

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

22 September to 20 October 2017

(Extract from book 17)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 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

(from 13 September 2017)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
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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

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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.

22 September to 20 October 2017**Northern Victoria Region**

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 24 May 2017

ANSWER:

On 9 June this year, I visited Tatura, where I met with local residents and visited the Shepparton Police Station. I always appreciate the input of local communities when I have the opportunity to visit both regional and metropolitan areas.

The Government is committed to ensuring Victoria Police has the resources and powers it needs to reduce harm in the community and keep Victorians safe.

The Government has announced a comprehensive strategy to prevent, detect and disrupt crime in Victoria. The Community Safety Statement, released in December 2016, outlines our \$2 billion investment in Victoria Police resources. Central to the Community Safety Statement is boosting of police numbers right across the state. In total, the Government is funding 3135 additional frontline police over the next five years to support police responding to crime in our communities.

With regards to the concerns you have raised about the staffing arrangements at Tatura Police Station, the Office of the Chief Commissioner of Police has advised me that members transferring, resigning and taking personal leave cannot always be pre-planned.

Victoria Police has also indicated that with the management of family violence as a divisional and organisational priority, a member of the Tatura Police Station requested assignment to the Divisional Family Violence Unit. That particular members' request was supported by the Tatura Station Commander, with the assignment commencing on 20 February 2017. Victoria Police has indicated that there was no direct impact on service delivery to the Tatura community in allowing this single secondment.

I understand that since February 2017, three new police officers have commenced at the Tatura Police Station. While the appointment of new members at the Tatura Police Station was undertaken, the police station had been supplemented by staff from Murchison, Mooroopna and Shepparton on a regular basis to ensure service delivery was maintained.

Leave rosters are completed on a cluster basis across all stations within the Greater Shepparton Police Service Area (PSA), enabling better coverage and service delivery for the region. I understand that at the meeting you referred to in your letter, this was explained to those in attendance by the Station Commanders from Shepparton and Tatura, as well as the Local Area Commander.

Under this Government, the Community Crime Prevention Program has funded nine grants, totalling \$458 879, in Greater Shepparton. Shepparton was also one of the ten priority locations identified under the competitive stream of the Youth Crime Prevention Grants.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 9 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government has committed to establishing Support and Safety Hubs in each of the 17 Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) areas by June 2021. Hubs will be established in the five launch areas — Bayside Peninsula, North East Melbourne, Inner Gippsland, Mallee, and Barwon from the end of 2017. The catchment for the North East Melbourne Hub will include the suburbs of Heidelberg, Ivanhoe and Eltham. Further work is being undertaken to confirm the rollout schedule for the remaining 12 areas, including the Inner East Melbourne and Outer East Melbourne DHHS areas.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Gepp
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 10 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting the significant contribution that more than 85 000 emergency service volunteers make to keep the Victorian community safe.

On 27 July 2017, the third and final tranche of successful recipients under the \$15 million Emergency Services Volunteer Sustainability Grants (ESVS) program was released. The ESVS was established in October 2016 to support emergency management volunteers in their role, ensuring they can continue to keep Victorians safe.

Under the ESVS, a total of 880 grants have been approved for payment across the State — providing volunteers from the Country Fire Authority, Victoria State Emergency Service, Life Saving Victoria, Marine Search and Rescue and St Johns Ambulance and other emergency service groups with operational equipment, facility improvements, training and other tools to help them deliver valuable services to the community.

In 2016-17, the Valuing Volunteers Program provided \$1.4 million in funding to support the development of innovative volunteer initiatives and pilot programs.

In addition to this, on 9 May 2017, I announced \$13 million for the 2017-18 Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program, which supports our volunteer brigades, units and clubs to purchase life-saving equipment, helping them better serve their communities in times of need.

The Victorian Government recognises the vital work that emergency service volunteers perform, and remain committed to supporting the dedication of these men and women through our volunteer grants programs.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 22 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting those residents affected by the park closure and has funded \$145 000 to support agencies to assist residents to find alternate accommodation and a further \$75 000 has been funded to ensure residents have access to health and well-being supports.

The Government has commissioned UnitingCare Harrison and Eastern Access Community Health (EACH) to assess the housing and support needs of all residents and support them to relocate.

An integrated community support hub has been established on site at the Park to support those affected and I would encourage all people living at the Park to make contact with the onsite support agencies.

I further understand the residents' local representative Shaun Leane has met with a delegation of residents to discuss their concerns. In addition to matters regarding housing support, I understand the residents also seek changes to the Residential Tenancies Act 1997, which is under review by the Minister for Consumer Affairs. I encourage residents to also participate in the processes set up as part of the review to feed in their views to government if they have not done so already.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 22 August 2017

ANSWER:

I refer to your constituency question matter regarding sporting organisations in the Northern Metropolitan Region, including Brunswick Zebras Soccer Club, raised in the Legislative Assembly on 22 August 2017.

I am pleased to advise that the following announced grants and programs have been designed to develop and upgrade new and existing facilities while also seeking to increase active sport and recreation participation amongst females, males and children of all ages and abilities:

- Community Sports Infrastructure Fund — \$120 million
- Country Football and Netball Program — \$8 million
- Better Indoor Stadiums Fund — \$22 million
- Inner City Netball Program — \$9.6 million

I can confirm that the Brunswick Zebras Soccer Club received an investment from the Andrews Labor Government of \$100 000 through the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund for the refurbishment of change rooms and upgrades to the pavilion at Balfe Park, to increase female participation.

