

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

6 November to 16 November 2017

(Extract from book 19)

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, #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

6 NOVEMBER TO 16 NOVEMBER 2017

<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	6117
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	6118
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	6118
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	6119
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	6119
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	6119
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	6120
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	6120
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	6121
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	6121
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	6122
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	6122
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	6123
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	6123
<i>South Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	6124
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	6124
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	6125
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	6125
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region</i>	6126
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	6126
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	6126
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	6127
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	6127
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region</i>	6128
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	6128
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	6129

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.

6 November to 16 November 2017**Southern Metropolitan Region**

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 6 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria the Education State and that means ensuring all Victorian families have access to a great school no matter where they live. The last three State Budgets delivered the largest ever investment in Victorian school infrastructure, allocating more than \$2.5 billion to build, upgrade and maintain schools across the state. This funding means that 56 new school projects are now in the pipeline, which come online in the next few years.

The Government is conscious that enrolment growth pressures are being felt in a number of communities, including in the inner city. The Government's Inner City Schools Package will see significant investment in this area including:

- \$44 million to construct the new South Melbourne Primary School - Ferrars Street (interim name) scheduled to open in Term 1, 2018
- \$31 million to construct the new South Melbourne Park Primary School (interim name) scheduled to open in Term 1, 2019
- \$43 million to construct the new Richmond High School (interim name) scheduled to open in Term 1, 2018
- \$42 million for the new Prahran High School (interim name) scheduled to open in Term 1, 2019
- \$5 million to deliver additional classroom spaces at Albert Park College
- \$1 million to masterplan the future Docklands Primary School
- Identification of sites for a primary school and secondary school at Fishermans Bend
- Identification of a site for a new primary school at North Melbourne

These investments will assist to accommodate the growing demand for education places in the inner city.

You are no doubt acutely aware of the lack of funding for new schools and school upgrades across the State under the former Government given you were a Cabinet Minister.

In response to the enrolment growth at South Yarra Primary School I approved a new, triple storey relocatable building to increase capacity at the school. The Department is working closely with South Yarra Primary School to confirm enrolments for 2018, which can be accommodated within the existing facilities at the school, while maintaining availability of all of the school's current program offering including languages, art, drama, music and library; as well as the after-school care arrangements.

South Melbourne Primary School — Ferrars Street (interim name) will open in 2018 and South Melbourne Park Primary School (interim name) will open in 2019. These two new schools will accommodate local inner city enrolments and take pressure off surrounding schools.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 8 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is investing a record \$29.4m in Victoria's biggest ever firefighting aircraft fleet.

The fleet is a mix of water bombing aircraft, fixed-wing and helicopters, with the remaining aircraft providing air supervision and intelligence gathering roles.

The majority of water-bombing aircraft will operate through pre-determined dispatch. This means that instead of waiting for fire trucks to arrive on scene and request air support, aircraft will be in the sky responding to fires at the same time trucks leave stations. Pre-determined dispatch provides faster attack on fires, with the aim of keeping small fires small, and has been extremely successful in previous years.

The success of the pre-determined dispatch helicopter that was based at Ballarat last summer has resulted in the Ballarat helicopter remaining, and an additional helicopter being based at Bacchus Marsh.

The positioning of the two large air-tankers and two air-cranes is dependent on the state's level of risk, as assessed by the Emergency Management Commissioner. These aircraft are strategically positioned so they are best able to respond to fire across the state of Victoria.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 19 September 2017

ANSWER:

As I have advised the member previously, the decision on how and where resources are deployed is based on the Staff Allocation Model. I understand from Victoria Police that you received a briefing from them on this matter recently, in which you were informed the two vacancies at Whittlesea Police Station are to be filled in the near future.

I can assure the member and the community of Whittlesea that Community safety remains a priority for the Andrews Labor Government. The Government has made a landmark commitment to fund an additional 3135 frontline police over the next five years as part of the Community Safety Statement, including an additional 45 police for the Whittlesea Police Service Area (PSA). This will ensure police in Whittlesea will be freed up across the area.

I would like to thank the Member for Yan Yean for her strong advocacy on behalf of the Whittlesea community. Victoria Police will continue to monitor the impact of the new Mernda police station when it commences operation and adjust staffing levels as required.

