

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS**

**9 June to 23 June 2017**

**(Extract from book 12)**

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## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry**

(from 10 November 2016)

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
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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
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 . . . . .	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, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O’Brien, Mr Pakula, Ms Richardson 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 Patten and Mr Somyurek. (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon, Mr Northe 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*): 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 Eideh 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 Pearson, Mr T. Smith, Ms Staley 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* — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

*Council* — 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 Finn, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, 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 <sup>2</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>1</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	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 <sup>4</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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
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 <sup>6</sup>	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 <sup>5</sup>	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			

<sup>2</sup> Appointed 15 April 2015

<sup>3</sup> Resigned 27 May 2016

<sup>5</sup> Resigned 6 April 2017

<sup>6</sup> Appointed 7 June 2017

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>4</sup> Appointed 12 October 2016

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

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.*

**9 June to 23 June 2017**

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 2 May 2017

**ANSWER:**

In 2016, VicRoads collected truck movement data to understand the level of truck movement and compliance with existing curfews along this corridor. In addition, VicRoads is currently embarking on a community consultation exercise, starting with a recently completed online survey to gauge community experience and thoughts on trucks and curfews along Beach Road.

VicRoads advises me that it is currently collating survey results. Once this is completed, VicRoads will share the findings with the community.

I understand that VicRoads will also have discussions with key stakeholders to consider issues associated with trucks and curfews along this corridor. Ultimately, any decision about the future of this corridor will need to balance the needs of local businesses, community and other road users.

**Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Mulino  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 9 May 2017

**ANSWER:**

VicRoads advises me that the following safety initiatives will be being delivered on the peninsula over the next six months, they are:

- Installation of safety barriers on the Nepean Highway (Mornington-Flinders Road), between the Mornington Peninsula Freeway and Bittern-Dromana Road (\$1.999 million);
- Installation of safety barriers on the Mornington Peninsula Freeway, between the Moorooduc Highway and the Nepean Highway (\$3 million);
- Construction of a roundabout at the intersection of the Western Port Highway and Robinsons Road in Pearcedale (\$6.2 million);
- Installation of roundabouts at the St Kilda Street and Brighton Crescent intersections on Wooralla Drive, Mt Eliza (\$989 000);
- Modification to the roundabout at the Barkly Street / Main Street intersection, Mornington (\$271 000); and
- Modification to the roundabout at the Barkly Street / Tanti Avenue intersection, Mornington (\$44 000).

**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Leane  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 10 May 2017

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government's 2016-17 State Budget included \$19.4 million of new funding to continue and expand the Community Crime Prevention Program.

Crime prevention begins at a local level, and this funding is ensuring our communities are well supported through local grants programs and initiatives to help them tackle local crime issues.

Applications under the latest round of the Graffiti Prevention Grants closed on Friday 12 May 2017. My department is currently assessing the 32 applications received and I will announce the outcomes in the coming months.

Applications are open until 14 July 2017 for the very popular Community Safety Fund grants, which provide up to \$10 000 for community groups and councils to implement practical, locally based crime prevention projects.

The Public Safety Infrastructure Fund provides grants of up to \$250 000 to Victorian councils to implement urban design initiatives and technology, such as lighting and CCTV, to improve safety in public places. The 2017-18 grant round is scheduled to open in the coming months.

If you are aware of local councils or community organisations in your constituency interested in delivering community safety projects, please encourage them to apply. Detailed information on grants is available on the Community Crime Prevention website at <http://www.crimeprevention.vic.gov.au/>

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 10 May 2017

**ANSWER:**

As part of the construction project for Cherry Creek and similar to the Ravenhall Prison project and the Barwon High Security Unit, the Department of Justice and Regulation has engaged the appropriate consultancy firms to conduct ecological and cultural heritage surveys of the area.

This is part of the process for any development on greenfield sites.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Premier  
**Asked on:** 10 May 2017

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government is bringing hundreds of public sector jobs to the regions with new GovHub offices to be built in Ballarat and the Latrobe Valley. The recent Victorian Budget secured a major jobs boost for these regional centres and will also kick off planning for a third GovHub in Bendigo.