Balfe Park is now match-ready, with the project being completed and officially launched on Wednesday 29 March 2017 by the Member for Brunswick, Ms Jane Garrett MP.

I am similarly pleased to advise that Moreland City Council has been successful in receiving funding for the following projects to support female participation:

- Raeburn Reserve Pavilion Upgrade — \$100 000
- Gillon Oval Change Room Refurbishment — \$100 000
- Campbell Reserve Pavilion Redevelopment — \$500 000

Finally, I am happy announce that Moreland City Council received \$1 454 520 from the Victorian Government's Inner City Netball Program for:

- Redevelopment of 2 courts at Martin Reserve — \$31 609
- Design of courts at Cole, Fawkner, Charles, Martin and Morris Reserves — \$55 575
- 8 new courts with lights at Charles Mutton Reserve — \$787 366
- 2 new courts with lights at Cole Reserve — \$286 322

- 2 new courts with lights at JP Fawkner Reserve — \$278 848
- Planning of 4 new courts with lights at Sewell Reserve — \$14 800

I encourage all sporting organisations in the Northern Metropolitan Region to continue to work with Local Government on applications for funding opportunities with the Andrews Labor Government.

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

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 22 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria the Education State. 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 will come online in the next few years.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing advocacy of the Hon Martin Pakula MP, Member for Keysborough in bringing this matter to the attention of the Government to ensure that all families in his electorate have access to a great school in their community. The Member for Keysborough has been tireless in his advocacy for this important project.

It appears you may not have kept up to date with local progress on this matter. The Member for Keysborough announced in July that a 2-hectare site at 10 Homeleigh Road, Keysborough, has been purchased by the Department of Education and Training for the new Keysborough South P-6 Primary School. An opening date will be confirmed when construction funding is provided, which will be considered in future state budgets.

Each year, the Department reviews the need for new schools using demographic modelling of population change, enrolment growth and the capacity of existing schools, and uses this information to plan when and where schools need to be delivered to meet growing demand. This annual state-wide planning process will continue to review the need for primary and secondary provision to service the Keysborough community.

I am pleased to note other significant investments in local schools by the Andrews Labor Government, delivering on our election commitments to the local community.

\$3.5 million was allocated to Chandler Park Primary School across the 2015-16 and 2016-17 State Budgets to build a Learning Community building, with flexible learning spaces for group and collaborative learning, a new library, administration areas and a studio for innovative cross-curriculum art and science projects.

\$11.5 million was allocated to Keysborough College in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 State Budget to upgrade and modernise its facilities. This funding will be used to refurbish the college administration block and repurpose the science area, toilets, creative arts space, visual arts block canteen and other blocks.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 23 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Government is investigating options and developing a robust business case to address traffic congestion in the area. Preliminary investigations and recommendations are scheduled to be completed by mid-2018.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 23 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting those residents affected by the park closure and has funded support agencies to assist residents to find alternate accommodation to ensure residents have access to health and well-being supports.

The Government has commissioned UnitingCare Harrison and Eastern Access Community Health (EACH) to assess the housing and support needs of all residents and support them to relocate. I would encourage the residents to make contact with the onsite support services to determine if they are eligible for the Private Rental Assistance Program and Tenancy Support programs.

An integrated community support hub has been established on site at the Park to support those affected.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 23 August 2017

ANSWER:

As outlined in the preamble to the Local Government Act 1989, it is the role of a council to provide governance and leadership for the local community through advocacy, decision making and action.

Councils should always make decisions in consultation with, and in the best interest of, their communities.

Such matters are ultimately a matter for council and accountability is to the communities they serve. In exercising such authority, an appropriate level of rigour and transparency should underpin decision making processes in order to ensure the community has confidence in such decisions.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Gepp
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 23 August 2017

ANSWER:

I would like to thank the member for Northern Victoria Region for his interest in early childhood education.

Access to high quality early years services is crucial to giving every child the best start in life. The Andrews Labor Government's Children's Facilities Capital Program aims to develop modern and flexible infrastructure across the state to ensure that every child has access to quality early childhood services.

The Andrews Labor Government is providing \$157.134 to upgrade the Mallee Minors Childcare Centre in Ouyen. This project is currently in the final stages of procurement, with construction forecast to start in September 2017, and practical completion anticipated for November 2017. The facility is scheduled to be operational by the end of 2017.

Extending and refurbishing the centre will accommodate a range of current and planned services, including 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten, long day care, occasional care and supported playgroup.

I look forward to watching this fabulous facility being upgraded for the benefit of the Murrayville, Underbool, Sea Lake and Ouyen communities.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 6 September 2017

ANSWER:

Following the announcement of the four corridor options on 7 August 2017, North East Link Authority (NELA) has held a series of information sessions with potentially impacted communities, attended by more than 2000 people to date. Throughout this stage of community engagement activities NELA has responded to hundreds of enquiries received via email, phone and social media.

It is important to note that an ongoing theme from feedback received is that there is a strong desire from the community to have certainty regarding the preferred corridor for North East Link. With this in mind; NELA has undertaken a robust community engagement program to ensure the necessary work can be undertaken to make a recommendation to government on a preferred corridor by the end of 2017.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Gepp
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 6 September 2017

ANSWER:

By legislating these ambitious renewable energy targets, Victoria is demonstrating real leadership, providing industry with the certainty and confidence to invest in renewable energy projects. These targets will be supported by a competitive reverse auction scheme, which will enable renewable energy developers to bid for long term contracts.