Police custody officers (PCO) will also be deployed to the Whittlesea PSA to free up frontline police. Whittlesea, as part of North West Division 5, has received 13 PCOs to date. This will greatly strengthen police responses and visibility within the Whittlesea area.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 19 September 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Eastern Victoria for his interest in car parking facilities at Cardinia Road railway station. I am pleased to advise that the Andrews Labor Government is providing approximately 300 additional car parking spaces at Cardinia Road railway station as part of the \$8.7 million announced in the 2017-18 Budget for additional station car parking and station upgrades.

This funding is in addition to the \$20 million Station Car Park Upgrades Program which is delivering up to 2100 new spaces across 16 railway stations. More information on this program can be found at <https://victrack.com.au/projects/key-projects/station-car-park-upgrades>.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Symes
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 19 September 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the member for Northern Victoria for her interest in Benalla P-12 College's application for funding under the Inclusive Schools Fund.

The Andrews Labor Government launched the \$20 million Inclusive Schools Fund to help schools cater for students whose special needs require additional facilities.

I am delighted to advise that Benalla P-12 will receive \$200 000 under Round 3 of the Inclusive Schools Fund for an inclusive outdoor play area, which will be set in a sensory garden.

Through this unique fund, the Government has now helped 88 schools across the state increase participation and improve learning outcomes for students with disabilities. With over \$12 million already allocated from this \$20 million fund, we are working hard to promote inclusive education as part of our commitment to the Education State.

I look forward to the completion of this project and the benefits it will bring for the school and community.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 19 September 2017

ANSWER:

Cross Street in West Footscray is adjacent to the Tottenham Rail Yard as well as the rail corridor used by suburban, regional and interstate trains. There is much important activity on this part of the rail network.

It is understandable that changes to rail operations may on some occasions be more noticeable to nearby residents. Residents are able to raise concerns about diesel trains with V/Line and the Australian Rail Track Corporation. Previous investigations have shown that trains are operating within normal requirements.

Implementation of the Regional Rail Link project included extensive consultation with the Footscray community regarding impacts such as rail noise. Direct contact was made with owners or occupants of all properties assessed as requiring action under the Passenger Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy (2013), and noise attenuation measures were provided where warranted by the policy.

Should residents wish to raise issues around noise in the corridor they can call V/Line on 1800 800 007 and the Australian Rail Track Corporation on (08) 8217 4366.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 19 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Ivanhoe shopping strip is much loved by the community. While this important activity centre has been identified as a location for medium and higher density development in our metropolitan strategic plan, Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, it is important that the qualities that make the area special are protected into the future.

Recognising this fact, and responding to concerns that recent development proposals did not align with the objectives of the Ivanhoe Structure Plan, I recently approved Amendment C122 to the Banyule Planning Scheme.

Amendment C122 introduces mandatory maximum building height controls to areas of the Ivanhoe Activity Centre on an interim basis until 30 September 2018, while further work is undertaken to prepare permanent controls as part of the Government's Activity Centre Pilot Program.

The interim controls introduced by Amendment C122 will ensure that the Ivanhoe Activity Centre is immediately protected from the risk of inappropriate development. The amendment has been approved without transitional provisions, which means that yet to be determined permit applications must comply with the mandatory maximum height controls.

Over the coming months, Banyule City Council will work with Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning officers to investigate how permanent built form controls can be developed to give greater certainty for the centre.

The newly introduced controls get the balance right, catering for population growth in the right areas, while protecting the neighbourhood character that makes Ivanhoe a great place to live.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 20 September 2017

ANSWER:

I thank Ms Pennicuik for her question. I am advised that all former residents of the Gatwick Hotel have been provided and are continuing to reside in alternative housing options that suit their needs. This is a great outcome.

After being engaged by the Government, St Kilda Community Housing worked in close partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services, City of Port Phillip, City of Stonnington, Port Phillip Housing Association, Launch Housing and Alfred Health in the relocation of all former residents.

Former residents of the Gatwick Hotel continue to be linked into housing, mental health and alcohol and drug support agencies to reduce the risk of further experiences of homelessness.

This year the Government funded the redevelopment of six further social housing rooming houses, including three in the City of Port Phillip, replacing shared living, bathroom and kitchen areas with self-contained accommodation.

