

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

9 September to 21 September 2017

(Extract from book 16)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 13 September 2017)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and Minister for Local Government	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(to 12 September 2017)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer.....	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade.....	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans.....	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
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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
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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 Barber, 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 — #Mr Barber, Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmr, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing, #Ms Symes and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — #Mr Barber, #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmr, 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 Barber, 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 Elasmr 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 Elasmr, 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:

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁶	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ²	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 ⁷	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 ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁴	Northern Victoria	ALP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Appointed 16 April 2015

² DLP until 26 June 2017

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁴ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁵ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁶ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁷ Appointed 13 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

AC — Australian Conservatives; ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;

DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;

LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;

SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; VILJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

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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.

9 September to 21 September 2017**Western Victoria Region**

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 22 June 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government greatly appreciates the time and skills of Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) volunteers, including those who serve with the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard in Warrnambool.

Marine Search and Rescue in Victoria has made substantial strides forward and, with a strong foundation for a vibrant volunteer MSAR sector, it remains a priority for the Victorian Government. The Victorian Government is continuing to work through funding requirements and a means to sustainably fund the sector in the long term.

Emergency Management Victoria has recently completed a risk based Capability Assessment for all volunteer Marine Search and Rescue Providers in Victoria. In conjunction with the Warrnambool Flotilla, EMV has developed a Capability Plan for Warrnambool MSAR. This Plan provides for the existing 'offshore capable' vessel to be retained at Warrnambool and when due for replacement, be replaced with a vessel of similar or greater offshore capability. In addition, the Plan also identifies that Warrnambool requires an additional, smaller vessel for training and use on inland waters.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 8 August 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question. On behalf of the Victorian Government, VicTrack is delivering the \$20m Station Car Park program and the \$22m Road and Rail Minor Works program, which will deliver over 3000 car parking spaces at stations across metropolitan and regional Victoria.

At Officer station, VicTrack is delivering 165 car parking spaces, and this work is expected to be completed by the end of November 2017. Further, the car park at Berwick station will be expanded by 40 spaces, with works due to commence later this year.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 8 August 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the former members of the Goulburn Valley Health board for their service to Goulburn Valley Health and the Shepparton community. In particular, I would like to offer my thanks to those who took on leadership positions,

namely Mr Ryan for his service as Chairperson and Ms Knaggs for her service as the Chair of the Quality and Safety Committee.

As usual, the Member for Northern Victoria, Ms Lovell is wrong. There is currently an orderly transition of Board members following the expiration of the terms of four members taking place on the Board of Goulburn Valley Health. Rebecca Woolstencroft is eminently qualified to chair the Goulburn Valley Health Board. I would encourage the Member to support the Board, and Chair, rather than seek to undermine.

After the tragic events at Djerriwarrh Health Service, I instigated a review led by Dr Stephen Duckett into quality and safety in our health services. The report, Targeting Zero, detailed a range of issues, including recommendations relating to board composition, tenure and appointments. I take these recommendations extremely seriously. In making appointments to public hospitals and health services boards, I took a whole of health service and health system view, with the recommendations of Targeting Zero in mind. My recommendations to the Governor in Council regarding appointments are based on the skills and experience of the applicants and the particular needs of Goulburn Valley Health and the community it serves.

Newly appointed and highly skilled Chairperson, Ms Rebecca Woolstencroft, along with the board and new appointments will oversee the exciting redevelopment of Goulburn Valley Health. This \$168.5 million project will provide Shepparton and surrounding districts with a state of the art facility meaning that first class health care will be right on the door step of this community. This is a project for which there was no progress under the previous Liberal Government but which, I am proud to say, this Andrews Labor Government is delivering.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 8 August 2017

ANSWER:

The long awaited Drysdale Bypass will improve safety and ease congestion through the centre of Drysdale by providing trucks and Bellarine Peninsula traffic with an alternative route.

VicRoads has undertaken extensive community consultation, as well as undertaken traffic modelling to develop a solution that will best balance the needs of motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport that will ultimately improve traffic flow at the Jetty Road, Grubb Road intersection in Drysdale.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 8 August 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Western Metropolitan for his continued interest in the Andrews Labor Government's plan to remove the dangerous and congested level crossing at Buckley Street, Essendon.