Under our Government's Victorian Renewable Energy Target, we will soon open an auction for up to 650 megawatts of renewable energy capacity that will provide enough electricity to power 389 000 households — or enough energy to power Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and the Latrobe Valley combined. This is expected to bring forward up to \$1.3 billion of investment, create 1250 construction jobs over two years and 90 ongoing jobs.

The VRET will also cut the average cost of power for Victorians by around \$30 a year for households, \$2500 a year for medium businesses and \$140 000 a year for large companies.

This is vital to diversifying the state's energy supply, with Victoria as the hub of the National Electricity Market. The mix of new renewables combined with emerging technologies and innovative business models, will provide a strong platform to meet the future needs of our fast-growing State. This will also deliver a low carbon future.

The Bannerton Solar Park near Robinvale in the Sunraysia district is expected to provide 100 MW of solar powered electricity, while the Numurkah Solar Farm near Shepparton is expected to generate 38 MW. This will bring forward an additional investment of \$198 million and generate around 325 jobs in regional Victoria during construction.

Around 35 megawatts of the generation capacity from the new solar projects will be linked to the entire electricity load of Melbourne's tram network under the government's Solar Trams TAKE2 pledge, leading to emissions reductions of approximately 80 000 tonnes each year.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 6 September 2017

ANSWER:

I refer to your constituency question matter regarding potential funding towards the Shepparton Sports Stadium redevelopment, raised in the Legislative Assembly on 6 September 2017.

Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities in Victoria is a key aim of the Victorian Government. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the region and look forward to seeing the positive outcomes achieved through the range of projects currently underway.

In 2016, I launched the State Government's \$22 million Better Indoor Stadiums Fund, that facilitates the development of new, or expansion of existing, indoor multi-sport stadiums. This funding is in addition to our \$120 million Community Sports Infrastructure Fund to develop new, or upgrade existing, community sport and recreation facilities including sports grounds, change rooms and outdoor courts across the state.

I am aware of Greater Shepparton's proposal to redevelop the Shepparton Sports Stadium. I also, note the many benefits this project would provide the region.

I encourage the City of Greater Shepparton to liaise directly with staff from my department to further develop this project with a view to seeking funding of up to \$3 million from a future round of the Government's Better Indoor Stadiums Fund.

Until this time, I am pleased to say we continue making other key sport and recreation investments across the City of Greater Shepparton including;

- \$100 000 for the Greater Shepparton Regional BMX Track Upgrade
- \$100 000 for the Deakin Reserve — Female Facilities project
- \$100 000 for the Kialla Park Recreation Reserve Multi Purpose Oval Lighting project
- \$80 000 for the Mooroopna Main Oval Lighting Upgrade.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 6 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government's western roads package includes eight fast tracked critical road upgrades in the west, and maintenance of more than 350 kilometres of road stretching from Werribee to Footscray, ensuring the community benefits from new high quality roads while the existing network is maintained to a high standard for years to come.

This is part of the Victorian Government's plan to cater for the rapid population growth in Melbourne's outer suburbs. It will ensure our city is a great place to live and work by improving safety, cutting travel times and increasing access to employment, community spaces and freight hubs.

A Request for Proposal was issued on 10 March 2017 to three consortia shortlisted to participate in the tender process for the Western Roads. Tenders were received in early August and are currently being evaluated.

Commencing in 2018, construction of the upgrades will be staggered, with all works expected to be completed and open to traffic by late 2021.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 6 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Government has commissioned UnitingCare Harrison and Eastern Access Community Health (EACH) to assess the housing and support needs of each resident and to support them to relocate.

An integrated community support hub has been established on site at the Wantirna Park Caravan Park to support those affected. I would encourage all people living at the Park to make contact with the onsite agencies to access appropriate support and for those people experiencing financial hardship to seek assistance.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 6 September 2017

ANSWER:

I have previously responded to both Mr Neil Burgess MP, the Member for Hastings, and to Mr Tim Richardson MP, the Member for Mordialloc on this matter.

I understand that Mr Johnson wishes to build to the boundary of his property, but has been advised by the electricity distribution business for his area, United Energy, that, for safety reasons, a minimum clearance needs to be maintained between the proposed structure and the existing pole and wires. Mr Johnson has argued that United Energy should pay for the relocation of this pole due to safety concerns arising from the lean of the pole.

I asked Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) to investigate this matter. ESV has noted that if the lean of the pole in question was non-compliant with regulation or posed a safety concern, it would be the responsibility of the electricity distribution business to straighten the pole at no cost to the customer.

ESV has further advised that in this instance it does not consider the lean of the pole in question poses a safety concern or is in breach of the relevant regulations, the Electricity Safety (Installation) Regulations. Moreover, this does not affect or alter the requirements for regulatory minimum clearances to be maintained between the proposed building and pole. Straightening of the pole would not remove the need for the pole to be relocated. The cost of any relocation therefore rests with the property owner/developer.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 6 September 2017

ANSWER:

I understand there are residents who are concerned about their health because they live in the vicinity of the Ravenhall non-hazardous waste landfill. The term non-hazardous waste landfill refers to municipal landfills that accept household waste and non-hazardous waste from industry, including the construction industries. Household waste may include putrescible food and garden waste.

In 2016, the Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services jointly commissioned a review of the available scientific evidence about potential health effects associated with living in proximity to non-hazardous waste landfills. I would like to reassure Mr Finn of the review's findings, that studies

have not shown that living near a non-hazardous waste landfill is associated with adverse health effects. The findings also confirmed an earlier review of the evidence.

