

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

25 August to 8 September 2017

(Extract from book 15)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

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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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Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
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Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
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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 Finn, Mr Gepp, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

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

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

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

Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

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Deputy President:

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Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

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

¹ Appointed 16 April 2015

² DLP until 26 June 2017

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁴ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁵ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁶ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁷ Appointed 13 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

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ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

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

25 August to 8 September 2017**Eastern Victoria Region**

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 27 October 2016

ANSWER:

Auswest and VicForests entered into a contract which secures future supply for the mill. While the specific terms of the contract are commercial in confidence, I can reveal that the contract includes a commitment to a staged capital investment by Auswest to mill upgrades to process smaller logs from regrowth forest. This is a forward-looking investment to create the processing capacity required to meet the changing profile of resource supply in East Gippsland.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Elasmarr
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 9 March 2017

ANSWER:

I refer to your constituency question regarding government support for greater participation in soccer (football) in the Northern Metropolitan Region, raised in the Legislative Council on 9 March 2017.

Over the last two and a half years, we have delivered a number of programs to increase access to grassroots sport and recreation for people of all ages and abilities, no matter where they live or which sport they choose to play.

Thanks to the Andrews Labor Government's investment of \$25.9 million for the Supporting Victorian Sport and Recreation Program, football participation in the Northern Metropolitan Region is thriving. This program helps state sporting associations such as Football Federation Victoria (FFV) and state sport and recreation bodies to increase participation across all local government areas by building a more sustainable sport and recreation sector, and boosting inclusiveness, equity and diversity in sport. Through this support, in June 2017 FFV hosted its inaugural All Abilities Football Gala Day in Bundoora, celebrating all their inclusive football programs and showcasing the best of all abilities football through exhibition matches involving over 200 participants.

Then there is the Sporting Club Grants Program which provides grants to clubs to break down the financial barriers to participation in grassroots sport. This program assists clubs with the purchase of sports uniforms and equipment, aims to develop the skills of clubs' coaches, officials and management committees and to increase the overall capacity and accessibility of Victorian clubs. Further, a new funding category has been added to this program to address the financial barriers to Aboriginal youth participation such as travel uniforms and equipment. I am pleased to advise that we have provided 86 grants totalling \$106 735 from this program to clubs in the Northern Metropolitan Region.

Football participation in the Northern Metropolitan Region is also being supported thanks to the state-wide \$120 million investment in the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund. For instance, the \$100 000 provided to Darebin City Council to upgrade the football pitch lighting at John Cain Memorial Park means that football players in the region can continue to train and play under lights that meet the Australia Standard for football pitch lighting.

Thanks to the support from the Andrews Labor Government through the delivery of these programs, football participation in Victoria is at an all-time high with FFV reporting a 7 per cent increase in 2016, totalling 66 196 registered players.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 20 June 2017

ANSWER:

The Environmental Protection Authority is the Victorian Government contact for queries related to pollution and waste public health concerns.

I am informed that the Works Approval that was issued by the Environment Protection Authority on 24 March 2017 allows for an extension of the Melbourne Regional Landfill at Ravenhall which restricts any expansion to approximately half of the original proposal put forward by the proponent. I also understand that the Works Approval is currently a matter under consideration by the Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal.

In 2016, the Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services jointly commissioned a literature review on the air emissions from non-hazardous waste landfills. This report is publicly available on the Environmental Protection Authority website at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/publications/publication/2016/december/1645>. The review critically evaluated published studies available in 2016 addressing the question of whether there is an association between living near non-hazardous waste landfills and health effects. The review confirmed previous findings that available data and published studies do not show that living near a non-hazardous waste landfill associated with adverse health effects.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 21 June 2017

ANSWER:

I refer to your constituency question matter regarding potential funding towards the upgrade of the Oak Park sports and aquatic precinct in the Legislative Council on 21 June 2017.

Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities in Victoria is a key aim of the Andrews Labor Government.

This is why the Government is investing \$120 million into the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund to facilitate the upgrade and development of community sports facilities during this term of government. In addition it is estimated that over \$9 million will be invested through the Inner City Netball Program during this term to deliver competitive netball courts, including in Moreland.

In relation to the Oak Park sport and aquatic precinct I can inform you that Moreland City Council has not applied for funding from the 2018–19 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund which closed on 6 June 2017.

This Government has committed to delivering the best possible facilities for the residents of Moreland City council and has invested over \$1 700 000 in upgrading sports facilities in Moreland.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 23 June 2017

ANSWER:

Netball facility provision in the Richmond area is of great importance in providing opportunities for women and girls to participate in sport and active recreation.

The decision not to rezone 510 Swan Street means the four existing courts will continue to be available for use by the Richmond Netball Association.

