

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Wednesday, 24 May 2017

(Extract from book 10)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 10 November 2016)

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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
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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
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Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
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Legislative Council committees

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

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

Legislative Council standing committees

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

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

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

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

Joint committees

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

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, 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 — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

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Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

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Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁶	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ²	Western Metropolitan	AC	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁷	Northern Victoria	Nats
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Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁴	Northern Victoria	ALP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Appointed 16 April 2015

² DLP until 26 June 2017

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁴ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁵ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁶ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁷ Appointed 13 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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

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

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

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Wednesday, 24 May 2017

Roads and road safety

7638. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the upgrade of Bolton Street in Eltham:

- (1) has a detailed environmental impact assessment been completed for the project; and
- (2) if so what measures will be undertaken to minimise the impacts on fauna and will these include rope bridges across the road.

ANSWER:

- 1) VicRoads advises me that via its community consultation sessions, some members of the community have expressed their concerns about flora and fauna impacts of the upgrade works. VicRoads will consider specialist advice about these impacts as part of the detailed design for Bolton Street.
- 2) VicRoads will adopt suitable measures to minimise the impact to fauna connectivity. The construction of fauna rope bridges across the road will be considered during the detailed design.

Police

7670. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many firearms were recorded on the firearms register established pursuant to Section 113 of the Firearms Act 1996 as at 30 June in each of the following years —

- (a) 2012;
- (b) 2013;
- (c) 2014;
- (d) 2015; and
- (e) 2016 to date.

ANSWER:

I can confirm that the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Victoria Police Annual Reports have the following data on the number of registered firearms in Victoria:

2014-15 financial year: 767 304 registered firearms

2015-16 financial year: 792 845 registered firearms

I am not able to provide more information from Victoria Police about the firearm register. Prior to the 2014-15 year, Victoria Police did not report on the number of registered firearms or number of people in possession of firearms in Victoria.

There are well-established public interest grounds to limit access to government documents relating to firearm possession in the community. This is to ensure law enforcement and other sensitive information regarding firearms is properly protected and used for the purpose for which that information is gathered.

The Chief Commissioner of Police is required to keep a register of each firearm kept within the State in accordance with section 113 of the Firearms Act 1996. This requirement implements Victoria's obligations under the National Firearms Agreement.

The National Firearms Agreement, which sets out minimum standards for firearms regulation and has been agreed by all States and Territories and the Commonwealth, requires the nationwide registration of all firearms. Jurisdictions must record sufficient information to be able to uniquely identify each firearm, including details prescribed by the national information-sharing hub. This nation-wide approach allows law enforcement agencies to track firearms over their lifetime, from import or manufacture, registration and transfer to destruction or legal export. This information is a critical component of law enforcement agencies' intelligence holdings, enabling them to understand the licit and illicit firearms markets and to strengthen their ability to minimise diversion of firearms into the illicit or 'grey' markets.

As you are aware, section 114 of the Firearms Act 1996 provides that the firearms register is an exempt document for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 1982, except where a person is applying for information on the firearms register which specifically relates to that person.

Through the National Firearms Agreement, the firearms register along with other firearm related information is part of a national approach to assist police and law enforcement agencies from all jurisdictions to share information on firearms in Australia. These registers are to improve public safety, through national information sharing on registration, licensing and the movement of firearms between States and Territories.

Police

7671. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): Pursuant to Section 140 of the Firearms Act 1996 how many notifications for each of loss, theft, or destruction of a firearm were received by the Chief Commissioner in each of the following financial year —

- (a) 2011–12;
- (b) 2012–13;
- (c) 2013–14;
- (d) 2014–15; and
- (e) 2015–16.

ANSWER:

I am not able to provide information from Victoria Police about the number of notifications received by the Chief Commissioner from licence holders under section 140 of the Firearms Act 1996 in the years requested. Victoria Police do not report on the number of notifications made under this provision.

There are well-established public interest grounds to limit access to government documents relating to firearm possession in the community. This is to ensure law enforcement and other sensitive information regarding firearms is properly protected and used for the purpose for which that information is gathered.

