

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

1 December to 15 December 2017

(Extract from book 22)

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 KEN LAY, AO, APM

The ministry

(from 16 October 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 and Minister for Resources	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment	The Hon. B. A. Carroll, MP
Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy, and Minister for Small Business	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, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, 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 15 October 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, #Dr Ratnam, #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 Elasmar, 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:

Dr S. RATNAM

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	V1LJ
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini ⁹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁶	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	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

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

⁹ Appointed 18 October 2017

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; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

CONTENTS

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

1 DECEMBER TO 15 DECEMBER 2017

<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	7011
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	7011
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	7012
<i>South Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	7012
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	7013
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	7014
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	7014
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	7015
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	7015
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	7016
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	7017
<i>South Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	7017
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	7017
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	7018
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	7018
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	7018
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	7019
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	7019
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	7020
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	7020
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	7021
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	7021
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region</i>	7021
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	7022
<i>South Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	7022
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	7022
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	7022
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	7023

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.

1 December to 15 December 2017

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 17 October 2017

ANSWER:

VicRoads has made a commitment to prepare and submit a draft business case for the Shepparton Bypass on an accelerated timeframe in 2018 which will provide advice on the indicative project costings. The Andrews Labor Government welcomes any assistance from the Federal Government where offered as Victoria receives so little funding compared to other states.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 17 October 2017

ANSWER:

Plans for new housing and employment in the growth areas are prepared by the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA). The VPA develops overall plans for each new suburb to detail exactly what services and infrastructure each community will need and how they will be delivered. The VPA also applies an Infrastructure Contributions Plan (ICP) which outlines how funds will be collected to provide essential local works and services for new communities.

In August 2017, I approved the Mt Atkinson and Tarneit Plains Precinct Structure Plan, and ICP to ensure that financial contributions are collected to fund the planned infrastructure for that community. The total amount to be collected under the ICP is almost \$214 million, which will fund new roads, intersections, local parks, community centres, a conservation reserve and sporting reserves.

In addition to the ICP, the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) of more than \$100 million paid by the developers will cover a CFA station and early delivery of a new bus service connecting to Rockbank Station prior to the new station being built. As part of this, an in-principle GAIC agreement has also been entered into with Mount Atkinson Holdings and Stockland to see two Government schools built, land acquired for a future train station and other first-class community facilities.

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 identifies Melbourne as a productive city that can attract investment, support innovation and create jobs, with a key direction being to improve access to jobs across Melbourne and closer to where people live. The future community of Mount Atkinson and Tarneit Plains will have excellent access to jobs and employment opportunities due to its proximity to a 'State Significant industrial precinct' as identified by Plan Melbourne, which lies immediately to the west.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 18 October 2017

ANSWER:

In effect, the threshold amount works in a similar way to an insurance policy excess.

While the value of such claims may be small individually, the total amount of the claims, and the administrative and legal costs of dealing with them, could become a significant diversion of funds that can be better spent on road maintenance and improvement.

The threshold is indexed annually in accordance with the consumer price index. For the 2017–2018 financial year this indexed threshold amount, under Section 110(3) of the Road Management Act, stands at \$1400.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 19 October 2017

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government recognises the transport challenges in the south-eastern areas of Melbourne.

That is why we have made significant progress to upgrade the Monash Freeway corridor to reduce congestion and get drivers home sooner and more safely. The upgrade will improve safety and travel time reliability by adding more lanes, widening ramps and putting in place a smart freeway management system. This upgrade forms part of the Victorian Government's plan to improve transport in the south-east. It is why we are making progress on the Thompsons Road upgrade and have fully funded the Mordialloc Bypass.

A range of further potential improvements are being considered to improve connectivity across Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs, including the extension of Westall Road from the Princes Highway to the Monash Freeway.

As part of a current planning study being funded by the Victorian Government, a business case is being prepared for the future construction of the Westall Road Extension from the Princes Highway to the Monash Freeway. The business case investigates solutions to reduce congestion within the Westall Road corridor and improve traffic movement in and around the south-east region and the Monash National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC).

