

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

20 October to 3 November 2017

(Extract from book 18)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 16 October 2017)

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

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

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The ministry

(from 13 September 2017)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
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Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
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Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(to 12 September 2017)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence (until 23 August 2017)	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O’Sullivan, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips and Ms Wooldridge.

Procedure Committee — The President, Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Pennicuik, Ms Pulford, Ms Tierney and Ms Wooldridge.

Legislative Council standing committees

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning — Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing, #Ms Symes and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, Mr Morris, Mr Mulino, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Mr Somyurek, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

Port of Melbourne Select Committee — Mr Mulino, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

Fire Services Bill Select Committee — Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Rich Phillips, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Ms Hutchins, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O’Brien, Mr Pakula and Mr Walsh.

Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmarr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Garrett and Ms Ryall.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath, Ms Patten and Mr Somyurek. (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon and Ms Spence.

Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Halfpenny, Mr Richardson and Mr Riordan.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): Ms Britnell, Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards and Ms McLeish.

House Committee — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson and Mr Wells.

Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee — (*Council*): Mr Gepp and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Ms Patten, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing. (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath and Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Blandthorn, Mr J. Bull, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

Council — Acting Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

President:

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Purcell, Mr Ramsay

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Dr S. RATNAM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John ¹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁷	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ³	Western Metropolitan	AC	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁸	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini ⁹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁶	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

¹ Resigned 28 September 2017

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ DLP until 26 June 2017

⁴ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁶ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁷ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁸ Appointed 12 October 2016

⁹ Appointed 18 October 2017

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

AC — Australian Conservatives; ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

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ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers and received by Hansard in the period shown.

23 October to 3 November 2017**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

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

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of the Eltham Country Fire Authority (CFA), and its selfless contributions to the safety and wellbeing of the community

Please be assured that there continues to be an effective working relationship between staff and volunteers of the Eltham CFA, and that the Eltham CFA maintains a unified fire and emergency service. While the site of the former Eltham CFA fire station will not be sold, staff and volunteers will continue to remain operating from the one fire station facility.

The Eltham CFA is committed to ensuring the safety of its community and, more broadly, the Victorian community. This duty remains paramount for the dedicated men and women of the Eltham CFA.

The Victorian Government will support the staff and volunteers of the Eltham CFA as they continue to keep their community safe.

Northern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government understands the importance of planning for the future needs of our transport network. That is why we are building the projects that unlock substantial new capacity for our system via the Melbourne Metro, removing 50 of our most dangerous level crossings, building the new line to Mernda and introducing the \$100 million Better Bus Network, focussed on supporting newly developing communities in growth areas.

These projects will unlock potential for future rail extensions, including a potential future line to Wollert.

In the meantime, we are investing heavily in rail in the north east of Melbourne, including the Mernda rail extension, the first installation of high capacity signalling on Melbourne's network on the South Morang line, and the Hurstbridge line upgrade, duplicating track and providing new stabling to allow improved frequency and reliability for both the lines in the north east corridor.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 7 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to investing in education and school infrastructure, and this has been demonstrated through the allocation of more than \$2.5 billion to school facilities in the last three State Budgets. Having modern and up-to-date classrooms and school facilities is a fundamental part of ensuring that every child has the best possible education. We can't build the 'Education State' without investing in our schools' bricks and mortar.

While the Andrews Government has allocated funding through the State Budget process to build, upgrade and maintain school and early childhood infrastructure across the state, it remains true that it will take some time for the entire asset portfolio to be brought up to standard. The ongoing challenge is to responsibly balance and prioritise the needs of 1500 government schools, all in varying condition.

I have requested that the Department of Education and Training work closely with the Principal of Blackburn High School to monitor the condition of facilities at the school. While the Andrews Government is aware that schools such as Blackburn High School may have concerns about the results of its 2012 Condition Assessment Report, our challenge is to responsibly balance and prioritise the needs of over 1500 government schools in Victoria, all in varying condition.

I appreciate your support for Blackburn High School.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Mental Health
Asked on: 7 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to creating a healthier, fairer and more inclusive society. Each year, more than 1.2 million Victorians experience an episode of mental illness.

The Victorian Budget 2017-18 provides a \$325.7 million investment to continue to implement the 10-year Mental Health Plan. There has been significant investment in child and youth mental health, which is connected to the election commitment of a 10 Year Mental Health Plan for Victoria. This will help to ensure future investment is made in a coordinated, integrated way so that Victorians can access mental health services in the right place, at the right time.