The Ballarat GovHub funded in the Victorian Budget 2017/18, will be home to up to 1000 government employees, including 600 new positions to the city, and will help revitalise a major part of the Ballarat CBD. This brand new office will include employees across:

- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Justice and Regulation
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs Transport & Resources (DEDJTR)
- Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- State Revenue Office
- VicRoads
- Service Victoria

The project will also create up to 500 jobs during construction.

This Government works to represent the whole state and that means government offices shouldn't just be confined to the Melbourne CBD.

This Labor Government has created over 50 000 regional jobs throughout Victoria which is nine times more than the 5600 jobs created under the former Coalition Government. Under our Government, regional unemployment in Victoria has decreased and sits below the national average.

Given the four wasted years under the former government, one would think job creating projects in Ballarat would be welcomed rather than ridiculed by local representatives such as yourself.

### **Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Pennicuik  
**Directed to:** Minister for Water  
**Asked on:** 11 May 2017

#### **ANSWER:**

Melbourne Water provided technical information and advice to the community consultation undertaken by Bayside City Council and is available to provide further advice as Council undertakes future master planning and detailed design of the park improvements.

In addition, Melbourne Water's Living Rivers Program provides funding, expertise and guidance to councils in managing stormwater quality and quantity through an integrated water management approach.

### **Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Emergency Services  
**Asked on:** 11 May 2017

#### **ANSWER:**

As part of our reform to the fire services, the Government is restoring the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to a fully volunteer firefighter organisation, enshrined in law. The CFA will continue to serve the same communities and be better supported and equipped, with over \$100 million of new funding. This funding will go towards the things volunteers have told us they want: more accessible training, more brigade level support, station upgrades and better equipment. We are delivering these things because we want an even stronger CFA, with more volunteers and better support.

CFA's 1220 volunteer brigades, including Sunbury, Bulla, Diggers Rest, Truganina and Hoppers Crossing, will continue to serve and protect their communities just as they always have. At the 35 current integrated brigades, volunteers will be encouraged and supported to remain at that location and continue to serve the communities they have deep connections with.

### **Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Wooldridge  
**Directed to:** Minister for Planning  
**Asked on:** 24 May 2017

#### **ANSWER:**

Plan Melbourne is the Andrews Labor Government's 35 year blueprint to ensure Melbourne grows in a sustainable, productive and liveable way as its population approaches 8 million.

To support implementation of Plan Melbourne, I have reformed the suite of residential zones across all Victorian planning schemes. These reforms protect the valued character and distinctiveness of neighbourhoods, increase housing diversity and encourage residential growth in the right locations.

The revised Neighbourhood Residential Zone and General Residential Zone put in place new mandatory building height and garden area requirements that will prevent overdevelopment and protect the low scale and open character of suburbs like those in the municipalities of Nillumbik and Banyule. These requirements are mandatory and cannot be varied.

The former two-dwelling 'cap' in the Neighbourhood Residential Zone was an arbitrary control and ineffective in preventing excessive building bulk and overdevelopment of suburban properties. For these reasons, the 'cap' has been replaced by the new mandatory minimum garden area that will manage the extent of building coverage on suburban lots and ensure that a minimum percentage of the land is set aside for garden area.

Councils also maintain the ability to identify and protect areas or features of special local significance by applying additional layers of planning control that are available as part of the Victoria Planning Provisions. Examples are overlays to protect neighbourhood character, significant landscapes and heritage places. I note that extensive parts of Nillumbik's and Banyule's residential areas are already covered by overlays that protect trees and environmental values.

The new garden area requirement will work effectively with these existing overlay controls to enhance the green, leafy character of the suburbs of Banyule and Nillumbik.

### **Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Shing  
**Directed to:** Minister for Industry and Employment  
**Asked on:** 24 May 2017

#### **ANSWER:**

Thank you for your question on the Carter Holt Harvey plantation in Morwell and on what the Victorian Government is doing to support those workers affected by the closure.

The government announced on 16th May 2017 that workers affected by the closure of Carter Holt Harvey mill would be able to access support services and other assistance that is currently available through the Latrobe Valley Authority.

The Latrobe Valley Authority is a one stop shop for workers, contractors and the families of workers affected by the closure of the Hazelwood power station on 31 March 2017. As at the 26th May 2017, 14 workers from Carter Holt Harvey are being assisted to transition to new employment by the Latrobe Valley Authority Worker Transition Service.

