

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

24 March to 2 May 2017

(Extract from book 7)

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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)

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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 Elasmr, Mr Finn, 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 Eideh, #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 Mulino, Mr O’Donohue, 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.

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 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 — 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

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Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

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The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

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Leader of the Greens:

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Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
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Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
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Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
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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
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	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

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Resigned 6 April 2017

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁴ 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.

24 March to 2 May 2017**Western Victoria Region**

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 6 December 2016

ANSWER:

There has been no reduction in frontline police. The community of Ballarat continues to receive a 24-hour police response. The decision of how and where resources are deployed is appropriately a matter for the Chief Commissioner of Police.

The Government has responded to current community concerns with a comprehensive strategy to prevent, detect and disrupt crime. The Community Safety Statement, released in December 2016 outlines the range of new investments, powers, tools and capability that Victoria Police will be equipped with to stabilise the crime rate and begin to reduce the level of harm being caused in the community

Central to the Community Safety Statement is boosting of police numbers right across the state. In total, the Andrews Labor Government is funding 3135 additional frontline police, including 415 specialist family violence officers, over the next five years to support police respond to crime in our communities.

It is the biggest boost to frontline police in Victoria's history, and it is crucial to dealing with the growing demand on police services, particularly the challenges of repeat youth offenders, increasing aggravated burglaries, high-volume crime such as car theft, and family violence.

Victoria Police has developed a new and sophisticated staff allocation model, in consultation with The Police Association, so we know 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 continue to work with the Chief Commissioner to tackle the complex law and order challenges we see today, to give Victoria Police the resources they need to keep our community safe now, and into the future.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 7 February 2017

ANSWER:

Consultation is a high priority for the Andrews Labor Government and has been throughout the entire review of the Regulations. In May 2016, the Department of Education and Training made a public call for submissions on the Regulations. Since the first consultation period, the Department has met with various stakeholders to discuss the proposed Regulations, including on multiple occasions with representatives of the Home Education Network. All of the stakeholder feedback has been considered in preparing the proposed Regulations and the Regulatory Impact Statement which was released in December.

The Regulations were released for comment on 21st December 2016 so that there could be an extended consultation period of 69 days, as opposed to the minimum required 28 days. Through this consultation period, the Department received submissions from stakeholders, including home schooling families and other stakeholders. All

of these submissions are being taken into account. The Department has also met with key stakeholders to discuss the proposed changes. The consultation process has been ongoing since May 2016, and I will proceed as planned to ensure that the sunseting regulations are replaced by the middle of the year.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 7 February 2017

ANSWER:

Residents of Lara continue to receive a 24-hour police response. Lara police station is staffed during the day and there have been no changes to its hours. As with other smaller police stations, when counter service is not offered, it is because the police members are out on patrol.

Since becoming Police Minister I have spent time speaking with police officers out at police stations, as well as with victims of crime, to understand what's going on in our community.

What we know is that there is both pressure on our police, as well as concern and harm in our communities. It is a challenge, and one I have acknowledged from the start.

That is why the Andrews Labor Government has responded with a comprehensive strategy to prevent, detect and disrupt crime. The Community Safety Statement, released in December 2016 outlines the range of new investment, powers, tools and capability that Victoria Police will be equipped with to stabilise the crime rate and begin to reduce the level of harm being caused in the community.

Central to the Community Safety Statement is boosting of police numbers right across the state. In total, the Andrews Labor Government is funding 3135 additional frontline police over the next five years to support police respond to crime in our communities.

These new officers are the biggest boost to frontline police in Victoria's history, and are crucial to dealing with the growing demand on police services.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 8 February 2017

ANSWER:

The terms "preliminary works" and "proprietary works" are not used in the Environment Effects Act 1978 or in Amendment GC45 to the Melbourne, Maribymong, Port Phillip and Stonnington planning schemes. For the purposes of this answer, I assume that the question relates to gazetted "enabling works" or "preparatory works" as defined in clause 4.12 of the incorporated document included in GC45.

Preparatory works are those that would not have been subject to a planning permit in the absence of the incorporated document. Clause 4.12 of the incorporated document provides for preparatory works to commence prior to the approval of the project's environmental management framework and urban design strategy (amongst other instruments).

The final product of the EES process was my assessment of the project's environmental effects. In making my assessment, I referred to the project's EES (published for public comment in May 2016), the 379 submissions received in response to the EES, and the 360 additional documents tabled during the course of the Inquiry/Advisory Committee (IAC) hearing process and the IAC's report.

My assessment, the IAC's report and Amendment GC45 have all been published and are available on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's website.

Western Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

I am pleased to advise the Member for Western Victoria that safety upgrade works in Koroit commenced on 27 March 2017 which include improvements to the pedestrian crossing outside the Koroit and District Primary School. It is expected that these works will be completed by the end of April 2017.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 9 February 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government acknowledges the specific challenges of workers in the sex industry who have been impacted by family violence, other male violence and sexual assault.

The Victorian Government is aware that there are a range of views and approaches in relation to the most meaningful way to support workers currently in the sex industry, including those trafficked into the industry.

Project Respect provides case management and support services to women who have been trafficked into sexual exploitation. As such they are uniquely placed to provide support to women in the sex industry who are particularly vulnerable and difficult to reach.

Funding to Project Respect will focus on providing counselling support to women who work in the sex industry who experience family violence or sexual assault, acknowledging the extra barriers they often experience accessing these vital support services.

The funding provided is not for Project Respect's advocacy campaigns and the Andrews Labor Government has not changed its position regarding legal sex work in Victoria.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 9 February 2017

ANSWER:

Unlike the previous Liberal Government who slashed funding for bus services, the Andrews Labor Government has committed \$100 million to build a better bus network across Victoria.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), regularly assesses bus networks across Victoria, to ensure routes and services best meet the needs of local communities.

The Department will take residential growth in Pakenham into consideration when undertaking future planning.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 9 February 2017

ANSWER:

Most Victorian families protect their children by getting them immunised. But research shows there is a small but significant group of children whose immunisations are not up to date, not because their families are anti-vaccination but because they are struggling with social or economic disadvantage or family crisis.

The purpose of the 16 week grace period is to make sure these disadvantaged and vulnerable children can access early childhood services while their families are linked up to the support and immunisation services they need. It should be remembered that unimmunised children will be excluded from early childhood services in the event that another child has a serious infectious disease, such as measles. The Department of Health and Human Services is working with the Department of Education and Training and early childhood services to make sure that the 16 week grace period operates as it was intended — to get more children immunised.

We are determined to reach that crucial 95 per cent immunisation coverage we need to provide herd immunity to protect the most vulnerable Victorian children. Since coming into government the Andrews Labor Government has reinstated the Parent Whooping Cough Vaccination program which was axed by the former Liberal Government, expanded access to immunisation by the commencement of the Pharmacist Administered Vaccination Program, invested in communications to promote the benefits of immunisation to the community and introduced the No Jab No Play policy to protect children in our early childhood settings.

And it is working. After 12 months of the No Jab No Play laws being in place, rates of immunisation have risen in Victoria, across all childhood vaccination age points, with, for example 94.1 per cent of five year olds fully immunised as at 31 December 2016, compared to 93.17 percent as at 31 December 2015. The current Victorian figure is above the Australian average of 93.5 per cent.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 9 February 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is working closely with Wyndham City Council and wants to hear all views and opinions. We are consulting widely to ensure the local community is actively engaged throughout this project.

Most recently on 24 February, the Treasurer and I met with Wyndham City Council, community representatives and other stakeholders that have an interest in the new youth justice facility.

This was a productive meeting and one of many that the Government will have with community representatives over the coming weeks and months.

Prior to that, departmental representatives met with the CEO of Wyndham City Council, Ms Grigsby to discuss alternative sites in the Wyndham area.

Residents and businesses in the vicinity are also being contacted directly. In the interim a dedicated information line is available on 1800 630 738, if you or fellow residents have specific questions or comments.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 21 February 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting the significant contribution of its emergency services volunteers, through much needed investment in equipment, training and development, community engagement and education, and, facility improvements.

The \$15 million Emergency Services Volunteer Sustainability Grants Program was established to ensure emergency services volunteers can continue to deliver their crucial work to keep Victorians safe.