The business case will present a preferred option which will be considered by the Government for funding in the context of other Government priorities.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 19 October 2017

ANSWER:

It is concerning that you seek to constantly undermine the investment and commitment by the Andrews Labor Government to return training to the Glenormiston site, which is providing real opportunities for local students within the region that both you and I represent.

The record of the Coalition both in Government and Opposition makes it clear that only the Andrews Labor Government is truly committed to returning training to the Glenormiston site.

The former Member for Polwarth was sitting around the Cabinet table when the former Coalition Government slashed funding to TAFE, sacked teachers and the Glenormiston site was closed. He was there agreeing with his colleagues while they slashed and burned the training system. Shame on him.

The current Member for Polwarth has remained silent while you have sought to undermine the important efforts by the Government to support the Glenormiston community. Shame on him.

In an article published in The Weekly Times on 23 April 2015 entitled 'Empty for a year, Glenormiston may have to be sold' you are quoted as saying that a sale of Glenormiston "must be on the table" and "could be the best result if the right buyer comes along" without any comments from you about returning training to the site. Shame on you.

It is time for you to admit the truth to your constituents.

If the former Coalition Government was re-elected in 2014, the Glenormiston site would have been sold without any plans for training on the site, denying local students the opportunity to get the skills they need to find a job. If the Coalition is elected in 2018 it can only be assumed that the exact same plans are sitting in a draw waiting to be activated.

I am pleased to inform you that the first intake of students successfully commenced their studies in Certificate III in Agriculture on the Glenormiston site on Monday 30 October 2017.

Whilst TAFE Institutes are not required to report commercially sensitive training activity by campus, if you have been paying any attention you will note that this information has been reported in an article on the entire front page of the *Terang Express*.

At no point have I announced that a sale has been concluded. A lease is in place ahead of a sale, accompanied by clear requirements and plans already being implemented to reopen the site and re-establish high-quality education.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 20 October 2017

ANSWER:

VicRoads engaged with the community via an online survey in March 2017 to help understand experiences and concerns about the existing truck curfews. Prior to this, data was collected to understand the level of truck activity along the corridor. All of this information can be found on the VicRoads website.

Since then, VicRoads has consulted with stakeholders including the Cities of Kingston, Bayside and Port Phillip, Victoria Police, Victorian Truck Association, Victorian Ports Corporation, and Spirit of Tasmania operators about truck use along the Beach Road corridor and curfew arrangements. These stakeholders will also work together during the trial to review and provide feedback on the trial, as well as collect data.

In early 2018, it is anticipated that data will be collected as well as feedback sought from the broader community, as part of the evaluation of the trial. The stakeholder group will review the results to evaluate the effectiveness of this trial, and influence how truck movements along the Beach Road corridor will be managed in the future. Results of the trial will be carefully considered in mid 2018 before determining whether any permanent changes are necessary.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 20 October 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is partnering with Transurban to deliver the West Gate Tunnel Project, which will deliver a vital alternative to the West Gate Bridge.

Transurban submitted the project as a proposal to the Victorian Government in March 2015. Since that time, the proposal has been assessed under the State's Market-led Proposals Guideline.

As part of our efforts to assess the project openly and transparently, the Victorian Government prepared a business case that was publicly released in December 2015. The Government became the first in Australia to release a business case ahead of making a decision on a major road project.

Extensive community consultation in the west for over two years has helped to shape the project's design, scope and construction methodology, with major new commitments and changes made in response to community feedback.

The Victorian Government is negotiating with Transurban under Stage 4 of the guideline to ensure the project satisfies rigorous criteria, delivers value for money and achieves the best outcome for Victorians.

The West Gate Tunnel Project is proposed to be delivered as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Transurban's role would be to adopt the position of the typical PPP Project Company, to design, construct, finance, maintain and operate the motorway.

