

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**Tuesday, 30 August 2016**

**(Extract from book 12)**

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**

(from 20 June 2016)

Premier . . . . .	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, and Minister for Emergency Services (from 10 June 2016) [Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation 10 June to 20 June 2016] . . . . .	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

### 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 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 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	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 <sup>3</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Elasmarr, 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 Jaclyn	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	SFFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Resigned 27 May 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; VILJ — 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, 30 August 2016**

**Vaughan-Tarilta bridge**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 26 May 2016

**REPLY:**

Vaughan-Tarilta Bridge in Vaughan is located in Park Victoria's land in the Mount Alexander Shire area and is managed by the local council.

VicRoads advises me that the council has recently completed the design for a new replacement bridge, and the project will be reviewed by the Mount Alexander Shire Council for funding consideration.

The Federal Government provides financial assistance to local councils for maintenance of local roads and bridges through its Bridge Renewal Funding Program, and also through its Roads to Recovery Funding Program.

The Federal Government also provides funding assistance to local councils for road safety improvements through its Black Spot Funding Program, and financial assistance grants that can be used for roads and general purposes.

I have asked VicRoads to assist the Mount Alexander Shire Council by providing guidance to seek financial assistance from these Funding Programs offered by the Federal Government.

**Country Fire Authority Lara brigade**

**Raised with:** Premier  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 7 June 2016

**REPLY:**

At the start of October last year, we saw 200 bushfires break out across the state. This was the beginning of a long, hot, dangerous fire season that started earlier and lasted longer—a trend likely to continue in coming years. At the same time, the firefighters' dispute dragged on into its third year. We cannot let Victoria face another fire season with it still unresolved. Just as we have with the police and ambulance enterprise agreements, we've taken action to find a fair solution. We will strengthen the CFA so it can focus on keeping the people of Victoria safe. That is always this Government's first priority.

A lot of lies have emerged during the Coalition's destructive scare campaign. The role of volunteer firefighters in this state is sacrosanct and always will be. At no stage has our Government questioned it or jeopardised it. Anything to the contrary is a lie.

Career and volunteer firefighters already work together at every integrated station in Victoria and that isn't going to change for future integrated stations like Lara. That is why the agreement will specifically state that "the role of volunteers in fighting bushfires and maintaining community safety and delivering high quality services to the public in remote and regional areas and in integrated stations, is not altered by this agreement". Everyone has a role to play in protecting their communities in times of fire and emergency, and our CFA volunteer and career firefighters work together to play their part.

CFA Volunteers will continue protecting our state as they have done for many years—with their own independence, their own special connections to the community and their unique knowledge of local areas. The Victorian

Government cares about the volunteer firefighters who work to protect Victorians. Unlike the previous Government, which cut \$45 million from the CFA Budget, our Government has dedicated \$33 million in the 2015-2016 budget for 70 additional trucks for CFA volunteers.

Our Government treasures the role of volunteers. That's why we commissioned the inquiry into the CFA Fiskville training site. We did so because volunteer and career firefighters, the people that protect Victoria, have a right to know that they are safe and protected as well. We know it is crucial to learn the lessons of Fiskville and ensure that it is never repeated. Accordingly we have committed \$46 million from the 2016-2017 Budget to respond to the closure of Fiskville by establishing new firefighting training facilities.

During the Hazelwood Mine Fire more than 7000 firefighters worked tirelessly for 45 days to battle the extreme blaze. The former Government's response to the fire was slow and severely lacking. The silence received by the local community was particularly disappointing given the local member was also the Minister for Resources at the time. These CFA firefighters and the local community were abandoned during the 4 years of Coalition Government. Our Government has allocated \$80 million in our response to the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry which includes \$27.31 million to improve the health of the community.

Victorians will never forget that the former Government's Minister for Emergency Services said the Coalition were 'not convinced that there is a direct link between cancer and the firefighters'. The former Government was intent on ignoring expert advice and turned their backs on firefighters at a time when they needed support the most.

If any members of the community would like to obtain more information, we have established a website to provide the facts and give everyone an opportunity to ask further questions. It can be accessed here:  
[www.yourcfa.info.vic.gov.au](http://www.yourcfa.info.vic.gov.au).

