

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 2 May 2017

(Extract from book 7)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 10 November 2016)

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

Legislative Council committees

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

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

Legislative Council standing committees

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

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

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

Council — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

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The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

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

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina 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 ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Resigned 6 April 2017

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁴ Appointed 12 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

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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, 2 May 2017

Finance

7658. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to 2 claims from the Minister's Office on 25 May 2015 for White Card Training at a cost of \$180.00 each, what was the purpose of these expenditures.

ANSWER:

A staff member and I undertook Construction Induction (White Card) training to gain a better understanding of the training which is required to be provided to employees in the construction industry to ensure their health and safety. I undertook this as Worksafe falls within my responsibilities as Minister for Finance.

Health

7703. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Victorian Auditor-General's report Efficiency and Effectiveness of Hospital Services: Emergency, tabled on 26 October 2016, the report identifies new quality performance measures that health services will begin to publically report on from 2017, for the new performance measure 'Percentage of emergency patients who did not wait for treatment' —

- (1) which health services are already recording this data;
- (2) which health services have reported this data to the Department in 2016; and
- (3) what were the results of the data reported to the Department.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The following health services report data to the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset, which includes the departure status that is used to derive the number of patients who did not wait for treatment.
 - Alfred Health
 - Austin Health
 - Bairnsdale Regional Health Service
 - Ballarat Health Services
 - Barwon health
 - Bass Coast Health
 - Bendigo Health Care Group
 - Central Gippsland Health Service
 - Eastern Health

-
- Echuca regional Health
 - Goulburn Valley Health
 - Latrobe Regional Hospital
 - Melbourne Health
 - Mercy Public Hospitals
 - Mildura Base Hospital
 - Monash Health
 - Northeast Health Wangaratta
 - Northern Health
 - Peninsula Health
 - Royal Children’s Hospital
 - Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital
 - Royal Women’s Hospital
 - South West Healthcare
 - St Vincent’s Health
 - Swan Hill District Health
 - West Gippsland Healthcare Group
 - Western District Health Service
 - Western Health
 - Wimmera Health Care Group
 - Wodonga Hospital
- (2) All health services listed in (1) reported data for the 2015-16 financial year.
- (3) The Victorian Auditor-General’s report Efficiency and Effectiveness of Hospital Services: Emergency, tabled on 26 October 2016 reported less than five per cent of emergency presentations did not wait for treatment. This new quality measure aims to encourage improvements that result in fewer patients leaving before they have been treated. Results of the new measure will be publicly reported from 2016-17 in the Victorian Treasury and Finance Budget Paper 3 and the Department’s Annual report.

Health

7704. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Victorian Auditor-General’s report Efficiency and Effectiveness of Hospital Services: Emergency, tabled on 26 October 2016, the report identifies new quality performance measures that health services will begin to publically report on from 2017, for the new performance measure ‘Percentage of emergency patients who re-presented to the ED within 48 hours of previous presentation’ —

- (1) which health services are already recording this data;
- (2) which health services have reported this data to the Department in 2016; and
- (3) what were the results of the data reported to the Department.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1) The following health services report data to the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset, which is used to derive the number of patients who re-presented to the ED within 48 hours or the previous presentation.

- Alfred Health
- Austin Health
- Bairnsdale Regional Health Service
- Ballarat Health Services
- Barwon health
- Bass Coast Health
- Bendigo Health Care Group
- Central Gippsland Health Service
- Eastern Health
- Echuca regional Health
- Goulburn Valley Health
- Latrobe Regional Hospital
- Melbourne Health
- Mercy Public Hospitals
- Mildura Base Hospital
- Monash Health
- Northeast Health Wangaratta
- Northern Health
- Peninsula Health
- Royal Children’s Hospital

- Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital
 - Royal Women’s Hospital
 - South West Healthcare
 - St Vincent’s Health
 - Swan Hill District Health
 - West Gippsland Healthcare Group
 - Western District Health Service
 - Western Health
 - Wimmera Health Care Group
 - Wodonga Hospital
- (2) All health services listed in (1) reported data for the 2015-16 financial year
- (3) The Victorian Auditor-General’s report Efficiency and Effectiveness of Hospital Services: Emergency, tabled on 26 October 2016 reported less than six percent of emergency presentations re-presented to the ED within 48 hours of previous presentation. People returning to emergency departments may indicate health needs are not being sufficiently met. Visibility of these numbers promotes examination to better understand and address the reasons. Results of this new measure will be publicly reported from 2016-17 in the Victorian Treasury and Finance Budget Paper 3 and the Department’s Annual report.

Roads and road safety

- 7721. 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, the Minister has stated that the Chandler Highway Upgrade will be built in an existing road reserve on the west side of the current bridge, but the VicRoads information sheet on the VicRoads website states a residential area to the west of the current bridge needs rezoning to turn residential land into a road reserve —
- (1) will an area of land be rezoned from Residential 1 as part of a project, if so, how much land;
 - (2) will any part of the road be built on the rezoned land, if so, how much of the new construction will be on the rezoned land;
 - (a) how is this compatible with his statement that the road would be built within the existing road reserve;
 - (3) how close will the road be to the nearest home;
 - (4) why was the west duplication option chosen when the east option would have had less impact on existing homes;
 - (5) what is the difference in cost between the west option and putting some of the upgrade on the East side;
 - (6) what is the projected impact in value on the Amcor development site of the West option compared with the East option; and
 - (7) will the project have any impact on homes on Coate Avenue.

ANSWER:

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.

A small parcel of land has been rezoned as part of the project however no land will be acquired from existing residential properties. A small portion of this rezoned parcel will be used to facilitate construction. In addition there will be no permanent construction impacts on Coate Avenue Residents.

The distance between the project and the nearest road reserve boundary is approximately three metres. A noise wall will be provided at this location to reduce noise impacts.

The decision to build a new bridge to the west of the existing Chandler Highway Bridge was made after extensive consultation and careful consideration of the feedback we received from the community. This included weighing up the impact this option would have on the local and broader community, the road network, current and future traffic volumes, surrounding land, the environment and properties of heritage significance. An eastern option has an environmental impact which is approximately three times higher than the preferred option when comparing biodiversity scores. An eastern option would also require significant lane acquisition from Guide Dogs Victoria (400 m²), Willsmere Chandler Park (2000 m²), and the Amcor development site (4400 m² on top of the 5700 m² required for a Western alignment. Total 10100 m²).

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. In terms of the residual value of the Amcor development site based on a western or Eastern alignment is a consideration for the developer.

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 Chandler Highway Upgrade will improve the lives of locals by creating new paths for cyclists and pedestrians, more links to the Yarra river and easing the drive across the river without getting stuck in traffic.

Corrections

9723. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many times have Corrections Victoria received a cost order against them for a failure to present a prisoner to court in contravention of a court order during the month of November 2016.

ANSWER:

Due to the question seeking data on a month by month basis a response would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and would require an unnecessary diversion of Departmental resources.

Corrections

9724. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: What were the court locations where costs were ordered against Corrections Victoria and what were the quantum of the cost orders for each court made in November 2016.

ANSWER:

Due to the question seeking data on a month by month basis a response would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and would require an unnecessary diversion of Departmental resources.

Health

10 503. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): How much of the extra \$11 million being provided by the Andrews Government to support refugees will go specifically to support the Syrian refugees being settled in Eltham at St Vincent’s Care Services and Catholic Care. Of that money, much will be spent on —

- (a) paediatric specialist outreach clinics;
- (b) catch up immunisation programs;
- (c) language services; and
- (d) child, youth and family refugees’ mental health programs.

ANSWER:

Up to 120 Syrian and Iraqi refugees are expected to settle at the transitional accommodation site in Eltham over the next two years after exiting Commonwealth settlement services provided by AMES Australia. Given settlement is not yet completed, it is not possible to answer your specific questions.

Health

10 504. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): How many of the 27 new paramedics being appointed to the Eastern Metropolitan region will be based at the ambulance station in Eltham.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The 27 new paramedics announced on 23 January 2017 are graduate paramedics. Graduates are not permanently appointed to a particular branch. As part of their training they rotate through branches to ensure exposure to the wide variety of patients and patients types they will encounter as fully qualified paramedics.

Roads and road safety

10 505. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many residents during VicRoads’ community consultations or in subsequent submissions, specifically called for a permanent reduction of the speed limit to 50 km/h along Eltham’s Bolton Street.

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

10 506. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Did Victoria Police make a submission on the upgrading of Bolton Street in Eltham.

ANSWER:

VicRoads has not received a submission from Victoria Police in regards to the Bolton Street upgrade project at this stage.

Roads and road safety

10 507. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many accidents have been recorded along Bolton Street in Eltham in each of 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 and how many of these were the result of speed.

ANSWER:

There were eight recorded crashes between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2016 (resulting in one fatality, one serious injury and six other injuries).

The police reports for the eight recorded crashes do not specifically indicate that the crashes were a result of speed. Speed reduction along Bolton Street will improve safety by reducing the likelihood and severity of crashes.

Roads and road safety

10 508. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many residents, during VicRoads community consultations or in subsequent submissions, called for a three-metre wide pedestrian and cycle lane along Eltham’s Bolton Street.

ANSWER:

At the VicRoads Bolton Street upgrade community consultation session in November 2015, local residents expressed serious concerns about safety on Bolton Street, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. Recent community engagement feedback has supported improving safety for pedestrians and cyclists travelling along Bolton Street.

Roads and road safety

10 510. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Will the Government’s planned upgrade of Bolton Street in Eltham result in any closure of Bolton Street for any period of time.