The Department of Health and Human Services will continue to support the work of the Environment Protection Authority in protecting public health from the potential impacts of waste and pollution.

I understand that the Works Approval that was issued by the Environment Protection Authority on 24 March 2017 for the proposed extension to the Ravenhall landfill is currently a matter under consideration by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 7 September 2017

ANSWER:

On Friday 10 March, I joined the Premier to make a landmark announcement for the people of the Latrobe Valley, which is set to become one of regional Australia's top sporting hubs, with a major investment in its sporting infrastructure, thanks to an unprecedented \$85 million investment by the Andrews Labor Government.

This package delivers the very best community sporting infrastructure for Gippsland's many sporting clubs and athletes, with over 500 jobs to be created along the way.

The community sporting package includes:

- \$46 million for a new Gippsland Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre
- \$17 million to redevelop the Traralgon Sports Stadium
- \$4 million to upgrade Morwell Recreation Reserve
- \$1.7 million to upgrade the Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Stadium in Morwell
- \$3 million to upgrade the Ted Summerton Reserve in Moe
- \$1.4 million for the Sale and Traralgon Tennis Centres
- \$5 million for 9 local reserves to be upgraded

There has been strong progress on delivering the sports and community package. Already there has been the purchase of the Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Stadium in Morwell as an important first step in transforming the facility into a regional centre of excellence for soccer. Planning has also been completed for the upgrade to the Traralgon Tennis Centre and the redevelopment of the Sale Tennis Centre. Construction is currently expected to commence prior to the end of the year.

Due to the complex nature of delivering significant infrastructure projects simultaneously, the full infrastructure commitment to the Latrobe Valley is expected to be delivered over a four year period. Latrobe City Council has commenced planning for the Gippsland Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Importantly, community consultation will be a major part in developing this project and the Council is developing a comprehensive community engagement strategy with the intent that formal community consultation will proceed in early 2018.

The allocated budget of \$46 million made available as part of the Andrews Labor Government announcement will build a state of the art centre and create regional sporting, recreation and events opportunities for the Latrobe Valley that previously were only dreamed about. There is a strong commitment to engage the Latrobe Valley community and various stakeholders in the planning and delivery of all aspects of the funding package.

The Valley's visitor economy will also get a welcome boost, with the sporting heroes from Collingwood Football and Netball Clubs, Melbourne Victory, Melbourne Stars, Melbourne United and Swimming Australia set to become regular visitors.

To support this, the Labor Government investment includes \$6.9 million over 5 years to deliver an extensive program of major events and community sporting activities across the Valley. This includes bringing elite sports with regular pre-season games, coaching clinics and community carnivals.

The NBL Blitz was held in Traralgon from 7-9 September 2017 with all eight NBL teams participating. In addition to the tournament games, over the course of the three day event 800 students from across the Latrobe Valley participated in school clinics with their heroes from the NBL, in excess of 100 coaches from across Victoria participated in a coaching clinic, whilst wheelchair basketball and local Aboriginal youth displayed their skills as part of a comprehensive community outreach program.

Further, on 11 August 2017 Member for Eastern Victoria Ms Harriet Shing MP announced that on 15 December 2017 the Melbourne Stars will play the Hobart Hurricanes in Traralgon in a men's T20 Big Bash pre-season game. This event is expected to draw a huge crowd and will also incorporate significant community programs for communities in the Latrobe Valley.

The major clubs will also partner with local community organisations to support the critically important work they do in tackling disadvantage, boosting health outcomes and dealing with issues such as family violence, drug abuse and youth disengagement.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 7 September 2017

ANSWER:

Passengers can connect to Hamilton, Coleraine and Casterton via V/Line services through either Warrnambool, Geelong or Ballarat on weekday mornings. Passengers are serviced by a Ballarat connection, departing Southern Cross Station at 8:16am, and an afternoon connection through Warrnambool, departing Southern Cross Station at 1:05pm.

There is also a direct coach each weekday from Geelong, and there are services on Fridays that connect through Warrnambool and Geelong.

Passengers can also connect to Hamilton via Ballarat on weekends: there are two services on Saturday and Sunday, arriving 1:15pm and 10:10pm.

Specific timetable information is available on V/Line's website <www.vline.com.au>.

I have requested that V/Line continue to monitor demand for connecting services in consultation with Transport for Victoria and investigate what can be done to improve connections between trains and coaches.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Elasmarr
Directed to: Minister for Tourism and Major Events
Asked on: 7 September 2017

ANSWER:

As Minister for Tourism and Major Events, I recognise the importance of tourism to the State's economy, including areas such as the Northern Metropolitan Region. The visitor economy contributes over \$23 billion to Victoria's economy each year and generates employment for around 210 000 people.

I was pleased to hear that Melbourne has once again been named the world's most liveable city by the Economist Intelligence Unit. Our diverse and vibrant tourism and major event offerings are some of many aspects which

makes our city great, and growing the economic benefits and job outcomes of the sector is a priority for the government.

I launched the Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy in July 2016. It provides clear direction for growing visitor spend to \$36.5 billion and employment to 320 700 jobs by 2024-25. As recognised in the Strategy, investment is needed to deliver better visitor experiences. Improved facilities and new developments, including accommodation offerings, help attract more visitors and get them staying longer.

The Northern Metropolitan region has many iconic and important tourism and event destinations, including Flemington Racecourse, Docklands and the MCG. The region is also home to parklands and natural attractions, which provide opportunities for drawing visitors out of the central business district to explore more the great tourism experiences our city has to offer. There are also opportunities for international students and visiting friends and relatives segment of the tourism industry associated with institutions such as LaTrobe University.

