

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**19 and 21 September 2017**

**(Extract from book 16)**

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## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry**

(from 13 September 2017)

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

## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

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The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry**

(to 12 September 2017)

Premier .....	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services .....	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer .....	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects .....	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
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Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries .....	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services .....	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations .....	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State .....	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation .....	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs .....	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water .....	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources .....	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing .....	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development .....	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence (until 23 August 2017) .....	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs .....	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections .....	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning .....	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary .....	Ms M. Thomas, MP

### Legislative Council committees

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

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

### Legislative Council standing committees

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

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

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

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

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

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

### Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

**President:**

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:**

Mr K. EIDEH

**Acting Presidents:**

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

**Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

**Deputy Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

**Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

**Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

**Leader of the Greens:**

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 <sup>1</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>6</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>7</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Gepp, Mr Mark <sup>4</sup>	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 <sup>5</sup>	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			

<sup>1</sup> Appointed 16 April 2015

<sup>2</sup> DLP until 26 June 2017

<sup>3</sup> Resigned 27 May 2016

<sup>4</sup> Appointed 7 June 2017

<sup>5</sup> Resigned 6 April 2017

<sup>6</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>7</sup> 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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**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Tuesday, 19 September 2017**

**Youth justice facilities**

**Raised with:** Minister for Youth Affairs  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 6 June 2017

**REPLY:**

Keeping our custodial centres safe and secure is a priority for the Andrews Labor Government. When we received the Review by the eminent Neil Comrie, we acted on it, not put it away in the bottom of a drawer like Mary Wooldridge's secret master plan for Parkville. That's why we invested \$58 million to strengthen and fortify Parkville and Malmsbury youth justice precincts so they better meet modern custodial standards.

While the first phase of strengthening and fortification works at Parkville is now complete, the precinct is preparing for the next phase of works. Likewise, Malmsbury is also preparing for further strengthening and fortification works. Given the presence of contractors on site and the need to manage their security and the secure movement of young offenders, unnecessary visits are an operational inconvenience. I point out to the member that her recent visit to Grevillea required 15 contractors to stop working.

I am advised the member has already visited Parkville, Malmsbury and Grevillea youth justice precincts at least 4 times during this term of Government. This is more access than I was afforded during the entire term of the previous Liberal government.

We are not in the business of conducting a youth justice custodial tourism program. We are focused on targeting violent offending and keeping Victorians safe.

Your request is being considered in this context.

**Construction supplier register**

**Raised with:** Treasurer  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 21 June 2017

**REPLY:**

I refer to the adjournment matter you raised on 21 June in the Legislative Council.

The Construction Supplier Register (CSR) is a prequalification scheme for suitably qualified contractors and consultants interested in undertaking public construction works and services of Victorian Government departments and agencies.

The CSR applies a set of consistent, transparent and nationally accepted standards of prequalification, including occupational health and safety capability, industrial relations management, financial viability and experience. This streamlines and improves the efficiency of the procurement process for suppliers of public construction.

The Government understands the transitional issues currently occurring in the Latrobe Valley, and is committed to supporting and driving economic growth in the region. As a result, the Government provided \$20 million to fund the establishment of a dedicated Latrobe Valley Authority to lead the Government's response and manage the transition and the future economic development of the Latrobe Valley. The Authority is partnering with the

community and businesses to deliver coordinated action across all levels of government to make a difference, including through:

- working to get business conditions right to bring more jobs to the Latrobe Valley;
- building infrastructure that meets community needs and creates jobs, and
- assist industry to explore opportunities.

In addition, the Government has expanded the engagement of the Industry Capability Network Victoria (ICN) by funding the appointment of a dedicated ICN officer for the Latrobe Valley. The Latrobe Valley ICN officer will work with local companies, conduct workshops and other activities to better connect local businesses to project opportunities. This includes connecting to state government procurements occurring in the Latrobe Valley as well as other parts of Victoria.

More specifically in relation to the financial viability criteria of the CSR, it is important to note that any assessment of a contractor's financial viability is based on a range of financial information, not just 'money held in a bank account'. It considers key information such as a contractor's annual turnover, profit, net worth and working capital. In relation to net worth and working capital, the CSR requires these to be positive at the time of assessment as they are well established indicators of solvency and liquidity. This information coupled with information on performance on past projects assures and provides confidence to the Government of a contractor's ability to deliver project works and pay creditors without issue. It is also important as contractors working for the Government have obligations under the Security of Payment Act to ensure prompt and fair payment to sub-contractors and suppliers.