ANSWER:

VicRoads is working with key stakeholders to finalise a detailed design for Bolton Street prior to advertising tenders in mid-2017. Although traffic management arrangements have not been confirmed, VicRoads will engage with traders and residents to effectively manage traffic during construction. VicRoads will endeavour to minimise impact to the community throughout construction. VicRoads has commenced engagement with Bolton Street traders to understand their operational requirements to ensure the impact along Bolton Street is minimised.

Roads and road safety

10 511. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many arterial roads under VicRoads auspices have had the speed limit reduced to less than 60 km/h in the last two years and for what reasons.

ANSWER:

41 arterial roads have had the speed limit reduced to less than 60 km/h in the last two years. These speed reductions were undertaken to improve safety at school zones and other areas with high pedestrian activity.

Roads and road safety

10 513. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How will the Eltham and wider community be informed of the plan to reduce the speed limit in Eltham’s Bolton Street to a permanent 50 km/h and how much will that communication cost.

ANSWER:

VicRoads has extensively engaged with the community prior to finalising the project scope and is keeping it informed on design developments. Besides the two community sessions, all project scope details were shared through the Community Feedback Report disseminated in December 2016. Project scope details, including the introduction of safer speeds, have also been shared with the community via the VicRoads website. VicRoads is organising two further on-site community information sessions in March 2017 to share designs with the community.

Roads and road safety

10 514. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): When will the proposal to permanently reduce the speed limit to 50 km/h along Eltham’s Bolton Street come into effect.

ANSWER:

VicRoads will introduce the safer speed along Bolton Street as part of the major construction works scheduled to commence later this year.

Families and children

10 523. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: What is the actual and projected enrolment numbers for preschool students in Nillumbik in 2017 and 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Information relating to preschool enrolment participation by local government area is available ‘on the Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS) Portal accessible through the Department of Education and Training website.

A new calculation methodology for the LGA participation rate was introduced from 2014. Therefore any historic comparisons need to be undertaken with some caution. Prior to 2014, the LGA participation rate was reported based on the number of children who attend kindergarten at a service in the LGA. This method of calculation, however, included children who may not live in that same LGA. From 2014, the Department introduced a more accurate methodology for calculating the LGA participation rate, based on the number of children who live in the LGA and attend kindergarten in Victoria.

The number of preschool enrolments in 2017 is not yet available as the data is collected in August each year in the kindergarten census.

Families and children

10 524. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: What was the preschool enrolment total for students in Nillumbik in 2013.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Information relating to preschool enrolment participation by local government area is available on the Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS) Portal accessible through the Department of Education and Training website.

A new calculation methodology for the LGA participation rate was introduced from 2014. Therefore any historic comparisons need to be undertaken with some caution. Prior to 2014, the LGA participation rate was reported

based on the number of children who attend kindergarten at a service in the LGA. This method of calculation, however, included children who may not live in that same LGA. From 2014, the Department introduced a more accurate methodology for calculating the LGA participation rate, based on the number of children who live in the LGA and attend kindergarten in Victoria.

Public transport

10 525. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport):
When will the promised extra morning peak train service be moved from Greensborough to Eltham.

ANSWER:

The Hurstbridge Corridor upgrade was funded in the 2016-17 Budget to remove constraints on the corridor and increase the level of service that can be provided to customers towards the end of the line. The \$395 million project will increase capacity and provide greater reliability on the line.

Public Transport Victoria and Metro Trains Melbourne are currently investigating options to improve services on the corridor. In the meantime, the Andrews Labor Government is getting on with the removal of two level crossings, rebuilding Rosanna Station and the critical duplication required to ensure more services for passengers.

Health

10 526. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
In relation to the Government's Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Responsive acute palliative intervention and decision assistance (RAPID ASSIST Project) —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The responsive acute palliative intervention and decision assistance project (RAPID ASSIST Project) has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 527. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
In relation to the Government's Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Integrated gateway between primary care and acute hospital services —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:—

The integrated gateway between primary care and acute hospital services project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 528. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Rapid rule out process for Acute Coronary Syndrome in emergency departments —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The rapid rule out process for Acute Coronary Syndrome in emergency departments project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 529. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - No place like home: outpatient pathway for managing low risk neutropenic fever in patients with cancer —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The no place like home: outpatient pathway for managing low risk neutropenic fever in patients with cancer project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 530. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Implementing telehealth for urgent care medical consultations —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The implementing telehealth for urgent care medical consultations project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 531. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Implementation of virtual fracture clinics —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The implementation of virtual fracture clinics project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 532. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Geri-Connect —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Geri-Connect project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 533. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Collaborative model for a falls response service —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The collaborative model for a falls response service project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 534. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Outpatients demand management —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The outpatients demand management project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 535. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Improving After Hours Care at Monash —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Improving After Hours Care at Monash project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 536. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Using big data modelling and forecasting to improve access to outpatient clinics:

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The using big data modelling and forecasting to improve access to outpatient clinics project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 537. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Choosing Wisely Champion Hospital —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Choosing Wisely Champion Hospital project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 538. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Rapid Access Musculoskeletal Care —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Rapid Access Musculoskeletal Care project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 539. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - No Unnecessary Tests —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The No Unnecessary Tests project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 540. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Remote Drug and Alcohol Recovery for the Southern Otways Region —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Remote Drug and Alcohol Recovery for the Southern Otways Region project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 541. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Bendigo survivorship service —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Bendigo survivorship service project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 542. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - CALD Assist: Designing technology to support timely nursing assessment of CALD patients —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The CALD Assist: Designing technology to support timely nursing assessment of CALD patients project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 543. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Sepsis Improvement Project —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Sepsis Improvement Project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 544. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Obstetric Triage Decision Aid —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Obstetric Triage Decision Aid project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 545. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Medical Management of Miscarriage at Home —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Medical Management of Miscarriage at Home project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 546. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Better care for rural patients in Intensive Care Units with chronic complex care needs through telemedicine —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The better care for rural patients in Intensive Care Units with chronic complex care needs through telemedicine project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 547. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Expansion of a telemedicine model to the patient’s home —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) when did/will the project commence;
- (3) when will the project be completed;
- (4) how will the project be evaluated;
- (5) by what measure(s) will the project be measured; and
- (6) when is a final report due.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The expansion of a telemedicine model to the patient's home project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 548. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government's VicPrEP trial —

- (1) what is the total allocation of funding for this trial;
- (2) what proportion of this was contributed by the Victorian Government;
- (3) what proportion of funding was allocated by each of the partner organisations;
- (4) how many people were participating in the trial, by month, for the duration of the trial; and
- (5) what was the attrition rate of participants, by month, for the duration of the trial.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government has provided VicPrEP a total of \$397 770 to the VicPrEP trial. There were 115 people enrolled in the VicPrEP trial over 2014-15.

The attrition rate from the start of study to the end of 2016 was 10 per cent. In 2017, participants have been transitioning to the PrEPX trial at the end of their VicPrEP enrolment.

Health

10 549. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government's PrEPX study —

- (1) what is the total allocation of funding for this study;
- (2) what proportion of this was contributed by the Victorian Government;
- (3) what proportion of funding was allocated by each of the partner organisations;
- (4) what proportion of the funding has been allocated to a PrEP education campaign;
- (5) what will the funding for the education campaign provide for;
- (6) how many people are participating in the study, by month, since the study began; and
- (7) what has been the attrition rate of participants, by month, since the study began.

ANSWER:

The total amount of funding for the PrEPX public health research study is \$1.8 million.

Of the total amount, the Victorian Government has contributed approximately 78 per cent of funds, with the partners contributing the rest.

Since the start of the study in July 2016, the attrition rate through formal withdrawal from the study has been less than 2 per cent.

[Question 10 549 reinstated by order of President on 2 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 March 2017, page 1447.]

Health

10 550. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s announcement that 450 new paramedics will be employed by Ambulance Victoria (27 November 2016): At what ambulance stations will the 450 new paramedics be employed, and how many will be employed at each station.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This information has been publicly released and widely reported in the media.

Health

10 551. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s announcement that 450 new paramedics will be employed by Ambulance Victoria (27 November 2016) —

- (1) how many of the 450 new paramedics will have been employed by 30 June 2017, 30 June 2018 and 30 June 2019; and
- (2) how much of the \$500 million announced will be allocated to employing 450 new paramedics.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Ambulance Victoria has commenced employment of the additional paramedics. Full recruitment will occur progressively over the next three years.

Health

10 552. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health) regarding the Government’s commitment to put more ambulances on the road (27 November 2016) —

- (1) how many ambulances are in the existing fleet;
- (2) how many new ambulances will be purchased;
- (3) where will the additional ambulances be stationed;
- (4) when will the new ambulances be delivered; and
- (5) how much of the \$500 million announced will be allocated to putting more ambulances on the road.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The total number of vehicles is yet to be finalised.

Health

10 553. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health) regarding the Government’s announcement that 15 ambulance stations will be built or upgraded across Victoria (27 November 2016) —

- (1) where will the 15 new ambulance stations be located;
- (2) which ambulance stations will be upgraded;
- (3) when will the new stations be delivered;

- (4) when will the upgrades be delivered;
- (5) how much of the \$500 million announced will be allocated to the 15 new and upgraded ambulance stations.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The locations of the new ambulance stations have been publicly released and are widely reported in local media.

Health

10 554. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health) regarding the Government's announcement that six new super ambulance response centres will be established (27 November 2016) —

- (1) where will the new super ambulance response centres be established;
- (2) when will the super ambulance response centres be delivered;
- (3) how were these six locations selected; and
- (4) how much of the \$500 million announced will be allocated to the new super ambulance response centres.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Ambulance Victoria is currently securing appropriate facilities and locations for each of the super response centres. The response centres will be strategically located across the metropolitan area in the north, south, east, west, north east and north west. The centres will be operational by June 2018.