We expect that contracts will be signed before the end of the year ahead of construction beginning in 2018.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 31 October 2017

ANSWER:

Firstly I'd like to commend you on your commitment to developing sport and recreation in your electorate. Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities in Victoria is a key aim of the Victorian Government, and is integral to increasing participation opportunities and enhancing the health and wellbeing of all Victorians.

The Country Football and Netball Program is a \$9 million program in partnership with the AFL and Netball Victoria that provides funding to assist country football and netball clubs, associations and umpiring organisations to develop facilities in rural, regional and outer metropolitan locations.

I am advised by my department that Yarra Ranges Council submitted an application to the 2017-2018 Country Football and Netball Program on behalf of Mount Evelyn Netball Club, seeking \$20 800 for the installation of competition lighting and a switchboard upgrade.

I am pleased to advise that this application was successful and the project has been approved for funding. I look forward to hearing about the positive impacts this new equipment will have.

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

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 31 October 2017

ANSWER:

Funding of \$6.4 million has been allocated for the intersection upgrade of Gap Road and Horne Street in Sunbury. This project includes the removal of a roundabout and installation of new traffic signals, including the construction of additional two traffic lanes on each leg of this intersection.

In regards to the project design, VicRoads advises me that it has identified that significant utility services, including Telstra, NBN, Gas, Water, and Power, need relocation to be able to construct new traffic lanes. Due to the extent and complexity of the utility services, VicRoads is working closely with various service authorities, to relocate the affected utility services by June 2018.

Following the completion of utility services relocation works, VicRoads would commence civil and signal works to be completed by late next year.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 1 November 2017

ANSWER:

The site has been declared surplus to the Department of Education and Training needs and I have nominated this site as one of the six pilot sites for the Victorian Government's Inclusionary Housing Pilot (IHP). The IHP aims to provide a mix of private and social dwellings, including up to 100 new social housing homes across the six sites.

The type and design of development for the site, including the number of social or private dwellings and open space requirements is yet to be determined. Knox City Council's housing strategy supports the site being used for residential development. It also seeks to protect areas of biological importance as well as ensuring that proposed designs respond to the site context and the neighbourhood character of the area. These issues will be considered, along with other submissions, by the Advisory Committee.

The site has been referred to the Government Land Standing Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee), which will consider the suitability of the proposed rezoning and other planning control changes to allow for the development of residential dwellings on the site for the purposes of the IHP.

Interested parties, including the local community, are invited to make a submission during the public exhibition process which commenced on 13 November 2017 and will end on 22 December 2017. Public hearings will take place in February 2018.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 1 November 2017

ANSWER:

I understand that the relocation of VicRoads' Sunshine Customer Service Centre was prompted by the lease at the current premises (499 Ballarat Road) expiring, which has also affected VicRoads' regional office. VicRoads viewed this as an opportunity to improve the way it connects with its customers and to enhance the services

available to the community by relocating the customer service centre and regional office to a new, purpose built building.

VicRoads advises me that it also considered safety as a key factor in the decision not to renew the current lease at 499 Ballarat Road. In 2016, there were approximately 13-recorded incidents involving drive test applicants entering or exiting the Sunshine site.

The new premises at 12-14 Clarke Street will feature a modern, 21st century customer service centre, allowing customers to access a range of registration and licensing services via, self-serve and digitally assisted transactions. The space will also feature a designated engagement hub that will enable VicRoads to workshop transport ideas and challenges with the community.

I understand that construction of the new office has commenced and the relocation will take place in early 2018.

Accessibility for the community will also be improved with the centre located within 500 metres of the Sunshine train station, multiple bus routes and the local shopping district.

With a decline in bookings, drive tests will not be offered at the new site. VicRoads currently has plans to re-direct driver testing to other neighbouring customer service centres around western metropolitan Melbourne, such as Melton, Broadmeadows, Werribee, Sunbury and Carlton and increasing the capacity at these centres to ensure Sunshine and surrounding customers will be able to undertake their driving test.

VicRoads is also investigating options for the provision of low volume services, which could be made available to financially disadvantaged members within the community. This includes the possible option of drive tests for participants in VicRoads' Learner Driver Mentor Program (L2P).

