

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

21 and 22 March 2017

(Extract from book 6)

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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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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
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, Mr Herbert, 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 Elasmarr, 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 Elasmarr, 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 Elasmarr 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

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FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

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Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

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Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina 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
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	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

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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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.

Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Tuesday, 21 March 2017

Roads and road safety

5281. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Broken down by direction of traffic, what is the current daily traffic volumes on the following roads —

- (a) Dynon Road, West Melbourne;
- (b) Dudley Street, West Melbourne;
- (c) Wurundjeri Way, Docklands;
- (d) Hawke Street, West Melbourne;
- (e) Montague Street, South Melbourne;
- (f) Victoria Street, West Melbourne;
- (g) Queensbury Street, North Melbourne;
- (h) La Trobe Street, Melbourne;
- (i) Spencer Street, Melbourne;
- (j) Lonsdale Street, Melbourne;
- (k) Bourke Street, Melbourne;
- (l) Flinders Street, Melbourne;
- (m) Collins Street, Melbourne;
- (n) Peel Street, Melbourne; and
- (o) Royal Parade, Parkville.

ANSWER:

I can advise that current daily traffic volumes (i.e. number of vehicles per day) are as indicated in the table below.

Road	Direction	2016
Dynon Road	Eastbound	16 000
	Westbound	16 000
Dudley Street	Eastbound	15 000
	Westbound	14 000
Wurundjeri Way	Northbound	14 000
	Southbound	19 000
Hawke Street	Eastbound	5900
	Westbound	6600
Montague Street	Northbound	11 000
	Southbound	18 000

Road	Direction	2016
Victoria Street	Eastbound	17 000
	Westbound	16 000
Queensbury Street	Eastbound	6000
	Westbound	6000
La Trobe Street	Eastbound	7500
	Westbound	9800
Spencer Street	Northbound	13 000
	Southbound	13 000
Lonsdale Street	Eastbound	11 000
	Westbound	12 000
Bourke Street	Eastbound	3800
	Westbound	3800
Flinders Street	Eastbound	15 000
	Westbound	11 000
Collins Street	Eastbound	7300
	Westbound	7300
Peel Street	Northbound	12 000
	Southbound	16 000
Royal Parade	Northbound	15 000
	Southbound	12 000

Roads and road safety

7464. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What is the latest origin to destination data for the following roads in the Eltham/Greensborough area:

- (a) Bolton Street;
- (b) Main Road;
- (c) Fitzsimmons Lane;
- (d) Diamond Creek Road;
- (e) Rosanna Road; and
- (f) Yan Yean Road.

ANSWER:

- a) Bolton Street- VicRoads commissioned an Origin-Destination (O-D) survey of Bolton Street and adjacent. The survey, which was undertaken one day in May 2016 between 7:00am and 7:00pm, captured traffic movements at nine locations. 16,1000 vehicles were recorded on Bolton Street in the 12-hour survey period.
- b) Main Road- VicRoads has no recorded O-D survey data for this road.
- c) Fitzsimons Lane- VicRoads has no recorded O-D survey data for this road.

- d) Diamond Creek Road- VicRoads has no recorded O-D survey data for this road.
- e) Rosanna Road- VicRoads commissioned an O-D survey in Melbourne’s northern suburbs as part of the investigation for Rosanna Road. The one day survey was undertaken in July 2016, between 10:00pm and 6:00am. The results of the survey were finalised in late October 2016. 581 vehicles were recorded in the survey area in the 12-hour survey period.
- f) Yan Yean Road- VicRoads has no recorded O-D survey data for this road.

Roads and road safety

7629. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many motorcyclist fatalities in road accidents have there been to date in Victoria in 2016 and of those fatalities, how many have been attributed to the exclusive fault of the motorcyclist.

ANSWER:

There were 56 motorcyclist (including 1 pillion passenger) lives lost in Victorian road crashes in 2016. Of these, 86 per cent, based on preliminary findings, involved fault by the motorcyclist. It is noted that preliminary findings do not include an assessment of the proportion of crashes in which fault does not lie exclusively with one party.