Additionally, funding has been committed to three outdoor courts at the new Richmond High School and for redeveloping the three existing courts at Melbourne Girls College. Both projects will include lighting to accommodate use outside school hours.

These projects are being funded through this Government's \$9.6 million Inner City Netball Program and will ensure room for Richmond Netball Association to grow and develop new netballers from the local community.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

The shared-use path between Blackburn and Nunawading stations is a great community asset, built as part of the Blackburn level crossing removal project. While the path generally follows the natural gradient of the land as it rises up to Nunawading station, in some areas the path has been raised to meet design standards.

Initially, the path was expected to require the removal of residential fences along parts of Laughlin Avenue; however, during construction it was found that the path could be built without having to remove fences.

While the fences of Laughlin Avenue are generally of a height and quality to screen the path, in some cases the height difference between the path and neighbouring properties has affected the privacy of some residents.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority is working with relevant landowners to implement various measures to maintain privacy at their properties. While most cases are expected to be resolved, partial or full funding for a new boundary fence may be offered where required.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 8 August 2017

ANSWER:

In January 2015, the Victorian Government announced its commitment of up to \$25 million towards the delivery of the following outcomes as determined by the Ballarat Station Precinct Master Plan, in partnership with the private sector:

- development of an integrated Hotel and Exhibition/Convention Centre;
- remediation and adaptive re-use of the Goods Shed;
- public realm and open space; and
- transport improvements including commuter car parking, access roads and pedestrian linkages.

The Ballarat Station Precinct Master Plan (the Master Plan) was launched in May 2014 following two rounds of community consultation, and provides a comprehensive and long-term vision for the Ballarat Station Precinct (the Precinct). The Master Plan identifies short, medium and long term opportunities aimed at strengthening Ballarat's reputation as a key regional destination for business and tourism activities. The Master Plan identifies opportunities to activate the precinct as a vibrant economic and community hub, a multi-use destination that celebrates, revitalises and capitalises on the Precinct's heritage assets, enhances connections and creates public spaces that engage.

The Master Plan builds on previous investigations including the Ballarat Activity Centre Strategy (2012), the Ballarat CBD Strategy 'Making Ballarat Central' (2010), and the Ballarat Railway Station Master Plan (2002) and identifies a minimum 4 star rated hotel co-located with exhibition and/or commercial spaces leveraging the

remediated/refurbished and adaptive re-use of the Goods Shed, as the most viable urban renewal and development option for the Precinct.

Car parking at the site will be further enhanced with the recent announcement of an additional level of car parking bringing the total number of commuter carparks to 405, which exceeds the current number of car parking spots available. This is in addition to parking at the hotel, along the proposed access road and at the station's south forecourt.

Furthermore, the expedited delivery of the \$5 million bus interchange as originally envisaged by the 2014 Master Plan is currently underway with Transport for Victoria (TfV) leading detailed design works for the bus interchange. Expected delivery of the bus interchange is anticipated for mid 2018.

Eastern Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

A new residential estate, Clydevale, is being developed near Clyde Road (or Berwick-Cranbourne Road) including new roads as part of the development. The developer's contractor is required to install a signalised intersection at 660 Berwick-Cranbourne Road and proposed to close the road for safety reasons to southbound traffic while maintaining northbound traffic for up to 18 days. The contractor planned a detour to divert traffic to Thompsons Road and Narre Warren-Cranbourne Road.

The contractor implemented the road closure on 1 August 2017. However, due to traffic being adversely affected during the afternoon peak hour, VicRoads decided to abandon the road closure and instructed the contractor to re-open the road, which was re-opened at 2.30pm on 2 August 2017.

VicRoads will work with the developer's contractor to explore options to shorten the duration of the work and to only allow roadworks at this location during off peak hours.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 9 August 2017

ANSWER:

On 14 July 2017, I was pleased to announce \$7.5 million in funding to acquire land and build permanent, modern fire stations for the Wyndham Vale and Truganina Country Fire Authority fire brigades, to be completed by June 2019.

This \$7.5 million in funding will be split between the Wyndham Vale and Truganina CFA fire brigades, with \$1.5 million put towards the acquisition of land for each site and \$2.25 million put towards the development of modern, well equipped stations.

This investment ensures that both CFA branches will now have a permanent base which will provide the opportunity for these fire brigades to increase membership and better protect residents in the growing Western Metropolitan Region.

The addition of permanent stations for Wyndham Vale and Truganina CFA fire brigades will ease pressure on surrounding brigades, improve amenities for volunteer firefighters, improve response times and enhance fire protection and education for the community.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 9 August 2017

ANSWER:

An independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee is currently investigating and considering these concerns through a hearing, which I understand you will make a further submission to. I look forward to receiving the Inquiry and Advisory Committee's report, which I will consider in preparing my Assessment of the environmental impacts of the West Gate Tunnel Project, later this year.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Water
Asked on: 9 August 2017

ANSWER:

Melbourne Water has made significant efforts to investigate engineering solutions to reduce the affects of flooding. A multi-stage investigation in the Elster catchments between 2011 and 2014 found that the cost of an engineered solution would have been far too high to be feasible and unlikely to provide sufficient protection for properties in the catchment.