VicRoads is working closely with local councils and the Australian Driver Trainer Association (the peak representative body for Victorian driving instructors), to ensure that the relocation details are communicated effectively and has regular meetings with its local driving instructors across Victoria, including the Sunshine area.

VicRoads is confident that local operators and customers will not be disadvantaged by the relocation of testing to other surrounding locations, as drive tests are not zoned in Victoria. I understand that for most local driving instructors, their respective businesses currently utilise multiple VicRoads customer service centre locations and it is not uncommon to be taking learner drivers (based on the need to practice on a variety of road conditions) to areas outside of where they reside or plan to take their test.

VicRoads will continue to work closely with local councils, local operators and the Australian Driver Trainer Association to ensure the transition is smooth.

I trust that my reply provides you with greater insight and clarity into the rationale for the change.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 2 November 2017

ANSWER:

I approved Amendment C147 to the Glen Eira Planning Scheme, which introduced mandatory and discretionary height controls to the Bentleigh and Carnegie Major Activity Centres on an interim basis. This ensured the Major Activity Centres are immediately protected from the risk of inappropriate development in the short term while the council prepares relevant structure plans and permanent controls for each Major Activity Centre. While the existing interim height controls limit height to five storeys in parts of the Bentleigh Major Activity Centre, I am unable to confirm whether the permanent controls will continue to limit building heights to 5 storeys as council is still carrying out strategic work and has not yet sought authorisation for a planning scheme amendment for permanent controls. I encourage you to engage with the council during its consultation process.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 2 November 2017

ANSWER:

I appreciate the stress and difficulty facing the remaining handful of residents at the Wantirna Caravan Park. On first hearing the news of the eviction of the residents, the Government provided additional funding to community service organisations to provide direct support for the residents to assist them to relocate to suitable alternative accommodation. Ongoing post relocation services are available for all residents. The local Tenancy Advocacy Provider (Uniting Care Harrisons) has provided direct support to all residents if there are any needs in this difficult time.

An integrated community support hub has been established on site at the Park to support the residents. Representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services have been meeting regularly with the Wantirna Residents Action Group. The department is actively working with relevant authorities to address concerns related to residents' assets and the overall security of the Park.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Water
Asked on: 2 November 2017

ANSWER:

Owners of property bordering Lakes Legana and Illawong, at the Quiet Lakes, Patterson Lakes, are the primary beneficiaries of services provided in addition to Melbourne Water's standard drainage services.

Bore flushing to manage water quality in Lake Legana and Illawong is an example of such an additional service.

The Quiet Lakes Bore Flushing tariff, or charge, was introduced by Melbourne Water on 1 July 2017 following a comprehensive trial over three years, consultation with affected property owners which indicated strong demand and willingness to pay, resolution by the Melbourne Water Board and a decision by the Essential Services Commission (Commission) informed by the Commission's own consultation on the proposed tariff.

The Commission's decision was affirmed by the Essential Services Appeal Panel sitting at the Victorian Civil and Administration Tribunal in September 2017.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 2 November 2017

ANSWER:

Victoria's King Valley region has an 18-year history of producing prosecco and is the leading regional producer of Australian prosecco, with total sales worth \$22.3 million in 2016.

I share the Victorian Wine Industry's concern about efforts by Italian wine producers to restrict the use of the grape variety name 'Prosecco'.

Prosecco is growing rapidly in popularity and King Valley producers have invested significantly in developing the region's leadership in this wine category.

I have recently written to the Commonwealth Ministers for Agriculture, Minister for Regional Development, and Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, requesting that they use all available opportunities to resist efforts to protect the name Prosecco, particularly in any negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement with the European Union.

I have also been working closely with industry to help heighten the profile of this issue.

I look forward to continued, active engagement with them on this important issue for Victoria's wine industry.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Finance
Asked on: 2 November 2017

ANSWER:

Road safety is an issue that falls under the portfolio of Minister Donellan.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Water
Asked on: 2 November 2017

ANSWER:

West Gippsland CMA has worked with the local community to understand how vegetation in the Macalister River impacts on the flood risk to agricultural land near Tinamba. Past works on the Macalister River below Lake Glenmaggie to the confluence with the Thomson River has included the removal of willows, fencing, revegetation and ongoing maintenance to approximately 89% of the river.