As you note, Victoria State Emergency Service units, Life Saving Victoria clubs and Marine Search and Rescue providers in the Western Metropolitan Region have been the beneficiaries of grants under the first round of the scheme. This valuable funding will assist these organisations to enhance operational capability, encourage retention and growth of volunteers, and provide further benefit to the community to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. The recipients will use these grants for a range of purposes including the purchase of tools for training and development, back-up generators, trailers, lighting systems, surf rescue boards, safety equipment including defibrillators and life jackets, remote control gates, fencing, and materials for facility improvements.

As the scheme was oversubscribed, it was closed on 8 March 2017. However, applications received prior to this date are being assessed and will be announced in the near future.

A list of grant recipients is available at www.emv.vic.gov.au/esvsgrants

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 21 February 2017

ANSWER:

Following close consultation with Wyndham City Council, the Victorian Government made an announcement on 15 March confirming that an alternative site within Wyndham has been identified for Victoria's new youth justice facility.

The announcement follows the Government's commitment to examine alternative sites for the new facility within Wyndham in response to feedback from the local community about the preferred Hoppers Lane South site.

The new site is located west of Werribee, in the vicinity of Cherry Creek and has been assessed as suitable based on the same business case criteria applied to the assessment of the Hoppers Lane South site and been considered by the Government, Council and other relevant authorities. The project will be delivered to the same budget and timeline.

The whole site is approximately 60 hectares and is bordered by an existing quarry and the Wyndham Refuse Disposal Centre to the east, the Melbourne-Geelong railway line to the north, the Princess Freeway to the south and private land (earmarked for a future quarry) to the west. The site is currently vacant land of which parts are used for grazing and crop cultivation. Werribee station is approximately 11km away and Little River station is approximately 6km away.

By working in close collaboration with Wyndham City Council and community representatives, the Government has found a solution that meets the needs of the community and satisfies the detailed site criteria outlined in the business case.

Now that the location for the new facility is confirmed, community engagement sessions will be held before Easter to provide the Wyndham community with the opportunity to hear more about the project and the new site for the facility.

Over the coming days we will also be advertising for nominations from local community representatives wanting to be part of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) for this project.

A map of the new site at Cherry Creek, further information about the identification of the alternative site and a summary of the business case and related information about this project is available on the Department of Health and Human Services website.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 21 February 2017

ANSWER:

I understand the Nillumbik Shire Council has recently reviewed its system of council committees following the 2016 general elections. As part of this, I understand the council has resolved to establish a new special committee called the Future Nillumbik Committee, which will make decisions on planning and other matters.

Special committees can be established by councils to deal with matters under delegated authority, enabling council business to be transacted in a timely and orderly way. These committees are mostly bound by the same rules that apply to council meetings, including the requirement that they be open to the public and that committee members are bound by conflict of interest rules.

I encourage every council that utilises special committees, to ensure that their decision making is comprehensively transparent and that public access is maintained as a priority. Where councils also decide to delegate decision making powers to their members of staff, it is imperative that checks and balances are placed on the exercise of those delegations to ensure that any decision is not made in a way that prevents appropriate public scrutiny.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 21 February 2017

ANSWER:

Thanks to the strong advocacy of the Member for Wendouree, Sharon Knight and Member for Buninyong, Geoff Howard, I'm pleased to advise you that the Andrews Labor Government will begin planning for the next stage of development at Ballarat Health Services, including the fit-out of a shell space in the revamped hospital with even more operating suites.

Ballarat Health Services has been funded for four projects from the first round of the Labor Government's \$200 million Regional Health Infrastructure Fund-the largest fund of its kind in Victorian history.

At Ballarat Base Hospital we are providing \$1 million to start planning for future needs of the Health Service including the fit out of a shell space on level one of the new Drummond Street building, which will enable the expansion of the existing Bolte Building "hot floor" and includes additional theatres and support space.

The Regional Health Infrastructure Fund is also providing \$1.5 million to replace six laparoscopic cameras in the existing operating suites, ensuring patients can access the very latest medical technology and enjoy better health outcomes.

Meanwhile at the Queen Elizabeth Centre, the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund is providing \$1.32 million to replace chillers and \$150 225 to expand wireless networks. This new engineering infrastructure will improve efficiency and reliability for staff and patients.

The \$46.4 million redevelopment of Ballarat Base Hospital features a new main entry to the hospital, an extra 30 acute beds, a helipad and new multi-level car park. This makes navigating the hospital much easier for patients, visitors and staff with better access to all areas from one central point.

The new Drummond Street Building has been named the Gardiner-Pittard Building in honour of two pioneering women, Helen Gardiner and Mary Pittard who, in 1928, became the first women elected to the hospital board.

Construction is also underway on the hospital's second cardiac catheterisation laboratory. We have provided \$10 million to the project that will give people across western Victoria better access to cardiac surgery and care.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 22 February 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Electoral Commission is responsible for the conduct of all council elections including non-voter enforcement. As part of this, the VEC is required to send out 'apparent failure to vote notices' to all voters who were required to vote at an election but did not do so. The notice requires a statement from the voter as to whether he or she has a sufficient excuse for not voting and if so, what the excuse is.

Any person who received this notice with respect to the 2016 local government general elections should complete and submit the notice as directed by the VEC. If anyone requires further information on this matter, they should contact the VEC as soon as possible.,

With regard to the process for sending failure to vote notices, the VEC advises that it has no evidence or trend to suggest any errors or miscalculations have been made in the number of apparent failure to vote notices issued in any part of the state. The Commission also notes voter turnout and non-voter notices in the 2016 general elections are comparable with those from the previous elections in 2012.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Asked on: 22 February 2017

ANSWER:

The Residential Tenancies Act 1997 (the Act) provides protections for people living in caravan and residential parks. Residency arrangements in parks cannot be terminated except in accordance with the requirements under the Act, which provide for certain notice periods to be observed before a resident is expected to vacate.

Consumer Affairs Victoria monitors compliance with tenancy laws specific to parks, focusing on excessive and undisclosed charges and terminations, and also has an ongoing education and support program to inform residents of the rights and park operators of their obligations.

The Government is committed to strengthening protections for caravan park residents and moveable dwelling owners renting sites in residential parks. Terminations and rights of park residents where a park closes have been raised as issues under consideration in the government's review of the Act. The rights of park residents were also considered in the separate Parliamentary Inquiry into the Retirement Housing Sector (the Inquiry).

Options reforming existing regulation of parks under the Act were deferred until the completion of the Inquiry, to ensure a comprehensive response to regulatory challenges in the sector. With the release of the Inquiry's report on 7 March 2017, the Government will resume development in the second half of 2017 on a series of appropriate responses to issues raised by stakeholders within the parks sector as part of its Plan for Fairer, Safer Housing.

This response, outlined in the Government's Homes for Victorians strategy document, will give stronger protections resetting, where necessary, the balance of rights and responsibilities between operators and residents. A key outcome will be to make sure residents have enough time to find somewhere else to live when a caravan park is to close, and ensuring park owners take appropriate steps to provide assistance to vulnerable residents needing to relocate.

I also understand that the Knox City Council (KCC) has formed a committee consisting of KCC, Eastern Community Legal Centre, Department of Health and Human Services, UnitingCare Harrison, Eastern Access Community Health, and Consumer Affairs Victoria. The purpose of this committee is to ensure a coordinated approach among the agencies in helping residents find new accommodation, and to ensure that any concerns raised by the residents are quickly and appropriately addressed by the relevant agency. Eastern Community Legal Centre is providing legal advice to the residents on their rights, and Consumer Affairs Victoria is monitoring compliance by the caravan park operator with the law. The committee is dedicated to ensuring there is a smooth transition for the residents as they leave the caravan park. The committee meets on a fortnightly basis to discuss the situation confronting the residents.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 22 February 2017

ANSWER:

As part of an election commitment, in late 2015 VicRoads introduced a trial curfew for trucks on roads in north east Melbourne, including Rosanna Road. The curfews aim to strike a balance for the local community and truck operators by addressing community concerns about safety and traffic volumes.

VicRoads undertook traffic counts before and after the introduction of the curfew throughout the north east area.