The financial viability criteria used by the CSR is considered a minimum and appropriate standard for the Government to properly assess the financial viability of a contractor. Furthermore the criteria is not intended to be onerous, and allows for a wide variety and size of contractors to join the CSR. Relaxing the financial viability criteria would further diminish the overall quality and integrity of the CSR.

It is important to note that pre-qualification on the CSR does not guarantee suppliers will be chosen for projects. Suppliers are always determined through a rigorous tender process demonstrating value-for-money.

The Government is undertaking reforms to improve public construction procurement, which will include change to the CSR to improve its function and efficiency. Reforms currently being considered can be found at the following link: <http://www.dthvic.gov.au/Publications/Infrastructure-Delivery-publications/Reforming-public-construction>.

### **Frankston police numbers**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Raised on:** 23 June 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I note that Councillor Brian Cunial has also corresponded with my office in relation to this issue, and I will respond to him directly.

With regards to your concerns about the crime rate in Frankston, in the latest Crime Statistics Agency Report, the number of offences recorded in Frankston rose by 1.9 per cent. The number of police personnel per capita in Victoria is climbing and will continue to climb. It continues to be above the police personnel in NSW. It continues to be above the national average.

With regards to your concerns about Carrum Downs Police Station, I can assure you that Carrum Downs continues to receive a 24 hour response, and in fact there is now increased proactive weekend police patrols in the Carrum Downs area. Following a trial in 2016, the counter hours at Carrum Downs Police Station were reduced to enable more proactive patrols, and more police to be out on the street. This model of policing supported by The Police Association as well as Victoria Police. Additionally, as at 26 July 2017, the rollout of Police Custody Officers across the state has saved more than 67 700 police shifts.

Victoria Police has developed a new and sophisticated Staff Allocation Model (SAM), in consultation with The Police Association, so we know how many police are needed and where. While the allocation of police resources is a matter for the Chief Commissioner of Police, he has indicated that resource deployment will be determined by the SAM.

The Chief Commissioner of Police has given assurance to the Government that the level of policing is continuously monitored by respective command officers, with a view to ensuring community safety. The Southern Metro Region Division 4 consists of the City of Frankston and the Shire of Mornington Peninsula. The City of Frankston is well serviced by Police Stations at Frankston and Carrum Downs. The Shire of Mornington Peninsula is serviced by 24 hour Police Stations at Mornington, Hastings and Rosebud, with cluster stations at Dromana, Rye and Sorrento.

The Government has responded to concerns about crime in the community with a comprehensive strategy to prevent, detect and disrupt crime. The Community Safety Statement, released in December 2016 outlines the range of new investment, powers, tools and capability that Victoria Police will be equipped with to stabilise the crime rate and begin to reduce the level of harm being caused in the community.

Central to the Community Safety Statement is boosting of police numbers right across the state. In total, the Government is funding 3135 additional frontline police, over the next five years to support the police response to crime in our communities. These extra 3135 police, which are on top of attrition, are the lynchpin of the Victoria's first-ever Community Safety Statement, which you can find at: [www.vic.gov.au/community-safety-statement-2017.html](http://www.vic.gov.au/community-safety-statement-2017.html).

In line with the Government's commitment to recruit 300 additional frontline police, the Chief Commissioner of Police announced on 27 April 2017 that the first of these recruits would begin to roll out in Melbourne's growth suburbs from May 2017.

The Government and Victoria Police are committed to keeping the Victorian community safe.

### **Ballarat GovHub**

**Raised with: Minister for Regional Development**

**Raised by: Mr Morris**

**Raised on: 8 August 2017**

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is bringing hundreds of public sector jobs to the regions with new GovHub offices to be built in Ballarat, the Latrobe Valley and Bendigo.

The Ballarat GovHub funded in the 2017–18 Budget, will be home to 1000 government employees, including 600 new positions to the city. The project will be transformative and help revitalise a major part of the Ballarat CBD.

The new jobs will be integrated with 400 Ballarat-based jobs to create a new integrated government facility driven by an operating model that encourages collaboration and innovation in government services. Departments and Agencies that will be located at the new GovHub will be:

- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Justice and Regulation
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs Transport & Resources (DEDJTR)
- Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- State Revenue Office
- VicRoads
- Service Victoria

The Victorian Government will continue to work with unions and employees in the lead up to job relocations and consolidations. Individuals impacted have been advised and unions and the departments are working through processes required in Enterprise Bargaining Agreements. At the conclusion of these processes, more precise information will be able to be provided on which jobs and functions will be located at the GovHub.