West Gippsland CMA will continue to work with the local community, to further understand the flood risk and to determine the type and extent of works required to manage the flood risk.

If affected landholders wish to undertake works to mitigate the flood risk, then West Gippsland CMA can provide further assistance to identify and manage the required approval processes, but the works should be funded and undertaken by the local landholders, who are the beneficiaries of that work.

This approach is consistent with the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (launched in 2016) and the West Gippsland Regional Floodplain Management Strategy (which has been finalised and will be launched shortly). Further information on works on waterways approvals can also be found in Section 3.5 of the West Gippsland Waterway Strategy.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 3 November 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of the Eltham Country Fire Authority (CFA) and its selfless contributions to the safety and wellbeing of the community. Eltham CFA volunteers are committed to ensuring the safety of their community and, more broadly, the Victorian community.

The Victorian Government will not be selling the former Eltham CFA Fire Station. Work is currently underway to transform the disused CFA building into a volunteer hub.

The Victorian Government will support the staff and volunteers of the Eltham CFA as they continue to keep their community safe.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 14 November 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of the Eltham Country Fire Authority (CFA) and its selfless contributions to the safety and wellbeing of the community. Eltham CFA volunteers are committed to ensuring the safety of their community and, more broadly, the Victorian community.

The Victorian Government will not be selling the former Eltham CFA Fire Station. Work is currently underway to transform the disused CFA building into a volunteer hub.

The Victorian Government will support the staff and volunteers of the Eltham CFA as they continue to keep their community safe.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 14 November 2017

ANSWER:

Construction is currently occurring on the removal of nine of Victoria's most congested and dangerous level crossings. As part of this project five new stations are being constructed, including at Carnegie and Murrumbeena.

Key architectural elements from the old station buildings such as the steel canopies and trusses have been salvaged and stored.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority is working to incorporate these elements into the designs for the new station precincts and community open spaces. This will take place when the construction of the stations is at a more advanced stage.

Full details on the removal of the crossings, the station designs and the community open space are available at www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 14 November 2017

ANSWER:

I am advised that the CDC, the operator of this bus route, has recently recruited additional drivers, which has greatly alleviated issues associated with driver availability.

Transport for Victoria will continue to monitor this bus route as part of any future planning in the area.

The Andrews Labor Government has invested more than \$100 million to introduce more bus services across Victoria, increasing frequency and expanding services into new growth areas.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 14 November 2017

ANSWER:

The Premier announced that Deakin University's waterfront car park site would be the focus of the Government's work with respect to the development of a convention and exhibition centre in Geelong.

Information from the Business Case and the Master Plan completed earlier this year continue to inform development of the project.

- We've put \$15 million into works to revitalise central Geelong.
- A new tech school and \$35.6 million to upgrade 10 schools across Geelong.
- 50 additional train services for Geelong weekly.
- An estimated 800 businesses in Geelong that will benefit from payroll tax cuts.

We continue to work with stakeholders on the Geelong Convention Centre — including the Commonwealth which we are continuing to have positive dialogue on regarding a City Deal.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 15 November 2017

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is currently in detailed negotiations with a number of applicants. When negotiations are finalised, details of planned project completion dates, battery sizes, and locations will be announced.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 15 November 2017

ANSWER:

I would like to congratulate the Whittlesea Cricket Club on expanding the number of their fielded teams, including their first under-16 girls team, a great effort.

Providing high quality sport and recreation infrastructure is a key aim of the government, and is integral to the health and well-being of all Victorians. That is why the government is investing \$120 million into the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund to facilitate the upgrade and development of community sports facilities during this term of government. The fund includes \$14 million for female friendly facilities to build or upgrade women's change rooms.