Roads and road safety

7694. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In light of the Minister’s response to my constituency question of August 18, 2016 that the final design for upgrading Bolton Street, Eltham “will take into consideration the community’s recent feedback”, will the Government reconsider its plans to not include dedicated turning lanes as access in and out of side streets of Bolton Street, Eltham.

ANSWER:

VicRoads has extensively engaged with the community prior to finalising the project scope. Besides the two community sessions, all project scope details were shaped through the community feedback report disseminated in December 2016. VicRoads is organising further information sessions in March 2017 to share the designs with the community.

Roads and road safety

7695. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What is the average daily count of trucks using Bolton Street in Eltham.

ANSWER:

Daily traffic volumes on Bolton Street are approximately 19 000 vehicles per day. A more detailed traffic count was undertaken on 4 May 2016 between 7:00am and 7:00pm. A total of 16 100 vehicles were recorded, of which 3.2 per cent were heavy vehicles. A truck curfew currently exists on Bolton Street between 10pm and 6am.

Roads and road safety

7696. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Will the Government ban trucks from using Bolton Street in Eltham.

ANSWER:

A truck curfew already exists on Bolton Street between 10pm and 6am.

Roads and road safety

7697. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Will the Government reduce the speed limit in Bolton Street, Eltham to 50 kilometres per hour.

ANSWER:

After years of inaction by the former government and in response to the community's feedback, the Andrews Labor Government will review the speed limit on Bolton Street as part of the long awaited upgrade.

Roads and road safety

7698. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (For the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Will the Government introduce speed humps in side streets to Bolton Street, Eltham.

ANSWER:

A range of traffic calming treatments are being considered as part of the detailed design, keeping in view the community's feedback.

Roads and road safety

7722. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the Chandler Highway Bridge Duplication Project, no business case has been presented to explain the selection of the west option —

- (1) was a business case analysis performed, if so, when will the Minister make this report publicly available;
- (2) what is the cost-benefit ratio of the west option;
- (3) what is the cost-benefit ratio of having some or all of the road on the east side of the existing bridge; and
- (4) the Government's pre-election promise was to duplicate the bridge, what is the difference in cost between duplicating the bridge and building six new lanes.

ANSWER:

The Chandler Highway business case analysed a number of options. After careful consideration of the overall impact to the road network and road users, residents and businesses, surrounding land, the environment and properties of cultural significance, the preferred option is to build a new six lane bridge to the west of the existing Chandler Highway Bridge.

The Victorian Government has committed \$110 million to widen the Chandler Highway from Yarra Boulevard to Heidelberg Road in Alphington and build a new bridge over the Yarra River. The upgrade is designed to help ease congestion, improve reliability for drivers, and improve road safety for all road users including cyclists and pedestrians.

The preferred option will remove the bottleneck where four lanes reduce to two. This will reduce the length of traffic queues and allow traffic to move more freely when travelling along Chandler Highway over the Yarra River.

The eastern option was estimated to cost in excess of \$30 million more than the western option, not including costs relating to project management delays, compensation and legal fees.

As part of this project, improvements will be made to multiple transport modes that will benefit pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. This will include additional lanes providing safer and more reliable journeys, converting the existing bridge into a shared user path for use by pedestrians and cyclists and allowing for timetable improvements to the local bus network.

The preferred western option will also improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians, with a shared user path being built along Chandler Highway from Heidelberg Road to the Eastern Freeway.

Water

9001. MS BATH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): What volume of water was released from Melbourne Water’s storages during Winter 2016 that was for consumptive use.

ANSWER:

During winter 2016, Melbourne Water released 97.1 gigalitres from storages for consumptive use.

Water

9002. MS BATH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): What volume of water was released from Melbourne Water’s storages during Spring 2016 that was for consumptive use.

ANSWER:

During spring 2016, Melbourne Water released 101.7 gigalitres from storages for consumptive use.