Lastly, to clarify your confusion raised in your Adjournment, the State Revenue Office will expand their total number of jobs in Ballarat as part of the 600 new positions to the city.

### **Wallan bus services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Ms Symes

**Raised on:** 9 August 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I was delighted to join the Member for Northern Victoria and the Member for Yan Yean at the Wallan transport forum to discuss with community members what can be done to improve public transport in the local area.

What emerged from the meeting was the need for more local buses so that people can more easily connect to trains at the station and to get into town to get to local shops and appointments.

Following the community forum, Transport for Victoria (TfV) has been asked to review the local bus network in the area and identify any opportunities for improvement in the future. TfV will consider what can be done to improve bus services so that residents in growing areas of Wallan are better connected to public transport.

I look forward to working closely with the Member for Northern Victoria to develop proposals for more bus services to her community and give residents, particularly young people, more choice to travel on the weekend.

### **Metro Tunnel**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Mr Melhem

**Raised on:** 9 August 2017

#### **REPLY:**

The Metro Tunnel is Victoria's key public transport infrastructure project and it will employ a record number of workers, creating up to 7000 jobs for Victorians during the peak construction phase. The benefits for local businesses will be substantial, with thousands of people working to deliver this transformative project.

There will be significant opportunities for regional job creation, with a planned pre-cast facility in Melbourne's west, attracting ex-automotive workers from Geelong and Ballarat. Regional areas such as the Latrobe Valley will also be targeted for procurement of work packages.

Just like all other key infrastructure projects, the Metro Tunnel is creating thousands of jobs and supporting Victorian industry through mandated local content requirements.

More information on the project and employment opportunities is available online at <http://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/>.

### V/Line services

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 10 August 2017

#### REPLY:

The 2016-17 State Budget includes \$280.4 million for 27 new VLocity regional carriages to be built in Dandenong.

This brings the total number of regional carriages ordered by the Andrews Labor Government to 87. This stands in stark contrast to the former government that cut millions of dollars out of V/Line, and failed to order a single regional carriage for two years.

### Energy prices

**Raised with:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Sullivan  
**Raised on:** 10 August 2017

#### REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government understands the pressures Victorian manufacturers and businesses are facing from rising gas and electricity prices, and is putting in place a range of measures to assist them.

Increasing gas prices are largely due to the high demand for Australian produced gas in export markets. Electricity price rises have been driven by these higher gas prices and a tighter supply market resulting from inadequate investment due to federal policy uncertainty.

As a member of the COAG Energy Council, the government is working with federal, state and territory governments, market institutions and regulators to support the continued affordability, security and reliability of the energy sector. In relation to gas, this includes a comprehensive domestic gas market reform package to reduce prices and improve supply in Victorian and eastern Australian gas markets. For electricity, the COAG Energy Council commissioned Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel, to conduct an independent review of the electricity market, to recommend changes required to maintain the security, reliability, affordability and sustainability of the national electricity market. The government is pleased to receive the final report, and is working with the COAG Energy Council to progress the reforms from the Finkel Report as a priority.

Gas affordability and security of supply are important to Victoria. I welcome AGL exploring the provision of additional gas to the south-eastern gas market through an import terminal.

From 2018–19, Victorians are expected to experience a price reduction as more renewable energy is built in the State. Additionally, the Andrews Labor Government is delivering a wide range of incentives to encourage and support businesses manage energy costs and become more efficient.

These include:

- Strengthening the Victorian Energy Upgrades program, which offers discounted energy-saving products and services to businesses.
- The \$6.1 million Boosting Business Productivity program, delivered by Sustainability Victoria, which helps businesses to cut energy and materials costs, including managing the impacts of a volatile national gas market.
- The \$1.76 million Better Commercial Buildings grants program, which helps buildings and tenancies identify and implement energy efficiency upgrades.
- A \$90 million boost to the successful Investment Assistance and Attraction Program, which will make funding available to manufacturers and businesses to help manage the impacts of a volatile national gas market.

- The \$200 million Future Industries Fund, which provides a range of initiatives to assist Victorian manufacturers, including:
  - the \$20 million New Energy Jobs Fund, which supports projects that create jobs, reduce emissions, and drive innovation in new energy technologies;
  - the Manufacturing Program, which can provide up to \$500 000 to companies to implement new manufacturing technologies and processes in their Victorian operations; and
  - the Sector Growth Program, which provides grant funding for projects that drive growth, productivity and competitiveness.
- Victorian Energy Compare, a new and improved independent price comparison tool to help Victorians save money on their energy costs.