Following extensive investigation and community consultation, it was determined to modify the curfew by lifting the minimum truck weight restriction from 4.5 tonnes to 16.5 tonnes. This change will allow smaller trucks and delivery vehicles to move through the area at night to undertake their journeys while noisy and bigger trucks remain restricted by the curfew. This will also reduce the number of trucks using roads nearby.

The amended weight restriction will help protect the safety and amenity of local residents while also reducing the impact to local businesses, industry and residents in neighbouring areas such as Darebin and the northern metropolitan region.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 23 February 2017

ANSWER:

The Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Bill 2016 legislation is being reassessed in order to deliver on the Andrews Government's election commitments.

Amendments are being developed in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders.

I previously met with the proprietor of Banksia Park on two occasions while developing the Bill.

Western Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

The Western Distributor will improve liveability in the inner west by getting thousands of trucks off residential streets and onto the freeway network by providing a more direct, efficient route to the Port of Melbourne.

The implementation of further truck curfews in the inner west is being considered as part of the Western Distributor project's Environment Effects Statement, in particular through the traffic impact assessment. The Victorian Government has initiated industry forums and community groups to plan and manage the implementation of any additional truck curfews to ensure we achieve a balanced outcome.

Tolls for the Western Distributor have not been set, and the Government is negotiating with Transurban to get the best possible outcome for Victorians. Freight trucks will have strong incentives to use the freeway including time savings, reduced wear and tear, and more direct connections to the Port.

Southern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is partnering with Transurban to deliver the Western Distributor Project and address some of our city's most critical traffic growth and liveability challenges, including relieving traffic congestion in the south east.

Currently, an incident on the West Gate Bridge stops traffic on the M1 in both directions, with traffic queues extending along the Monash Freeway past Warrigal Road and travel times tripling.

The Western Distributor will provide a vital second river crossing and get thousands of trucks off the West Gate Bridge, improving safety and freeing up capacity on the M1. Work is also underway to upgrade the Monash Freeway by adding more than 30 kilometres of new freeway lanes and installing new technology to keep traffic flowing smoothly. This will mean faster, safer and more reliable journeys for 200 000 motorists from the southeast every day.

The Western Distributor business case found that together with the Monash Freeway Upgrade, it would deliver an \$11 billion economic boost to Victoria and strong benefits for transport across the freeway network. On this basis, the Victorian Government is committed to the project and will continue to negotiate with Transurban to reach the best possible outcome for Victorians.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 23 February 2017

ANSWER:

The 2016-17 State Budget invested \$1.3 billion to make regional rail services more frequent and reliable, and position the whole system for the longer-term expansion our growing regions will eventually need.

The Andrew Labor Government has spent \$280 million on 27 new V/LOCITY carriages, on top of the 21 carriages ordered in the 2015-16 Budget. This is in direct contrast to the previous government, who failed to order a single carriage in two years and ripped \$120 million out of V/Line.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 23 February 2017

ANSWER:

Administrators for the Sage Institute announced on 10 March 2017 that it had entered liquidation and ceased trading in Victoria following similar decisions in NSW and Queensland.

To minimise disruption and make sure all students are looked after, the Department has contacted affected Victorian government funded students, providing information to assist them in transferring to a TAFE or other Training Provider of their choice.

I would like to make it clear to all Victorian government funded students that their eligibility for a government-subsided place is not going to be impacted by the closure of this RTO.

Should these students seek to continue their training at a TAFE, arrangements are also in place to waive future tuition fees.

Any student who wants to discuss their training options can visit the Victorian Skills Gateway or call the TAFE and Training Line during business hours on 131 823 for support.

The majority of students in Victoria were undertaking training under the Commonwealth Government's VET FEE HELP/VET Student Loans program.

These students are therefore able to access assistance through a Tuition Assurance Scheme administered by the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET). Students may contact ACPET toll free on 1800 657 644. ACPET can assist students regarding options for continuing training and the possible refunding of fees.

I have raised the issue of support for VET FEE HELP/VET Student Loan students directly with the Commonwealth to seek their public commitment to seeing every possible assistance is offered. Not just by established processes but by direct and meaningful intervention and funding support.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

VicRoads conducted significant consultation with the community, councils and other key stakeholders prior to finalising the project scope. In addition, VicRoads has and will continue to ensure the community is kept adequately informed regarding detailed design, project updates and traffic management arrangements during construction.

In late 2015, two community sessions were held to discuss concerns along Bolton Street and gain community insight prior to developing the business case. One of the key risks identified by the community was safety for all road users, particularly vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. In June 2016, another community session was held where two options were presented. Both options included the reduction of speed from 60km/h to 50km/h and truck bans for through trucks. In addition to the two community sessions, all project scope details were shared through the Community Feedback Report disseminated in December 2016. VicRoads organised two further

on-site community information sessions on 4 March 2017 to share the functional designs and project details with the community.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Sullivan
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 23 February 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government's Commercial Passenger Vehicle reforms will reduce the cost of taxi fares across Victoria. The reforms remove annual licencing costs, which are up to \$11 000 in regional Victoria.

As the Member for Northern Victoria is aware the National Party in the Legislative Assembly has supported the Government's changes to licensing and to allow for ridesharing companies such as Uber to operate in regional Victoria. The Government rejected the proposed amendments from the Liberal and National Opposition that attempted to remove the capacity to provide \$494 million in financial assistance to the existing industry.

I assume that National Party Members support the statement from their Coalition colleague, the Shadow Minister for Public Transport David Hodgett, that the Government's financial assistance is a "slush fund to buy the votes of licence holders". If the Member for Northern Victoria believes that regional taxi operators should receive financial assistance then he can vote against these Liberal Party amendments in the Legislative Council.

Cross jurisdictional issues already exist with New South Wales and Victoria having different commercial passenger vehicle regulatory environments. The regulations that apply to a particular trip are based where the trip begins and this situation will remain. New South Wales is also bringing in a levy but is not removing the annual licensing costs for taxis. With taxi prices remaining regulated in New South Wales it is expected that fares in Victoria will be cheaper.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 7 March 2017

ANSWER:

The Regional Network Development Plan consultations undertaken in 2015, highlighted a clear desire from both the Member for Shepparton and the local community for more rail services. Accordingly, the Andrews Labor Government's 2016/17 budget provided funding for an additional Shepparton rail service every day of the week.

The Local Member for Shepparton, Suzanna Sheed has been a strong advocate for better services for the Shepparton community.

While subsequent consultation determined a preference to extend the 4:31 PM Melbourne departure to Seymour through to Shepparton, constraints on the corridor (including the single track line between Seymour and Shepparton) meant that this also required a later departure time for the 6:22 PM train service.

Timetable development is a process that requires a number of infrastructure, scheduling and demand constraints to be considered. Options that may be available to help reduce the weekday gap in services between the last two Shepparton services are being considered as part of the future timetable development process.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 7 March 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the member representing Eastern Victoria Region, Daniel Mulino MP, for his question and I was delighted that he could represent me at the official opening of the Heatherbrae Recreation Reserve Pavilion in Officer on 24 March 2017.

The event marked the official opening of the facility to the community and local user groups including football, tennis and netball clubs.

Construction of the Heatherbrae Recreation Reserve Pavilion was completed in October 2016 and local community and user groups could access the centre on 9 February 2017.

This facility was built thanks to a \$2 million contribution under the 2015-16 Growing Suburbs Fund and a \$767 000 contribution from Cardinia Shire Council. The facility was delivered ahead of time and delivers a multi-use facility that will meet the future needs of the growing Cardinia community.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 7 March 2017

ANSWER:

When completed in early 2018, the Maroondah Breast Cancer Centre is expected to deliver services to an additional 25 000 women every year in Melbourne's east. It will bring together and expand a range of services previously provided from different locations, including the Maroondah BreastScreen clinic, and will feature modern rooms for mammography, ultrasound, radiographers, medical image reading, allied health and clinical consulting services.

BreastScreen Victoria will encourage women from Forest Hill, Nunawading, Mitcham, Vermont, Vermont South, Ringwood, Ringwood North, Warrandyte South, Warranwood, Heathmont, Ringwood East, Croydon, Croydon Hills, Croydon North, Croydon South, Wantirna, Wantirna South, Bayswater and Bayswater North to attend the centre for their free breast screen every two years. The centre will also expand BreastScreen's follow-up and assessment capabilities in the broader eastern region.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 7 March 2017

ANSWER:

Recruit Smarter is an initiative of the Victorian Government to tackle unconscious bias in recruitment practices in Victoria.