An Alliance of John Holland and KBR won the contract for the North West program of works. Under this contract, the level crossings at Camp Road in Campbellfield and Skye/Overton Road in Frankston comprise the Initial Works Package.

If these works are delivered well, the Alliance will then progressively remove the level crossings in the Additional Works Package, which are at Buckley Street in Essendon, Glenroy Road in Glenroy, Bell Street in Coburg and Moreland Road in Brunswick.

The North West Program contract relates to all six level crossing sites listed above, with the price for works at Buckley Street, Glenroy Road, Bell Street and Moreland Road to be progressively developed as the Level

Crossings Removal Authority (LXRA) confirms the contractor is meeting performance targets and should proceed with delivery of each site.

LXRA is currently finalising design, which will factor in community ideas and feedback, and work at Buckley Street will begin later this year.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 8 August 2017

ANSWER:

Public Transport Victoria has recently installed an automatic door to the accessible toilets at Essendon station. Transport For Victoria (TFV) has been asked to note the feedback regarding further opportunities to improve the station facilities as part of any future works.

The Member for Essendon, Mr Danny Pearson MP, previously raised with my Office that options to improve accessibility at Essendon station should be investigated, and this feedback has been passed to the Public Transport Access Committee (PTAC).

PTAC provides the Government and TFV with independent advice on accessibility issues that affect many passengers, and PTAC works to ensure the needs of all passengers are at the centre of transport planning and the operation of Victoria's public transport network.

PTAC meets regularly, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Public Transport, Ms Ros Spence, MP, attends these meetings.

Further information on PTAC is available online at www.ptv.vic.gov.au/getting-around/accessible-transport/public-transport-access-committee/.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 8 August 2017

ANSWER:

From 1 to 11 July 2017, 24-hours works were undertaken to build tram infrastructure on Toorak Road West between Park Street, South Yarra and St Kilda Road in order to maintain a direct connection from South Yarra to the CBD during construction of the Metro Tunnel project.

At various times, 23 residences — a mix of individuals and families — were temporarily relocated for up to one week as part of these tram infrastructure works.

Melbourne Metro Rail Authority is working to minimise the impact of construction while delivering the Metro Tunnel — a vital infrastructure project that will transform Melbourne's public transport network and create up to 7000 jobs in the peak construction phase.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 9 August 2017

ANSWER:

VicRoads advises me that as a result of its investigation into Sherbourne Road, near Adam Crescent in Eltham, it found no reported crashes involving pedestrians. However, VicRoads will continue to monitor this location for the need for any improvements to enhance pedestrian safety.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 9 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Permanent Modular School Buildings Program is an integral part of the Andrews Labor Government's \$155 million investment in the Victorian School Asbestos Removal Program. With all identified high-risk asbestos now removed from schools, the Government is focused on addressing material that could pose a risk in the future. New, architecturally-designed permanent modular buildings offer a fast and efficient solution.

Moe (South Street) Primary School is one of the first of 100 schools to benefit from the program. Under this program, the scope of building works is closely targeted to address buildings in the poorest condition with the largest concentrations of asbestos that may pose a risk in the future.

The broader infrastructure requirements of all schools are considered through the budget process and when determining future priorities for the capital works program. The Victorian Government will continue to use all available data, including condition assessments and pre-existing project plans, when allocating funding in future state budgets.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Elasmarr
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 10 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Caring Dad's program an early intervention pilot program aimed at fathers experiencing drug or alcohol abuse who have committed, or are at risk of committing family violence. Fathers attend voluntary group sessions over 17 weeks where they learn parenting skills and the impact of family violence on their children as well as the importance of a respectful relationship with their children's mother.

In May 2016 the Andrews Labor Government allocated \$575 000 to Children's Protection Society to begin a pilot of the Caring Dads program. In June 2017 we allocated a further \$4.6 million to the Caring Dads program with an additional \$1 million dollars contributed by the Gandel Foundation. This enabled the program to be expanded to other providers across the state.

This program is part of the Andrews Labor Government's commitment to implement all recommendations of the Family Violence Royal Commission-including researching, trialling and evaluating intervention programs for perpetrators, a record \$1.9 billion package of measures to end family violence in Victoria was announced in the 2017-18 Victorian Budget.

