drug offence cases heard there, with the Court seeing around 28 per cent of the total number of drug offence cases in Victoria. This is significantly higher than other areas and is likely due to population density in the inner urban area.

The Government is committed to continuing to expand the reach of Victoria's specialist courts and court support programs.

The Magistrates' Court is well-advanced in its planning to expand the reach of the highly successful Court Integrated Services Program (CISP) to the Geelong region, and I am advised that it will be operational at Geelong and Warrnambool by the end of 2016.

CISP provides assessment and targeted referral to a range of community-based support services including drug and alcohol intervention.

## Great Ocean Road tourism

**Raised with:** Acting Minister for Tourism and Major Events  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 14 September 2016

### REPLY:

The Victorian Government is committed to assisting regions to ensure infrastructure provides the best possible experience for locals and visitors in regional areas.

In the 2016-17 Budget, the Government provided \$101 million for the establishment of the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF) to support the delivery of priority regional tourism infrastructure projects to boost employment in the regions.

The first three priority projects to benefit from this Fund are:

- a \$58.2 million upgrade of the Penguin Parade at Phillip Island Nature Park;
- \$9.8 million to deliver the priorities of the Shipwreck Coast Master Plan, which will create 120 new and ongoing jobs (plus 85 during construction) and boost the regional economy by \$12 million a year over the next 20 years through sustainable tourism;

– implementation of Stages 1 and 2 of the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape Master Plan.

The balance of the RTIF will be used to fund a pipeline of regional tourism projects which is being developed in consultation with Regional Tourism Boards and local councils. The Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism Board is one of eleven such Boards across the state, and the priorities listed in the Master Plan for the Great Ocean Road visitor economy will be considered as part of this process.

I commend the Board for the development of this Master Plan and encourage it to continue its ongoing engagement with Government and with the newly established Regional Partnerships in the Barwon South West Region to champion the Master Plan's strategic actions.

In addition; the Government has allocated \$4.4 million for an upgrade of sewage treatment facilities at the 12 Apostles Visitor Centre. Parks Victoria has engaged Wannon Water to implement a sustainable solution in consultation with the local community.

### **Southland railway station**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Mrs Peulich**

**Raised on: 14 September 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The former Coalition Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Frankston line and broke its election commitment to build Southland Station.

In contrast, the Andrews Labor Government is delivering on our election commitment and removing twelve level crossings on the Frankston line, with three already gone, and work has already begun on the construction of Southland Station.

The construction of these major public transport initiatives has impacted performance and required altered timetables throughout 2016.

Southland station is currently expected to be completed in time to have the station open by late 2017. The opening of Southland station will require a timetable change to be introduced on the Frankston line. Any journey time increases as a result of trains stopping at Southland station will be offset by the removal of level crossings on the Frankston line which allow trains to travel at increased speeds.

### **Caulfield–Dandenong line elevated rail**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Mr Davis**

**Raised on: 15 September 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

In his adjournment, the Member for Southern Metropolitan makes a series of unsubstantiated claims without evidence or foundation in relation to the Government's project to remove all nine level crossings between Caulfield and Dandenong.

I'm advised that the Member for Oakleigh has fully complied with the register of public interest disclosure requirements.

At the 2014 election it was public information that the Labor Party were going to remove all nine level crossings between Caulfield and Dandenong and that the Liberal Party were not.

Information that the Government was considering rail over road solutions was clearly made public well in advance of any decision in relation to the preferred design solution. This public information includes, but is not limited to, a

Level Crossing Removal Authority newsletter distributed to 300 000 homes in September 2015, that clearly outlined that rail over road was being considered including imagery of elevated train lines.

Work on the project has begun and the Andrews Labor Government has continually refused the repeated requests from the Liberal Opposition to delay the removal of the most congested and dangerous level crossings in Victoria.

### **Flourish program**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 11 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

Please be advised that this matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Training and Skills. I am advised that The Hon Steve Herbert MP will write to you directly about this matter.

### **South Melbourne Park Primary School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Raised on:** 11 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

Further information regarding the Inner City Schools Package plus project information on individual school projects, such as South Melbourne Park Primary School, is available on the Victorian School Building Authority website:

[www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/Schools/Inner-Melbourne-New-Schools-Package.aspx](http://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/Schools/Inner-Melbourne-New-Schools-Package.aspx)

### **Infrastructure Victoria draft strategy**

**Raised with:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 12 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

Rural and regional Victoria is home to about one-quarter of Victoria's population and plays a vital role in our prosperity.