Recruit Smarter brings together prominent Australian businesses, organisations and researchers under the banner of Victorian Government leadership and evidence-based innovation in policymaking.

This initiative is about removing barriers to ensure that prospective workers can get the jobs that they have the skills, experience and qualifications to do regardless of their background, gender or age. It is also about ensuring that businesses in Victoria can make the most of the diverse talent pool that exists within our state.

On 20 February 2017, I launched the Recruit Smarter pilot program together with representatives from participating organisations.

Over the next 18 months, the pilot program will see the 35 public, private, academic and non-government organisations that comprise the initiative, working innovatively together to trial different ways to stop unconscious bias influencing the recruitment process in Victoria.

The outcomes of these trials will provide important evidence to establish best practice standards and provide an even playing field for all Victorians, supporting them to realise their maximum potential.

It is now well established that diversity in the work place has a positive impact on productivity, innovation and client services. Businesses today realise the importance of reflecting the diversity of the communities that use their goods or services.

Our State, Victorian businesses and the economy will benefit if everyone has an equal opportunity to participate. This is not only the best outcome for individuals and their families — it's the best outcome for Victoria.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 7 March 2017

ANSWER:

Following close consultation with Wyndham City Council, the Victorian Government made an announcement on 15 March confirming that an alternative site within Wyndham has been identified for Victoria's new youth justice facility.

The announcement follows the Government's commitment to examine alternative sites for the new facility within Wyndham in response to feedback from the local community about the preferred Hoppers Lane South site.

The new site is located west of Werribee, in the vicinity of Cherry Creek and has been assessed as suitable based on the same business case criteria applied to the assessment of the Hoppers Lane South site and been considered by the Government, Council and other relevant authorities. The project will be delivered to the same budget and timeline.

The whole site is approximately 60 hectares and is bordered by an existing quarry and the Wyndham Refuse Disposal Centre to the east, the Melbourne-Geelong railway line to the north, the Princess Freeway to the south and private land (earmarked for a future quarry) to the west. The site is currently vacant land of which parts are used for grazing and crop cultivation. Werribee station is approximately 11km away and Little River station is approximately 6km away.

By working in close collaboration with Wyndham City Council and community representatives, the Government has found a solution that meets the needs of the community and satisfies the detailed site criteria outlined in the business case.

Now that the location for the new facility is confirmed, community engagement sessions will be held before Easter to provide the Wyndham community with the opportunity to hear more about the project and the new site for the facility.

Over the coming days we will also be advertising for nominations from local community representatives wanting to be part of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) for this project.

A map of the new site at Cherry Creek, further information about the identification of the alternative site and a summary of the business case and related information about this project is available on the Department of Health and Human Services website.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 7 March 2017

ANSWER:

Tunnel boring machines (TBMs) can be more than 100 metres long and weigh up to 1000 tonnes. These massive machines will be delivered to Metro Tunnel work sites in sections and lowered by two cranes into 'launch shafts', where the full machines will be assembled underground. This process can take up to two weeks to complete.

TBMs are anticipated to arrive at Metro Tunnel launch sites from mid-2018 to early-2019.

The Metro Tunnel Project is not the first project to use oversize machinery in the inner city, and similar projects around the world such as Crossrail in London have successfully lowered TBMs into launch shafts in busy urban environments.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 7 March 2017

ANSWER:

The Government appreciates the efforts of the Golden Plains Shire Council to identify potential opportunities to improve facilities for members of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES).

The proposal for Bannockburn is one of a number of similar proposals for co-location or improved facilities for emergency service organisations. Wherever possible, emergency services agencies are encouraged to work together when considering new development, upgrades or extensions in the same area.

Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) is engaging with all relevant agencies to discuss each of their requirements and intentions in Bannockburn at present and in the future. EMV will shortly organise a multi-agency discussion to determine the viability of an emergency services complex as recommended by the Golden Plains Shire Council.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 7 March 2017

ANSWER:

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) aims to ensure that passengers are provided with a range of options to allow Myki's to be purchased or topped up before travelling.

Following a suitability analysis of the Myki coverage in the McKinnon area, it was determined that at this point in time, the coverage available to passengers is sufficient.

Passengers in the McKinnon Area can buy and top up their Myki's at the following destinations:

- McKinnon Station Myki Machine
- On board all buses on Route 626
- Bentleigh Newsagency-359 Centre Rd, McKinnon (approx. 1.0km from McKinnon Station)
- Amcal Ormond Pharmacy-517 North Rd, Ormond (approx. 1.0km from McKinnon Station)
- 7-Eleven McKinnon-711 Tucker Rd, McKinnon (approx. 1.2km from McKinnon Station)

Passengers are further supported through the option to buy and top up online by visiting <https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/>, calling 1800 800 007 or by signing up for 'auto top up'.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

Over recent years, VicRoads has been working with stakeholders, including the Nillumbik Shire Council, to help identify transport priority needs across the metropolitan north west region.

VicRoads advises me that a review of the crash history for the above intersection between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016 (latest five-year period), indicated one "reported" casualty crash at this site in 2013 (when the former government was in power).

VicRoads will continue to monitor this location and will continue to speak with local stakeholders about the need for any improvements required at this intersection.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 8 March 2017

ANSWER:

The Gatwick has long passed its time as a place that housed vulnerable people in safe and appropriate circumstances.

This can be a very stressful and confusing time for residents and we want to ensure that is managed appropriately and that residents are treated with respect during this transition period.

The Government commissioned St Kilda Community Housing to help current residents move to safe and more stable housing over the coming months. This is expected to include rooming houses, public housing, other forms of social housing and some private rental assistance programs.

\$2.7 billion of investment and support has been delivered to assist the most vulnerable in our community, create new permanent housing and provide the necessary help for people who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

As part of this investment the Government recently announced an additional \$20 million upgrade of rooming houses in Victoria. It will provide upgraded modern and safe accommodation rooming houses in a number of locations across the State, including in South Melbourne.

This builds on the previous \$10 million announced in 2016, part of which has supported the redevelopment of the Elenara rooming house in St Kilda.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 8 March 2017

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering on its election commitment to build a secondary school in Edgars Creek. I note that the previous Liberal Government did nothing in respect to the provision of Secondary Schools in Epping North, so I welcome your new found interest in this matter.

The Victorian School Building Authority is working closely with its regional office, local schools and local school communities to ensure there is a plan for education provision for all local students in the 2018 school year, and beyond.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Eideh
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 8 March 2017

ANSWER:

I thank Mr Eideh for his question regarding the planting and placement of gum trees in state schools and public parks within his electorate.

This matter falls under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Education and the Minister for Local Government. As such, the question will need to be raised with one of the responsible Ministers to ensure it is given full consideration.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Treasurer
Asked on: 8 March 2017

ANSWER:

Dear Mr Morris

Thank you for your constituency question in relation to the relocation of VicRoads Headquarters to Ballarat.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to driving job creation in regional Victoria, including Ballarat.

The Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund has funded the redevelopment of the Eureka Stadium and Ballarat Sports Precinct. The fund also contributes to the revitalisation of Ballarat's historic station precinct and surrounding area. The Government has worked with the City of Ballarat to create the Ballarat West Economic Zone to support the region's economic and job growth over the next 20 years. The Regional Tourism and Infrastructure Fund is supporting the establishment of an Australian Craft Beer Centre of Excellence in Ballarat. The Andrews Labor Government has invested \$325 million to create jobs in the regions, which includes the creation of the Ballarat Innovation Lab and Digital Space. Ballarat is also the recipient of four projects from the first round of the \$200 million Regional Health Infrastructure Fund.

The 2016-17 Budget included \$518 million to upgrade the Ballarat rail line as part of a \$1.3 billion investment into projects to improve Victoria's regional transport system. Since the Labor Government came to office, 19 additional X'Trapolis trainsets have been ordered from Alstom's Ballarat based construction facility.

This long list of initiatives has brought jobs and growth to Ballarat, and regional Victoria more broadly.