This investment builds on the success of the first round of funding in the previous year's Budget where the Labor Government invested \$10 million to upgrade three rooming houses in Ascot Vale, Flemington and St Kilda.

This rooming house upgrade program is part of the Government's \$799 million in housing and homelessness support. It builds on the \$2.1 billion in financial backing as part of Homes for Victorian which will deliver thousands of new social homes.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 20 September 2017

ANSWER:

VicTrack has approval from the Victorian Government Land Monitor to negotiate exclusively with the adjacent land owner, who is now going through a statutory planning process with the City of Stonnington to seek approval for the proposed development.

The value of the land and air rights above the rail corridor are subject to the standard Victorian Government valuation processes and are commercial in confidence.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 21 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society (BAPS) have been committed \$5 million from the Victorian Government for the upgrade or relocation of the Ballarat Showgrounds, a component of the \$31.5 million Eureka Precinct development.

The BAPS board with assistance from Regional Development Victoria and the City of Ballarat have been exploring options to relocate the Ballarat Showgrounds. A masterplan has also been completed to ensure that development will meet the future needs of BAPS, including an expanded focus on large scale events and exhibitions.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 17 October 2017

ANSWER:

The Ballarat Bus Interchange project is currently in the planning phase. The Victorian Government is undertaking the necessary due diligence studies and design work to deliver the bus interchange.

The expected completion date is in 2018.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 17 October 2017

ANSWER:

Public lighting in a high-rise building on a large estate like Emerald Hill Estate is an ongoing issue. Repairs may be made and additional faults emerge which are reported and then repaired.

Without specific details of lights that have allegedly not been repaired it is difficult to determine whether the department has failed to action faults in a timely manner.

All maintenance including lights is carried out on a regular basis.

Western Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

The CityLink-Tulla Widening Project will increase capacity across the corridor by 30 per cent with a new lane in each direction between Melbourne Airport and the CityLink Tunnels.

New lanes on CityLink between Flemington Road and the West Gate Freeway have already opened, and lanes between Bulla Road and Flemington Road were opened three months early in late October, improving trips in and out of the city for over 200 000 drivers each day.

The remaining lanes between Melbourne Airport and Bulla Road are scheduled for completion in mid- 2018, delivering a massive road upgrade the previous government failed to do in four long years.

As part of the project, key intersections have been upgraded at English Street, Bell Street and Flemington Road, while a state-of-the-art freeway management system will improve traffic flow and reduce casualty crashes by up to 20 per cent.

Once complete, the CityLink-Tulla Widening Project will reduce travel times on a round trip from the city to the airport by 30 minutes. Delivering for the people of Victoria is what Labor does, unlike the tired old Liberal/Nationals who squandered their time in office delivering nothing.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 17 October 2017

ANSWER:

Since the Government announced the elevated design to remove the nine most congested and dangerous level crossings in Victoria, property prices in suburbs adjacent to the corridor have experienced strong property price growth. Several property developers and real estate agents are promoting the benefits of the project to prospective buyers of residential properties immediately adjacent to the corridor.

Valuations of all Government land sales or purchases are made by the independent Valuer-General. In relation to the Voluntary Purchase Scheme between Caulfield and Dandenong the valuation is based on the value of the

property prior to the project. The Government's Voluntary Purchase Scheme is voluntary, and if residents believe that they can sell the property for more than the independent evaluation they are free to do so.

Contrary to the Member's claim that people are not taking up the Government's offer, 37 residents have already done so with more under consideration.

All residents that are eligible for the Voluntary Purchase Scheme have been contacted by the Level Crossing Removal Authority, which will continue to work with them on an individual basis.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 18 October 2017

ANSWER:

It is good to see the Nationals take an interest in Tech Schools given they gutted school and TAFE funding when in Government.

The Gippsland Tech School is on track for opening in early 2018, which will bring leading-edge Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) learning programs to students from partner schools in the Latrobe Valley.

The Gippsland Tech School Director has been actively engaging with local industry - and will continue to do so. Industry connections will continue to be established over 2017 and 2018 in line with learning program development in each relevant industry area.