Health

10 555. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health) regarding the Government's announcement that 12 new rural locations will receive additional vehicle and paramedic resources (27 November 2016) —

- (1) which new rural locations will receive the extra vehicle and paramedic resources;
- (2) how were these locations selected;
- (4) when will the vehicle and paramedic resources be delivered for each station; and
- (5) how much of the \$500 million announced will be allocated to the new vehicle and paramedic resources.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This information has been publicly released and was widely reported in local media.

Health

10 556. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health) regarding the Government's announcement of a \$50 million boost to hire more clinicians and open more beds in Victorian emergency departments (27 November 2016) —

- (1) which emergency departments will receive funding;
- (2) how many new beds will be delivered at each of the hospitals who receive funding;

- (3) when will the funding be delivered; and
- (4) how much of the \$50 million is allocated to hiring new clinicians and opening more beds.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The purpose and location of this funding has been publicly released and has been widely reported in the local media. The funding has been delivered to health services.

Health

10 557. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health) regarding the Government’s announcement that \$500 million has been allocated to improving ambulance response times (27 November 2016) —

- (1) how much of the \$500 million will be allocated to the Eltham Ambulance Station;
- (2) what extra paramedic or vehicle resources will the Eltham ambulance station receive; and
- (3) when will this allocation be delivered.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The rebuild of the Eltham ambulance branch is not a component of the \$500 million investment in ambulance services. As part of the 2015-16 State Budget the Government committed funding to rebuild the Eltham ambulance branch.

Ambulance Victoria determines resource requirements in line with demand and operational need.

Health

10 558. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to Labor’s commitment to upgrade ambulance facilities: What has been the total cost from December 2014 to today of consultation to inform the prioritisation of rebuilding, collocating or refurbishing ambulance facilities.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Consultations were undertaken by staff, no separate consultation costs have been recorded.

Health

10 559. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to Labor’s commitment to upgrade ambulance facilities —

- (1) how much funding will be allocated to the Diamond Creek Ambulance Station; and
- (2) when will project works associated with the Diamond Creek Station be completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

– \$20 million was allocated in the 2016-17 Victorian Budget to upgrade and rebuild 9 ambulance branches across the state, including the Diamond Creek ambulance branch.

- This budget program is due for completion by mid-2020.

Health

10 561. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
In relation to Labor’s commitment to upgrade ambulance facilities —

- (1) how much funding will be allocated to the Waverley Ambulance Station; and
- (2) when will project works associated with the Waverley Station be completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- \$20 million was allocated in the 2016-17 Victorian Budget to upgrade and rebuild 9 ambulance branches across the state, including the Waverley ambulance branch.
- This budget program is due for completion by mid-2020.

Health

10 562. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
In relation to Labor’s commitment to upgrade ambulance facilities —

- (1) how much funding will be allocated to the Epping Ambulance Station; and
- (2) when will project works associated with the Epping Station be completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- \$20 million was allocated in the 2016-17 Victorian Budget to upgrade and rebuild 9 ambulance branches across the state, including the Epping ambulance branch.
- This budget program is due for completion by mid-2020.

Health

10 563. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
In relation to Labor’s commitment to upgrade ambulance facilities —

- (1) how much funding will be allocated to the Oak Park Ambulance Station; and
- (2) when will project works associated with the Oak Park Station be completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- \$20 million was allocated in the 2016-17 Victorian Budget to upgrade and rebuild 9 ambulance branches across the state, including the Broadmeadows (Oak Park) ambulance branch.
- This budget program is due for completion by mid-2020.

Health

10 564. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
In relation to Labor’s commitment to upgrade ambulance facilities —

- (1) how much funding will be allocated to the Terang Ambulance Station; and
- (2) when will project works associated with the Terang Station be completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- \$20 million was allocated in the 2016-17 Victorian Budget to upgrade and rebuild 9 ambulance branches across the state, including the Terang ambulance branch.
- This budget program is due for completion by mid-2020.

Health

10 565. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
In relation to Labor’s commitment to upgrade ambulance facilities —

- (1) how much funding will be allocated to the Port Fairy Ambulance Station; and
- (2) when will project works associated with the Port Fairy Station be completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- \$20 million was allocated in the 2016-17 Victorian Budget to upgrade and rebuild 9 ambulance branches across the state, including the Port Fairy ambulance branch.
- This budget program is due for completion by mid-2020.

Health

10 566. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
In relation to Labor’s commitment to upgrade ambulance facilities —

- (1) how much funding will be allocated to the Ferntree Gully Ambulance Station; and
- (2) when will project works associated with the Ferntree Gully Station be completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This information was published in the media release titled *New Ferntree Gully Ambulance Station Works Full Steam ahead* on 9 September 2016 and is publicly available at: <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/new-ferntree-gully-ambulance-station-works-full-steam-ahead/>

Health

10 567. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
In relation to Labor’s commitment to upgrade ambulance facilities —

- (1) how much funding will be allocated to the Tatura Ambulance Station; and
- (2) when will project works associated with the Tatura Station be completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The commitment to build an ambulance branch in Tatura is part of the Andrew Labor Government's \$500 million investment over five years to improve ambulance response times.
- (2) The Tatura Ambulance branch is targeted for completion late 2018.

Health

10 568. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
In relation to Labor's commitment to increase ambulance services —

- (1) how much funding will be allocated to deliver an ambulance service for Donald; and
- (2) when will a paramedic community support coordinator and vehicle be delivered for Donald.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Paramedic Community Support Coordinator for Woomelang, Birchip and Donald is funded as part of the Andrews Labor Government's \$500 million investment over five years to improve ambulance response times. The service is scheduled to commence by the end of 2018.

Health

10 569. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
In relation to Labor's commitment to increase ambulance services —

- (1) how much funding will be allocated to deliver an ambulance service for Birchip; and
- (2) when will a paramedic community support coordinator and vehicle be delivered for Birchip.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Paramedic Community Support Coordinator for Woomelang, Birchip and Donald is funded as part of the Andrews Labor Government's \$500 million investment over five years to improve ambulance response times. The service is scheduled to commence by the end of 2018.

Health

10 570. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
In relation to Labor's commitment to increase ambulance services —

- (1) how much funding will be allocated to deliver an ambulance service for Woomelang; and
- (2) when will a paramedic community support coordinator and vehicle be delivered for Woomelang.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Paramedic Community Support Coordinator for Woomelang, Birchip and Donald is funded as part of the Andrews Labor Government's \$500 million investment over five years to improve ambulance response times. The service is scheduled to commence by the end of 2018.

Health

10 576. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to reports that Ambulance Victoria is considering reducing the operating hours of the Rosebud and Rye ambulance services —

- (1) can you guarantee that the Rosebud and Rye ambulance services will both remain operational 24 hours;
- (2) how many FTE staff are employed at the Rosebud and Rye ambulance services respectively;
- (3) have the rosters of the Rye and Rosebud ambulance services been blended;
- (4) can you guarantee that the rosters of the Rye and Rosebud ambulance services will not be blended; and
- (5) are Ambulance Victoria considering reducing the operating hours of other ambulance services in Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Ambulance Victoria's primary focus is always to minimise the response time to patients experiencing time-critical life threatening emergencies. From time to time, Ambulance Victoria will review service delivery to ensure that they meet the needs of emergency patients in the Victorian community. Ambulance Victoria do not currently have any plans to alter the rosters of the Rosebud and Rye teams.
- (2) The FTE (position) allocation for Rosebud is 15.03 and current staffing level is 16.33. The FTE (position) allocation for Rye is 13.92 and current staffing level is 15.56.
- (3) The rosters of the Rye and Rosebud ambulance services have not been blended.
- (4) There are currently no plans to blend the Rye and Rosebud roster configurations.
- (5) Ambulance Victoria are not currently considering reducing the operating hours of other ambulance services in Victoria.

Health

10 577. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): What are the current quality management processes in place for patients acquiring audiology services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Patients receiving audiology services in Victorian public hospitals can be assured that staff are required to be accredited under The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC) National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards.

Quality management processes for programs funded by the Commonwealth Government are overseen by the Office of Hearing Services. The Commonwealth's Office of Hearing Services administers the Hearing Services Program. The Office of Hearing Services is responsible for ensuring their providers meet the Program's requirements to safeguard client safety and provide quality outcomes for clients, as well as monitoring the efficient and effective use of government funds. The Office meets these obligations through compliance monitoring, including auditing and practitioner adherence to a compliance framework.

Health

10 578. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): What regulatory practices are in place to ensure that hearing aid recipients receive consistent and reasonable pricing structures from their chosen provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Commonwealth Government’s Office of Hearing Services administers the Hearing Services Program which provides eligible people with access to a range of fully or partially subsidised hearing aids.

A complaints mechanism operates under the Hearing Services Administration Act 1997 for those eligible citizens who have received hearing services through Commonwealth accredited providers.

The Commonwealth Government’s Hearing Services Rules of Conduct 2012 outlines the requirements and standards that contracted service providers must adhere to when providing services to eligible voucher-holders under the voucher system of the program. They also establish the qualification requirements for hearing practitioners that contracted service providers can use to deliver clinical hearing services to eligible voucher-holders.

The pricing of devices is market driven and I note the recent issues paper by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission around the sale of hearing aids urges the industry to reconsider some of its practices.