The latest data shows a strengthening labour market in regional Victoria including Ballarat. Employment in the Ballarat region has increased by over 11 000 persons or 15.9 per cent between November 2014 and January 2017. Over the same period, the unemployment rate in the Ballarat region has fallen from 6.9 per cent to 3.6 per cent. (A three month moving average has been applied to the monthly data as only non-seasonally adjusted figures are available).

The plan to relocate VicRoads to Ballarat, as identified in the question, was a plan of the former government. The Andrews Labor Government will continue to assess options for job creation in Victoria. The Government is committed to maintaining the strong jobs growth in the region by continuing to create job opportunities.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 8 March 2017

ANSWER:

The production of Game Hunting in Victoria—A manual for responsible and sustainable hunting is an important milestone. It clearly demonstrates the Government's commitment to game hunters by providing improved education and training as outlined in the Sustainable Hunting Action Plan 2016-2020.

The manual was mailed to all Victorian Game Licence holders and replaces the previous annual Victorian Hunting Guide. The manual will not be mailed out annually. It will however, ultimately be made available as an e-book with even more information, including instructional video clips. Further updated versions of the e-book will be posted on the GMA website.

Both the manual and the letter accompanying the manual clearly state that hunting arrangements do change from time to time. It is incumbent on responsible hunters to ensure they are aware of current hunting arrangements. The GMA website should be checked regularly to ensure hunters have the most up-to-date information on game hunting and seasonal arrangements. Responsible hunters without access to the internet can contact the GMA directly by telephoning the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

On 3 January 2017, I announced a standard duck hunting season for 2017 with the only alteration being the banning of the hunting of Blue-winged Shovelers. In addition to my media release, the GMA included this information on its website and the Game Hunting Victoria smartphone app was updated to reflect the banning of the hunting of Blue-winged Shovelers for 2017.

It would not be practical to erect signs to reflect every seasonal arrangement on every lake and reserve in Victoria. I am confident that the measures taken to inform the hunting community about the banning of the hunting of Blue-winged Shovelers for 2017 are appropriate.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Water
Asked on: 8 March 2017

ANSWER:

I would like to acknowledge the strong advocacy of Ms Jaclyn Symes, the Member for Northern Victoria, on behalf of the people of Heathcote. In response to concerns raised by the community, Ms Symes and community

representatives from the town were hosted by Coliban Water to tour the Heathcote Water Treatment Plant and learn about the water treatment process at Heathcote.

Coliban Water undertook a number of measures in order to communicate with customers during the Heathcote water quality incident. A specific Heathcote Water Quality webpage was created to inform customers about complaints relating to discolouration, taste and odour, and its cause, and to assure customers that the water was safe for drinking, bathing and food preparation. The website also provided information on how customers could request mains flushing if they were concerned about their water.

In addition to a media release, social media updates and direct mail to customers, Coliban Water also conducted two community visits to Heathcote on 13 and 16 January 2017. The visits were attended by representatives from the water quality and customer service teams to discuss any concerns customers wished to raise.

Coliban Water does however acknowledge that it must manage the Heathcote drinking water supply better, and has committed to proactively advising Heathcote residents of any changes to source water.

Coliban Water has developed an action plan which will be implemented at the Heathcote Water Treatment Plant over the next 12 months.

The water being provided to Heathcote is being treated appropriately, is safe to drink and meets all drinking water guidelines.

The primary sources of water supply to the town of Heathcote are Caledonia Reservoir and Lake Eppalock. However, water can also be sourced from Sandhurst Reservoir in the Upper Coliban System or from the Goldfields Superpipe during periods of water shortage. Due to the deterioration of the water quality at Caledonia Reservoir and Lake Eppalock, the Heathcote Water Treatment Plant has been supplied with water from Sandhurst Reservoir in the Upper Coliban System since 5 January 2017.

Chlorine is an effective disinfectant that is widely used across Victoria to ensure that water supplies are safe to drink. A small amount of chlorine is added to the treated water to disinfect and provide a final barrier against contamination as the water travels to individual properties. Maintaining this small amount of residual chlorine in a water supply system is also important to protect against contamination of the water if pipes burst or break.

The chlorine that Coliban Water uses is of a very high quality and is specifically designed for use in drinking water. The amount of chlorine added to the water is continuously monitored by Coliban Water and complies with the guideline values for chlorine specified in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011. Within these guidelines, the use of chlorine as a disinfectant poses no risk to customers' health. Since some customers are more sensitive to the taste and odour of chlorine, Coliban Water endeavours to minimise the amount of chlorine that it adds to drinking water.

Western Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

Following close consultation with Wyndham City Council, the Victorian Government made an announcement on 15 March confirming that an alternative site within Wyndham has been identified for Victoria's new youth justice facility.

The announcement follows the Government's commitment to examine alternative sites for the new facility within Wyndham in response to feedback from the local community about the preferred Hoppers Lane South site.

The new site is located west of Werribee, in the vicinity of Cherry Creek and has been assessed as suitable based on the same business case criteria applied to the assessment of the Hoppers Lane South site and been considered by

the Government, Council and other relevant authorities. The project will be delivered to the same budget and timeline.

The whole site is approximately 60 hectares and is bordered by an existing quarry and the Wyndham Refuse Disposal Centre to the east, the Melbourne-Geelong railway line to the north, the Princess Freeway to the south and private land (earmarked for a future quarry) to the west. The site is currently vacant land of which parts are used for grazing and crop cultivation. Werribee station is approximately 11km away and Little River station is approximately 6km away.

By working in close collaboration with Wyndham City Council and community representatives, the Government has found a solution that meets the needs of the community and satisfies the detailed site criteria outlined in the business case.

Now that the location for the new facility is confirmed, community engagement sessions will be held before Easter to provide the Wyndham community with the opportunity to hear more about the project and the new site for the facility.

Over the coming days we will also be advertising for nominations from local community representatives wanting to be part of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) for this project.

A map of the new site at Cherry Creek, further information about the identification of the alternative site and a summary of the business case and related information about this project is available on the Department of Health and Human Services website.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 9 March 2017

ANSWER:

I would like to thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan region for her constituency question on the Andrews Labor Government's level crossing removal program and suggestions for others to be removed by our Government.

The Andrews Labor Government is making substantial progress on removing the 50 most dangerous and congested level crossings across Melbourne. Ten of these congested deathtraps are already gone, 13 are currently under construction—including two on the Hurstbridge line, and another five level crossings removals are due to start during the course of this year.

We will consider the removal of additional sites, such as these two in Eltham, in the future as part of our ongoing work to reduce congestion, increase safety and improve public transport through the removal of dangerous level crossings.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 9 March 2017

ANSWER:

The Absolutely everyone: state disability plan 2017-2020 was released by the Andrews Labor Government in December last year. Absolutely everyone outlines how we will work to create an inclusive Victoria which supports people with a disability to live satisfying everyday lives.

However, in Victoria responsibility for the Disabled Persons Parking Scheme Code sits with the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. VicRoads has carriage of the Code, with Victoria's 79 local councils individually administering the scheme on behalf of the Minister. Any consideration of the need for a review should therefore be directed to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon Luke Donellan MP.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Sullivan
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 9 March 2017

ANSWER:

Decisions on wetland closures were made consistent with the provisions of the Wildlife Act 1975, and on the advice of the Game Management Authority.

Northern Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

VicRoads is currently reviewing options to improve safety at this intersection as a priority.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 9 March 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Western Victoria for his question. I agreed to Mr Purcell's request and was able to join him on a recent visit to Tower Hill on 10 March where I took the opportunity to meet with concerned members of the local community to discuss this matter. I thank Mr Purcell for organising this visit.

It was clear to me from the discussion the community wanted Moyne Shire Council and Telstra to consider moving the tower to a more suitable location away from the Tower Hill reserve. Taking into account community views is always important and I support any reasonable compromise that can be found between Council, Telstra and the community.

I am confident that the Council has in place the appropriate process to consider this matter.

Western Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

VicRoads is currently preparing to complete the next stage of works at the Napier Street bridge in Footscray. Funding of \$1.1 million has been approved to implement an over-height vehicle detection and warning system on both approaches to the bridge. This will significantly reduce the likelihood of bridge strikes at this location.

VicRoads installed a protection beam to reduce the consequence of a truck striking the bridge and shedding its load onto a vulnerable pedestrian or cyclist who is travelling on the footpath next to the over-height vehicle. This solution was an interim measure and that an additional solution to reduce the number of bridge strikes was needed.