The Chief Commissioner of Police is required to keep a register of each firearm kept within the State in accordance with section 113 of the Firearms Act 1996. This requirement implements Victoria's obligations under the National Firearms Agreement.

The National Firearms Agreement, which sets out minimum standards for firearms regulation and has been agreed by all States and Territories and the Commonwealth, requires the nationwide registration of all firearms. Jurisdictions must record sufficient information to be able to uniquely identify each firearm, including details prescribed by the national information-sharing hub. This nation-wide approach allows law enforcement agencies to track firearms over their lifetime, from import or manufacture, registration and transfer to destruction or legal export. This information is a critical component of law enforcement agencies' intelligence holdings, enabling them

to understand the licit and illicit firearms markets and to strengthen their ability to minimise diversion of firearms into the illicit or 'grey' markets.

As you are aware, section 114 of the Firearms Act 1996 provides that the firearms register is an exempt document for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 1982, except where a person is applying for information on the firearms register which specifically relates to that person.

Through the National Firearms Agreement, the firearms register along with other firearm related information is part of a national approach to assist police and law enforcement agencies from all jurisdictions to share information on firearms in Australia. These registers are to improve public safety, through national information sharing on registration, licensing and the movement of firearms between States and Territories.

Police

7672. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to firearms recovered or seized by Victoria Police during investigations for each of the financial years, 2011–12, 2012–13, 2013–14, 2014–15 and 2015–16, how many were —

- (1) recorded on the firearms register pursuant to Section 113 of the Firearms Act 1996 and notified as lost, stolen or destroyed pursuant to Section 140 of the Firearms Act 1996;
- (2) recorded on the firearms register pursuant to Section 113 of the Firearms Act 1996 however not notified as lost stolen or destroyed; and
- (3) not recorded on the firearms register.

ANSWER:

I am not able to provide information from Victoria Police for the years requested on the number of firearms recovered or seized by Victoria Police which were and were not notified as lost, stolen or destroyed or recorded or not recorded on the firearms register pursuant to section 113 of the Firearms Act 1996. Victoria Police do not report on this information related to the firearms register.

In relation to the number of firearms recorded on the firearms register pursuant to section 113 of the Firearms Act 1996 which were not notified as lost, stolen or destroyed and in relation to those firearms not recorded on the firearms register I am advised by Victoria Police that there are a number of limiting variables that prevent the quantification of firearms on the register of firearms that are either lost, stolen, or destroyed but have not been recorded as such.

Additionally, there are well-established public interest grounds to limit access to government documents relating to firearm possession in the community. This is to ensure law enforcement and other sensitive information regarding firearms is properly protected and used for the purpose for which that information is gathered.

The Chief Commissioner of Police is required to keep a register of each firearm kept within the State in accordance with section 113 of the Firearms Act 1996. This requirement implements Victoria's obligations under the National Firearms Agreement.

The National Firearms Agreement, which sets out minimum standards for firearms regulation and has been agreed by all States and Territories and the Commonwealth, requires the nationwide registration of all firearms. Jurisdictions must record sufficient information to be able to uniquely identify each firearm, including details prescribed by the national information-sharing hub. This nation-wide approach allows law enforcement agencies to track firearms over their lifetime, from import or manufacture, registration and transfer to destruction or legal export. This information is a critical component of law enforcement agencies' intelligence holdings, enabling them to understand the licit and illicit firearms markets and to strengthen their ability to minimise diversion of firearms into the illicit or 'grey' markets.

As you are aware, section 114 of the Firearms Act 1996 provides that the firearms register is an exempt document for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 1982, except where a person is applying for information on the firearms register which specifically relates to that person.

Through the National Firearms Agreement, the firearms register along with other firearm related information is part of a national approach to assist police and law enforcement agencies from all jurisdictions to share information on firearms in Australia. These registers are to improve public safety, through national information sharing on registration, licensing and the movement of firearms between States and Territories.