In the member's electorate, participating fathers are from the local government areas of Darebin, Hume, Moreland and Yarra.

The community organisations that deliver the Caring Dads program in the member's electorate are the Children's Protection Society and Uniting Regen.

The North East Melbourne trial site is being run in partnership with Uniting ReGen, an alcohol and other drug treatment and education agency. Within the alcohol and other drug sector ReGen is a leader in family inclusive practice and workforce development. Their partnership with CPS in Caring Dads recognises the frequent co-occurrence of substance use and family violence.

Evidence from other Caring Dads trials indicate that fathers who complete the program show a greater ability to co-parent with the child or children's mother and more frequently prioritize their children's needs. The Victorian trial of Caring Dads will add to the empirical evidence about the efficacy of the program through an evaluation being undertaken by the University of Melbourne.

I thank the member for his interest in assisting fathers in the Northern Metropolitan Region who are experiencing drug and alcohol abuse and at risk of committing family violence and his commitment to help them build their parenting skills and to understand the impact that family violence can have on young children.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 10 August 2017

ANSWER:

The VAGO Report into V/Line Passenger Services confirms that the previous Government's cost-cutting regime put significant pressure on the operational capacity of V/Line, and shifted the focus of the organisation to saving money, rather than maintaining the network and delivering the services passengers needed.

The Andrews Labor Government has restored funding to V/Line, invested in rolling stock and new services, and has outlined a plan to continually improve regional public transport.

This Government has also successfully lobbied the Federal Government for the money owed to Victoria under the Asset Recycling Agreement, which will fund our Regional Rail Revival package of major public transport upgrades across regional Victoria.

There is more than \$500 million to upgrade the Gippsland line, with \$435 million for major upgrades between Pakenham and Traralgon, and \$95 million to replace the Avon River Bridge.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 10 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Coolaroo recycling plant fire is an example of the growing complexity of fires in Victoria, and the ongoing challenges they present for emergency services.

On 15 August 2017, I announced that the Inspector-General for Emergency Management (IGEM) will conduct a review of the fire at the SKM Recycling Plant in Coolaroo. This latest review is an important opportunity to confirm that emergency services are working hard to do everything they can to respond should similar events arise in the future.

IGEM will work closely with relevant agencies and examine key aspects of the fire including the effectiveness of the State Smoke Framework, air quality monitoring, firefighter occupational health and safety, and the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) processes. The IGEM will also work closely with EMV, which is undertaking a separate but complementary operational review into the incident.

The IGEM will deliver this report to the Government by the end of November 2017.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 22 August 2017

ANSWER:

I am pleased to advise that the three projects funded through the Growing Suburbs Fund are completed and already making a difference in the day to day lives of the families and children who live nearby.

The Oakridge Recreational Reserve received \$150 000 to rejuvenate the existing reserve. Works include upgrading the playground, creating an active "kick-a-bout" space, landscaping and walking tracks.

Marshall Street Recreational Reserve received \$100 000 for a playground, dog run and agility training area, picnic and barbeque area, an active play "kick-a-bout" space, landscaping and pathways.

Wallaroo Reserve received \$50 000 towards a \$174 200 project that is designed to revitalise and activate the space. Funding contributed to extensive upgrades to the reserve, including landscaping, native tree planting, installation of safety barriers at the entrance and mural artworks. Totem poles will be decorated by the community with help from an artist and installed at a later date.

These projects provide communities with spaces that support active and passive recreation opportunities, will attract residents to spend more time outdoors enjoying the play equipment that is so important for children's development as well as provide open spaces for communities to come together.

The Growing Suburbs Fund is delivering results by bringing forward local infrastructure projects that meets the needs and demands of local communities. These projects will contribute to building stronger, more resilient and liveable communities.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 22 August 2017

ANSWER:

As part of the Ballarat Line Upgrade scope of works a new passing loop will be constructed at Millbrook to replace the existing Bungaree Loop.

Over the last few months, Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) has met with Moorabool Shire Council officers on several occasions to discuss the scope of Ballarat Line Upgrades and the subsequent impact on the Bungaree Loop.