Water

9003. MS BATH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): What volume of water was released from Melbourne Water’s storages during Winter 2016 for reasons other than consumptive uses and will the Minister detail the specific reasons for releasing this water.

ANSWER:

During winter 2016, Melbourne Water released 11.8 gigalitres from storages for reasons other than consumptive uses. This water was released to meet Melbourne Water’s obligations specified in the following bulk water entitlements held by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder:

- Yarra Environmental Entitlement 2006
- Bulk Entitlement (Thomson River — Environment) Order 2005
- Tarago and Bunyip Rivers Environmental Entitlement 2009.

Water

9004. MS BATH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): What volume of water was released from Melbourne Water’s storages during Spring 2016 for reasons other than consumptive uses and will the Minister detail the specific reasons for releasing this water.

ANSWER:

During spring 2016, Melbourne Water released 9.4 gigalitres from storages for reasons other than consumptive uses. This water was released to meet Melbourne Water’s obligations specified in the following bulk water entitlements held by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder:

- Yarra Environmental Entitlement 2006
- Bulk Entitlement (Thomson River — Environment) Order 2005
- Tarago and Bunyip Rivers Environmental Entitlement 2009.

Corrections

10 492. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: In relation to all prisons in Victoria and other facilities managed by Corrections Victoria: For each of the periods between 1 December and 31 December 2016 —

- (1) how many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners;
- (2) how many items of contraband have been seized from visitors;
- (3) what items of contraband have been detected in relation to prisoners and how many instances has each item been detected;
- (4) what items of contraband has been detected in relation to visitors and how many instances has each item been detected;
- (5) how many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken and how many items of contraband have been seized in each search; and
- (6) how many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.

ANSWER:

Information regarding drugs and contraband in Victorian prisons can now be found in the publicly available report, *Drugs in Victorian Prisons*, which has been accessible online from 20 December 2016. The report for period 1 December to 31 December 2016 is available online.

This information was previously publicly available until the former Coalition Government stopped its release.

Corrections

10 495. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: In relation to all prisons in Victoria and other facilities managed by Corrections Victoria: For each of the periods between 1 January and 31 January 2017 —

- (1) how many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners;
- (2) how many items of contraband have been seized from visitors;
- (3) what items of contraband have been detected in relation to prisoners and how many instances has each item been detected;
- (4) what items of contraband has been detected in relation to visitors and how many instances has each item been detected;
- (5) how many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken and how many items of contraband have been seized in each search; and
- (6) how many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.

ANSWER:

Information regarding drugs and contraband in Victorian prisons can now be found in the publicly available report, *Drugs in Victorian Prisons*, which has been accessible online from 20 December 2016.

This information was previously publicly available until the former Coalition Government stopped its release.

It is anticipated that the report for the period 1 January to 31 January 2017 will be available online from 15 March 2017.

Training and skills

10 499. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: What is the predicted student enrolment at Greensborough TAFE and Banyule Tech for 2018 and for 2019.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In 2018, it is predicted there will be 482 enrolments at Greensborough Melbourne Polytechnic campus for TAFE and short courses, this includes Government funded and fee for service enrolments. In 2019, it is predicted there will be 594 enrolments for TAFE and short courses, again, including Government funded and fee for service enrolments. Melbourne Polytechnic will also be transporting health students from the Preston campus to the Greensborough campus to utilise the Health Simulation suites, multiple times a week.

Training and skills

10 500. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: What are the predicted staff numbers at Greensborough TAFE and Banyule Tech for 2018 and for 2019.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Melbourne Polytechnic are unable to advise final staff numbers as these are reliant on still pending final student numbers. Existing staff members from other Melbourne Polytechnic campuses will also be utilised.