Police

7673. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to firearms recovered or seized by Victoria Police during investigations that were previously notified as lost or stolen pursuant to Section 140 of the Firearms Act 1996 —

- (1) how many were returned to their registered owner for each of the financial years, 2011–12, 2012–13, 2013–14, 2014–15 and 2015–16.

ANSWER:

I am not able to provide information from Victoria Police for the years requested in relation to the number firearms recovered or seized by Victoria Police which were previously notified as lost or stolen under section 140 of the Firearms Act 1996 and subsequently returned to their registered owner. Victoria Police do not report on this information associated with firearms registered in Victoria.

There are well-established public interest grounds to limit access to government documents relating to firearm possession in the community. This is to ensure law enforcement and other sensitive information regarding firearms is properly protected and used for the purpose for which that information is gathered.

The Chief Commissioner of Police is required to keep a register of each firearm kept within the State in accordance with section 113 of the Firearms Act 1996. This requirement implements Victoria’s obligations under the National Firearms Agreement.

The National Firearms Agreement, which sets out minimum standards for firearms regulation and has been agreed by all States and Territories and the Commonwealth, requires the nationwide registration of all firearms. Jurisdictions must record sufficient information to be able to uniquely identify each firearm, including details prescribed by the national information-sharing hub. This nation-wide approach allows law enforcement agencies to track firearms over their lifetime, from import or manufacture, registration and transfer to destruction or legal export. This information is a critical component of law enforcement agencies’ intelligence holdings, enabling them to understand the licit and illicit firearms markets and to strengthen their ability to minimise diversion of firearms into the illicit or ‘grey’ markets.

As you are aware, section 114 of the Firearms Act 1996 provides that the firearms register is an exempt document for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 1982, except where a person is applying for information on the firearms register which specifically relates to that person.

Through the National Firearms Agreement, the firearms register along with other firearm related information is part of a national approach to assist police and law enforcement agencies from all jurisdictions to share information on firearms in Australia. These registers are to improve public safety, through national information sharing on registration, licensing and the movement of firearms between States and Territories.

Police

10 182. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to the Victoria Police stop and search receipting trial that was conducted during 2015 —

- (1) how many receipts were issued during the trial period in each of the four pilot locations of:
 - (a) Moonee Valley;
 - (b) Greater Dandenong;
 - (c) Boroondara; and
 - (d) Mildura;

- (2) how many of these receipts were given out in each of the categories listed on the receipt form of welfare, road safety, community safety and receipt requested, in each of the four pilot locations as listed in (1)(a) to (1)(d);
- (3) what was the basis for each of the road safety stops during the trial period;
- (4) what was the percentage of receipts given out for traffic stops overall compared to field contacts in each of the four locations of the pilot;
- (5) where did the stops occur within each of the four locations of the pilot;
- (6) where did the traffic stops occur within each of the four locations of the pilot;
- (7) what was revealed about type and location of crime in the four regions subject to the receipting trial;
- (8) what types of crimes were included in constructing the data;
- (9) what if any ethnicity data did Victoria Police gather concerning people stopped by police members;
- (10) if Victoria Police did gather ethnicity data, how is this ethnicity data collected/recorded, and stored;
- (11) what other kinds of data did Victoria Police gather from these stops such as name, address, perceived gender, age, religion;
- (12) were running sheets/LEAP data forms also completed for each of the stops; if so, explain which sheets/forms were filled in and provide a copy of the LEAP/other data form used; and
- (13) what types and rates of outcomes occurred as a consequence of the traffic and field contact stops, such as arrests, charges, infringements, cautions, searches, move-on directions, use of force.

ANSWER:

In 2015, Victoria Police piloted a program where police and Protective Services Officers (PSOs) across four police service areas issued written receipts of their interactions with members of the public as part of a range of commitments arising from Victoria Police's Equality is Not the Same report. This program of works aimed to enhance transparency and accountability of police interactions with members of the public.

On 20 December 2016, Victoria Police released the Receipting Proof of Concept Evaluation Report as well as the Equality is Not the Same-Year Three Report. These reports are available at www.police.vic.gov.au.