Health

10 579. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): Has the Minister received any feedback or complaints from constituents who have been charged excessive pricing for audiology services and/or hearing devices.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

My office has been in contact with Ms Bath’s staff to discuss any concerns regarding excessive pricing for audiology services and hearing devices. I am unaware of any correspondence regarding this specific issue.

I invite Ms Bath to write directly to me on behalf of her constituents if there are any specific concerns regarding audiology services or hearing devices. This will ensure the matter will be responded to promptly.

Correspondents may be advised to contact the Commonwealth Government’s Hearing Services Program as this program helps eligible people with the cost of hearing services, assessments and devices.

There are number of Victorian based agencies that can assist access to subsidised hearing aids, advocacy or employment advice for people with a hearing loss, such as:

- VicDeaf
- Better Hearing Australia
- Jobs Access Australia.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 583. MR BARBER — To ask the Special Minister for State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Government’s recent decision to approve the upgrade of turbines at Loy Yang B coal power station —

- (1) why has the Government approved Loy Yang B burning an extra 400 000 tonnes of coal every year, when they claim to be in favour of fighting climate change and reducing emissions; and
- (2) how will the Government compensate for this extra pollution given they have committed to an Emission Reduction Target in recently proposed legislation.

ANSWER:

On 25 January 2017, the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) granted a works approval for IPM Operation & Maintenance Loy Yang Pty Ltd to upgrade Loy Yang B power station in the Latrobe Valley. The approval will enable the company to retrofit new, higher efficiency turbine blades to each of the existing power generating units. The new turbines will improve power generation capacity by 8.6 per cent, while decreasing emissions intensity by five per cent.

Any potential carbon dioxide emissions will be more than offset by the closure of the Hazelwood power station, which currently produces around 15 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

The Andrews Labor Government has set greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of 15 to 20 per cent by 2020 relative to 2005 levels, and net zero emissions by 2050. Approval of the upgrade of Loy Yang B does not diminish our commitment to meeting these targets.

Treasurer

10 584. MR BARBER — To ask the Special Minister for State (for the Treasurer): In relation to the “significant contribution” the Government has committed to over four years to sustain the Alcoa aluminium smelter in Portland —

- (1) what is the exact financial commitment the Government has made; and
- (2) what form will the Government’s contribution take, in particular will the contribution be in the form of electricity subsidies or direct grants.

ANSWER:

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have entered into four year agreements with Alcoa to provide financial assistance to support the restart and continued operations of the Portland aluminium smelter.

The Victorian Government will provide a financial assistance package of around \$50 million per year.

I understand that the Commonwealth has announced that it will provide a \$30m direct grant.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 585. MR BARBER — To ask the Special Minister for State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Government’s proposed licensing scheme governing racehorse training on beaches between Port Fairy and Warrnambool —

- (1) what is the actual number of horses each trainer is allowed under the proposed licensing scheme; and
- (2) how many additional Parks Victoria staff will be hired to meet the demands of providing regulatory oversight of racehorses training on beaches.

ANSWER:

Detail on the number of horses allowed under the licencing system is available on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website:

<https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/media-centre/newsroom/belfast-coast-horse-announcement>.

No additional Parks Victoria staff are required to implement regulatory oversight of commercial horse training in the Belfast Coastal Reserve. Authorised Officers from Parks Victoria are already monitoring the Reserve on a regular basis.

Roads and road safety

10 587. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What is the direct cost to the State Government of the decision to declare Bolton Street in Eltham an arterial road under the auspices of VicRoads and where will the funding come from.

ANSWER:

VicRoads has commenced the process to declare Bolton Street. VicRoads advises that the decision to declare Bolton Street as an arterial road will not affect the ability to deliver the outcomes of the \$10.5 million upgrade. VicRoads, on behalf of the State Government, will manage Bolton Street as an arterial road at the conclusion of these upgrades within existing recurrent routine maintenance budgets.

Roads and road safety

10 588. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Will Bolton Street in Eltham be closed to traffic at any time during the upgrade works scheduled for later this year.

ANSWER:

VicRoads is working with key stakeholders to finalise detailed design for Bolton Street prior to advertising tenders in mid-2017. VicRoads will engage with traders and residents to effectively manage traffic during construction. VicRoads will endeavour to minimise the impact to the community throughout construction and has commenced engagement with Bolton Street traders to understand their operational requirements to ensure the impact along Bolton Street is minimised.

Roads and road safety

10 589. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How long are the upgrade works for Bolton Street in Eltham expected to take to complete.

ANSWER:

VicRoads expects construction to commence later this year with completion by mid-2018.

Roads and road safety

10 590. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many of the more than 300 residents VicRoads consulted with over the upgrade of Bolton Street —

- (1) attended the community consultations;
- (2) were Grands Boulevard residents;
- (3) were Bolton Street traders; and
- (4) how many appeared in more than one list.

ANSWER:

The design for Bolton Street upgrade has been developed in response to extensive community feedback and will improve safety, traffic flow and accessibility for all road users, including drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Since 2015, VicRoads has spoken to more than 400 local residents and traders who have shared their views on how to improve safety, accessibility and traffic flow. Approximately 300 people attended information sessions held by VicRoads in November 2015 and June 2016.

In December 2016, VicRoads door knocked more than 40 properties on Grand Boulevard. In January 2017, VicRoads also door knocked approximately 50 businesses on Bolton Street and surrounding side streets.

Roads and road safety

10 591. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): When will the survey currently being undertaken into traffic congestion on Fitzsimons Lane in Eltham be completed.

ANSWER:

VicRoads expects to complete an assessment of traffic congestion and concepts to improve traffic flow and following this, anticipates that further detailed work will be required.

Roads and road safety

10 592. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Will the Government consider the suggestion that the bus lanes on Fitzsimons Lane be converted to transit lanes to ease traffic congestion for Eltham residents.

ANSWER:

As part of VicRoads' traffic investigations currently in progress for the Fitzsimons Lane corridor, the proposal to convert bus lanes into transit lanes is one of the options that will be considered.

VicRoads is actively working with a range of stakeholders, both in the context of this site and the recently announced North East Link Study, to determine the best solution in addressing congestion levels along this corridor.

Roads and road safety

10 593. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What were the average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2014 recorded in the following Eltham electorate streets —

- (a) Main Road, Eltham;
- (b) Main Road, Lower Plenty;
- (c) Wattletree Road;
- (d) Bolton Street;
- (e) Fitzsimons Lane;
- (f) St Helena Road;
- (g) Karingal Drive;
- (h) Diamond Creek Road; and
- (i) Bridge Street.

ANSWER:

Between 2014-2016 the number of vehicles that travel on the roads mentioned have remained the same. For further details and crash data the member can visit data.vic.gov.au

Roads and road safety

10 594. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What were the average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2015 recorded in the following Eltham electorate streets —

- (a) Main Road, Eltham;
- (b) Main Road, Lower Plenty;
- (c) Wattletree Road;
- (d) Bolton Street;
- (e) Fitzsimons Lane;
- (f) St Helena Road;
- (g) Karingal Drive;
- (h) Diamond Creek Road; and
- (i) Bridge Street.

ANSWER:

Between 2014-2016 the number of vehicles that travel on the roads mentioned have remained the same. For further details and crash data the member can visit data.vic.gov.au

Roads and road safety

10 595. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What were the average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2016 recorded in the following Eltham electorate streets —

- (a) Main Road, Eltham;
- (b) Main Road, Lower Plenty;
- (c) Wattletree Road;
- (d) Bolton Street;
- (e) Fitzsimons Lane;
- (f) St Helena Road;
- (g) Karingal Drive;
- (h) Diamond Creek Road; and
- (i) Bridge Street.

ANSWER:

Between 2014-2016 the number of vehicles that travel on the roads mentioned have remained the same. For further details and crash data the member can visit data.vic.gov.au

Public transport

10 596. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): When will the draft proposal for the new bus route 343 between Greensborough and Diamond Creek be finalised and when is the new service expected to begin.

ANSWER:

Presently, Public Transport Victoria are finalising the design of the new bus route 343 between Greensborough and Diamond Creek. The new route is anticipated to be introduced in 2017.

This new route comes after years of neglect by the previous Liberal Government in funding for bus services in the area and adds to the new Plenty Valley bus network already delivered by the Andrews Labor Government.

Public transport

10 597. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the two proposed options for the new Greensborough to Diamond Creek bus link —

- (a) how many residents were consulted;
- (b) which community or resident groups were consulted;
- (c) how many responses were received; and
- (d) when will the final option be decided.

ANSWER:

Consultation was undertaken from 2 November to 20 November 2016.

The consultation included face to face sessions, pop up sessions, on-line submissions and consultation with a number of community groups.

Presently, Public Transport Victoria are finalising the design of the new bus route 343 between Greensborough and Diamond Creek. The new route is anticipated to be introduced in 2017.

This new route comes after years of neglect by the previous Liberal Government in funding for bus services in the area and adds to the new Plenty Valley bus network already delivered by the Andrews Labor Government.

Public transport

10 598. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): Could the Minister outline how the community will be consulted regarding the new bus route 343 between Greensborough and Diamond Creek and if this will only be by social media.

ANSWER:

The new bus route 343 comes after years of neglect in funding for bus services in the Greensborough and Diamond Creek area from the previous Liberal Government and delivers a badly needed upgrade to bus services in the area.

Route 343 compliments the recent investment in improved bus services to the area as part of the new Plenty Valley bus network delivered in 2018 and funded by the Andrews Labor Government's \$100 million commitment to build a Better Bus Network for Victoria.

Extensive consultation was undertaken in November 2016. Consultation was conducted online and through face to face drop in sessions.