The number of secondary students from the partner schools in the LGA is predicted to be around 14 000 in 2018 and 2019. The Tech School program is currently being designed in collaboration with the partner schools and this will confirm access arrangements. The Tech School staffing arrangements include a currently appointed Executive Director Tech Schools, across both the Whittlesea and Banyule-Nullumbik Tech Schools (both hosted by Melbourne Polytechnic), with responsibility for strategic oversight to drive the delivery of each local partnership's Tech School strategy and plans during the design and planning stage. The staffing from commencement of operations (mid-2018) is also likely to include a Tech School Director for each site, two teaching/instructional staff and administrative and technical support staff. A key part of the Tech Schools' model is the use of partner school teachers to support program delivery. This is to increase teacher confidence with advanced STEM techniques and technology, improve their teaching practice, and ensure alignment of the Tech School learning programs with the core teaching and learning of partner schools.

Training and skills

10 501. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: What is the total budget in 2016-17 and 2017-18 for re-opening the Greensborough TAFE.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government committed \$10 million to the re-opening of the Greensborough campus, given its strategic significance to the future skills needs of Melbourne's North.

The Government is also supporting the establishment of the Banyule Tech School to be built on the campus. The Tech School will be funded as part of \$128 million investment to establish ten state-of-the-art Tech Schools across the State.

Training and skills

10 502. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: What is the total budget in 2016-17 and 2017-18 for opening the Banyule Tech in 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is investing \$128 million over four years to establish ten state of the art Tech Schools across the State, with further funding to support ongoing operation.

The 2016-17 State Budget delivered on the Government's commitment to the Tech Schools initiative and included:

- \$92.0 million in infrastructure funding to design and construct the Tech Schools (\$62.9 million TEI and \$29.1 million in output construction costs); and
- \$24.0 million in output funds over four years for Tech School operation costs, with ongoing funding of \$8.4 million per year provided.

This investment added to the 2015-16 State Budget funding of:

- \$8.0 million for Tech School infrastructure funding; and
- \$4.0 million operating funding over four years for the Knox Innovation Opportunity and Sustainability Centre.

Tech School capital and annual operating budgets have not yet been finalised. The Department of Education and Training is working through funding agreements with each of the Tech School hosts.

I am pleased to advise that the Banyule-Nillumbik Tech School is progressing well through its design phase and remains on track to open for students in mid-2018. Industry focus areas for the Tech School will include healthcare and social assistance, scientific and technical services, and entrepreneurial skills. This focus was informed by the strong input of local stakeholders in a long-term working group process that included local schools, tertiary institutions, industry and local government. The Executive Director Tech Schools has been recently appointed across both the Whittlesea and Banyule-Nillumbik Tech Schools (both hosted by Melbourne Polytechnic), with responsibility for strategic oversight to drive the delivery of each local partnership's Tech School strategy and plans during the design and planning stage.

Roads and road safety

10 509. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What representations were made to VicRoads in 2015 and 2016 regarding the need for traffic signals or a pedestrian crossing at the Leane Drive/Main Road intersection in Eltham.

ANSWER:

Throughout 2015 and 2016, VicRoads met with many stakeholders, including Nillumbik Shire Council officers, to help identify transport priority needs across the Metropolitan North West Region that requires further investigation. The intersection of Main Road / Leane Drive was nominated by Council officers as requiring further investigation and prioritisation.

In the Legislative Assembly of 7 December 2016, Ms Vicky Ward MP, Member for Eltham, raised a matter of pedestrian crossing movements on Main Road between Leane Drive and Beard Street on behalf of a constituent, a Year 8 student from St Helena Secondary College.

Education

10 521. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What are the actual and projected enrolment numbers for primary school students in Nillumbik in 2017 and 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The actual 2017 enrolment numbers will be available in June 2017 following the February student enrolment census collection and associated enrolment verification.

The Department of Education and Training has projections for government schools only.

The 2017 and 2018 projected government primary school student enrolment numbers for Nillumbik are 4895 and 4849 respectively.