In addition, several of the options would have involved challenging construction methodologies and major community disruption including to roads and transport.

The table overleaf provides a high-level outline of the investigations with estimated preliminary costs in 2014 terms. These do not represent current values or detailed design and construction costs.

Even if these options were implemented, a risk of flooding would remain.

Melbourne Water is leading a pilot program in regards to the December 2016 event which involves a detailed technical survey of the McKinnon/Ormond area and exploration of localised issues.

Potential mitigation work package	Change to risk levels — 2008 FRAF	Est. costs (millions)	No of properties flooded in (1%AEP)	Floors flooded (1% AEP)	Est. Properties saved (1% AEP)	Est. Floors saved (1% AEP)
Byron Street Main Drain & Yanakie Crescent — Byron Street MD and Yanakie Crescent MD pipe augmentation	Extreme — High	\$67	1325	246	478	152
Elsternwick Main Drain — Foam Street diversion	Extreme — High	\$28	305	63	91	28
Caulfield South Main Drain — Jasmine Street diversion, Gardenvale augmentation & diversion, and North Road diversion.	Extreme — High	\$102	812	238	136	108
Koornang Road Main Drain — Diversion along Murray Road and construction of retarding basins at Packer Oval, Velodrome & Duncan McKinnon Reserve	Extreme — High	\$58	1520	483	370	308

Potential mitigation work package	Change to risk levels — 2008 FRAF	Est. costs (millions)	No of properties flooded in (1%AEP)	Floors flooded (1% AEP)	Est. Properties saved (1% AEP)	Est. Floors saved (1% AEP)
Koornang Road Main Drain — Diversion along Murray Road and construction of retarding basins at Packer Oval, Velodrome & Duncan McKinnon Reserve, diversion to bay along North Road	Extreme — High	~ \$120	1520	483	370	308
Bentleigh Main Drain — Bentleigh MD pipe augmentation	Extreme — High	\$29	335	97	132	64
Moorabbin East Drain — Moorabbin East augmentation and a retarding basin at G.R. Bricker Reserve	Extreme — Extreme	\$21	164	102	74	68

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 9 August 2017

ANSWER:

I totally reject the implication by the member that the government has not attempted to assist the Young Street Traders. I further reject the allegation by the member that the local member has not worked with the community and engaged them appropriately throughout the Young Street upgrades.

I want to further ensure the member is aware that Small Business Victoria has been providing support over a number of months to Young Street traders, via mentoring and workshops being run for traders locally.

As part of this support, an 'open for business as usual' campaign is being run by VicRoads, to mitigate the business impacts of the works. In addition to this, the Victorian Government has run Business Resilience workshops in the area and offered support services to business operators who may be experiencing difficulties, including business mentoring through Small Business Victoria which traders attended in late July.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 9 August 2017

ANSWER:

Increasing and renewing social housing is a key priority of the Victorian Government's Homes for Victorians Strategy. At the request of Hon. Martin Foley MP, Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, I have set up a transparent, timely and consultative process to consider planning scheme changes prepared by Department of Health and Human Services to facilitate the renewal of nine existing public housing estates.

No decision has been made on the future planning provisions of the New Street Public Housing Estate in Brighton.

Western Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

VicRoads is liaising closely with traders and property owners on Mair Street to minimise any impacts as a result of the Mair Street revitalisation project.

A number of one-on-one and small group meetings have been held with businesses on the street, including detailed plan-by-plan analysis of the current parking impacts with a group of concerned traders.

As part of a recently completed engagement phase, VicRoads opened a “pop-up shop” for 10 days to provide the community with an opportunity to view the concepts and learn more about the project. Two business briefings were held during this time, which were also attended by City of Ballarat Councillors and Council officers. Online engagement on the “Engage VicRoads” platform is currently running and will conclude at the end of August.

A monitoring group comprising of traders and property owners along Mair Street is also currently being formed to be involved with the remainder of the planning stages and into the construction stage.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Mental Health
Asked on: 9 August 2017

ANSWER:

The Department of Health and Human Services is currently exploring a range of potential locations within the Hume region for the new residential rehabilitation facility.

A range of factors will be considered in determining the location of the new facility, including levels of need, and access to alcohol and other drug treatment services across the Hume region to best consolidate the treatment journey.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 10 August 2017

ANSWER:

I wish to thank Ms Patten for her question.