Goulburn Valley Health has a range of mental health initiatives focused on children and young people from the Victorian Budget 2017-18, including: Homeless Youth Dual Diagnosis Initiative, Child Clinical Specialist, Expanded Child Clinical Services (0-12 cohort), Perinatal depression expansion.

Additionally, the Mental Health and Police Response initiative delivers a targeted and timely joint response from police and mental health services to people needing urgent mental health support in the community.

Headspace centres across Victoria provide an important youth mental health primary care platform that promotes help seeking and easy service access for young people aged 12–25 years with mental health concerns or mild to moderate problems.

These centres are linked to Victorian Government funded specialist services to ensure young people with more severe mental health issues are fast tracked to specialist treatment and care.

Southern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

The suggestion in the Member's constituency question that residents have been offered alternative accommodation due to safety concerns is incorrect. Alternative accommodation has been offered due to the implications of noise and flood lighting during construction. The disruption and requirements to offer relocation to nearby residents have been significantly minimised by the elevated design as opposed to a trench based solution.

The Office of the National Safety Regulator (ONRSR) has been closely involved in the project and is satisfied that the project's Safety Management System meets the obligations under the Rail Safety National Law.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 19 September 2017

ANSWER:

The site at Ormond Railway Station represents a unique opportunity for an integrated development opportunity to realise the potential of land freed up by the removal of the level crossing at the station and facilitate urban renewal.

On 4 September 2016 the site was referred to the Victorian Transport Projects Integrated Development Opportunities Standing Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee is to provide independent advice on integrated development opportunities created by Victorian transport projects.

A range of notice was undertaken by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to potentially affected parties, coinciding with the commencement of exhibition. Public hearings were held over nine days in February 2017, allowing submitters to present their views to the committee. The committee also provided for parties to make submissions in writing.

Following this transparent and consultative process, the committee provided a report that made recommendations as to the most appropriate planning provisions for the site.

I have made my decision to amend the Glen Eira Planning Scheme to allow for an integrated development on the site based on the committee's report, which has been made publicly available. The report can be found at: www.planning.vic.gov.au/panels-and-committees/current-panels/victorian-transport-projects.

Northern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

As part of the Education State reforms, there is a strong focus on supporting and empowering all young people who experience disadvantage and face social, community and economic barriers. Providing safe and respectful school environments, building resilience, responding to student health and wellbeing and ensuring students are engaged with school and their learning is critical.

The Stanford Centre for Education Policy Analysis Report School Segregation and Racial Academic Achievement Gaps highlighted that reducing racial and socio-economic segregation may lead to meaningful reductions in achievement gaps. The evidence-based Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO) helps schools to focus

their efforts on key areas that are known to have the greatest impact on school improvement and student outcomes. Community Engagement in Learning and a Positive Climate for Learning are two of the four key state-wide priorities of the FISO Improvement Model because the Government recognises that student health and wellbeing, pride and confidence in our schools, parent and community engagement, and inclusion are critical to achieve improved student outcomes.

The Education State is investing record funding to ensure every Victorian can access a quality education. The Education State theme of 'Breaking the Link' is the Andrews Labor Government's commitment to ensuring Victoria's most disadvantaged students and young people remain in the education and training system.

The Education State funding boost means schools are providing additional programs and resources to meet the needs of disadvantaged students. Over four years, key initiatives that will support the achievement of this target include:

- \$566 million for all Victorian government schools to receive equity funding to reduce the impact of disadvantage on student outcomes
- \$148.3 million for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund to ensure all Victorian students can take part in school trips and sporting activities
- \$15.6 million to sponsor State Schools' Relief to support and expand its uniform program
- \$13.7 million for 500 Victorian schools to run School Breakfast Clubs in partnership with Foodbank Victoria.

Under Department of Education and Training guidelines, schools also have an obligation to support families who are experiencing financial hardship by offering payment plans if desired, and providing items such as stationery, class texts and laptops for use within the school environment so that no child is disadvantaged in their learning.

The Department will continue to work with government schools to ensure all students and families feel welcome in their local neighbourhood school by developing local projects and initiatives that help us maintain the values that we take such pride in.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 20 September 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the member for her question, however this falls outside my portfolio responsibilities. Mr Ben Carroll MP, Minister for Industry and Employment is responsible for such questions.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 21 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning commissioned expert coastal engineers Advisian to collect wave and sediment movement data and model the coastal processes at Portsea. This detailed modelling allowed the assessment of six options for the long term protection of the foreshore.