Roads and road safety

10 601. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the announcement of both Federal and State funding for the planning of the North East link —

- (1) what role will the Federal Government play in the State Government's planning for the North East Link; and
- (2) does the \$35 million for business case development, community consultation and route selection include Federal funding, and if so, how much.

ANSWER:

I can advise that the Victorian Government will be undertaking the necessary planning work on the North East Link.

The \$35 million for business case development is provided by the Andrews Labor Government through the State Budget. There is no Federal funding for this work.

Health

10 602. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Full-time Equivalent (FTE) staff numbers, between 2014-15 and 2015-16 there was an \$8 million increase in fixed term gross salary which is described in the DHHS 2015-16 Financial and Performance Outcomes General Questionnaire as reflecting “increases in time limited fixed time positions...to support reform initiatives and Ministerial commitments or announcements.” —

- (1) how much of the \$8 million was spent on extra Ministerial commitments and announcements;
- (2) how many staff does that equate to;
- (3) did DHHS Ministers receive extra staff or were these extra staff in the department; and
- (4) why did Ministers require these extra staff in the ministerial office or department.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Given the nature of fixed term employment and the scale of the DHHS workforce, it is not possible to link these positions to extra Ministerial commitments and announcements.
- (2) This isn't quantifiable due to the variables associated with fixed term employment arrangements such as, the classification of the employee, length of engagement and the number of new fixed term employees entering or exiting the department.
- (3) All staff employed in Ministers offices as the Departmental Liaison Offices in 2015-16 were ongoing employees and as such is unrelated to salaries for fixed term employees.
- (4) Refer to question 3.

Health

10 603. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) executive officers, the 2015-16 DHHS annual report shows that seven DHHS executive officers who were remunerated during the financial year were recorded as inactive —

- (1) how many of the inactive executives were on long term leave;
- (2) what was the reason for the leave; and
- (3) what is the cost for their leave.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Of the seven executives recorded as inactive in the 2015–16 Annual Report, four were on long term leave.

- (2) The four executives on long term leave were on various types of extended leave, which included annual, sick, long service, and maternity, including periods of maternity leave without pay. The remaining three executives were on secondment to another Victorian government department.
- (3) For those executives on extended leave, the total cost of their leave was \$268 173.

Health

10 604. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): The 2015-16 Department of Health and Human Services annual report shows that a contractor was acting in a managerial role, earning \$520 000 - \$529 999 —

- (1) what role was being filled by a contractor; and
- (2) why was this role being filled by a contractor.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The contractor was engaged in 2012 as the Project Director on a major health capital project. In that role, he managed the project team involved in the delivery of the project.
- (2) The contractor provided highly specialised commercial advice in relation to the project, that does not exist elsewhere in the department.

Health

10 606. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to executive salary increases in 2015-16, question 27 of the Department of Health and Human Services 2015-16 Financial and Performance Outcomes General Questionnaire attributes some of the executive salary increases to a work value increase —

- (1) what was the executive work value increase; and
- (2) how was the executive work value increase determined.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The work value increases were due to a significant increase in scope, breadth of role, size dimension, responsibilities and relative complexity in a number of positions.
- (2) Executive work value is determined by:
 - Assessment of a position’s scope, breadth of role, size, dimension, responsibilities and relative complexity against the executive category and classification descriptors given in the Victorian Public Service Executive Handbook issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission, and
 - Comparisons on a whole of job basis with other established representative executive roles.

Health

10 607. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) employee expenses, question 18 of the DHHS 2015-16 Financial and Performance Outcomes General Questionnaire shows that between 2014-15 and 2015-16 there was a \$1.02 billion increase in DHHS employee expenses —

- (1) how much of the \$1.02 billion increase was due to extra staff; and

- (2) how much of the \$1.02 billion increase was due to Enterprise Bargaining Increases.

ANSWER:

I am informed that the increase outlined in response to question 18 of the DHHS 2015-16 Financial and Performance Outcomes Questionnaire was due to a combination of factors, including:

- extra staff across the portfolio, employed to deliver increased activity.
- wage increases arising from health and human services industrial instruments; and
- a movement in staff expenses between 2014-15 and 2015-16, relating to machinery of government changes.

Public transport

10 609. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to seating for passengers at Melbourne train stations, could you please advise —

- (1) how does Metro Trains assess how much seating will be provided at key stations; and
- (2) are there any plans to increase the capacity of seats at stations in the City Loop and at Southern Cross and Footscray stations.

ANSWER:

When developing new metropolitan railway stations, the Metro engineering standard for Metropolitan Railway Stations specifies that a minimum of 20 seats per platform is required.

When assessing patronage levels and service frequency for the new station, should it be deemed that additional platform seating is required, a recommendation will be made and included in the Final Operational Requirements.

Presently, there are no station upgrades in place to increase the capacity of seating numbers in the City Loop, Southern Cross or Footscray Stations.

Public transport

10 610. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to bus shelters on Rathdowne Street, Carlton, could you please advise —

- (1) was there previously a bus stop closer to Carlton Gardens Primary School that has since been replaced and moved further away from the school, if so, why was this bus stop moved; and
- (2) are there any plans to erect a bus stop closer to the school to serve the school community.

ANSWER:

Last year, at the request of Carlton Gardens Primary School, Public Transport Victoria relocated a bus stop on Rathdowne Street, Carlton from the south to north side of Pelham Street to allow students to walk between the bus stop and the school without having to cross Pelham Street.

Pending council approval of the required permit, an advertisement-free bus shelter is expected to be installed at the new stop north of Pelham Street in early April 2017.

The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$100 million to build a better bus network across Victoria to deliver more frequent services and new routes that take people where they want to go.

Public transport

10 611. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to tram passenger safety, could you please advise —

- (1) what processes are in place between the different agencies responsible for road safety to prevent incidents between passengers of trams and other road users as tram users board or disembark from a tram onto the road, particularly in relation to passing vehicles that do not stop; and
- (2) what systems are in place to track incidents, including near-misses, between tram passengers and other road users such as cars, bicycles and/or pedestrians.

ANSWER:

Yarra Trams works closely with PTV, Victoria Police, VicRoads and local councils to improve the safety of passengers on the network. This includes:

- (a) upgrading of tram stops and infrastructure across the network to better separate cars and passengers
- (b) joint safety awareness campaigns reminding drivers that vehicles illegally passing stationary trams could cause serious injury
- (c) sharing information with Victoria Police, particularly when specific details of passing vehicles have been obtained by tram drivers

There are specific road rules in place (rules 162-164 of the Road Safety Road Rules 2009 (Vic)) which impose a duty on road users to avoid endangering passengers who may be getting on or off a tram. These rules are communicated by VicRoads through education and enforced by Victoria Police.

Tram drivers also utilise the tram gong to warn both passengers and vehicles of potential dangers.

Yarra Trams have processes in place to record and track incidents, including near-misses. Using incident data, Yarra Trams has developed a tool which maps hot spot locations of serious incidents on the network.

Incidents can be reported by tram drivers, other employees of Yarra Trams, or via the customer feedback services. Where possible, tram drivers obtain the necessary details of passing vehicles (make, mode, rego) which is passed on to Victoria Police for further investigation.

Some of the newer fleet of trams have CCTV and footage from this is passed on to Victoria Police to assist them when near miss / incidents occur.

Public transport

10 612. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to advertising screens in the City Loop, could you please advise —

- (1) are the video advertising screens in the City Loop a permanent fixture of these stations; and
- (2) are there feedback mechanisms in place for passengers to report excessive volume from advertisements at train stations.

ANSWER:

From October 2014, 32 LED screens were switched on and content displayed across all platforms of the City Loop Stations (Parliament, Melbourne Central and Flagstaff). Public Transport Victoria (PTV) provided approval to Metro Train Melbourne (MTM) for a 7 year contract.

The Franchise Agreement between MTM and the State permits advertising at station precincts and on assets. PTV has worked closely with MTM to ensure the screens comply with all relevant laws in accordance with accepted industry standards.

Passengers can submit their feedback to PTV by mail, telephone, email, website feedback form, TTY, in person at PTV Hub and or via the Public Transport Ombudsman.

Water

10 613. MR BARBER — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): In relation to water leaks on Hawke Street, West Melbourne could you please advise —

- (1) is the Minister aware of the report of a water leak to City West Water with reference 79004, which is apparently in three places between 41-43 Hawke Street, 33-35 Hawke Street and, 29-31 Hawke Street in West Melbourne; and
- (2) what action can be taken to remedy this problem on Hawke Street.

ANSWER:

On 28 August 2016, City West Water (CWW) was alerted to a water leak on the corner of King and Hawke Streets, West Melbourne (CWW Report: 790054). The leak was found to be on a fire service on the customer side of the valve.

Water from the leak was seeping into the ground, entering an underground utility conduit. The water was subsequently exiting at several locations which gave the appearance of multiple leaks.

CWW made contact with the customer to advise that it was the customer's responsibility to repair the leak. As the customer did not take any action to repair the leak, CWW issued a "Notice to Repair" in line with standard practice.

Although CWW followed up on a number of occasions, the customer still did not take any action. On 10 January 2017 CWW repaired the leak on behalf of the customer, with all costs incurred during the repairs to be recovered from the customer.

CWW takes water wastage and leaks seriously. In circumstances where action is not initially taken to repair a leak, the owner is given every opportunity remedy the situation before CWW intervenes on their property.