Small Business Victoria (SBV) delivers a range of programs and services that will assist stallholders through this transition, and I encourage her constituents affected at the Queen Victoria Market to take advantage of these.

For example, in 2016–17 the Small Business Victoria Workshops program delivered almost 500 low-cost, practical workshops across Victoria, covering 23 topics. In the Melbourne Central Business District these workshops are delivered in partnership with the Melbourne Business Network. These tailored workshops include topics such as Business Planning Essentials, Build Your Business Resilience, Business Planning For Growth, Understanding Marketing and Pricing for Maximum Profit.

The Small Business Bus visits Melbourne and regional Victoria as a ‘travelling office on wheels’. It offers friendly, professional assistance from an information officer and free ‘one-on-one’ 45 minute mentoring sessions delivered by the Small Business Mentoring Service. The Bus visits locations convenient to market traders including North Melbourne. The Bus will next be in North Melbourne on the 30th of October.

In addition, the Small Business Mentoring Service delivers free fortnightly Small Business Clinics at the offices of the Victorian Small Business Commission at 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. The clinics involve free 45 minute sessions with a mentor. A mentor can help a stallholder refine its business strategy, map out the direction that it should be taking and assist in setting goals for success.

The services I have outlined are flexible and can be tailored to meet the needs of Queen Victoria Market stallholders. Small Business Victoria will continue to engage with affected businesses to ensure a smooth transition.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 10 August 2017

ANSWER:

The planning scheme amendment that I approved on 4 April 2017 introduced a discretionary height control of up to 7 storeys for the precinct that borders Chestnut Street, Carnegie. This control is an interim control, which is in place until 31 December 2017. The control will guide new development while Glen Eira City Council carries out strategic work to then prepare and exhibit a planning scheme amendment to introduce permanent planning controls for Carnegie.

The Glen Eira City Council has prepared the Carnegie Draft Concept Plan and is currently consulting with the community. The plan shows 8–12 storeys in the subject area. The council has yet to prepare, exhibit or seek approval for a planning scheme amendment. Therefore at this point in time I am unable to consider any changes to the current height control of 7 storeys.

Western Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

Members of the community can and should report odours to EPA when they experience an offensive odour. This can be done by calling the 24-hour pollution hotline on 1 300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC). Cleanaway is providing another mechanism for the community to directly report to them, so that they can take action to correct any issues, EPA will continue to monitor and respond to odour reports. Any confirmed non-compliance must be reported within 24 hours by Cleanaway to EPA as a breach of their licence.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 10 August 2017

ANSWER:

I welcome the opportunity to set the record straight about this matter, and to point out that, despite the opportunistic nature of some that have sought to mislead the community in the hope of scoring a political point, the people of Shepparton can be reassured that the additional four paediatric beds will not reduce bed capacity elsewhere in the hospital.

I implore the Member for Northern Victoria, Ms Lovell to stop undermining Goulburn Valley Health and instead get behind it — like the Andrews Labor Government has done — and support it as it does, the people of Goulburn Valley.

Northern Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

Construction of the new roundabout at this intersection is a high priority road safety project.

VicRoads has advised me that in order to construct works safely whilst still allowing traffic to travel on all of the existing roads, a four-way signalised traffic management scheme commenced on site on Friday, 21 July 2017. Only minor works were undertaken prior to this date.

I have been advised that access to the Mitre 10 property has been available at all times during the works except when excavation or construction was immediately adjacent to the driveway. VicRoads has ensured that the contractor has kept the Mitre 10 management aware of the proposed works at each stage.

I am aware that the progress of the works has been affected by wet weather.

VicRoads has assured me that the site will be operating as a roundabout by 7 September 2017 with only minor works (centre island works, signing installation and vegetation) to be completed beyond that date.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 22 August 2017

ANSWER:

There are more than 2300 State significant heritage places and objects included on the Victorian Heritage Register established under the Heritage Act 1995. This heritage contributes to the liveability of Victoria and provides a range of economic, social and environmental benefits.

The 2016-17 Budget provided funding for the establishment of the Living Heritage Program ('the Program') providing \$30 million over four years to safeguard and reactivate the State's key heritage resources. The 2017-18 Budget provided an additional \$5 million in 2017-18 to this Program.

To date more than 65 heritage conservation projects have been funded through the Program. This has included, for example, conservation works to the RSL Institute in Bendigo, the Abbotsford Convent and the Polly Woodside at Docklands.

Christ Church in St Kilda — as it is included on the Victorian Heritage Register — is eligible to apply for funding from the Program. The next funding round commences in February 2018. It is understood that my department has contacted the heritage consultants engaged by church to advise them of the Program.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 23 August 2017

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southern Metropolitan for their question; however, the matter falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon Luke Donnellan MP, should therefore be directed to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety.