

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

3 May to 11 May 2017

(Extract from book 8)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 13 September 2017)

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 Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and Minister for Local Government	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 Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(to 12 September 2017)

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 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 (until 23 August 2017)	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs.....	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning.....	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary.....	Ms M. Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O’Sullivan, 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 Finn, Mr Gepp, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

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

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, Mr Morris, Mr Mulino, 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 Mulino, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

Fire Services Bill Select Committee — Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Rich Phillips, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, 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, Ms Hutchins, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O’Brien, Mr Pakula and Mr Walsh.

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

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

Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Halfpenny, Mr Richardson and Mr Riordan.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): Ms Britnell, Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards 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 Gepp and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Ms Patten, 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 — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

Council — Acting Clerk of the Parliaments and 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 Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Purcell, 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:

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John ¹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁷	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ³	Western Metropolitan	AC	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 ⁸	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 ⁴	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	VILJ
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
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	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 ⁶	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	SFFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 28 September 2017

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ DLP until 26 June 2017

⁴ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁶ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁷ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁸ Appointed 12 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

AC — Australian Conservatives; 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

CONTENTS

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

3 MAY TO 11 MAY 2017

<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	2141
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	2142
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	2142
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	2143
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region</i>	2143

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers and received by Hansard in the period shown.

3 May to 11 May 2017**Eastern Victoria Region**

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 21 February 2017

ANSWER:

Nearly half of all road fatalities in Victoria occur on high speed rural roads. In the country, death rates are four times higher than in the city, and two out of three people killed or seriously injured on country roads are country people.

In Gippsland alone, 53 percent of road users who have lost their lives or been traumatically injured have been in a run-off road crash, where drivers have failed to negotiate the road. This is an unacceptable price to pay for using our road network.

This is why VicRoads has targeted four roads in South Gippsland, all of which have seen their significant share of road trauma. Boolarra South-Mirboo North Road, Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road, Meeniyah-Mirboo North Road and Mirboo North-Trafalgar Road have collectively been the scene of 310 recorded casualty crashes between 1 January 1994 and 30 June 2016, resulting in 11 lost lives, 116 people sustaining serious injuries and a further 297 people with short term injuries.

To address this, the Victorian Government is investing in these roads, with \$2.3 million of funding allocated under the TAC's Safe System Road Infrastructure Program for the installation of guide posts, curve alignment markers and warning signage, which is currently being rolled out.

However, the reality is that the speed that we have all traditionally accepted as being safe on these types of roads is simply not appropriate. At speeds above 80 kilometres per hour, the human body will simply not withstand the forces generated in the types of crashes that can and do occur on these roads. As humans, we will inevitably make mistakes, but we shouldn't be killed or seriously injured because of them. Introducing the safer travel speed of 80 kilometres per hour is more in line with our human physical limitation to forces, and will save lives. In fact, evidence based research shows that a travel speed reduction of 20 kilometres per hour will prevent up to 60 percent of fatalities and serious injuries.

We accept that there is a significant cultural shift required, but building a local understanding of the need for safer speeds on these roads is essential to reducing country road deaths.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 7 March 2017

ANSWER:

As the Member is well aware, there have been no cuts to frontline police resources under the Andrews Labor Government. In fact, the Andrews Labor Government is funding 3135 additional frontline police, including 415 specialist family violence officers, over the next five years to support police respond to crime in our communities. This is the biggest boost to frontline police in Victoria's history.

In relation to your query about the police response in Leongatha, Victoria Police has advised me that all calls to police are assessed and prioritised in a way that ensures that risk of harm to the community is minimised.

Victoria Police conducted a review into the allocation of resources for the South Gippsland Police Service Area on the evening of Saturday 4 March 2017. I am advised that during the early evening two patrolling units attended a variety of calls for assistance in Leongatha and Korumburra and from approximately 6.30pm both units attended an incident involving a mental health patient. This incident was not resolved until approximately 8.00pm.

The unit patrolling Leongatha further responded to two later incidents of varying degrees of urgency during the night, while the unit patrolling Korumburra was deployed to a matter of high priority from 10.40pm until just after midnight.

Given the lack of detail around the incident reported by your constituent, Victoria Police advises that it is difficult to provide specific context about the availability of police units during the relevant period.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 8 March 2017

ANSWER:

I recently advised that the government would undertake more consultation with respect to the Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre project. Over coming months, there will be the opportunity for the local community, the private sector and other key stakeholders to provide input on additional options for inclusion in this important project.

Information from the Business Case and the Master Plan, committed to in the Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan, will inform these discussions.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 21 March 2017

ANSWER:

This tragic accident further highlights the need for all of us to take care on our roads and to be vigilant in looking out for vulnerable road users. I understand that VicRoads is working closely with Victoria Police to determine the circumstances surrounding this incident and to determine what short, medium or longer term improvements would enhance safety at this location.

Between 2014 and 2016, a number of major cycling improvements were made in the inner west area including:

- Connection to the Federation Trail on Fogarty Avenue in Yarraville;
- Widening of the shared user path on the southern side of Shepherd Bridge in Footscray;
- Provision of a new shared user path between the Tottenham and Sunshine railway stations;
- Installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Whitehall Street and Parker Street in Footscray, including the provision of bicycle priority; and
- Continued funding for the West Gate Punt service across the Yarra River, which transports cyclists between Port Melbourne and Spotswood.

During 2017, a number of cycling improvement projects have been delivered or are being planned including:

- Construction of a separated bridge structure adjacent to Shepherd Bridge across the Maribyrnong River in Footscray catering for pedestrians and cyclists. This is being delivered as part of the West Gate Distributor Project;
- Installation of traffic lights at the intersections of Moreland Street/Napier Street, Moreland Street/Parker Street and Sims Street/Footscray Road with provision for cyclist priority. These are being delivered as part of the West Gate Distributor Project; and
- Completion of the missing bicycle link along Buckley Street in Footscray including a separated bicycle facility. This is currently in early development stage.

Furthermore, as part of the West Gate Tunnel Project a number of improvements are proposed to cycling/walking facilities and connectivity, including completion of the Federation Trail and construction of a 'Veloway' (a separated and elevated cycling facility) between Footscray and Docklands, which will enable cyclists to travel from Werribee to Melbourne's central business district via a dedicated cycling route.

This tragic incident reminds us that more needs to be done to improve safety for all road users. The Government will continue to work with the community and stakeholders including local councils and transport agencies to determine any additional opportunities and needs to enhance safety for cyclists across the network.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 22 March 2017

ANSWER:

The 902 SmartBus route is one of the busiest routes in Victoria's bus network.

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) are working closely with the operator to improve the reliability of route 902.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving bus services across Victoria, investing \$100 million to build a better bus network.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 22 March 2017

ANSWER:

I once again thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan for his continued interest in the Andrews Labor Government's \$600 million Mernda Rail Extension to build eight kilometres of new, duplicated track and three state-of-the-art stations at Mernda, Hawkstowe and near Marymede Catholic College.

Labor extended the line to South Morang, and now we're delivering world class public transport all the way to Mernda.

We promised it, now we will build it.

I am pleased to inform the Member that construction has kicked off on this brand new rail line that will carry train services to the heart of one of Victoria's fastest growing areas.

Over the coming weeks, construction crews will establish work areas, remove vegetation and prepare the rail corridor for major construction to ramp up later this year.

This massive project will change people's lives for the better — creating hundreds of jobs and connecting one of Victoria's fastest growing areas to the public transport they deserve.

The project is fully funded, construction is underway and we're not wasting a moment getting on with it.