VicRoads is currently developing an over-height vehicle detection system and expects to complete it by the end of 2017.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 9 March 2017

ANSWER:

The Government recognises that Wyndham residents encounter traffic congestion on the road network and is working closely with key stakeholders, including the Wyndham City Council, on delivering various transport priorities.

On 8 November 2016, the Andrews Labor Government announced the \$1.8 billion western package of the Outer Suburban Arterial Roads Program. This includes eight high priority road upgrades that are either within or benefit residents of the City of Wyndham. These upgrades will be delivered within five years, with the maintenance and rehabilitation continuing for a further 20 years.

The upgrades will involve a combination of duplication and widening works to western arterial roads including:

- Dunnings Road and Palmers Road from Point Cook Road to the Princes Freeway in Point Cook;
- Palmers Road from the Princes Freeway to the Western Freeway in Truganina;
- Derrimut Road from Sayers Road to Dohertys Road in Tarneit;
- Leakes Road from Fitzgerald Road to Derrimut Road in Truganina;
- Dohertys Road from Fitzgerald Road to Grieve Parade in Laverton North;
- Dohertys Road from Foundation Road to Palmers Road in Truganina;
- Princes Freeway/Forsyth Road interchange in Hoppers Crossing; and
- Duncans Road interchange in Werribee/Werribee South.

Although this package does not include Point Cook Road, VicRoads anticipates that improvements to the surrounding road network will help ease congestion on Point Cook Road.

The package will transform the outer-western road network by boosting capacity and improving road pavement conditions with intersection upgrades, almost 30 kilometres of lane duplication and road maintenance.

In addition to those planned improvements, the construction of the \$45 million full-diamond interchange on the Princes Freeway at Sneydes Road in Werribee is now complete. VicRoads expects that the new interchange will reduce traffic pressure on other nearby routes such as Palmers Road, Forsyth Road and Point Cook Road.

VicRoads has also developed a proposal to duplicate Point Cook Road between Dunnings Road and Sneydes Road in Point Cook, which includes the signalisation of the intersection of Point Cook Road and Sneydes Road. This proposal has been submitted for funding consideration.

A number of transport improvements have also been delivered in the City of Wyndham or are currently underway. These include:

- \$1.9 million to widen the Princes Freeway off-ramp onto Forsyth Road in Hoppers Crossing to reduce the length of traffic queues on the ramp. Works are expected to be completed in late 2017;
- \$3.61 million contribution for improvement works on Palmers Road and Dunnings Road, with the Wyndham City Council contributing a further \$3.1 million towards these improvements. The works provide an additional northbound bus and multi-occupant lane on Palmers Road, improving access to the Princes Freeway and the Williams Landing train station. Works are expected to be completed in early 2017; and
- Allocating nearly \$2 million to ease congestion for residents in Tarneit by upgrading the Leakes Road/Derrimut Road intersection and improve access to the Tarneit train station. VicRoads expects works to commence in early 2017 and be completed in late 2017.

In addition to improving traffic flow and easing congestion, the Government is also committed to the removal of 50 of the most dangerous and congested level crossings on the metropolitan rail network over the next eight years. This includes the Aviation Road, Cherry Street and Werribee Street level crossings in Wyndham.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 9 March 2017

ANSWER:

The decision to shift supply from Murray Goulburn to Bega Cheese was undertaken from a research farm cost perspective, based on the price the research farm received for milk.

The change to Bega Cheese ensures that Ellinbank still supplies an Australian company and the milk will be processed in Gippsland. Bega Cheese is a significant employer and, with its subsidiary Tatura Milk, provides significant support and employment to the dairy industry in Victoria.

Bega Cheese has a strong focus on supplying milk to the domestic market, which will result in greater value to farmers and Victoria.

The Ellinbank Dairy Research Centre has a good working relationship with Bega Cheese and the supply of milk will underpin ongoing collaborative research.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Treasurer
Asked on: 9 March 2017

ANSWER:

Transurban's Western Distributor market-led proposal is currently being assessed at Stage Four (exclusive negotiations) of the Market-led Proposals Guideline.

The Western Distributor project is a network wide solution to Melbourne's transport problems, comprising three key components spanning the east-west M1. corridor:

- Webb Dock Access Improvements;
- Monash Freeway Upgrade; and
- Western Distributor.

The matter of extending Transurban's CityLink concession, and the amount Transurban will pay to contribute to the construction costs of the Western Distributor project, is currently the subject of commercial negotiation between the State and Transurban.

The final value of the CityLink concession extension will be determined by, among other things, the final tendered cost of the design and construct contracts for the Western Distributor project, including the Monash Freeway Upgrade, and the tolling framework adopted by the State to maximise the Western Distributor's network benefits.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 21 March 2017

ANSWER:

VicRoads advises me that it is currently investigating options to improve the safety of this section of road and will present any safety improvements to the community for feedback before VicRoads implements them. In the meantime, VicRoads will continue to monitor this section of road.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 21 March 2017

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question and your commitment to education in Eastern Victoria. As you know, the Andrews Labor Government's first two State Budgets delivered the largest education package on record to Victoria's schools. We have invested \$1.8 billion into school buildings across the State, and \$13 million into the construction of the new Gum Scrub Creek Primary School.

A new primary school is badly needed in the high-growth area of Officer, and the Andrews Labor Government is meeting that need. I was delighted to join you turning the sod on this exciting new school construction project. We are now a step closer to having access to a brand new primary school for the families living there, and the ones that will move there in the future.

Gum Scrub Creek Primary School will be part of the Officer Education Precinct, which will allow students to transition from an early learning centre, to primary school, and finally to high school on the same site. The school precinct will have a strong community focus and a close integration with the adjacent public recreational reserve.

I am advised the works are on track for completion in December 2017, with the new school ready for operation for Term 1 of 2018. I look forward to visiting again with you once construction is complete.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Premier
Asked on: 21 March 2017

ANSWER:

As is often the case, your assertions, and those of your Liberal and National colleagues, are riddled with error.

There is no reason for the Heyfield mill to close.

As you are aware, an offer was made to ASH for a three year contract consisting of one year's timber supply at 80 000m³ and two years at 60 000m³. The offer also included a \$5 million industry support package including support for a business case for retooling.

The terms offered to ASH are based on the advice of Victoria's independent forestry agency VicForests. VicForests have a legislative obligation to manage Victoria's forests sustainably and in the long term interests of Victoria's forest industries.

VicForests' consistent, independent advice to Government has been that it was not able to offer ASH an agreement for greater timber volumes, without risking the future of Victoria's timber industry.

We have been consistent in following and conveying the independent advice of VicForests. This appears to be in stark contrast to the previous Government.

The CEO of Hermal Group, the Heyfield mill owners, Clinton Tilley has stated '... the prior state Government promised they would do certain things. Peter Walsh allowed a contract to be signed with us and then did not sign the indemnity at the close of Government ... he is the biggest liar you will ever come across ...'.

This Labor Government remains committed to the Heyfield mill remaining operational as it plays a vital role in the local community and across the timber products industry, including in the Latrobe Valley.

After being advised of ASH's decision to reject the proposed timber supply agreement, we requested that ASH management work with Government to facilitate the sale of the Heyfield mill to a new operator to safeguard an equitable and fair outcome for workers and the community.

In the event that a new operator cannot be found, the Government is prepared to ensure that operations at the Heyfield mill continue as per the same commercial terms offered to ASH today.

The Government will investigate all options to achieve this objective, and pending an independent evaluation, does not rule out assuming operation of the mill at a fair and reasonable value in the event that it becomes necessary.

On Wednesday 29th March I met with a delegation of ASH workers to reaffirm this Government's commitment to keeping the mill open.

I have also spoken with Mr Wilkes on a number of occasions and as I said I hope to visit the ASH Heyfield mill. Government ministers have also met with workers of the ASH mill a number of times, including recent meetings at Parliament during the 21st to 23rd March sitting week. Our Government is keen to engage with workers and the company to ensure the future of this local community.

This Government's priority is always about protecting local jobs.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 21 March 2017

ANSWER:

I am informed that

A vast range of programs in the Youth Affairs portfolio support young people to actively participate and volunteer in their local community including in Melbourne's growing western suburbs.

