

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

11 August to 24 August 2017

(Extract from book 14)

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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 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
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	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*): 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 Elasmarr, 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 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	V1LJ
Elasmarr, 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; 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.

11 August to 24 August 2017**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 23 March 2017

ANSWER:

I can assure the residents of Nillumbik and Banyule that the Government is committed to ensuring community safety in their local area and across Victoria. Our commitment to effectively resource Victoria Police is already showing results as reflected in the latest data published by the Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) for the year ending March 2017, which shows that crime has decreased across Eltham, as well as the Nillumbik and Banyule LGAs from last year.

The number of offences recorded in Eltham has decreased by over 40 per cent, driven by a decrease in property and deception offences of close to 60 per cent. Furthermore, the number of thefts in Eltham has decreased by over 35 per cent.

In Nillumbik, the number of offences recorded has decreased by over 14 per cent. This substantial decrease was caused by a 26 per cent decrease in property and deception offences. Drug offences, and public order and security offences have also decreased.

The number of offences recorded in Banyule has also decreased by close to 3 per cent, driven by declining rates of crimes against the person, public order and security and justice procedure offences.

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 commitment to boost police numbers right across the state.

In total the Government is funding 3135 additional frontline police over the next five years to support police respond to crime in our communities. These extra 3135 police, which are on top of attrition, are the lynchpin of the Victoria's first-ever Community Safety Statement. It is the biggest boost to frontline police in Victoria's history, and is critical in dealing with growing demand on police services.

The first 300 additional frontline police have already been allocated across Melbourne's growth suburbs. Melbourne's north-west was allocated a substantial amount of police resources with 238 of the 300 additional police officers allocated to the North West Metropolitan Victoria Police Region.

While the decision of how and where police resources are deployed is appropriately a matter for the Chief Commissioner, Victoria Police has developed a new and sophisticated staff allocation model to determine how many police are needed and where. It will also help police predict how many will be needed in the future — so they can start planning for them now.

The Government will ensure Victoria Police has the power and resources it needs to reduce harm in the community and keep Victorians safe.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 11 May 2017

ANSWER:

In July 2017, I approved new planning controls for the land in and around Queen Victoria Market (QVM), with the need for well-considered design and heritage protection at the forefront of my mind.

In making this decision, I took into account the findings of the independent planning panel, which considered over 150 submissions from traders, customers and the wider community.

Importantly, I decided to retain the existing zoning and height controls over the Market Sheds and Fresh Food Halls. The Market Sheds, Halls and Franklin Street Stores buildings are included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act, which means that consent will be required from Heritage Victoria for buildings and works in these areas.

I share the desire of the wider community to ensure that redevelopment proposals are sympathetic to the heritage values of the market and protect its long-term viability as a working market. I believe the new controls that I have approved will facilitate the sensitive renewal of the QVM, while also protecting this iconic part of Melbourne.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 25 May 2017

ANSWER:

The Small Business Financial Counsellors were funded as part of a targeted response to drought and the impact of milk price reductions. Provision of financial counselling to small businesses in regional communities was important as they were being impacted by the flow on effects of drought and the sudden drop in the farm gate milk price. Funding for one full time person (or equivalent) was provided in each of the four Victorian Rural Financial Counselling Service regions for a period of 12 months.

I am pleased with the support the Small Business Financial Counselling program has provided to small businesses in need. There is no plan to extend the program beyond 30 June 2017 in the western district.

I continue to receive advice from the Victorian Agriculture Advisory Council on seasonal and financial conditions in rural and regional Victoria. The Council plays a key role in assessing the need for additional support.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 7 June 2017

ANSWER:

The Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012 permit several Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) recognised dog breeds to be used in game hunting.

All dogs currently approved for use in game hunting are recognised breeds under the ANKC Standards.

While I understand that the Murray River Retriever may have originated from crosses of some of the recognised ANKC gundog breeds, it is not currently recognised by the ANKC.

I have asked my department to explore potential exemption processes for the regulations to permit non-gundog breeds to be used for gamebird hunting. However, these exemptions are likely to only be applicable where a breed standard can be used to support the application of the regulations, and/or apply only to an applicant and their dog.

In recent correspondence with the Murray River Retriever Association, I have encouraged the Association to continue to seek formal ANKC recognition of the breed.