I understand that the City of Whittlesea submitted an application for \$100 000 to the 2018-19 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund — Cricket Facilities category for the construction of three cricket practice nets.

Applications are currently under consideration, with announcements regarding successful projects expected to commence in early 2018.

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

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 16 November 2017

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question.

Bushfire safety is a shared responsibility — shared between governments, fire services and emergency management agencies, communities, households, families and individuals. The Victorian Government has adopted a comprehensive approach to improving preparedness for bushfire response that has included significant investment in capital works, training, exercising, organisational structures, policies and procedures.

The Department of Land, Water and Planning is responsible for the management and co-ordination of planned burns throughout the state.

I would advise you to direct your question to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Lily D'Ambrosio MP.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 16 November 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southern Metropolitan for her interest in the how the Andrews Labor Government welcomes the thousands of cruise ship passengers visiting Victoria for the Melbourne Cup Carnival.

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) provides a 'pop up hub' within the Station Pier Cruise shipping terminal. To date, for the 2017-18 season, the hub has operated on 23 service days, with 10 402 new myki cards sold and over \$10 000 myki top ups completed.

During the Melbourne Cup Week, between Monday 6 and Thursday 9 November 2017, PTV provided a pop up hub for all cruise ships. Throughout this period, most Carnival Cruise lines arranged their own private shuttle services to the carnival. As a result, no myki cards were purchased or required for these services.

On Melbourne Cup day, approximately 150 private shuttle buses were arranged by cruise line operators to shuttle their passengers to and from Flemington racecourse. Once more, no myki cards were required for these private services. Cruise passengers who were not provided with a private shuttle service were able to purchase and top up myki cards each morning through the PTV pop up hub.

Throughout this period, there were no reports of substantial queues or wait times longer than five minutes for any myki purchases or top ups. PTV has assured me that there is currently adequate myki coverage at station pier.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 16 November 2017

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government recognises the important role that buses play in meeting the travel needs of people living in Melbourne's outer suburbs, and regularly reviews the entire metropolitan bus network.

I have requested Transport for Victoria to continue to monitor bus Route 546 (Heidelberg-Melbourne University/Queen Victoria Market), and to consider this request as part of future bus planning in the area.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 21 November 2017

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Minister for Public Transport that the Ballarat Bus Interchange project is currently in the planning and design phase. The Victorian Government is undertaking the necessary due diligence studies and design work to deliver the bus interchange.

Construction is due to be completed in 2018.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 21 November 2017

ANSWER:

The Melbourne Racing Club has indicated its intention to wind up its activities at Sandown Park in the future and has been in discussion with Greater Dandenong City Council and the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) about its intention to commence planning for the future of Sandown Park. However, the VPA is not currently involved in the planning for Sandown Park.

There is no proposal by the VPA to purchase land for public housing at Sandown Park and indeed the purchase of land for public housing is not part of VPA activities.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 28 November 2017

ANSWER:

There will be no new tolls on existing routes including on the Eastern Freeway, Greensborough Road/Highway, Greensborough Bypass and the M80. North East Link will provide up to 30 minute faster trips between Melbourne's north and south-east and deliver up to 40% faster trips on the Eastern Freeway,

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 28 November 2017

ANSWER:

I note the Member for Southern Metropolitan's question and advise that, as the CityLink arrangements are the responsibility of the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, this question should be directed to the responsible Minister.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 29 November 2017

ANSWER:

A decision was made on the City of Boroondara's Freedom of Information request by an authorised officer of the North East Link Authority, detailing the reasons for the decision in accordance with section 27 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic). That decision set out why the documents sought were found to be exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic).

As the letter recording that decision explained, an applicant is entitled to seek review by the Information Commissioner of a decision to refuse to grant access to the documents sought. The City of Boroondara has applied for such a review by the Information Commissioner, and the decision is therefore before the appropriate independent body for consideration of whether access to the documents sought by the City of Boroondara should be granted, in whole or in part. In those circumstances, it is appropriate to leave consideration of the request, the decision and the application for review, for determination by the Information Commissioner.