I can advise the member that more than \$1.4 million is being invested in 2017 by the Andrews Labor Government in Youth Affairs programs across the member's Western Metropolitan Region electorate.

Recently I visited the Jennings Street School in Laverton where I announced that the Andrews Labor Government is providing \$4.46 million in funding to over 430 secondary schools across Victoria, providing young people with the opportunity to volunteer and get involved in their local communities in 2017 through the Advance program.

Advance uses an experiential learning model to support young people to stay engaged in education. This enables students to work on projects in partnership with local community organisations and complete class-based learning modules in project management, communication and community, and develop leadership, teamwork and problem solving skills.

In addition to the Advance program, the FReeZA program provides young Victorians aged 12 to 25 the opportunity to enjoy music, artistic and recreational events in their local community. Events are fully supervised and drug, alcohol and smoke-free. Funding is provided to local governments and community organisations to support FReeZA committees of young people to plan and stage over 400 events each year. In 2017, seven organisations across the western metropolitan region will share in \$163 200 in FReeZA funding.

The 2015-17 Engage! Program, comprising funding of \$4.1 million per annum, continues to strengthen young people's connections to their community, build their decision making skills and engage them in civic, social and economic activities. Eleven organisations in the western metropolitan region will receive a total of \$425 000 in 2017.

Further to this, as part of the new \$875 000 Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program, \$120 000 is being provided to Wayapa Wuurrk Aboriginal Wellness Foundation in Wyndham to deliver a mentoring program for young Aboriginal men.

The new Empower Youth program is also being delivered in areas experiencing social and economic disadvantage. Eight organisations-including in the western metropolitan region — will engage youth workers to provide intensive, coordinated support to young people to strengthen their health and wellbeing, their connection to community, their engagement in education and training and their pathways to employment. Two organisations in the western metropolitan region will receive a total of \$229 999.

As part of National Youth Week: the biggest annual celebration of young people throughout Australia, funding from the Andrews Labor Government is also being provided to deliver events to 12 organisations in the western metropolitan region who will receive a total of \$24 000.

I commend the member for his long held interest in community participation and volunteering opportunities for young people living in his electorate.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 21 March 2017

ANSWER:

As I have previously stated, the Victorian Government made an announcement on 15 March confirming that an alternative site within Wyndham has been identified for Victoria's new youth justice facility-in close collaboration with Wyndham City Council.

The announcement follows the Government's commitment to examine alternative sites for the new facility within Wyndham in response to feedback from the local community about the preferred Hoppers Lane South site.

The new site is located west of Werribee, in the vicinity of Cherry Creek and has been assessed as suitable based on the same business case criteria applied to the assessment of the Hoppers Lane South site and been considered by the Government, Council and other relevant authorities. The project will be delivered to the same budget and timeline.

The new site meets the stringent criteria set out in the business case, including the size and shape of the land, its proximity to the CBD including court facilities, its accessibility for staff and families, its distance from residential areas and the ability to acquire the land from Melbourne Water and get started on design and construction. The facility is scheduled to commence taking youth offenders in 2021.

As for the previous site, the facility will create up to 450 ongoing jobs for the local community and 2000 to 3000 direct and indirect construction jobs.

Further information about this project is available on the Engage Victoria website: <https://engage.vic.gov.au>

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 21 March 2017

ANSWER:

VicRoads is currently undertaking a detailed assessment of this section of Birregurra Forrest Road.

In the interim, VicRoads will continue to monitor this location and make any urgent repairs presenting a safety risk along this road.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Premier
Asked on: 21 March 2017

ANSWER:

As is often the case, your assertions, and those of your Liberal and National colleagues, are riddled with error.

There is no reason for the Heyfield mill to close.

As you are aware, an offer was made to ASH for a three year contract consisting of one year's timber supply at 80 000m³ and two years at 60 000m³. The offer also included a \$5 million industry support package including support for a business case for retooling.

The terms offered to ASH are based on the advice of Victoria's independent forestry agency VicForests. VicForests have a legislative obligation to manage Victoria's forests sustainably and in the long term interests of Victoria's forest industries.

VicForests' consistent, independent advice to Government has been that it was not able to offer ASH an agreement for greater timber volumes, without risking the future of Victoria's timber industry.

We have been consistent in following and conveying the independent advice of VicForests. This appears to be in stark contrast to the previous Government.

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This Labor Government remains committed to the Heyfield mill remaining operational as it plays a vital role in the local community and across the timber products industry, including in the Latrobe Valley.

After being advised of ASH's decision to reject the proposed timber supply agreement, we requested that ASH management work with Government to facilitate the sale of the Heyfield mill to a new operator to safeguard an equitable and fair outcome for workers and the community.

In the event that a new operator cannot be found, the Government is prepared to ensure that operations at the Heyfield mill continue as per the same commercial terms offered to ASH today.

The Government will investigate all options to achieve this objective, and pending an independent evaluation, does not rule out assuming operation of the mill at a fair and reasonable value in the event that it becomes necessary.

On Wednesday 29th March I met with a delegation of ASH workers to reaffirm this Government's commitment to keeping the mill open. Government ministers have also met with workers of the ASH mill a number of times, including recent meetings at Parliament during the 21st to 23rd March sitting week. Our Government is keen to engage with workers and the company to ensure the future of this local community.

This Government's priority is always about protecting local jobs.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 21 March 2017

ANSWER:

Access to Webb Dock is currently provided via Lorimer Street-Wurundjeri Way, which provides sufficient access for current levels of port activity. As part of the long term planning for Victoria's freight needs, the government will ensure sufficient freight access is available to Webb Dock as trade volumes increase and the area develops. Impacts of freight will be considered in the planning of Fishermans Bend.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 21 March 2017

ANSWER:

The recent reforms to the three main residential zones, being the General Residential Zone, Neighbourhood Residential Zone and Residential Growth Zone, have been informed by a comprehensive consultation process undertaken by the Managing Residential Development Advisory Committee, which I appointed in November 2015.

The advisory committee undertook a range of consultation activities to ensure that residents, councils and other stakeholders had the opportunity to be heard and present their views on the former residential zones. This included 12 briefing sessions attended by councils, industry and peak bodies, and public hearings held over a five week period from April to May 2016. In addition, the advisory committee received more than 350 written submissions.

The Government's reforms to the residential zones build on the recommendations of the advisory committee, and enable the zones to deliver additional housing capacity and diversity to meet the community's needs. The reformed zones are a key tool in delivering the housing objectives of *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* and *Homes for Victorians*.

The former two-dwelling 'cap' in the Neighbourhood Residential Zone was an arbitrary control and ineffective in preventing excessive bulk and overdevelopment of suburban properties. For these reasons, the 'cap' has been replaced by a new mandatory requirement for a minimum garden area to be provided for dwellings and subdivision. The garden area requirement applies in the Neighbourhood Residential Zone and the General Residential Zone.

The garden area requirement will manage the extent of building coverage on suburban lots and prevent overdevelopment. The requirement is stepped up in proportion to lot size. This reform provides flexibility to develop more diverse forms of housing in areas close to jobs, public transport and other services, and at the same

time effectively controls the scale and massing of new dwellings. The garden area requirement will protect existing neighbourhood character, and help to provide open, leafy neighbourhoods in less vegetated residential areas.

The new zones deliver certainty in the suburbs and provide for equitable development outcomes, regardless of your postcode.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 22 March 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government remains firmly committed to the development of the Ballarat West Employment Zone. Infrastructure works for the first land release of 35 hectares were completed at the end of 2016 and most of this land has either been sold or is committed. Purchasers include Broadbent Grain, Broo, Athlegen, Kane Transport and Agrimac and together they will deliver more than 150 jobs. More good news on sales and the job creation front will be released in the near future.

With the success of Stage 1, the Government recently issued a second land release. Responses from a variety of businesses are currently being evaluated.

The Freight Hub, which is a complex, multi-faceted project with a number of inter-related elements that will link road and rail services, continues to be developed in co-operation with interested parties in order to achieve the greatest outcome for Ballarat and the region.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Eideh
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 22 March 2017

ANSWER:

There were 35 020 Victorian families on the housing wait list at the end of March this year. That number is expected to rise as we combine the public housing list with community housing lists to implement the Victorian Housing Register, a reform promised by the former government in December 2010, but not delivered.