Public transport

10 614. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to tram passenger safety at Stop 13-Federation Square/Swanston St (Melbourne City), could you please advise —

- (1) what crowd control measures exist for this tram stop during peak hour;
- (2) are there any intentions of deploying more staff to this stop to facilitate passenger movement; and
- (3) what other processes are in place to ease passenger flow at this and other busy tram stops.

ANSWER:

Federation Square tram stop is staffed by the Customer Service Employees (CSE) of Yarra Trams during busy periods to facilitate safe and efficient passenger/tram movement.

The Swanston Street corridor is the busiest tram corridor in the world, carrying multiple trams each minute in the peak.

The stop is staffed at the following times:

- (a) Sunday - 9:45am to 8:45pm
- (b) Monday to Wednesday - 7:00am to 8:45pm
- (c) Thursday to Saturday - 7:00am to 11:15pm
- (d) Additionally on Friday and Saturday - The Night Network CSEs are also at this stop until 2:00am.

The minimum number of staff during morning and afternoon peak periods is 3; CSE supervisors are also located at this tram stop during peak periods.

Yarra Trams has crowd management plans for major stops with identified overcrowding issues. There are separate plans for special events and occupations. Delivery of new trams is also allowing the cascading of the larger trams onto busier routes across the network, thus helping ease crowding at tram stops.

The Andrews Labor Government is working hard to deliver more tram services and increased capacity for passengers across the network, including the delivery of 70 super-length low floor E-class trams.

Public transport

10 615. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the lift upgrade at Flagstaff and Parliament stations, could you please advise —

- (1) what alternative proposals were considered in this upgrade that would not have involved shutting off lift access for months; and
- (2) what provisions are in place for emergency services to remove people who are sick, injured, incapacitated, or disabled from train platforms during these upgrades.

ANSWER:

The lift works were completed on 12 March 2017 and the lifts were back in operation on 13 March 2017.

Prior to the lift works being completed, engineers determined that by replacing selective lift parts, the time needed to complete the works would significantly be reduced as opposed to replacing the lifts in full.

Unfortunately, certain parts needed to be sourced from overseas which resulted in unexpected and extended delays to the lifts being restored.

Detailed emergency services procedures to apply during the lift closure at Flagstaff and Parliament were developed by Metro Trains Melbourne, Melbourne Fire Brigade and Ambulance Victoria to ensure the safety of all passengers.

Roads and road safety

10 616. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the Western Distributor Authority —

- (1) how many people work for the Western Distributor Authority and what are their roles; and
- (2) how are employee numbers expected to change in the coming year and why.

ANSWER:

The Western Distributor Authority is an Administrative Office established in June 2016 under the Public Administration Act 2004 and is responsible for managing the delivery of the Western Distributor Project on behalf of the Victorian Government. It is staffed by skilled professionals drawn from the public and private sectors, with roles across engineering and design, land use planning and environment, communications and community engagement, and business services.

The agency is currently made up of 18 VPS staff. Additional staff will be recruited when and if needed.

Regional development

10 617. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Regional Development: Could the Minister please confirm that the Government will not use funding from the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund to assist the Alcoa Portland Plant.

ANSWER:

No, I will not rule out using the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund to assist the Alcoa Portland Plant in the future.

Public transport

10 618. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): Could the Minister please confirm that the Government will not use funding from the Victorian Transport Fund to assist the Alcoa Portland Plant.

ANSWER:

This question should be directed to the Treasurer.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 909. MR MORRIS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What was the total cost incurred by Parks Victoria in the Financial Year 2014-15 with regards to the operation of the Canadian Regional Park.

ANSWER:

Parks Victoria did not incur any operational costs for Canadian Regional Park during the 2014-15 financial year.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 911. MR MORRIS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What was the total cost incurred to date by Parks Victoria in the Financial Year 2016-17 with regards to the operation of the Canadian Regional Park.

ANSWER:

Total costs incurred by Parks Victoria in the 2016-17 year will be available after 30 June 2017.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 912. MR MORRIS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What was the total cost incurred by Parks Victoria in the Financial Year 2014-15 with regards to consultancies in relation to the operation of the Canadian Regional Park.

ANSWER:

Parks Victoria did not incur any consultancy costs for the operation of Canadian Regional Park during the 2014-15 financial year.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 913. MR MORRIS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What was the total cost incurred by Parks Victoria in the Financial Year 2015-16 with regards to consultancies in relation to the operation of the Canadian Regional Park.

ANSWER:

Parks Victoria did not incur any consultancy costs for the operation of Canadian Regional Park during the 2015-16 financial year.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 914. MR MORRIS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What was the total cost incurred to date by Parks Victoria in the Financial Year 2016-17 with regards to consultancies in relation to the operation of the Canadian Regional Park.

ANSWER:

Total costs incurred by Parks Victoria in the 2016-17 year will be available after 30 June 2017.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 915. MR MORRIS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What was the total number of staff by classification and location employed by Parks Victoria in the Financial Year 2014-15 with relation to the operation of the Canadian Regional Park.

ANSWER:

Parks Victoria did not incur any consultancy costs for the operation of Canadian Regional Park during the 2014-15 financial year.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 916. MR MORRIS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What was the total number of staff by classification and location employed by Parks Victoria in the Financial Year 2015-16 with relation to the operation of the Canadian Regional Park.

ANSWER:

A staff member was funded by the establishment project for Canadian Regional Park during the 2015-16 financial year in Ballarat.

Staff from Daylesford, Creswick and Ballarat also contributed towards the operation of Canadian Regional Park during the 2015-16 financial year.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 917. MR MORRIS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What is the current total number of staff by classification and location employed by Parks Victoria with relation to the operation of the Canadian Regional Park.

ANSWER:

Four staff, some part time, are funded by the establishment project for Canadian Regional Park in Ballarat and Creswick.

Staff from Daylesford, Creswick and Melbourne also contribute towards the operation of Canadian Regional Park.

Health

10 918. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Victorian Supercare Pharmacy scheme —

- (1) what performance measures are reported on by each supercare pharmacy and at what interval; and
- (2) will data collected for supercare pharmacy performance measures be made public and if so, when.

ANSWER:

Activity and performance data is collected and reported to the department on a regular basis.

Data has been regularly made public, for example, via The Premier of Victoria's website (8/2/17), The Bendigo Advertiser (12/1/17), Australian Journal of Pharmacy (9/2/17), and during the Department of Health and Human Services' industry briefing as part of Stage 2 and 3 tender activities (14/2/17).

Health

10 919. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Victorian Supercare Pharmacy scheme, how will the supercare pharmacy initiative be evaluated and by whom.

ANSWER:

Evaluation of all 20 Supercare Pharmacies will be independently conducted in 2019-20.

Health

10 925. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government's Better Care Victoria (BCV) Innovation Project: Of the \$10 million allocated in the 16/17 budget for BCV —

- (1) how much is available for project funding; and
- (2) what other expense will be funded from the \$10 million and how much funding will be provided for each of these expenses.

ANSWER:

\$10 million. was allocated in the 2016–17 Budget to the Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund. The fund is being fully expended on projects and activities designed to enhance access to hospitals, an–improve quality of care and hospital performance.

Health

10 926. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government's Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Responsive acute palliative intervention and decision assistance (RAPID ASSIST Project) —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The responsive acute palliative intervention and decision assistance project (RAPID ASSIST Project) has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 927. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Integrated gateway between primary care and acute hospital services —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The integrated gateway between primary care and acute hospital services project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 928. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Rapid rule out process for Acute Coronary Syndrome in emergency departments —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The rapid rule out process for Acute Coronary Syndrome in emergency departments project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 929. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - No place like home: outpatient pathway for managing low risk neutropenic fever in patients with cancer —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The no place like home: outpatient pathway for managing low risk neutropenic fever in patients with cancer project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian

Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 930. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Implementing telehealth for urgent care medical consultations —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The implementing telehealth for urgent care medical consultations project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 931. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Implementation of virtual fracture clinics —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The implementation of virtual fracture clinics project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 932. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Geri-Connect —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Geri-Connect project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 933. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Collaborative model for a falls response service —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The collaborative model for a falls response service project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 934. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Outpatients demand management —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The outpatients demand management project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 935. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Improving After Hours Care at Monash —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Improving After Hours Care at Monash project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 936. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Using big data modelling and forecasting to improve access to outpatient clinics —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The using big data modelling and forecasting to improve access to outpatient clinics project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 937. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Choosing Wisely Champion Hospital —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Choosing Wisely Champion Hospital project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 938. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Rapid Access Musculoskeletal Care —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Rapid Access Musculoskeletal Care project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 939. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - No Unnecessary Tests —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The No Unnecessary Tests project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 940. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Remote Drug and Alcohol Recovery for the Southern Otways Region —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Remote Drug and Alcohol Recovery for the Southern Otways Region project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 941. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Bendigo survivorship service —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Bendigo survivorship service project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design

Health

10 942. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - CALD Assist: Designing technology to support timely nursing assessment of CALD patients —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The CALD Assist: Designing technology to support timely nursing assessment of CALD patients project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project/04 be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 943. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Sepsis Improvement Project —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Sepsis Improvement Project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 944. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Obstetric Triage Decision Aid —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Obstetric Triage Decision Aid project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 945. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Medical Management of Miscarriage at Home —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Medical Management of Miscarriage at Home project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 946. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Better care for rural patients in Intensive Care Units with chronic complex care needs through telemedicine —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and
- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The better care for rural patients in Intensive Care Units with chronic complex care needs through telemedicine project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 947. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Government’s Better Care Victoria Innovation Project - Expansion of a telemedicine model to the patient’s home —

- (1) how much funding has been allocated for this project;
- (2) how long has this project been funded to last;
- (3) when is the final project report due; and

- (4) by what measure will the government judge this project to have been successful.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The expansion of a telemedicine model to the patient's home project has been funded from within the \$10m Better Care Victoria Innovation Fund contained in the 2016–17 Victorian Budget. Commencement, completion and evaluation of the project will be in accordance with the project plan and design.