The new loop will provide a more direct route for trains on the Ballarat line between Ballan and Ballarat, meaning that trains in both directions will be able to offer a consistent journey time. Additionally the new Millbrook Loop will replace the functionality of the Bungaree Loop as a passing location for trains. This makes the Bungaree Loop operationally redundant, and saves the need to maintain 12 kilometres of additional track.

The closure of the Bungaree loop will remove five level crossings on the Ballarat Line, one of which is located near Wallace, the site of a fatality in 2011. As there are no stations located on the Bungaree loop, passengers' ability to access rail services will not be affected by the loop closure.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 22 August 2017

ANSWER:

The former Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Frankston line. In contrast, the Andrews Labor Government is removing thirteen, with three already gone, including the North Road level crossing in Ormond.

A mixed-use development, including a supermarket and other retail, cafes and restaurants, as well as accommodation, at Ormond station is being proposed.

The claim from the Member for Southern Metropolitan that the proposed development is a secret is clearly false as she admits in her question that the proposal was subject to public hearings earlier this year. Following these public hearings, an independent panel provided advice to the Minister for Planning, the Hon Richard Wynne MP, who will give it his full and proper consideration prior to releasing his decision.

It must be noted that when the Member for Southern Metropolitan refers to the proposed 13-storey development as a "sky tower", she proudly supported a 31-storey development adjacent to a railway station in her electorate when she was in Government.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Industry and Employment
Asked on: 22 August 2017

ANSWER:

In May 2017, the Victorian Government announced that workers affected by the closure of the Carter Holt Harvey sawmill would be able to access the support services established for workers affected by the Hazelwood closure. These services are delivered through the Worker Transition Service provided by the Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA). Support is tailored to the needs of each individual, but includes career counselling, skills development and training, job search support, employment placement, access to community and peer support, financial advice and advice on starting a small business.

I am advised that more than 100 Carter Holt Harvey workers have already availed themselves of these services.

Retrenched workers are a priority cohort for Jobs Victoria programs. As a result, if Carter Holt Harvey workers require any additional support post closure, they can access local Jobs Victoria services. The full range of Jobs Victoria services available to support Victorian jobseekers is accessible via the Jobs Victoria website: <http://jobs.vic.gov.au>.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 22 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Murray Basin Rail Project will revitalise the Victorian freight network and boost local jobs and businesses in the region.

We're getting on with building the \$440 million Murray Basin Rail Project with works already underway on the second stage of the project, continuing the upgrade and the conversion of over 1000 kilometres of track to standard gauge — providing better rail freight services and improved rail access to Victoria's commercial ports.

The works will provide better rail access between the Murray Basin and Victoria's major ports of Portland, Geelong and Melbourne. It will also improve the performance of the rail network and increase the amount of rail freight able to be moved.

The Portland–Maroona line is leased to the Commonwealth Government's Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) and is ARTC's responsibility.

The Honourable Member for Western Victoria may like to pose the same question of a Portland-Maroona line upgrade to his Federal colleague and Member for Wannon, the Honourable Dan Tehan MP.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 23 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Government is committed to improving hunters' access to accurate and easily accessible information on where, when and what they can hunt.

The hunting maps you refer to were developed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. They are hosted on the Game Management Authority website. I understand that there are issues with some deer hunting maps due to them not identifying areas over which grazing licences have been issued.

The development of a new map set for Victoria showing where different game hunting can occur on public land is an important action of the Sustainable Hunting Action Plan. Development of this initiative is currently underway.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Industry and Employment
Asked on: 23 August 2017

ANSWER:

I am pleased to confirm that workers from Carter Holt Harvey Building Supplies Group are not only eligible for, but are indeed receiving support through Victorian Government employment services.

In May 2017, the Victorian Government announced that workers affected by the closure of the Carter Holt Harvey sawmill would be able to access the support services established for workers affected by the Hazelwood closure. These services are delivered through the Worker Transition Service provided by the Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA). Support is tailored to the needs of each individual, but includes career counselling, skills development and

training, job search support, employment placement, access to community and peer support, financial advice and advice on starting a small business. And as you indicate, more than 100 Carter Holt Harvey workers have already availed themselves of these services.