The Tech School Director is working closely with local stakeholders to develop innovative learning programs for partner school students. This includes workshops with teachers in partner schools to develop an integrated learning program, which will ensure that Tech School programs extend beyond the physical Tech School facility and into the teaching and learning of partner schools.

Once the Tech School is open, students will work on industry linked programs to solve real world problems using the latest technologies. These industries include food and fibre, health, new energy and advanced manufacturing.

The Gippsland Tech School has already established industry connections prior to opening with Fujitsu, Australian Paper and Agribusiness Gippsland. Since commencing Mr Boys is also actively investigating partnership opportunities with Latrobe Health and AGL, with industry connections being forged with the assistance of the Latrobe Valley Authority. Industry connections will continue to be established over 2017 and 2018 in line with learning program development in each relevant industry area.

Immediately adjacent to the Gippsland Tech School on the Federation Training Morwell campus will be the Morwell Hi-Tech Precinct, which continues to develop as a partnership between Federation Training, Federation University, Gippsland Tech School, local government and Fujitsu. The Tech School will further strengthen its industry and community connections through its partnership with the Hi-Tech Precinct.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Gepp
Directed to: Treasurer
Asked on: 18 October 2017

ANSWER:

As you note the Victorian Government has reduced the payroll tax rate by 25 per cent for regional businesses. To be eligible for the lower payroll tax rate, a business must be based in regional Victoria and pay 85 per cent of its wages to regional employees. About 100 businesses in the Rural City of Mildura, 140 businesses in the City of

Greater Shepparton and 50 businesses in the Shire of Campaspe have claimed the lower regional payroll tax rate. However, this does not necessarily include all businesses that are eligible for the lower regional payroll tax rate. Businesses with a payroll tax liability of under \$40 000 are only required to pay payroll tax on an annual basis. These businesses are unlikely to have claimed the lower regional payroll tax rate at this point in time. The numbers are also subject to compliance activity by the State Revenue Office and may change once annual returns are lodged next year.

The introduction of the lower regional payroll tax rate has been well received by regional businesses and a number of business groups including the Australian Industry Group, the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Australian Hotels Association Victoria and the Victorian Farmers Federation.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 18 October 2017

ANSWER:

Any waste to energy proposal put forth by a proponent must receive environmental approvals, including relevant EPA works approvals, EPA licensing and planning approval from the responsible authority. At this stage, no applications for such a facility in Dandenong have been received.

The Andrews Labor Government has recently released a discussion paper on waste-to-energy and is consulting with the public, industry and local government on this issue until the end of the year. The discussion will help us form a position on the appropriate role of waste-to-energy in Victoria. We are seeking input from stakeholders on how we might best manage waste to energy facilities and their feedstocks.

The Government is committed to reducing Victoria's waste where we can and recovering more value from the resources we currently throw away.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 18 October 2017

ANSWER:

The purpose of the Ballarat Jobs Forum was to hear directly from employers and uncover practical activities that will assist in the implementation of the Back to Work Scheme and increase job numbers in Ballarat.

The first of two priority actions identified at the forum was the relocation of a government department/services to Ballarat's CBD. In May 2017, the Government announced that it will provide \$47.8 million towards the development of the new GovHub office to be built in Ballarat. The Ballarat GovHub office will be home to up to 1000 government employees, including 600 new positions and help revitalise an important part of the Ballarat CBD. The project will trigger more than \$100 million in building activity, creating up to 500 jobs during construction.

The second of two priority actions identified at the forum was the activation of an industry cluster in Ballarat. In April 2016, the Labor Government announced that it will contribute \$4.2 million dollars to the Ballarat Innovation Lab and Digital Space (BILDS). BILDS will provide the environment, culture, space and connections to collaboratively develop and showcase digital innovations attracting commercialisation, and in turn will support the creation of new industries, jobs and skills in the digital economy and for the Ballarat community. In addition, BILDS will support the development of a start-up eco-system through program delivery that will unlock new opportunities for regional entrepreneurs. BILDS has an anticipated operational launch in early 2018.