The government will continue to discuss the sawmill closure with Carter Holt Harvey and advocate for company-led initiatives to minimise the impact on workers.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that transition services and support are in place where closure results in the displacement of workers.

### **Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Elasmar  
**Directed to:** Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2017

#### **ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting communities by providing effective, accessible targeted grant programs that meet a range of cultural, social, economic and educational needs.

The 2017-18 Community Infrastructure and Cultural Precincts (CICP) program is expected to open in July.

The CICP program supports the restoration or construction of community facilities used by culturally diverse communities and enhancements to cultural precincts through providing culturally themed infrastructure.

The 2017-18 Community Harmony (CH) grants program is also expected to open in July. The CH program aims to promote social cohesion and community harmony while actively standing against exclusion and marginalisation.

As always, program opening and closing dates will be announced by media release, on the Victorian Government's multicultural affairs website, and by direct emails to previous grant applicants and recipients.

I encourage any community group seeking grant funding to subscribe to newsletters and alerts on the Victorian Government's multicultural website to ensure they are aware of every funding opportunity that is made available.

### **Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Planning  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2017

#### **ANSWER:**

I am aware of the community sentiment about this matter and the importance of height provisions in the activity centre and the surrounding areas. In deciding whether to approve the amendment, I will consider the recommendations provided to me by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, submissions from the public, and the recommendations of the independent planning panel that was formed to review the previous amendment C141.

### **Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Patten  
**Directed to:** Minister for Planning  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2017

#### **ANSWER:**

The old Nufarm Factory site at 100–102 McBryde Street, Fawkner is currently in an industrial land use zone (Industrial 3 Zone). The site is identified in the Moreland Industrial Land Strategy as land suitable for transitioning into residential. The approved Moreland Planning Scheme Amendment C158 implements the recommendations of Moreland City Council's industrial strategy through a number of changes to the Municipal Strategic Statement and

the Local Planning Policy Framework. Amendment C158 had a full public exhibition and panel hearing process and received a supportive panel report.

Moreland City Council, as the planning authority for any future rezoning of the land, must comply with Ministerial Direction No. 1 on Potentially Contaminated Land.

The council must satisfy itself that the land is suitable for sensitive uses prior to the land being rezoned to residential or a planning approval given for its redevelopment for sensitive uses in accordance with Ministerial Direction No. 1.

Moreland City Council is able to apply an Environmental Audit Overlay over the site should it decide to rezone the land for residential use to ensure that appropriate investigation is undertaken prior to any sensitive use being established on the land.

There is no current planning scheme amendment to rezone the land from its current industrial zoning.

### **Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2017

**ANSWER:**

Please refer to my previous answer to your adjournment asked on 8 February 2017.

### **Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Barber  
**Directed to:** Minister for Major Projects  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2017

**ANSWER:**

In October 2014, an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the E-Gate site was released, which closed in February 2015.

In September 2016, the EOI respondents were advised that given the Government's commitment to the progression of the Westgate Tunnel project, the development offering at E-Gate would be reassessed. The development offering is also impacted by possible lay down areas that will be required during the construction of the Metro Tunnel.

As a result, the EOI process has been officially closed.

### **Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2017

**ANSWER:**

Work is currently being done to consider further options that address safety and congestion and future traffic demands for the Sunbury and Bulla communities.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Purcell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2017

**ANSWER:**

The government is committed to ongoing Victorian leadership in regulatory reform and red tape reduction to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Victorian economy.

While regulation is an important tool in achieving the government's policy objectives, ensuring that no unnecessary burden is imposed on businesses and not-for-profit organisations is a key priority for the Victorian Government.

The Red Tape Commissioner, appointed in 2015, works with Victoria's business community and the Government to help cut red tape and improve regulation, and is recording issues through the Red Tape Rubbish Bin website. I would encourage anyone to submit an issue they believe to be an example of unnecessary red tape to the Red Tape Rubbish Bin website so that their feedback can be considered.

Regarding businesses trying to navigate the different grants and assistance available to them from the Victorian Government, I would encourage any business to initially meet with one of the team from Regional Development Victoria (RDV) at one Business Centres based throughout Victoria. I understand that any grant process can be frustrating and confusing, especially for business people who are putting so much of their energy towards keeping their business operating. The team at RDV are experienced in assisting businesses in navigating the maze of grants and guiding the applicant to the most relevant grant for their circumstances.