I understand that regional Development Victoria has engaged with the Bendigo Manufacturing Group, some of its members businesses, and Gouge Linen and Garment Services.

I am committed to ensuring that Victoria's energy market is working to deliver outcomes in the best interests of all consumers, including large businesses.

### **Eastern Victoria Region sporting events**

**Raised with:** Minister for Sport  
**Raised by:** Ms Shing  
**Raised on:** 22 August 2017

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Government's \$85 million package of sports programs and infrastructure across the Latrobe Valley will provide a significant boost to the community. With some of Victoria's biggest sporting organisations involved, including the Collingwood Football Club, the community programs will activate locals, bring visitors and build capacity of local clubs and community groups through coaching clinics, training camps, active recreation initiatives and major events.

To strengthen the economic growth and prosperity of the region, to enhance health and social wellbeing of the community and to maximise the many great assets of the Valley, we are currently working with, and will continue to work with, all levels of government, all local businesses and all community groups to promote the annual calendar of sporting events, major games and outreach programs.

The \$85 million package of sports programs and infrastructure package forms part of the Victorian Government's \$250 million investment in the Latrobe Valley region. The delivery of community programs will drive maximum use of the new sporting facilities, which are expected to create around 300 jobs in construction and 275 ongoing jobs.

### **Drouin builder**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Ms Dunn  
**Raised on:** 22 August 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Since February 2016, the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) has received and assessed a number of complaints from property owners concerning building work within the McNeilly Rise Estate at Drouin, undertaken by construction company Melbourne House and Land Constructions (MHLC).

In August 2016, the VBA commenced an investigation into the conduct of MHLC, which involved numerous sites and has identified a number of matters that fall outside the VBA's jurisdiction. This investigation is nearing its completion, and matters relating to 35 properties have recently been referred to Victoria Police for further action.

The VBA can offer assistance to owners of properties located in the McNeilly Estate who are seeking to bring defective building work into compliance, and I encourage affected owners to contact the VBA in this regard. Individuals who suffered losses as a result of the actions of MHLC and others involved in this scheme may also be able to pursue civil action against MHLC, its directors and/or agents.

Amendments to the Building Act 1993 due to come into effect on 1 July 2018 will reduce the likelihood of similar circumstances arising in the future. The amendments will introduce tighter registration requirements for building companies, by ensuring only fit and proper individuals can be directors of registered building companies.

### **Active Victoria**

**Raised with:** Minister for Sport  
**Raised by:** Mr Eideh  
**Raised on:** 22 August 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Sport and recreation is a central part of Victorian life. 3.9 million adult Victorians participate in sport or active recreation at least once a week. Victoria has 16 000 community sporting clubs, 580 000 volunteers and 9500 community sporting facilities.

Sport and recreation also plays a key role in meeting other Government policy objectives:

- It makes Victorians healthier. A 10 per cent increase in physical activity rates would reduce deaths caused by inactivity by 15 per cent.
- It creates economic growth and jobs. Sport and active recreation contributed \$8.5 billion to the Victorian economy and 65 000 full time jobs in 2016.
- It builds community cohesion and connects people to social networks, and to other community and social activities.
- Sport and active recreation is a key contributor to Victoria's livability. This is central to attracting and retaining the workforce that we need for our future knowledge and service based economy.

Sport and recreation in Victoria is an interconnected system with many key players, including local governments, not-for profit sport and recreation associations and commercial providers.

Building a stronger sport and recreation system in Victoria—and increasing the health, economic, community and liveability benefits it generates — requires collaboration across the not for profit and private sectors and the various levels of government.

*Active Victoria* provides a starting point for this collaboration. It sets out a future vision for Victorian sport and recreation that is:

- More active, with higher participation;
- More diverse and inclusive;
- Robust, flexible, sustainable and affordable;
- Broad-based and connected, and
- Collaborative.

There has been a high level of engagement with sport and recreation organisations and local government, including local government authorities in the Western Metropolitan region, in the development of *Active Victoria*.

My department will continue to engage with local councils and community sport and recreation organisations across Victoria to promote *Active Victoria* and to make sure all Victorians can participate in sport and recreation and enjoy the benefits that this brings.