Lastly, I'd like to provide Mr Morris with some facts he will find useful. The current regional unemployment rate in Victoria is 5.1%, second lowest in Australia behind Western Australia. Regional unemployment under the previous Coalition Government rose from 5.8% to 6.6% in November 2014. In Ballarat, it rose from 6.2% in 2010 to 6.9% in 2014, it's now 3.9%.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 18 October 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) is drafting a master plan for the former Victoria University campus at Jacksons Hill, Sunbury. I understand that the community cares deeply for the site and the VPA is working with Hume City Council, Victoria University, government departments and the local community to develop the master plan.

The VPA has developed a strong set of principles that are guiding the development of the draft master plan. These include protecting and celebrating the heritage values of the site and strengthening the education, community and arts that the site already offers.

The VPA has recently uploaded a summary of consultation on its website. You can view it at vpa.vic.gov.au/project/jacksons-hill-masterplan/.

The public exhibition of the draft master plan is expected to commence in the coming weeks and will provide the community with a further opportunity to have its say. Following the review of any submissions received, the master plan will be finalised in the coming months. This robust community consultation will ensure that the Jacksons Hill precinct takes on board the values the local community care about.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 19 October 2017

ANSWER:

Safety is of paramount importance on all construction projects and the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) has been involved in the Safety Management Systems for the project to remove the nine most congested and dangerous level crossings in Victoria.

All safety incidents are taken extremely seriously, fully investigated and measures put in place to prevent recurrences.

The greatest threat to public safety between Caulfield and Dandenong is the existence of these nine dangerous level crossings that have already cost too many lives. The Member for Southern Metropolitan has introduced a motion into Parliament and supported Supreme Court action to delay the removal of these crossings. The Government is getting on with removing them as quickly and as safely as possible.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Elasmar
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 19 October 2017

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is a proud supporter of sport at all levels in Victoria. Through the Significant Sporting Events Program the government provides assistance to sporting and community organisations, event organisers and local government authorities to deliver sporting events in Victoria. This program ensures we can attract top sporting events that not only boost local sport, tourism and the economy but also add to Victoria's reputation as the nation's sporting capital.

Since 2014, the Significant Sporting Events program has invested \$1.7 million to support the staging of over 31 sporting events in the Northern Metropolitan Region, including: the Melbourne International Track Series, Australian Gymnastics Championships, Australian FIM Speedway Grand Prix and the FFA Cup Final.

Events such as these attract thousands of participants and spectators bringing significant economic benefit through spending on food, accommodation and tourist activities.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 19 October 2017

ANSWER:

A new substation is required near Sandringham station in order to reliably run newer trains and enable an increase in services in the future. The substation is proposed to begin operation by December 2018.

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) identified the substation location on Station Street in Sandringham as the most appropriate location through a thorough planning and investigation process. PTV considered a number of factors when choosing the location including land reserves, connection to transport infrastructure, planning zones, proximity to residential properties or community facilities, network power requirements and underground services.

The location has been selected, but PTV recognises the important of integrating the design of the substation into the existing streetscape and has worked with local residents to refine and improve the design. The project's design will emphasise landscaping and architectural treatments to the building façade.

PTV will provide updates to residents about project milestones, including the final design and the project schedule, early in 2018.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 19 October 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Western Metropolitan for his continued interest in the Andrews Labor Government's program of level crossing removals. I also note his continued refusal to stand up for the people of the west and support the removal of these dangerous and congested level crossings.

Removing these level crossings is all about saving lives.

Work to remove the level crossing at Kororoit Creek Road — including the partial duplication of the Altona Loop — is now underway, with the project due for completion by the end of 2018. The level crossing at Ferguson Street will be removed by 2022.

Removal of the Ferguson Street, Williamstown level crossing is in the early planning stage and no decisions have been made regarding designs. Community consultation is a critical part of the Level Crossing Removal Project's process for selecting a design and there will continue to be numerous opportunities to get involved as the project progresses.

The dangerous level crossing at Ferguson Street has claimed the life of two school aged children and caused serious permanent injuries to a cyclist, who has hit and dragged along by a train.

Locals know that separating the road and rail line at Ferguson Street will keep the hundreds of school children who use this crossing each week safe.

Removing these two dangerous level crossings will significantly increase safety and better protect all members of the Williamstown community, regardless of whether they cycle, drive, walk or catch the train.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 20 October 2017

ANSWER:

Safety is of paramount importance on all construction projects and the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) has been involved in the Safety Management Systems for the project to remove the nine most congested and dangerous level crossings in Victoria.