### **Former Lands Department chemical inquiry**

**Raised with:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay

**Raised on:** 8 June 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The health and safety of Victorian workers is of paramount importance to the Andrews Labor Government. We established the Former Lands Department Chemical Inquiry in response to heightened concerns in the Ballarat Community regarding the impact of exposure to the chemicals 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T on the Department's employees.

The Government accepted all three recommendations in the inquiry report to:

- Update the Worker Health Study;
- Provide health screening for current and former sprayers for a history of chloracne, soft tissue sarcoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma; and
- Review current practices in departments and agencies engaged in spraying activities.

While the Inquiry focused on the Ballarat area, the Government applied its response across the whole of Victoria.

Upon the release of the response, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) notified its current staff that they could seek information and register to be contacted for the health screening through the Customer Service Centre hotline. The health screening is being undertaken by the United Healthcare Group on behalf of the Government.

DELWP is also undertaking an extensive search of a large number of records from 1965 to date of current and former sprayers from the Lands Department (and its successor departments) from across Victoria. Approximately 800 current and former sprayers have been identified and letters advising of the health screening are currently being sent out.

The Government is committed to building on the aims of the Inquiry report to further investigate the ongoing health impact or otherwise of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T on current and former sprayers. The Government aims to provide greater certainty to current and former sprayers today and over the longer term as further evidence comes to light.

### **V/Line ticketing system**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Ms Lovell**

**Raised on: 22 June 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

In December 2010, the former government announced it would undertake a review into myki and in July 2011 the then government announced the system would be kept however a scope reduction would apply.

The reduction in scope involved the removal of short term tickets, the removal of on board ticketing on trams and a reduction in coverage of the system across the V/Line network.

The recently launched Regional Network Development Plan identifies the desire for a consistent ticketing system across regional Victoria. The RNDP includes a commitment to assess opportunities to further roll out myki in regional Victoria.

### **Dairy industry**

**Raised with: Minister for Agriculture**

**Raised by: Mr Purcell**

**Raised on: 22 June 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

Thousands of Victorian families depend on the strength of the dairy sector. The Andrews Labor Government is supporting dairy farmers and their families to manage difficult conditions.

The Andrews Labor Government shares broader community concern with the use of claw back arrangements by the two major processors. In the discussions I have had with farmers across the state, this has clearly caused great distress and financial hardship. I note also that other processors did not follow this path and chose instead to maintain their prices for the duration of the 2015/16 financial year.

Both the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission are currently investigating the dairy sector. I would expect that their investigations would include matters such as the claw back provisions, as well as concerns with the transparency of contractual arrangements and market power issues in the dairy sector. I am hopeful that these investigations will conclude in the near future.

While Commonwealth regulatory bodies are focussed on these matters, the Andrews Labor Government is supporting the Victorian dairy industry with a comprehensive \$13.5 million package, which includes:

- Health and wellbeing support
- On-farm business advice and decision-making support
- A Dairy Development Grants Program to support dairy farmers to implement farm improvements and help businesses to rebuild
- A Rural Skills Connect Program which uses the transferrable skills in the dairy community to meet rural industry skill gaps, promotes reskilling and provides opportunities for traineeships
- A Kindergarten Fee Subsidy which provides dairy farming families with 15 hours of free kindergarten per week in the year before school

- Dedicated Small Business Counsellors in the Rural Financial Counselling Service
- Increased funding for the Rural Financial Counselling Service
- Further Targeted Dairy Technical Support
- The Victorian Department of Education and Training also offers a range of services to support the skills and training needs of farmers, impacted farm workers and small business.
- Support from the Back to Work scheme to provide incentives to hire someone from a farm household affected by the dairy crisis.

In addition, the dairy industry is providing \$5.2 million to support farmers. Victorian dairy industry bodies, including United Dairyfarmers of Victoria, Dairy Australia and the Gardiner Foundation are increasing technical and decision making support for dairy farmers by boosting the Tactics for Tight Times and Taking Stock programs.

More information about the support available to dairy farming communities can be found at [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dairysupport](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dairysupport).

The Victorian Government is committed to working with industry to address the longer term implications of the retrospective dairy price reductions.