***Plan Melbourne: Refresh***

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Mr Davis  
**Raised on:** 22 August 2017

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government established Infrastructure Victoria to deliver Victoria's first ever 30-year infrastructure strategy. It is statewide, evidence-based, covers all types of infrastructure, and has been developed with all Victorians in mind.

The 30-year infrastructure strategy was delivered to Parliament on 8 December 2016. The Victorian Government has up to 12 months to respond to the recommendations and create its own five-year infrastructure plan.

The Victorian Government will respond to the recommendations in due course and I do not propose to pre-empt that response.

The changes to the residential zones are designed to promote modest redevelopment in the right locations. The new minimum garden area requirement will preserve the openness and garden character of our suburbs, and will guide the number of dwellings per lot.

The garden area requirement is mandatory. It will result in reduced runoff and pressure on drainage infrastructure when land is developed.

The changes to the Neighbourhood Residential Zone and General Residential Zone introduce a maximum height control of nine metres at two storeys and eleven metres at three storeys. This will ensure the low-scale character of our suburbs is protected. These height limits cannot be varied, including at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The new height limits will result in development that is more sympathetic to typical Melbourne streetscapes.

I understand that a local government workshop on the zones was recently hosted by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. 24 councils were represented at this workshop, including Monash City Council. This workshop process may identify opportunities for improvement to the operation of the provisions.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Thursday, 21 September 2017**

**Southern Autistic School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 22 August 2017

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

Firstly, I wish to commend the teachers and staff of Southern Autistic School on the significant contribution they make to providing educational opportunities for students with autism across the South Eastern Metropolitan Region. Their valuable work supports the full and equal participation of students with disabilities in Victoria.

The Andrews Labor Government recognises that every student needs access to the knowledge and skills that will shape their lives, regardless of their background or personal circumstances. We know, too, that providing a first-class education for students starts with investing in school buildings and infrastructure. For this reason, we have allocated more than \$2.5 billion through the last three state budgets to build, upgrade and maintain school and early childhood infrastructure across Victoria. However, it will take some time to upgrade all our school buildings as we work to deliver the Education State, while responsibly balancing and prioritising the needs of over 1500 government schools.

The Government is mindful that enrolment growth pressures are being felt in a number of communities, and particularly at Southern Autistic School. Each year, the Department of Education and Training reviews historic and forecast demographic data and actual school enrolments to identify expected government school demand. This includes data relating to projected growth of students with autism.

The Department of Education and Training provided Southern Autistic with two relocatable buildings earlier this year to help manage enrolment growth at the school. However, I am aware of the expected future enrolment growth and also potential site constraints and the Department is currently investigating suitable options to ease this pressure.

I can assure you that we will continue to work closely with Southern Autistic School and Bentleigh Secondary College to ensure adequate provision for students with autism across the South Eastern Metropolitan Region.

**Eastern Transport Coalition**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 23 August 2017

**REPLY:**

I thank both the Member for Eastern Metropolitan and the Eastern Transport Coalition for the work they do on behalf of residents in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

The Government is undertaking many transport infrastructure projects in the region, including the removal of four level crossings on the Belgrave line, nine level crossings on the Cranbourne-Pakenham line and the Monash Freeway upgrade.

I have met with representatives of the Eastern Transport Coalition and I have asked my Department to continue to meet with them to progress their priorities.

**Taylor's Hill school zoning**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 23 August 2017

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria the Education State and that means ensuring all Victorian families have access to a great school no matter where they live.

The Department of Education and Training works closely with all schools, including Taylor's Hill West Secondary College (interim name), to ensure they enrol students in line with the Department's Placement Policy.

If students live outside of the Taylor's Hill West Secondary College boundary, they may still apply for entry to the school and their enrolment application will be assessed against the criteria in the Placement Policy, which can be accessed on the Department's website.

The Government is investing \$35.2 million to build the brand new Taylor's Hill West Secondary College. The new school has been designed to inspire inclusive and high-achieving culture in its students, equipping them with the skills they will need to thrive in a 21st century economy.

Taylor's Hill West Secondary College is an addition to existing secondary school provision in the Brimbank Melton area in which students may also access schools such as Copperfield College, Sunbury Downs College, Kurunjang Secondary College, Creekside K-9 College, Brookside P-9 College and Staughton College.

Labor is investing more to build our government schools in three years, than the Liberals did in four years. Our record funding boost of \$2.5 billion in school infrastructure is repairing the damage done by four years of chronic under-investment, where funding fell under the Baillieu and Napthine Governments to a mere \$200 million a year.

The Department will continue to work with local schools to provide high quality education for local families.