Health

10 950. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Health Service Violence Prevention Fund funded in the 2016-17 Budget —

- (1) as at 1 March 2017 how much of the \$60 million fund has been allocated to specific initiatives;
- (2) what initiatives have received funding from the Response Time Rescue Fund;
- (3) when did or will each initiative commence and be complete;
- (4) how much funding has each initiative been allocated from the Response Time Rescue Fund; and
- (5) have these initiatives been solely funded by the Response Time Rescue Fund.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The Health Service Violence Prevention Fund is a \$20 million fund, rolled out over four years.
- (2) The Health Services Violence Prevention Fund does not fund initiatives in relation to the Response Time Rescue Fund. They are distinct funds.
- (3) As above.
- (4) As above.
- (5) As above.

Roads and road safety

10 951. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What consultations were undertaken with trucking representatives before the decision to ban trucks on Bolton Street in Eltham.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has committed to improve safety and congestion on Bolton Street in Eltham.

Community consultation sessions were held in November 2015 and June 2016 to understand concerns on Bolton Street and to hear from the community regarding project options. On 4 March 2017, VicRoads held a further two community information sessions to present the design and provide an update on progress of the project. These sessions were advertised via a range of techniques, including a social media campaign, which received approximately 38 000 views.

We will continue to keep the community updated on the progress of the project. VicRoads will continue to liaise with the truck industry.

Roads and road safety

10 952. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many people attended the community consultation session organised by VicRoads on Saturday, March 4 2017 at the Bolton Street Deli at 120 Bolton Street, Eltham to discuss the upgrade of Bolton Street.

ANSWER:

Approximately 70 people attended the Bolton Street information session held on 4 March 2017 at the Bolton Street Deli.

Roads and road safety

10 953. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many people attended the community consultation session organised by VicRoads on Saturday, March 4 2017 at Colin’s Place Café at 266 Bolton Street, Eltham to discuss the upgrade of Bolton Street.

ANSWER:

Approximately 70 people attended the Bolton Street information session held on 4 March 2017 at Colin’s Place Cafe.

Roads and road safety

10 954. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): When will the Government announce a decision on the future of the North-East truck curfew.

ANSWER:

VicRoads has undertaken an extensive consultation process with stakeholders in the community including residents and industry. I am pleased to advise that the North East Truck Curfew trial has now concluded with a decision announced in March 2017 for the curfew to remain in place with a modified weight limit of 16.5 tonnes.

This change achieves a better balance between the needs of industry, the local community and impacts on neighbouring areas where curfews are not in place.

Roads and road safety

10 955. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): With the Nillumbik Shire Council confirming it has held discussions with VicRoads regarding the traffic congestion from Fitzsimons Lane to Main Road Eltham, when will an announcement be made on measures to improve the traffic flow along that stretch of road.

ANSWER:

VicRoads has completed initial traffic modelling for the section of Fitzsimons Lane/Williamsons Road between Main Road in Eltham and Foote Street in Templestowe. VicRoads has planned further investigations to occur in 2017 to develop a number of possible options to reduce congestion.

Roads and road safety

10 956. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Does the Government plan to make any improvements to the Greensborough Bypass bridge over Plenty Gorge safer and if so —

- (a) what improvements;

- (b) how much will it cost; and
- (c) when will the work be carried out.

ANSWER:

VicRoads has held initial discussions with a number of stakeholders including Victoria Police, Nillumbik Shire and the City of Banyule to investigate potential safety improvements at this location.

These options will be considered for suitability and the relevant stakeholders will be kept updated on the progress of these assessments.

Emergency services

10 957. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Emergency Services): Can the Minister please detail what will be included in the \$25 000 of renovations to the Nillumbik Unit which has been funded under the Emergency Services Volunteer Sustainability Grants program.

ANSWER:

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

The \$15 million Emergency Services Volunteer Sustainability Grants Program works to ensure emergency services volunteers can continue to deliver their crucial work to keep Victorians safe. This valuable funding will assist eligible emergency services organisations to enhance their operational capability, encourage retention and growth of volunteers, and provide further benefit to the community to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

I am pleased to inform the House that the Nillumbik Victoria State Emergency Service Unit is one of the beneficiaries of the scheme and will receive \$25 000 to replace its balcony and emergency exit. This will cover the removal and replacement of the old decking, joists, hand rails and worn out stair treads, the installation of support under the landing and the costs of building permits and engineer's drawings.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Roads and road safety

10 958. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Eltham relating to the Minister's portfolio —

- (a) what is the description of and, where available, the address of all such land; and
- (b) does the Government intend to sell any of this land or acquire any new land in the electorate.

ANSWER:

The registry for crown-owned land is held by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. Therefore, this matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

Any crown-owned land managed by VicRoads forms part of the declared road network.

VicRoads advises me that it does not plan to sell such land in the Eltham electorate.

Roads and road safety

10 959. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What are the latest average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2015 and 2016 recorded along Main Road, Eltham from Fitzsimons Lane roundabout to Bridge Street, Eltham.

ANSWER:

Between 2014-2016 the number of vehicles that travel on the roads mentioned have remained the same. For further details and crash data the member can visit data.vic.gov.au

Roads and road safety

10 960. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What are the latest average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2015 and 2016 recorded along Main Road, Eltham from Bridge Street to Luck Street.

ANSWER:

Between 2014-2016 the number of vehicles that travel on the roads mentioned have remained the same. For further details and crash data the member can visit data.vic.gov.au

Roads and road safety

10 961. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What are the latest average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2015 and 2016 recorded along Main Road, Eltham from Luck Street to Wattletree Road.

ANSWER:

Between 2014-2016 the number of vehicles that travel on the roads mentioned have remained the same. For further details and crash data the member can visit data.vic.gov.au

Roads and road safety

10 962. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What are the latest average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2015 and 2016 recorded along Main Road, Eltham from Wattletree Road to Research Warrandyte Road.

ANSWER:

Between 2014-2016 the number of vehicles that travel on the roads mentioned have remained the same. For further details and crash data the member can visit data.vic.gov.au

Public transport

10 964. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): How many of the bus contracts that cover routes 513, 517, 518, 578, 579, 580 and 582 will be among those that the Government will seek to renegotiate and what community consultation will be conducted in Eltham to ensure local residents have a say in the future of their bus services.

ANSWER:

All Metropolitan route bus services are under contract until 2018. The Government has offered all operators the opportunity to negotiate new exclusive contracts.

There are no plans at this stage to alter existing services.

Public transport

10 965. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport):
What are the patronage figures of the Night Network trains on the Hurstbridge line to December 2016.

ANSWER:

Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend.

Housing, disability and ageing

10 966. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing):
Will any of the 142 social housing properties in Nillumbik be transferred to the community housing sector and if so, when.

ANSWER:

Management transfers are the transfer of tenancy and property management of public housing properties to registered community housing agencies. This is a process well established with management rights for Office of Housing properties sitting at over 8000 units currently, including those included under the government you were a Minister in.

Tenants' costs and rights to their current homes will be unchanged as a result of the transfer. The Director of Housing and the Department of Health and Human Services are consulting with a wide range of stakeholders representing tenants, employees and service providers as finer details of this initiative are confirmed.

Housing, disability and ageing

10 967. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing):
As of December 2016 how many people living in the Nillumbik area were classed as a "priority" applicant for housing and what is the average waiting time for such families to find a home.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian Housing Register priority list does not align with local government areas.

Housing, disability and ageing

10 968. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing):
As of December 2014 how many people living in the Nillumbik area were classed as a "priority" applicant for housing and what is the average waiting time for such families to find a home.

ANSWER:

The Department of Health and Human Services priority list does not directly align with local government areas.

Housing, disability and ageing

10 969. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing):
In relation to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Eltham, relating to the Minister's portfolio —

- (1) what is the description of and, where available, the address of all such land; and
- (2) does the Government intend to sell any of this land or acquire and new land in the electorate.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Director of Housing does not administer any Crown-owned land in the electorate of Eltham. I note the Liberal Party's obsession with flogging off state assets now extends to State Governments selling assets they do not yet own.

Energy, environment and climate change

10 970. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Eltham, relating to the Minister's portfolio —

- (1) what is the description of and, where available, the address of all such land; and
- (2) does the Government intend to sell any of this land or acquire any new land in the electorate.

ANSWER:

Crown land in the electorate of Eltham is managed by various authorities including: Parks Victoria, Nillumbik and Banyule Shires, other government agencies, and locally appointed committees of management.

The use and status of this Crown land includes land reserved for conservation, public recreation, leisure and tourism purposes.

The Victorian Government Land Transactions Policy and Guidelines 2016 provides a framework to achieve integrity, impartiality, accountability and transparency in land transactions. It also ensures land transactions are conducted in accordance with the highest standards of probity, relevant legislation and Victorian Government policy.

Roads and road safety

10 973. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In Victoria, payment of toll road fines is enforced through the criminal justice system, rather than through a civil debt recovery system —

- (1) how much revenue is generated by the payment of toll infringements;
- (2) how much does the state spend on penalising non-payment of tolls through the issuing of infringements and their enforcement;
- (3) what percentage of Sheriffs Officers' time is spent dealing with people who have toll infringements;
- (4) what percentage of the Magistrates' Court time is spent hearing toll offences;
- (5) what percentage of government-funded legal assistance services' time is spent providing casework and representation to clients with toll fines;
- (6) what percentage of the Infringements Court's time is spent administering and determining toll infringements;
- (7) what percentage of Victoria Police's time is spent issuing, reviewing and prosecuting toll offences; and
- (8) will the Government calculate the cost of enforcing road tolls through the criminal justice system before agreeing to extend the collection of CityLink tolls.