The Northern Metropolitan Region is also well placed to benefit from tourism investment. The expansion of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, allocated \$205 million in the 2015-16 State Budget, is currently underway and will result in a boost to the Victorian economy, driven by the attraction of additional interstate and international visitors each year. The 2017-18 State Budget also invests \$271.55 million to complete the third stage of the Melbourne Park redevelopment, helping to secure more events to the area.

Investment such as these will ensure that the visitor economy in the Northern Metropolitan region will continue to grow.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 7 September 2017

ANSWER:

VicRoads advises me that the contractor appointed is required to follow due process to obtain permits and approvals from the relevant municipality to obtain clay material.

There are several alternatives to source fill material from locations other than those requiring planning permits. A project of this scale considers alternatives such as these within the project budget.

I expect VicRoads to deliver this important project for the south west, within budget and by mid-2019 as originally planned.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 7 September 2017

ANSWER:

I can advise that Parks Victoria works closely with all tenants within Yarra Bend Park, and is happy to discuss the requirements of these two clubs. Over the last two years, Parks Victoria has provided both clubs with Access Agreements to undertake wicket table improvement works and there has been open dialogue between the organisations to facilitate these annual works.

Parks Victoria have advised me that they have made contact with the Thornbury Turf Stokers and Richmond Cricket clubs to discuss the change room facilities. I am confident that Parks Victoria is amenable to making some improvements to the existing facility and is working to achieve an agreed outcome.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 7 September 2017

ANSWER:

The West Gate Tunnel Project will provide a vital alternative to the West Gate Bridge, redistributing traffic and reducing pressure across the freeway network. The project will provide a safer road, designed to reduce crashes, as well as greater flexibility that will deliver massive reductions in traffic numbers. This includes 28 000 vehicles removed from the West Gate Bridge and 22 000 removed from the Bolte Bridge every day.

For motorists from the west, this means quicker and safer travel every day, new journey choices and better access to the city. For motorists across Melbourne, it means more reliable trips on the freeway network.

The Victorian Government is also delivering major network upgrades through the M80 Ring Road Upgrade and CityLink Tulla Widening projects, which will provide seamless, safer and quicker journeys to and from the west.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 8 September 2017

ANSWER:

North East Link Authority (NELA) is currently considering four proposed corridors to 'complete the missing link in Melbourne's road network. It is expected that the potential change in daily weekday traffic on Fitzsimons Lane (at the Yarra River) would reduce by up to 11 000 vehicles per day (depending on the corridor that is ultimately selected) following the implementation of North East Link.

Notwithstanding this, these four corridors were identified by assessing existing and future predicted traffic conditions and transport movements, investigating existing road corridors, identifying potential surface road corridors and constraints to these corridors (such as topography, sensitive environmental areas and community assets, and considering tunnels to avoid these sensitive areas or mitigate substantive surface impacts).

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 8 September 2017

ANSWER:

The NBL Blitz was held in Traralgon from 7-9 September 2017 with all eight NBL teams participating. This is one of the only events in the country, in any sporting code, that brings together every top-level team from across Australia to participate in the same pre-season tournament. It's a perfect example of how securing major sporting events can bring the nation's attention to the Latrobe Valley region.

Drawn by the NBL Blitz event, participants travelled to the Latrobe Valley region to watch the games and take part in the associated community activities. This brings a tremendous boost to the local visitor economy and it's an opportunity to show off the active recreation, art galleries and beautiful landscapes that the region has to offer.

This initiative is about more than bringing top-level sporting matches to the region. Our Government is working with the sporting teams to ensure the players, coaches and officials are sharing their expertise with the community.

In addition to the eight tournament games that comprised the NBL Blitz, more than a thousand local people participated in community events over three days. 800 students from across the Latrobe Valley participated in school clinics with their heroes from the NBL, in excess of 100 coaches from across Victoria participated in a coaching clinic, and wheelchair basketball and local Aboriginal youth were able to display their skills in front of packed-out crowds. Local people experienced the pride of hosting the teams and seeing them out and about, as players and staff stayed in towns across all three councils in the Latrobe Valley.

We have another big event to look forward to in December 2017, when the Melbourne Stars play the Hobart Hurricanes in Traralgon in a men's T20 Big Bash pre-season game. The event is expected to draw a huge crowd and will incorporate more of the significant community programs that are a hallmark of the Latrobe Valley Sports and Community Initiative.

Events such as these will attract interstate visitation from competing teams, as well as visitors from Melbourne keen to see their team in action before the season proper begins. We're taking every opportunity to promote the Latrobe Valley as a tourism destination to new markets, including supporters of all participating teams, generating economic benefits over the longer term. We're encouraging local kids to take part in active recreation and build pride in the region, and helping the local economy to thrive.

My department is working with the Latrobe Valley Authority to attract more events of this nature to the Latrobe Valley, and working with teams and event organisers to deliver economic, sporting and community development outcomes for the region.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 8 September 2017

ANSWER:

The closure of the Olinda Golf Course has presented a tremendous opportunity to create a magnificent public space to suit the needs of all the community. Parks Victoria undertook three rounds of community consultation following the closure of the golf course.

Throughout this process the community identified a number of future uses for the site such as sporting facilities, playground, picnic facilities, walking trails in natural areas and dog off lead zone. This consultation informed the Olinda Golf Course Precinct Plan, which was released in May 2017.

Among the new uses identified in consultation with the community, the Olinda Golf Course Precinct Plan also highlights the opportunity to generate significant public value by extending the National Rhododendron Garden, realigning its boundary and reconfiguring the carpark and visitor entry.

The height and style of the fence erected along the new boundary ensures the security and integrity of the National Rhododendron Garden is preserved for future generations. There will be a specially selected planting along the fence line to help it blend into the natural environment.

Parks Victoria is now entering into the detailed design phase of the Olinda Golf Course Precinct Plan project. As part of this process, several investigations are being undertaken including an environmental risk assessment, land survey, traffic management and cultural heritage assessment. In conjunction with this there will be further community consultation on some aspects of the plan.

As a commitment to this consultation, Parks Victoria is hosting the Olinda Community Open Day on November 18 when the wider community will be able to view and discuss aspects of the precinct plan with members of the project team.

Parks Victoria is looking forward to continuing the conversation With the community about this exceptional project.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Tourism and Major Events
Asked on: 8 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Government is committed to supporting the Victorian Major Events Calendar, which is the envy of the rest of Australia. The Formula One Australian Grand Prix showcases Melbourne on the world stage, raising its profile, encouraging domestic and international tourism and business investment, as well as delivering economic and branding benefits to Victoria.

I am unable to provide a copy of the requested report which is a commercial in confidence document. Its release could detrimentally impact Victoria's competitive position in acquiring and retaining major national and international events.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 8 September 2017

ANSWER:

South Melbourne Park Primary School will be situated in Albert Park and will provide new educational facilities in a unique learning setting. It will cater for 550 students and help to alleviate enrolment pressures across the inner city.

Planning and design has been completed in close consultation with Parks Victoria to ensure that new facilities not only benefit students, but also the wider community. The Department of Education and Training and Parks Victoria are currently working through minor changes required to Albert Road Drive South, to facilitate a safe student drop-off zone for the school. Any changes will not result in net loss of parkland.

The Liberal Party have no credibility when it comes to new schools.

We are delivering 56 new schools across the State. Our new schools include South Melbourne Primary School, South Melbourne Park Primary School and Prahran High School. This is in stark contrast to the Liberal Party who closed more than 15 inner city schools and slashed school infrastructure funding.

Labor has now invested more than \$87 million in school infrastructure across the Albert Park electorate over our first three budgets. This compares to the mere \$11.2 million across the Albert Park electorate under the former Coalition Government's first budgets.

This new school is currently running ahead of schedule and will open Term 1, 2019 as promised.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 8 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is a proud supporter of men's sheds and recognises the important role they play in strengthening local communities and in increasing men's social connectedness while they work on projects that benefit the broader community.

On 12 September 2017 I announced \$879 000 of funding had been approved to support the construction of 13 new men's sheds and the refurbishment of 10 existing sheds across Victoria. Through the 2017-18 men's shed program grants of up to \$60 000 were available for a new shed building and \$30 000 for shed refurbishments.

Of this year's successful grant recipients, seven sheds are located in the member's Eastern Victoria Region.

A total of \$156 864 will be provided to construct three new sheds:

- \$60 000 for the Mooroolbark Men's Shed
- \$60 000 for the Golden Paradise Beach Men's Shed, and
- \$36 864 for the Willum Warrain Men's Shed.

A total of \$60 667 will be provided to refurbish four sheds:

- \$16 667 for the Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower & District Men's Shed
- \$30 000 for the Orbost Men's Shed
- \$6500 for the Drouin Men's Shed, and
- \$7500 for the High Country Men's Shed

These grants will enable better, safer and more accessible men's sheds in Victoria. I thank the member for his ongoing interest and support for Men's sheds as valuable community facilities where men can increase their social networks, learn and apply new skills, and make a difference to their community.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Gepp
Directed to: Minister for Industry and Employment
Asked on: 8 September 2017

ANSWER:

I am pleased to advise that just over \$50 million has now been allocated to Jobs Victoria employment services that are supporting jobseekers into work across the state. Since commencement of the program in September 2016, almost 6000 jobseekers who have been struggling to find work have registered with Jobs Victoria services. The support provided is tailored to the particular needs of the jobseekers, and may include assistance to identify suitable jobs, training to gain the skills needed by employers, assistance to apply for jobs, connection to local employers as well as personal support and encouragement. Over 2000 clients have now gained employment with the support of Jobs Victoria partners.

Five dedicated Jobs Victoria services are operating in the northern region of Victoria, in addition to a number of state-wide services. This includes the services offered through partners such as Mildura City Council and CVGT in Bendigo. Over 1150 jobseekers from northern Victoria have registered with Jobs Victoria partners to mid-September 2017, and almost 400 have obtained employment to date.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 8 September 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region for his continued advocacy on behalf of people in Melbourne's Eastern suburbs, particularly on matters relating to education.

As part of its commitment to making Victoria the education state, \$5.7 million has been allocated to The Basin Primary School to modernise and upgrade classrooms and the administration building, and construct a full size gym, including a competition grade netball court. In addition, a further \$1.5 million has been allocated for the construction of a new building on the school grounds to provide modern new facilities for The Basin Community House.

Minister Merlino was delighted to be able to turn the first sod on this important school upgrade.

I am pleased to advise that tenders are currently being sought for The Basin Community House project. Construction is anticipated to be completed in August 2018 allowing occupancy for the start of the term in September 2018.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Premier
Asked on: 19 September 2017

ANSWER:

The project is being delivered by the Labor Government with a commitment of \$25 million to help transform this significant yet largely vacant part of Ballarat's historic CBD into a vibrant area.