The overarching objective of the trial was to create a practical receipting method that provides a person with a tangible record of their interaction with police. The method of receipting chosen was developed in consultation with both police and community stakeholders at the receipting locations.

Receipts were issued by general duties police patrol units, embedded operational response units and PSOs, in circumstances where they initiated contact in a public place, where a person's details were requested or where a routine motor vehicle intercept was conducted and when there was no law enforcement outcome. Receipts were also issued when requested.

As part of the trial, police and PSOs recorded the reason for the contact, the date, time and location of the interaction, and the officer's member number and police station on a running sheet. As receipts were only issued in circumstances where no policing outcome resulted, the interactions were not recorded on the Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP). Data on perceived ethnicity was not collected due to concerns around the reliability of such data and the potential risk of stereotyping.

The evaluation report acknowledges the challenges faced by Victoria Police in capturing and reporting data, to enable in-depth analysis of police contacts. The evaluation is limited to data collected as part of the evaluation process, such as police and community survey data. As a result, I am advised that the specific data you request in relation to the number and nature of receipts issued is not available.

Emergency services

10 977. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Emergency Services):

- (1) how many members applied to join the CFA in Eltham or Research in 2014, 2015 and 2016; and
- (2) how many volunteers do Eltham and Research CFA currently have.

ANSWER:

Eltham received two applications in 2014, 10 applications in 2015 and five applications in 2016. Research received seven applications in 2014, eight applications in 2015 and six applications in 2016.

Currently, Eltham has 37 volunteers and Research has 64 volunteers.

Emergency services

10 978. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Emergency Services):

- (1) how many young people applied to join the junior brigades of the CFA in Eltham and Research in 2014, 2015 and 2016; and
- (2) what is the current membership number of the Eltham and Research Junior brigades.

ANSWER:

The Junior Volunteer Development Program (Junior Brigades) runs in over 230 brigades across the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and aims to introduce young people aged 11 to 16 years to the CFA by providing them with the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of social, recreational and educational activities at their local brigade.

As part of the program, young people learn about the CFA, its roles in the community and its function as a fire service. They have the opportunity to develop a variety of skills such as leadership, teamwork and discipline, by participating in the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Championships, assisting the community in fire safety awareness activities and participating in fundraising activities. They also learn basic skills such as first aid, fire safety and pumper operation, map reading, and the use of extinguishers, ropes and hoses.

All CFA Brigades with junior members must abide by the CFA Children/Young Persons Protection Policy which provides the processes and tools to ensure the CFA is operating its junior brigade programs in a safe manner.

In 2014, 2015 there were no applications to join the junior brigade of the CFA in Eltham. In 2016, Eltham received three applications to join its junior brigade.

In 2014, 2015 and 2016, there were no applications to join the junior brigade of the CFA in Research. In 2017, Research received five applications to join its junior brigade.

There are currently five junior brigade members in Eltham and 11 junior brigade members in Research.

Public transport

10 981. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): When and how will the details of bus route 343, from Greensborough to Diamond Creek be announced to the public before its scheduled commencement in May 2017.

ANSWER:

Presently, Public Transport Victoria are currently working on the implementation of route 343 between Greensborough and Diamond Creek.

The Andrews Labor Government has announced route 343 between Greensborough and Diamond Creek will start within coming months.

I would like to thank the local Member for Yan Yean, Danielle Green and the local Member for Eltham, Vicky Ward for their hard work on behalf of their community and making sure the timetable is effective for residents.

Resources

10 997. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Resources): In 2015, this Government committed to a review of previous government programs for coal development and an accompanying new coal policy, and they committed to delivering this before the end of 2016 —

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

ANSWER:

An independent review of previous government programs for coal development was undertaken in 2016.

The findings of this review will feed into the development of the Government's new statement on future uses of brown coal, which will consider the full range of economic, social and environmental policy factors and provide certainty to community and industry in the future.

The statement will be released in 2017.

Public transport

11 043. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): When will VicRoads repair the Fitzsimons Lane road surface between the roundabout with Main Road and Homestead Road in Eltham.

ANSWER:

This matter does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities. Please redirect this question to the Minister for Roads.