Education

10 522. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What were the school enrolment total for primary school students in Nillumbik in 2013.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The number of full time equivalent primary school enrolments in 2013 was 6194.2.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 582. MR BARBER — To ask the Special Minister for State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In 2015, this Government committed to a review of previous government programs for coal development and an accompanying new coal policy, and they committed to delivering this before the end of 2016 —

- (1) what is the status of this review and new policy now that it is so overdue; and
- (2) when will the Government finally release this review and new policy.

ANSWER:

The matters raised fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Resources. The member will need to redirect his question to the Hon Wade Noonan MP.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 600. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): How much money did the Government allocate to Diamond Creek in Nillumbik in 2015 and 2016.

ANSWER:

The matters raised fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Local Government. The member will need to redirect her question to the Hon Natalie Hutchins MP.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.

Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Wednesday, 22 March 2017

Women

9407. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Women): In light of the recently announced family violence measures what specific measures and/or funds will be given to women and children escaping violence living in the Nillumbik area.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Family violence continues to be one of the most significant issues faced by the Victorian Community. That is why the Andrews Labor Government established Australia's first Royal Commission into Family Violence and why we are implementing every single one of its 227 recommendations. The recently launched Ending Family Violence: Victoria's Plan for Change establishes our decade-long blueprint that will help protect all victims of family violence.

As part of the government's work to address the harm of family violence, I am proud to be leading the development of Victoria's first state-wide Primary Prevention Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy will take a whole-of-community approach to raise awareness of the importance of preventing family violence. before it occurs, and will drive change across a wide range of settings.

As the whole-of-government family violence reforms are being led by the Special Minister of State, I would encourage the Member to contact his office to arrange an opportunity to raise further specific questions about funds and measures. The Member may also wish to raise these matters to the Minister for Families and Children or the Minister for Housing, Disability and Aging.

Finance

10 580. MS BATH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): What quantitative data is available as to the annual volume of hearing loss claims through Workcover.

ANSWER:

This data is available on request by contacting WorkSafe's Advisory Service on (03) 9641 1444 or info@worksafe.vic.gov.au.

Finance

10 581. MS BATH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): What quality management processes are in place to facilitate positive outcomes for Workcover assisted hearing aid recipients.

ANSWER:

WorkSafe Victoria (WorkSafe) has a number of quality management processes in place to facilitate the best possible health outcomes for WorkSafe assisted hearing aid recipients.

All providers of hearing services, including those that prescribe assisted hearing aids, must meet rigorous registration criteria set by WorkSafe. This process includes background and equipment certification, to ensure quality standards are met.

WorkSafe undertakes contract tendering processes with many of its registered providers with around 88 per cent of providers entering into agreements in the 2015/16 financial year. This process allows WorkSafe to facilitate better health outcomes via establishing mandatory minimum standards of service and mechanisms that work towards an injured worker's rehabilitation goals and provides a better standard of hearing services.

WorkSafe assisted hearing aid recipients undergo rigorous hearing needs assessments undertaken by hearing services providers which include diagnostic testing, goal creation, provision of clinical options, and completion of a hearing assessment and device request form. A device fitting package is also completed if required.

WorkSafe implemented an approved hearing device list in 2011 which applies to both contracted and non-contracted providers and ensures injured workers receive devices supported by the latest research and represent best practice in prescription amongst providers. The list is reviewed annually and extensive consultation is undertaken with key stakeholders. WorkSafe remains open to considering clinically supported independent devices, where they meet a threshold that provides adequate hearing support.

WorkSafe reviews the prescription of assisted hearing aid devices where they have been prescribed outside the scope of the list. Reviews are undertaken by the WorkSafe Worker Support and Health business unit within WorkSafe. This process ensures a mechanism of provider peer review to ensure quality services are provided and safeguards against any negative health outcomes for injured workers.

WorkSafe claims involving Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) are managed by WorkSafe agents who each have a specialised team for assessment of hearing impairment benefits.

More information is contained in the WorkSafe Hearing Service and Devices Policy which outlines the service standards and processes that relate to hearing services and hearing devices. The policy can be found on the WorkSafe website at:

www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/forms-and-publications/forms-and-publications/policy-for-hearing-services-and-devices.