The revitalisation of the Ballarat Station Precinct has now received development approval and a permit by Heritage Victoria, which will see key heritage features of the Goods Shed preserved.

The overall project is worth more than \$50 million and includes an upgrade to the historic Goods Shed, a new convention and events centre, a Quest Apartment Hotel, shops, restaurants and a new public plaza.

Existing railway tracks from the east of the Goods Shed will be retained and incorporated into the development and a heritage interpretation program illustrating the history and operation of the Goods Yard and Goods Shed will be installed at the site.

The Government's investment will also provide around 140 jobs for the area and deliver fundamentally important amenity upgrades for commuters in recognition of the station's importance as a transport hub.

The 2017–18 Victorian Budget will also deliver a third-storey on the multi-deck car park to meet future commuter needs. In addition, \$5 million has also been allocated for the delivery of a dedicated bus interchange in the station precinct.

Western Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is getting on with delivering more than \$3 billion investment in Victoria's regional public transport network.

This includes over \$1.5 billion for new V/Locity rail cars, upgrading country level crossings, delivering nearly 600 extra regional train services, upgrading bus shelters, bicycle facilities and station car parks across regional Victoria.

The Victorian Government has also delivered over \$600 million for V/Line maintenance and operations. This record investment has got our regional trains back on track after years of cuts and neglect from the former state government.

The Victorian Government has secured \$1.42 billion owed to Victorians under the Commonwealth Government's Asset Recycling Scheme and is contributing an additional \$150 million to fund the Regional Rail Revival package — a once in a generation investment that will deliver improvements for every regional passenger line in Victoria.

This includes \$110 million Waurin Ponds Duplication project (stage 1) including upgrading Waurin Ponds Station and reserving land for the Armstrong Creek transit corridor. The Regional Rail Revival package also includes \$114 million for the Warrnambool Line Upgrade, which will deliver track and signalling to enable more services and new VLocity trains to run all the way to Warrnambool.

Early planning for the South Geelong to Waurin Ponds rail duplication is underway. The Victorian Government has recently announced the important next steps for the planning project will be to consult with key stakeholders and the local community, as well as undertake geotechnical and environmental investigations to complete a business case.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

The strategic transport modelling for Option A shows that approximately 80% of daily traffic travelling south on North East Link turns left towards Ringwood at the proposed interchange with the Eastern Freeway.

Traffic turning right towards the city is redistributed trips: that is, some people from the northern and north-eastern suburbs who would normally have used arterial roads like St Georg Road and Upper Heidelberg Road would choose to use North East Link.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Gepp
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 20 September 2017

ANSWER:

Following the expressions of interest called for in February 2017, the Premier and I announced the \$25 million Energy Storage Initiative on 14 March 2017. Proposals were requested in May 2017 for up to two projects of commercially-ready battery storage. The projects will have a minimum 20 megawatts capacity each, and will be located in western Victoria. The objectives of this initiative include improving the reliability of the network, driving the development of clean technologies, and boosting the local economy. The call for proposals closed on 13 June 2017 and the assessment process is underway. I expect to announce the results in the near future.

The potential locations for these projects includes the north-west transmission loop, which is partly located in northern Victoria. There is significant interest in new generation in this area, particularly in the Red Cliffs and Kerang regions. The Energy Storage Initiative offers an exciting opportunity to provide the first demonstration of the benefits offered by large-scale battery technology, including the potential benefits for new and existing renewable energy generators, as well as helping to ensure the reliability of the network.

Western Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

- 8 km of the Glenelg highway is to be reconstructed and strengthened at 6 locations between Skipton and Glenthompson, at an estimated cost of \$4.34 million in 2017–2018, with works commencing later this year.
- As well as the reconstruction treatments, 23 km of resurfacing works at 17 locations are also programmed for 2017-2018.
- Other programmed maintenance activities include pavement patching, edge and shoulder repairs.
- These works will make the road pavement more resilient to damage, in particular during the wetter parts of the year, and provide an improved journey experience for road users.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 20 September 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan for her interest in the Andrews Labor Government's project to remove the dangerous Blackburn Road Level Crossing and construct a new walking and cycling path between Blackburn and Nunawading stations.

During construction of the new shared path, which was part of the Blackburn Road Level Crossing Removal Project, it was established that existing property fences along Laughlin Avenue would not be affected by the works.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) conducted a review of the existing fences and found that they were generally considered suitable to screen the new path. However, assistance to landowners was provided to mitigate any associated privacy issues, typically in the form of vouchers to purchase timber screening and/or additional trees to plant along the fence line.

In relation to the specific privacy concerns raised by your constituent, LXRA has agreed to provide a contribution to a new replacement boundary fence.

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.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 20 September 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Northern Victoria for her constituency question, although I must confess it is slightly embarrassing for her given the former Liberal Government's neglect of this school, which as she implicitly acknowledges stands in contrast to Labor's proud investment at the college.

Indeed, apparently, straight-faced, the Member for Northern Victoria speaks of the school's 'glaring needs', without mentioning that the former Liberal Government did not invest a single dollar to address these glaring needs when last in Government.

Nevertheless, the Labor Government has stepped in where the Liberal Government has failed, and invested \$3.4 million towards Mansfield Secondary College to build a new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) centre. This facility will consist of science laboratories and technology spaces equipped to cater for all years, including VET students.