Retrenched workers are a priority cohort for Jobs Victoria programs. As a result, if Carter Holt Harvey workers require any additional support post closure, they can access local Jobs Victoria services. The full range of Jobs Victoria services available to support Victorian jobseekers is accessible via the Jobs Victoria website: <http://jobs.vic.gov.au>.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Eideh
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 23 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is proud to continue funding the first-class high performance sport programs at the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS).

We provide \$6.7 million each year to the VIS to ensure it remains a leading provider of high performance sports programs for talented Victorian athletes across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. I recently confirmed this funding for the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial years to provide certainty in forward planning and allow it to support Victorian athletes in the lead up to the Tokyo Olympics.

The Government has also provided a one off \$300 000 funding boost for a new outreach program to increase the engagement of the VIS in our regions and investigate improvements required to enhance VIS data management systems and processes.

Part of the commitment is \$200 000 towards a Regional Community Outreach and Roadshow pilot that will see VIS coaches, athletes and talent identifiers visit communities across Victoria to share expertise, knowledge and resources, and engage with promising young athletes and coaches in regions which would otherwise find it difficult to access VIS facilities in inner Melbourne.

As well as VIS coaching expertise and other high performance learnings being shared to improve community and sub-elite sport outcomes, linking VIS athletes with state sporting associations, regional sports assemblies and sporting clubs in both metropolitan and regional areas provides opportunities to inspire more people to get active and join a grassroots sporting club.

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

Western Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

As the population grew under the Liberals' watch without any spend on roads, the Andrew's Labor Government is investigating options to improve traffic flow and improved connectivity along Point Cook Road between Dunnings Road and Railway Avenue and expects to complete it by the first half of 2018.

Furthermore, the Government announced \$1.8 billion for the Western Package of the Outer Suburban Arterial Roads Program in November 2016. This program includes the duplication of Dunnings Road and Palmers Road from Point Cook Road to the Princes Freeway and the upgrade of the Forsyth Road interchange. Together with the new Princes Freeway diamond interchange at Sneydes Road, these combined road upgrades are expected to relieve congestion on Point Cook Road by providing commuters with attractive alternatives that provide access to the Princes Freeway.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 23 August 2017

ANSWER:

I was delighted to join you recently in visiting Melba College to see first-hand the difference this Labor Government's investment is making.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to an ambitious agenda to make Victoria the Education State. This means building a world-class education and training system that fosters both excellence and equity.

The Shared Facilities Fund contributes to this by providing funding to develop community facilities on school sites, in order to establish partnerships with local government and community organisations that improve the amenity, liveability and resilience of communities.

Over \$10 million has already been allocated to 10 exciting projects across the state, including \$2.35 million for a 'multiservice community hub' at Kurunjang Primary School.

Kilsyth Basketball Association's application to the Shared Facilities Fund is progressing well, and the Department of Education and Training is working closely with the Association and Melba College towards a positive outcome for the Kilsyth community.

Successful applicants will continue to be announced on a rolling basis and listed on the Victorian School Building Authority website.

Southern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

The previous Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Cranbourne-Pakenham line. In contrast, the Andrews Labor Government is removing fourteen, with the removal of nine currently under construction.

The claim by the Member for Southern Metropolitan is wrong. No pylons on the level crossing removal project between Caulfield and Dandenong are sinking into unstable ground.

In relation to the Member's request that the Government provides advice as to the safety impacts on the local community, I can confirm that these level crossings are the most congested and dangerous in Victoria and that their removal will dramatically improve safety for the local community.

Eastern Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

VicRoads manages approximately 3500 kilometres of arterial roads throughout Gippsland. To do this effectively, comprehensive procedures are in place to ensure that regular inspections are undertaken of the road network to identify defects, treat any hazards and maintain roads in a safe and acceptable condition.

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

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This year the Government will invest \$260.3 million to deliver maintenance, improvements and upgrades to 9 153 000m² of regional roads across the State. Included in this package is \$150 000 to resurface a three kilometre length of Traralgon Creek Road between Callignee South Road and Rifle Range Road. These works will waterproof the road, making it more resilient and provide an improved surface for all road users.