ANSWER:

As these matters fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police, any questions relating to this matter should be directed to them.

Training and skills

10 974. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: What was the budget for the community open day held at Melbourne Polytechnic’s Greensborough campus on Sunday, March 19 2017.

ANSWER:

Melbourne Polytechnic were solely responsible for the organisation of the Community Open Day at Greensborough.

I was an invited guest along with several other members of Parliament, from both the Liberal and Labor parties. Neither myself nor the Department was asked to contribute directly to the budget for the day.

Roads and road safety

10 979. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Following the north east truck curfew trial, will the Government be undertaking any safety works on —

- (a) Aqueduct Road;
- (b) Bolton St, Eltham;
- (c) Diamond Creek Road;
- (d) Fitzsimons Lane;
- (e) Karingal Drive;
- (f) Main Road, west of Bolton Street;
- (g) Main Road north of Bridge Street;
- (h) Para Road; and
- (i) Wattletree Road.

ANSWER:

VicRoads is upgrading Bolton Street between Main Road and Bridge Street in Eltham with a \$10.5 million project to improve traffic flow, safety and accessibility. I understand that construction is scheduled to commence in late 2017 and completed by mid-2018.

VicRoads will continue to assess potential road safety projects across the network. The remainder of roads listed above will be considered in this context.

Roads and road safety

10 980. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What are the latest traffic counts of vehicles and cyclists along Karingal Drive in Eltham and when were the surveys carried out.

ANSWER:

Karingal Drive carries almost 24 000 vehicles per day. VicRoads estimates the data based on extrapolated 2014 traffic volumes. VicRoads does not measure cyclist volumes at this location.

Tourism and major events

10 982. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): What monies has the Government contributed towards promoting tourism in the Eltham electorate in the 2015–16 and 2016–17 financial years.

ANSWER:

As the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, I recognise the importance of tourism to the economy of greater Melbourne areas such as Eltham.

In July last year I was pleased to launch the Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy. The strategy provides a clear direction to increase visitor spending to \$36.5 billion by 2025 and to increase employment in the sector to 320 700 jobs.

We have already delivered on part of the strategy. Visit Victoria was established on 1 July 2016 and the government has provided \$38 million to fund Visit Victoria's marketing campaigns. A number of Eltham attractions, businesses and experiences feature on Visit Victoria's consumer website.

Eltham is on the outer edge of metropolitan Melbourne. As such, it is not included in Victoria's regional tourism campaigns regions, but is a part of Greater Melbourne.

Visit Victoria provides funding to Destination Melbourne, a not-for-profit tourism organisation that empowers Melbourne's visitor industry to continually enhance the visitor experience and inspire visitors to explore and enjoy Greater Melbourne.

Destination Melbourne's focus is on visitors, encouraging them to explore Greater Melbourne through the production of official visitor resources and delivery of industry development programs and marketing campaigns.

Destination Melbourne, in conjunction with 24 local councils, including those in the Eltham electorate and supported by funding from Visit Victoria is currently developing a Destination Management Plan (DMP) for Greater Melbourne, to be delivered in the third quarter of 2017.

DMPs are an important tool to identify tourism gaps and opportunities to the region, plan how to support future tourism industry growth and realise employment outcomes. The overarching plan and sub-regional plans within will include evaluation of the visitor journey, visitor experiences, strengths, new product opportunities and recommendations on how to grow the visitor economy for the participating councils within that region.

The development of the DMP will provide an opportunity for the local government in the Eltham electorate to work with community members and local business to identify such opportunities across the region.

Small business, innovation and trade

10 984. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: How many businesses in Nillumbik have been assisted by Small Business Victoria by using the small business bus or the business mentoring sessions in 2015 and 2016.

ANSWER:

In 2015, 11 business mentoring sessions were delivered and a further 47 individuals received information via the Small Business Bus in Nillumbik; in 2016, eight business mentoring sessions were delivered and a further 51 individuals received information.

Individual business mentoring sessions were also delivered independently of the bus in Nillumbik-in 2015, 39 business mentoring sessions were delivered; in 2016, 30 business mentoring sessions were delivered.

Housing, disability and ageing

10 985. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): With reference to one bedroom public housing units in each of the following postcodes: 3093, 3094, 3095 and 3088 —

- (a) how many units are there;
- (b) what funds have been spent in the last two years;

- (c) what is the average age of the units;
- (d) what is the occupancy rate;
- (e) what is the current waiting list for units; and
- (f) what plans are there to buy more units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government has not altered the reporting methods of the previous government with regards to requested information. Detailed information is available through budget reporting and departmental annual reports.

Housing, disability and ageing

10 986. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): With reference to two bedroom public housing units in each of the following postcodes: 3093, 3094, 3095 and 3088 —

- (a) how many units are there;
- (b) what funds have been spent in the last two years;
- (c) what is the average age of the units;
- (d) what is the occupancy rate;
- (e) what is the current waiting list for units; and
- (f) what plans are there to buy more units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government has not altered the reporting methods of the previous government with regards to requested information. Detailed information is available through budget reporting and departmental annual reports.

Housing, disability and ageing

10 987. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): With reference to three bedroom public housing units in each if the following postcodes: 3093, 3094, 3095 and 3088 —

- (a) how many units are there;
- (b) what funds have been spent in the last two years;
- (c) what is the average age of the units;
- (d) what is the occupancy rate;
- (e) what is the current waiting list for units; and
- (f) what plans are there to buy more units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government has not altered the reporting methods of the previous government with regards to requested information. Detailed information is available through budget reporting and departmental annual reports.

Housing, disability and ageing

10 988. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): With reference to four bedroom public housing units in each of the following postcodes: 3093, 3094, 3095 and 3088 —

- (a) how many units are there;
- (b) what funds have been spent in the last two years;
- (c) what is the average age of the units;
- (d) what is the occupancy rate;
- (e) what is the current waiting list for units; and
- (f) what plans are there to buy more units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government has not altered the reporting methods of the previous government with regards to requested information. Detailed information is available through budget reporting and departmental annual reports.

Industry and employment

11 016. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): In relation to the Flavourite Tomatoes' greenhouse expansion plan announced on 28 February 2017—

- (1) does 'Flavourite Tomatoes' greenhouse expansion plan include one or more biomass burners for wood chips sourced from native forests;
- (2) how many and what capacity;
- (3) will the grant funds be used to purchase the biomass burner(s);
- (4) what quantity of native forest woodchips will be used each year; and
- (5) what region of Victoria will the woodchips be sourced from.

ANSWER:

Flavorite's expansion plans do not involve biomass burners as natural gas is the company's primary source of energy.

Energy, environment and climate change

11 017. MS DUNN — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the announced restriction on riparian revegetation in the Yellingbo Conservation area to 10 metres from a waterway: What evidence base did you use to make this decision, and what consultations were held with local environment groups on this 10 metre restriction.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has committed to establishing the Yellingbo Conservation Area in accordance with the Victorian Government Response to Victorian Environmental Assessment Council's Yellingbo Investigation Final Report March 2014.

The purpose of the Yellingbo Conservation Area is to help protect significant biodiversity and ecological values through the rehabilitation of stream frontages and the creation of vital habitat links. It is also aimed at protecting water quality and improving the health of our rivers and creeks.

In response to the concerns raised by Yarra Ranges Council and the local community in the Upper Yarra Valley about the potential for bushfire risk to increase, the government will not be undertaking any re-vegetation within this area until the bushfire management planning process has been finalised.

In the longer term, given the existing bushfire risk, the higher populations and generally lower conservation values in the Upper Yarra Valley area, I decided to limit the amount of re-vegetation that can occur on Crown land in this area. In the Upper Yarra Valley, including sections of the communities of Woori Yallock, Don Valley, Launching Place, Yarra Junction, Millgrove, Wesburn and Gladysdale, re-vegetation of Crown land will be restricted to a maximum of 10 meters from either side of the Yarra River and tributaries in the streamside areas. A lesser area will be re-vegetated if determined through bushfire management planning, to ensure that there is no material increase in bushfire risk and that priority is given to the protection of human life and private property. It is essential to note that this restriction applies to the Upper Yarra Valley area only and does not apply to the entire Yellingbo Conservation Area.

Over the next 12 months, the Yellingbo Conservation Area Coordinating Committee and Parks Victoria will be engaging the community in the development of a concept plan to guide the future use and management of Crown land that will form the Yellingbo Conservation Area. The bushfire management planning process will form the basis of the concept plan to ensure that the implementation of the Yellingbo Conservation Area does not increase the risk of bushfire to the local community.

I encourage the community, including local conservation groups to get involved in the concept planning process which will begin in June 2017.

Resources

11 018. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Resources): In relation to the Flavourite Tomatoes' greenhouse expansion plan announced on 28 February 2017—

- (1) does 'Flavourite Tomatoes' greenhouse expansion plan include one or more biomass burners for wood chips sourced from native forests;
- (2) how many and what capacity;
- (3) will the grant funds be used to purchase the biomass burner(s);
- (4) what quantity of native forest woodchips will be used each year; and
- (5) what region of Victoria will the woodchips be sourced from.

ANSWER:

Flavorite's expansion plans do not involve biomass burners as natural gas is the company's primary source of energy.