In relation to funding for additional facilities identified in the school's master plan, I can assure you that the infrastructure needs of all schools, including Mansfield Secondary College, will continue to receive fair and equitable consideration through the State Budget process. The Andrews Government will use all available data, including condition assessments and pre-existing project plans, when allocating resources and determining priorities for the school capital works program.

I encourage the Member for Northern Victoria and the Member for Eildon to attain greater relevance and influence within the Liberal Party to help spread their apparent commitment to school funding to their disinterested and hostile Liberal colleagues.

In closing, my advice to the constituents of Eildon and Northern Victoria is that only Labor has a track record of investing in Mansfield Secondary College, whilst the Liberal Party has none.

Western Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

Melbourne needs the West Gate Tunnel Project to address some of our biggest transport challenges, deliver a vital alternative to the West Gate Bridge and boost liveability in the west. Negotiations are continuing with Transurban, through a process that will deliver the best outcome for Victorians.

Transparency and public review are vital for getting infrastructure projects right. This is why we have committed to rigorous assessment through a business case, released December 2015, and an Environment Effects Statement, released May 2017 and open to scrutiny through over five weeks of public hearings that wrapped up on 19 September 2017.

For motorists, we have committed to a new roadway and new links that will provide more journey choices, travel time savings of up to 20 minutes, a more reliable trip on the West Gate Freeway, and congestion slashed by taking 28 000 vehicles off the West Gate Bridge and 22 000 off the Bolte Bridge every day.

Our consultation with community members has been ongoing for over two years, which has been critical for getting the project's scope and design right. In direct response to community feedback, the project will provide almost 9 hectares of new open space, over 14 kilometres of new and upgraded walking and cycling paths and over

9 kilometres of Victoria's best noise walls which will mean quieter homes, backyards and parks along the West Gate Freeway. In addition, the project will enable 24/7 truck bans that will remove over 9000 trucks from local roads. A further 5000 trucks will be prevented from rat runs to avoid the West Gate Freeway with truck bans on Blackshaws Road and Hudsons Road.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Industry and Employment
Asked on: 21 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Government is working to get the Latrobe Valley back on track; getting on with attracting new investment and generating jobs.

The former Minister approved 17 Projects under the Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund that have generated 322 Jobs and leveraged \$23.7 million of investment. Forty jobs are located in Warragul, 73 jobs in Trafalgar, 142 jobs are located in Morwell, 27 in Traralgon, 25 jobs in Sale and 15 jobs in Maffra. A further 13 Projects are in an advanced pipeline and are expected to generate a further 478 jobs and leverage \$138.7 million of investment.

The Latrobe Valley Infrastructure Pipeline includes 19 Projects and over \$800 million of investment in the Latrobe Valley over the next 4 years. It includes \$435 million towards the upgrading of the Gippsland rail line and \$95 million towards the Avon Bridge rail crossing in Stratford, \$110 million towards the creation of Timber Plantations, \$46 million towards the Gippsland Aquatic Centre in Traralgon, \$30 million towards the Latrobe Creative Arts Precinct in Traralgon, \$17 million towards the Hi-Tech Centre in Morwell, \$17 million towards the Gippsland Region Indoor Sports and Entertainment Complex, \$13 million towards the West Gippsland Arts Centre in Warragul, \$11 million towards the Port of Sale Cultural Hub and \$10 million towards the Gippsland Technical School in Morwell.

The Latrobe Valley Supply Chain Transition program is helping businesses impacted by the closure of Hazelwood Power Station and Mine and more recently the closure of Carter Holt Harvey. To date over 40 businesses have been assisted, with more than 20 businesses completing a Business Transition Plan and now moving into the execution of these Plans.

To assist local Latrobe Valley businesses in winning some of the Infrastructure Works a number of Tender Writing Workshops are also being conducted with the collaborative support of the Latrobe Valley Authority, Regional Development Victoria and the Industry Capability Network.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 21 September 2017

ANSWER:

This flu season has hit us hard. But our health services have been working together to ensure Victorians continue to have access to the care they need — when they need it.

I convened a Ministerial Roundtable on flu to discuss key strategies that our health services could roll out for the rest of the season — but most importantly, in future surge times, to provide continuity of care to Victorians. This includes making arrangements for the use of private hospital beds and a \$115 million boost in funding for our public health services.

We also last year introduced pharmacist-administered vaccination, to make flu and whooping cough immunisation more easily accessible to Victorians. Already, more than 270 community pharmacies statewide offer these services,

and I encourage all Victorians to get a flu shot either from their local pharmacy, GP, or other immunisation service providers.

But we can't do it alone. The flu epidemic is a national problem — and we need a national response. That's why we are calling on the Federal Government to put in their fair share and expand access to the flu vaccine. All vulnerable Australians — particularly children aged between 6 months and 5 years, and health workers who are in constant contact with vulnerable patients — must be given free access to the flu vaccine to help prevent future outbreaks.

The availability and uptake of immunisation should be a focus of communications now and preparations for winter 2018 — this includes uptake of immunisation by healthcare workers and in all groups of the population, in particular older people and children. The Victorian Government will lift the health workforce immunisation rate from 75% to 90% to be reached in five years. To achieve this, immunisation for staff will be available throughout the flu season — not just the beginning — to improve the uptake rate.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 21 September 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.

On 27 and 28 July 2017 PTV and Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) ran community information sessions at Sandringham Library about the design and placement of the substation, providing important feedback and ideas to inform the final design of the building. PTV will provide updates to residents about project milestones, including the final design and the project schedule, early in 2018.