The decision to build a rock wall at Portsea was based on the need to protect the foreshore environment from the impact of swell waves on Portsea Beach. The other options, particularly the offshore dredging and the breakwater, were not preferred due to the uncertain and potentially negative impacts on the coastal environment.

The construction of a new rock wall at Portsea using a known technical design and predictable impacts on the coastal environment is the best solution to provide for the long term protection of the foreshore.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 21 September 2017

ANSWER:

In 2018, the Department of Education and Training (DET) will introduce an area-based cleaning model for metropolitan schools, and implement measures to improve school cleaning in regional Victoria. As part of this reform, metropolitan Melbourne has been divided into eight separate areas, each of which will be tendered to a single cleaning contractor.

The reform is designed to protect Victoria's cleaning workforce by providing greater assurance that all cleaning staff working in Victorian government schools are receiving their legal wages and entitlements. In order to protect jobs, successful cleaning contractors for each area will be expected to recruit from the existing cleaning workforce, in accordance with the terms of the Expression of Interest.

The Victorian Government carefully considered the effects of this reform in the decision-making process, and it was identified as the best course of action to achieve a fairer system with a more consistent standard of cleaning across schools.

DET is working with agencies including Small Business Victoria to develop a program of practical support for affected businesses, such as workshops and small business mentoring. This will help those affected to plan for the changes being introduced. DET is contacting all cleaning contractors to tailor the program so it best meets their needs.

I encourage cleaning contractors with concerns about these reforms to contact DET on 1300 842 754.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 21 September 2017

ANSWER:

Gas distribution businesses such as AusNet Services must ensure that gas is delivered at adequate pressure to meters as set out in the Gas Distribution System Code, administered by the Essential Services Commission.

I have asked the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to contact AusNet Services regarding this matter, and AusNet Services have confirmed that in July 2017 some gas customers in Seddon and Yarraville experienced low gas pressure during peak times.

The gas distribution network in Yarraville and Seddon contains ageing pipes, and operates at a lower pressure compared to newly installed networks. I am advised that this is to ensure the safe operation of the network, and to minimise the risk of failure through a leak.

During the period of reduced supply AusNet Services worked to improve and monitor the situation with crews working overnight and on a daily schedule to address the problem. Temporary measures were put in place to improve gas supply pressure in the area in accordance with the safe operation of the network.

To permanently rectify the problem, works are currently underway in Seddon and Yarraville to upgrade older mains to new high pressure ones. These works are part of a broader gas mains replacement program that will improve safety for customers and the community. Over time, the program will also deliver greater capacity and improved reliability in the area. The localised area of poor supply in Yarraville and Seddon has been prioritised for upgrade and is expected to be complete before winter 2018.

I trust that this information is of assistance.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 21 September 2017

ANSWER:

The Sir William Fry Reserve is Crown land permanently reserved for public recreation purposes, being Crown Allotment 43A Parish of Moorabbin. The reserve is under the management of Kingston City Council as committee of management.

The permanent reservation of this land means that a car park is not an appropriate use. I am advised that Kingston City Council has not requested any change to the reservation.

Other matters raised in this question fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Public Transport. The member will need to redirect those to the Hon Jacinta Allan MP.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 17 October 2017

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health and Human Services has to date received 22 applications from clubs located within the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

The following eleven clubs have already received their defibrillators:

- Dromana Tennis Club
- Hastings Junior Football Club
- Merricks Pony Club
- Mornington Croquet Club
- Mornington Junior Football Club
- Mornington Peninsula Over 60 Cricket Club
- Mount Eliza Tennis Club
- Peninsula Old Boys Football Club
- Point Leo Surf Life Saving Club
- Rye Yacht Club
- Sorrento Tennis Club

The following eleven clubs are scheduled to receive their defibrillators within the next six months:

- Balnarring Tennis Club
- Hastings Cricket Club

-
- Hastings Tennis Club
 - Mornington Branch of Field & Game Australia
 - Mornington Judo Club
 - Nepean Clay Target Club
 - Rosebud Soccer Club
 - Rosebud Tennis Club
 - Rye Tennis Club
 - Victorian Field and Game Association (Port Phillip)
 - Westernport Soccer Club

Delivery is undertaken by St John Ambulance Australia (Vic). St John Ambulance works directly with clubs that have an approved application to arrange their defibrillator installation and training.

Over 550 defibrillators have already been delivered across the state under the Defibrillators for Sporting Clubs and Facilities Program. I would encourage community sport and active recreation clubs on the Mornington Peninsula to consider applying to the next round of the program.