Infrastructure Victoria is tasked to provide independent and expert advice about Victoria's current and future infrastructure needs and priorities.

Infrastructure Victoria is not subject to direction or control when it performs functions such as development of the 30-year infrastructure strategy, undertaking research, or supporting development of sectoral infrastructure strategies.

Infrastructure Victoria released the draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy for public consultation during October and this feedback will inform the final Infrastructure Victoria Infrastructure Strategy scheduled to be reported to Parliament in December 2016.

Once the Andrews Labor Government has the final report, we will respond with a five-year Infrastructure Plan outlining our priority projects and funding commitments.

In the meantime, Labor is getting on with delivering the projects that Victorians voted on and need, and which are creating thousands of jobs.

This is in stark contrast to the Liberal-Nationals Coalition which abandoned regional Victoria. Under the former government, businesses and TAFEs closed their doors; funds dried up; and kids were leaving home, looking for work and study.

The Andrews Government is investing in our regions to make sure they have the services and support they need to thrive.

The 2016-17 Victorian Budget delivered the highest regional infrastructure investment on record.

### **Protective services officers**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Raised on:** 13 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

Protective Services Officers are critical to keeping our train stations safe, and the evidence shows commuters feel safer knowing PSOs are patrolling the platforms.

They have been responsible for issuing over 61 000 infringements and are also working closely with local police on warrants and linking in on other operations and responses to incidents.

The biggest increase in incidents occurred after 6pm, which is the result of having PSOs enforcing infringements, warrants and dealing with other anti-social behaviour.

The program is working and we will continue to use intelligence to ensure the most appropriate coverage across the network.

We currently have PSOs on 211 metropolitan stations from 6pm to last train each night, and more than 1300 PSOs working state-wide.

We will continue to monitor community safety issues for commuters and ensure that our police and PSOs can respond to and prevent crime as effectively as possible.

### **Swinburne University Young Mums program**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 13 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

I commend Mr Leane for his strong interest, support and advocacy for training programs which provide vital opportunities for vulnerable young people.

Through the Skills First reforms, this Government is strengthening the TAFE sector, including dual-sector universities such as Swinburne TAFE, to give the most vulnerable students the best chance of getting the skills they need to maximise their opportunities in life.

Through the \$320 million TAFE Rescue Fund and the expanded Reconnect Program this Government is funding programs which support vulnerable young people back into education, training or employment. I would encourage Swinburne TAFE to liaise with the Department of Education and Training to discuss potential funding through these initiatives.

**Greater Shepparton police resources**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 13 October 2016

**REPLY:**

I refer to the matter you raised in the Legislative Council on 13 October 2016 regarding community safety and policing in Greater Shepparton.

All Victorians continue to receive a 24-hour policing response. The decision of how and where police resources are deployed is a matter for the Chief Commissioner.

The Chief Commissioner has assured me that the allocation of police resources across Victoria is continuously monitored by the respective command officers to ensure the best possible policing service is delivered to the Victorian community.

Analysis of crime statistics data clearly indicates a statewide upward trend in crime since the 2010-2011 reporting period. The Andrews Labor Government is upfront about these challenges and is determined to turn these trends around. One of the government's key priorities is the recruitment, training and deployment of more police out on the front line. Funding frontline police are the hallmarks of the State Labor Government.

In the past two years alone we have announced additional funding of over \$900 million for our police. This has provided 1156 police personnel, including sworn police, Protective Services Officers and Police Custody Officers.

The Government continues to give Victoria Police the resources and powers it needs to fight crime — funding an additional 406 police in the 2016-17 State Budget, providing police with new technology and specialist equipment, and introducing new laws to target offenders who commit home invasions and carjackings. Responding to these issues requires preventative and proactive policing and crime prevention initiatives.

Furthermore, the Government has just recently announced \$26.2 million to expedite the 406 new police provided in the 2016/17 Budget, following detailed discussions with the Chief Commissioner. This means these additional police officers will all be sworn in by the end of June 2017, rather than June 2018, with the first additional deployments beginning at the start of next year.

Victoria Police continues to work on a new deployment model for police which will examine an area's crime trends and socio-economic factors to best inform resourcing decisions. The deployment model is yet to be finalised, but I am advised by Victoria Police that the deployment of the recently announced expedited 406 police will cover growth corridors and other areas of high need.