In March 2017 the Andrews Labor Government announced Homes for Victorians, a suite of initiatives to increase the supply of social housing for Victorians. More than \$2.7 billion of social housing initiatives were announced to address diverse client needs, grow more social housing and engage with a broad network of partner organisations to tackle homelessness. The initiatives include renewing ageing public housing properties and increasing the financial capacity of registered housing associations to grow the social and affordable housing supply in Victoria. These measures come on top of a broad range of changes to the wider housing market, such as making it easier for home buyers to purchase their first home.

The Andrews Government recognises the extensive population growth occurring in Melbourne's Western suburbs, which is why we are investing in additional housing support in that region. Homes for Victorians contained a range of initiatives specific to the Western suburbs that the Member represents. Initiatives such as the H3 Wyndham project and McAuley House in Footscray have both received funding, and we've invested \$60m to build more units on underutilised Director of Housing land, with the Expression of Interest process for the first 100 homes in Melbourne's West having just concluded.

These initiatives will help ensure more Victorians, especially in Melbourne's West, get the housing support they need when they need it most.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 22 March 2017

ANSWER:

VicRoads advises me that its officers have visited the resident of Stevenson Street in Murchison a number of times to clarify his concerns.

The works were completed on 6 April 2017. This included repairing the hump in the road and smoothing out the seal joint.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 22 March 2017

ANSWER:

Given this question calls for a discussion on options to remove level crossings, the appropriate Minister to refer this constituency question and all other questions on this matter is the Minister for Public Transport, the Hon Jacinta Allan.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 22 March 2017

ANSWER:

I would like to thank the Member for Southern Metropolitan for his question.

The installation of 24/7 clearways along Punt Road has been a raging success, with travel time improvements of up to 40% during the middle of the day and on the weekends having been made since the clearways were made permanent last year.

The construction of 3 carparks on land owned by VicRoads along Punt Road is a prime example of this policy being implemented in a way to least impact the community. Rather than having parked cars clog up local roads, VicRoads are building carparks to accommodate for the needs of those who once used to park along Punt Road.

I understand the importance of the concerns raised by Stella Alevizos.

VicRoads have worked closely with her in the design, and now construction of the carpark next to her property. This has included the design and construction of a wall between her property and the carpark for safety, the cleaning of her carpets on no less than 4 occasions and the placement of gap sealant to her windows and doors to prevent dust getting into her home.

VicRoads advise me that they are reviewing her claims for damages to her property and will respond to her on this soon.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 22 March 2017

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is partnering with Transurban to deliver the West Gate Tunnel, which will provide a vital alternative second river crossing, get thousands of trucks off local streets and slash congestion.

A final agreement has not been reached. The project is still being assessed under the Government's Market Led Proposals Guideline, including negotiations with Transurban to reach the best possible outcome for Victorians.

Western Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

We have listened to the community's concerns about road safety, air quality and noise, and we have acted. When the West Gate Tunnel is completed in 2022, 24/7 truck bans will be in place on residential roads including Francis Street, Somerville Road, Buckley Street and Moore Street.

The truck bans are made possible by the West Gate Tunnel, which provides a dedicated route to the Port that means trucks no longer have to rely on local roads. This will save truck drivers time and money by avoiding 17 sets of traffic lights and reducing vehicle wear and tear.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Treasurer
Asked on: 23 March 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the member for his question.

Homes for Victorians is the Government's strategy for housing affordability, access and choice. This strategy contains a package of initiatives — the largest in Victoria's history — to assist people from across the housing spectrum, from first home buyers through to homelessness, and will particularly benefit people living in regional Victoria who are seeking to enter home ownership.

We want to make it easier for young people in regional Victoria to live and work in their communities. *Homes for Victorians* announced the abolition of stamp duty for first home buyers who purchase up to \$600 000, and discounted stamp duty for purchases up to \$750 000. With a median regional house price of \$358 000, this will mean that many first home buyers in the regions will pay no stamp duty.

Homes for Victorians also announced the doubling of the First Home Owner Grant in regional areas to \$20 000. This means that first home buyers will have more to put towards their purchase of a new home in regional Victoria.

It's good for those trying to buy in their community or moving to regional Victoria, and it's good for jobs too. Incentivising first home buyers to build in the regions will mean more jobs for regional Victoria.

At the same time, we want to make sure people in regional Victoria have the same opportunities as everyone else. That's why we're boosting V/Line and regional buses, upgrading local roads, and building more schools and

hospitals. The continued investment of the Andrews Government has led to Victoria leading the nation for regional jobs growth.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 23 March 2017

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$9 million to undertake a number of improvements at four stations within the Latrobe Valley including Morwell, Moe, Traralgon and Trafalgar.

These works are due to be completed in 2018 and include improvements to the car parking at Traralgon and Morwell and accessibility and passenger amenity upgrades at Moe and Trafalgar.

As part of the 29 January 2017 timetable review, an additional evening, return service now operates from Traralgon every weekday.

New bus networks have also been introduced in the LaTrobe Valley and Warragul-Drouin to upgrade local routes and provide more frequent, direct and reliable buses, that are better coordinated with train services in these growing Gippsland towns.

I would like to thank the Member for Eastern Victoria for her advocacy for better public transport services on behalf of her community and commend her hard work on this matter.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 23 March 2017

ANSWER:

The Department of Education and Training uses demographic modelling to identify demand for school provision, and works with state and local planning authorities to identify and plan future sites.

The Department is aware of the enrolment growth at both primary and secondary schools in and around Bentleigh. Additionally, the Department and the Victorian School Building Authority are aware of the proposed redevelopment of the Bentleigh East Industrial Precinct, and have met with the developer to discuss opportunities for future school provision.

The planning for the Bentleigh East Industrial Precinct is still in its early stages, and housing numbers are yet to be determined. This information, when available, will help inform the Department's advice around the scale and type of facilities that could be delivered.

The Department and the Victorian School Building Authority will continue to work closely with Glen Eira City Council and the local developer in the coming months to ensure all local families have access to high-quality education, both now and in the future.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Asked on: 23 March 2017

ANSWER:

The Sex Work Ministerial Advisory Committee is convened under the Sex Work Act 1994 to provide expert advice relating to sex work at the request of the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, along with providing an avenue for collaboration and discussion of relevant issues with key stakeholders.

The Committee is not a standing committee, and has primarily operated in response to requests for advice in the form of references. It has not been necessary during the term of this government to submit a reference to the Committee. Where advice has been required about matters relating to sex work regulation, industry participants and others have been consulted-directly. There are no plans to reconvene the Committee at this time.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

VicRoads advises me that its communications with the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) established that when the Caulfield to Dandenong nine level crossings removal (the CD9) and the associated shared use trail project was announced, the trail was indicated to go up to East Link.

I understand that the City of Greater Dandenong has a proposal for a shared path along the north side of the rail corridor from Yarraman Station to central Dandenong. A suitable bicycle/pedestrian crossing bridge is required across the railway line in place of the existing narrow bridge at Yarraman to provide connectivity to the East Link Trail and central Dandenong.

Western Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

VicRoads advises me that it is aware of the predicted traffic along Barwon Heads Road. The G21 Regional Growth Plan has identified the duplication of the Barwon Heads Road through Armstrong Creek as a key project for accommodating the predicted residential and commercial growth in the area. Not a second bridge.

The traffic studies being undertaken as part of the Bellarine Link and Barwon Heads Road duplication studies will help to assess if future volumes on Barwon Heads Road through to Barwon Heads will continue to grow or alternatively, be attracted to the Bellarine Highway and the future Bellarine Link to access Geelong and Melbourne. I understand that VicRoads expects the studies to be available by early 2018.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 23 March 2017

ANSWER:

Hospitals right across Victoria are currently benefitting from the \$200 million Regional Health Infrastructure Fund, the largest funding of its kind in Victorian history.

This funding is enabling regional health services to rebuild after four years of neglect from the former Liberal government.

Ballan District Health Care received funding from the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund for a number of projects including: \$78 427 for IT equipment, \$81 600 to install an electronic risk management system and \$108 671 to replace kitchen equipment.

Ballan District Health Care did not apply for funding for two new day procedure theatres.