[See attached correspondence at pages 4391 and 4392]

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Symes
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 20 June 2017

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's \$50 million Shared Facilities Fund is designed to support schools, local councils and other institutions to develop shared facility arrangements that will increase access to local services and participation by the community. I thank the member for Northern Victoria for taking an interest in this fund, which will transform school sites across the state into wonderful facilities that the whole community can use.

I am pleased to announce that \$121 275 has been allocated from the Shared Facilities Fund to replace and upgrade the sports lighting at Broadford Secondary College, home of the wonderful Mitchell Rangers Soccer Club. This funding will support the inspirational work of the club, which is focussed on creating an environment that is competitive, yet inclusive.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

VicRoads has carried out preliminary environmental investigations to assess vegetation, fauna, waterways and cultural impacts, which will help shape the design of the bypass and advise where further investigations are needed.

VicRoads will continue to engage with the community throughout all processes and stages of this project.

Southern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is removing all nine level crossings between Caulfield and Dandenong and the Liberal Party's opposition to this project is well understood by the local community.

While the project enjoys widespread community support, the Government acknowledges that some people immediately adjacent to the corridor may wish to relocate via a Voluntary Purchase Scheme (VPS).

Residents had over a year to consider whether they would like to apply for the VPS and while some residents have taken up this option, many others have decided to stay as a result of the benefits of having no level crossings, better public transport and more open space in their community.

The comprehensive eligibility criteria for the VPS has been public for over a year and is available at www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au.

Any residents with queries in relation to their eligibility should contact the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA).

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 10 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is satisfied that both landfills at East Beach, Port Fairy, are being effectively managed. The EPA continue to monitor both sites.

A working group has been established consisting of representatives from Moyne Shire Council, Barwon South West Waste Resource and Recovery Group, Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to prepare long term management strategies for both waste sites. My department, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, has provided \$150 000 to undertake this work.

I can reassure the member for Western Victoria that regular inspections are undertaken of both landfills with no reporting of rubbish 'spewing' onto the beach and into the ocean. The structures in place to protect the landfill sites are fulfilling their purposes.



The Hon Jaala Pulford MP

Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Regional Development

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Ref: CMIN175119R

Ms Debra Wright
President
Murray River Retriever Association
leon.debbie@bigpond.com

Dear Ms Wright

MURRAY RIVER RETRIEVER EXEMPTIONS

Thank you for your email of 14 May 2017 seeking an exemption for the Murray River Retriever to hunt duck.

The Victorian Government supports the use of approved breeds of dogs in hunting as it has the potential to increase hunter success and assist in the location of downed game that may otherwise be lost.

All dogs currently approved for use in game hunting under the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012 are recognised breeds under the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) Standards. While I understand that the Murray River Retriever may have originated from crosses of some of the recognised ANKC gundog breeds, it is not currently recognised by the ANKC.

I encourage the Murray River Retriever Association to continue to seek formal ANKC recognition of your breed.

In the interim, I have asked my department to explore potential exemption processes for the regulations to permit non-gundog breeds to be used to hunt duck. However, these exemptions are likely to only be applicable where a breed standard can be used to support the application of the regulations.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me. I will keep you informed on the progress of this matter.

Yours sincerely

Hon Jaala Pulford MP
Minister for Agriculture

Date: 28/6/17



The Hon Jaala Pulford MP

Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Regional Development

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Ref: CMIN176566R

Ms Debra Wright
President
Murray River Retriever Association
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Dear Ms Wright

MURRAY RIVER RETRIEVER

Thank you for your email of 6 July 2017 about the Murray River Retriever.

The Game Management Authority has an exemption process that may permit some dogs to be used for deer hunting that are currently not permitted under the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012.

However, I am advised that to date these exemptions have only been provided to owners of dogs of a recognised breed under the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) standards, not cross-breeds. In addition, the exemption is provided to an individual applicant for their individual dog, and is not provided to a whole breed.

I have requested that my department explore similar exemption processes to potentially permit other dog breeds to be used for gamebird hunting.

Similar to the existing deer hunting exemption process, any exemption for dogs used in gamebird hunting is likely to apply only to the applicant and their dog, and only where a breed standard exists for the dog.

I again encourage the Murray River Retriever Association to continue to seek formal ANKC recognition of your breed.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely

Hon Jaala Pulford MP
Minister for Agriculture

Date: 9/8/17