In addition, the Police Custody Officer roll-out program has seen nearly 250 custody officers deployed to 22 stations. Across Victoria, they have worked more than 22 000 shifts to free up police time. Eight officers have already been deployed to Shepparton.

The Government will continue to work with the Chief Commissioner to tackle the complex law and order challenges we see today, to give Victoria Police the resources they need to keep our community safe now and into the future.



**Public Transport Victoria bus patronage**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Dunn  
**Raised on:** 13 October 2016

**REPLY:**

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) has published bus patronage data by bus route on its website to year ending June 2015. Bus patronage to year ending June 2016 will be published before 31 December 2016.

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

**Eastern Victoria Region police numbers**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 13 October 2016

**REPLY:**

All Victorians, including regional communities, continue to receive a 24-hour policing response.

The decision of how and where police resources are deployed is a matter for the Chief Commissioner. The Chief Commissioner has assured me that the allocation of police resources across Victoria is continuously monitored by the respective command officers to ensure the best possible policing service is delivered to the Victorian community.

Victoria Police continues to work on a new deployment model for police which will examine an area's crime trends and socio-economic factors to best inform resourcing decisions. The deployment model is yet to be finalised, but Victoria Police advises the deployment of the recently announced expedited 406 police will cover growth corridors and other areas of high need.

The Government will continue to work with the Chief Commissioner to tackle the complex law and order challenges we see today, to give Victoria Police the resources they need to keep our community safe now, and into the future.

**Kilmore school bus services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Ms Symes  
**Raised on:** 26 October 2016

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

Thank you for raising this matter with me and for your strong advocacy in ensuring a common sense outcome for the Kilmore community.

The Department of Education and Training has completed its review of the Broadford Secondary College's application of the School Bus Program Policy and Procedures. The review identified that the 2006-2011 travel exemption that enabled students from the Kilmore Township to travel to Wallan Secondary College or Broadford Secondary College remained in operation.

To ensure that existing students and future students from the Kilmore Township attending either the Wallan Secondary College or the Broadford Secondary College are provided with continued travel exemption to either

secondary school, I can confirm that under the Andrews Labor Government, the travel exemption will remain in place until a Government secondary school is established in Kilmore.

The Travel Exemption will work as follows for Kilmore student residents:

- Those travelling by School Bus Program services to Broadford Secondary College will not be required to pay the School Bus Program fare to travel, and
- Those travelling by Public Transport services to Wallan Secondary College will continue to be eligible to claim the conveyance allowance for Public Transport Fares reimbursement.

The Travel Exemption has been communicated to the Principals of the Wallan Secondary College and Broadford Secondary College to apply and communicate to their respective school networks.

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Thursday, 10 November 2016**

**VicRoads relocation**

**Raised with:** Treasurer  
**Raised by:** Mr Morris  
**Raised on:** 11 October 2016

**REPLY:**

Dear Mr Morris

Thank you for your adjournment debate matter in relation to the proposal to relocate the VicRoads Headquarters to Ballarat.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to driving job creation in regional Victoria. This can be evidenced by the establishment of the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund in 2015 to support major projects, create jobs and build stronger communities in regional areas. A key project of the fund includes the redevelopment of the Eureka Stadium and Ballarat Sports Precinct, which will create jobs in Ballarat while also supporting the local economy.

In addition, the Victorian Budget 2016-17 provided the highest ever investment into regional infrastructure and economic development initiatives. The Budget saw a \$1.3 billion investment into projects to improve Victoria's regional transport system, including \$518 million to upgrade the Ballarat rail line. \$325 million was also invested to create jobs in the regions, which included funding for the Ballarat Innovation Lab and Digital Space. These initiatives along with other projects will bring jobs and support growth in regional Victoria, including Ballarat.

The latest data shows that since the Government was elected, unemployment has decreased in Ballarat from 6.9 per cent in November 2014 to 5.8 per cent in August 2016 (a three month moving average has been applied as only non-seasonally adjusted data are available). There has also been an overall improvement in unemployment in regional Victoria over the same period.

Sustaining this trend by continuing to create job opportunities in Victoria is a priority for the Government, and the proposal to relocate VicRoads is currently under review to determine an outcome that is in the best interest of the Victorian people.