All incidents are taken extremely seriously, fully investigated and measures put in place to prevent recurrences.

The suggestion from the Member for Southern Metropolitan that as a result of recent incidents, houses, cars and trains are now in danger of being hit by a 420 tonne beam, clearly indicates that his motives are fear mongering rather than addressing legitimate safety concerns.

The greatest threat to public safety between Caulfield and Dandenong is the existence of these nine dangerous level crossings that have already cost too many lives. The Member for Southern Metropolitan has introduced a motion into Parliament and supported Supreme Court action to delay the removal of these crossings. The Government is getting on with removing them as quickly and as safely as possible.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 31 October 2017

ANSWER:

While the Andrews Labor Government has allocated more than \$2.5 billion through the last three State Budgets to build, upgrade and maintain school and early childhood infrastructure across the state, it remains true that it will take some time for the entire asset portfolio to be brought up to standard. Our ongoing challenge is to responsibly balance and prioritise the needs of over 1500 government schools, all in varying condition.

I was very pleased to visit Korumburra Secondary earlier this year to celebrate the beginning of the school's \$5.58 million construction project. This exciting project has provided the school with new and upgraded facilities, in addition to asbestos removal and demolition of old buildings. I am advised that works have reached the practical

completion stage, and am confident that the new and improved learning spaces will be enjoyed by the school community for many years to come.

I can assure you that the infrastructure needs of all schools, including those of Korumburra Secondary College, will continue to receive fair and equitable consideration through the State Budget process. We will use all available data, including condition assessments and pre-existing project plans, when determining priorities for the school capital works program and allocating resources in future Budgets.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 1 November 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan for her question, but advise that responsibility for Victoria's cycling strategy rests with the Honourable the Minister for Roads and Road safety. Questions regarding Victoria's cycling strategy should be directed to that Minister.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Industry and Employment
Asked on: 1 November 2017

ANSWER:

The Government is committed to providing long term sustainable growth for the Latrobe Valley and I thank the member for Eastern Victoria for acknowledging the Government's continued support to increase jobs growth and investments in infrastructure and services for the region.

Just recently I announced grants to two local businesses in Morwell under the Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund creating about \$1.5 million in investment and creating a total of 34 new jobs for Morwell.

Since the fund was launched the Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund has assisted 17 businesses, facilitated \$23.7 million of investment and created 322 new FTE jobs.

This fund will continue to support new and existing businesses, attract and facilitate new private sector investment and expand the Valley's export potential to new markets and opportunities across high growth sectors such as food and fibre.

Support for workers post closure of the Hazelwood Mine and Power Station is ongoing. The Latrobe Valley Authority, in partnership with the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council is providing assistance under its Worker Transition Services. The Government's \$20 million Latrobe Valley Worker Transfer Scheme is also supporting retrenched Hazelwood workers to remain in the power industry.

The 2017-18 State Budget includes a \$435 million upgrade of the Gippsland Rail Line which will create more than 400 jobs including a project office in the Latrobe Valley.

The Government is further investing in the Valley's future by announcing the establishment of a regional employment hub to accommodate 300 new positions, including up to 150 public sector positions.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 3 November 2017

ANSWER:

It is sad to see that the Member for Western Metropolitan continues to join his Liberal colleague David Davis and members of the Moonee Valley Council in standing in opposition to the removal of the dangerous and congested level crossing at Buckley Street, Essendon.

We know that the majority of locals in Melbourne's North West support this project.

As stated many times before, it is unfortunate that the Member for Western Metropolitan is so poorly informed on the Andrews Labor Government's plan to safely separate Buckley Street and the network's second busiest train line. Once the level crossing is gone, 78 minutes of traffic flow during peak travel times will be returned to road users, improving reliability for rail users, and making it safer for pedestrians and cyclists in the area.

The Member's constituents have provided feedback on this project in numerous ways, from several public information sessions held in 2016 and 2017, to the online community information hub, to the Essendon Info Hub at 20 Russell Street, to trader and community sessions, Stakeholder Liaison Group meetings, and the Planning Scheme Amendment survey. These — and many other channels — will continue through the life of the project as work gets underway at Buckley Street later this year, with the boom gates expected to go by the end of 2018.