

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

20, 21, 22 and 23 June 2017

(Extract from book 12)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard

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
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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
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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
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, 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 Pearson, Mr T. Smith, Ms Staley 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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Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

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The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

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Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

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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
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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
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁶	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			

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁶ Appointed 7 June 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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WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Tuesday, 20 June 2017

Murrumbeena police station

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Mr Davis
Raised on: 7 March 2017

REPLY:

The Murrumbeena Police Station was vacated by Victoria Police in 2005, when uniformed staff were transferred to Caulfield Police Station. Following the transfer of uniformed staff, the building was used on an ad-hoc basis by specialist Victoria Police units. In 2013, under the previous government, the premises were vacated.

The residents of Murrumbeena continue to receive a 24-hour policing response across the entire Glen Eira Police Service Area (PSA). As you note, both the Caulfield Police Station and the Oakleigh Police Station services the Murrumbeena area and both stations operate a 24-hour counter service to the public.

Victoria Police has advised that the transfer of police officers from the former Murrumbeena Police Station has not impacted the policing service provided to the residents of Murrumbeena.

In relation to your concerns about community safety surrounding the Murrumbeena train station, I can confirm that the station is patrolled by Protective Services Officers each night from 6:00pm until the last scheduled train service. In addition, the Transit Police Command run operations to target public order 'hot spots' on the public transport system, including in Murrumbeena. All main transport hubs are also regularly patrolled by local police to provide a visible policing presence to deter criminal activity.

The Andrews Labor Government's Community Safety Statement outlines our historic investment, which will boost police numbers right across the state. In total, the Andrews Labor Government is funding 3135 additional frontline police, including 415 specialist family violence officers, over the next five years to support police respond to crime in our communities.

As I have previously advised, the deployment of police officers is determined by Chief Commissioner of Police who has indicated that proactive operations, putting resources where they are needed and responding to calls for assistance will best address crime and other community concerns.

Ballarat Hospice Care

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Mr Morris
Raised on: 21 March 2017

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government believes all Victorians are entitled to high-quality end of life care that is consistent with their preferences and values.

As part of the 2016 State Budget, this government provided an extra \$7.2 million in funding to Victorian publicly-funded community palliative care services. Ballarat Hospice is one of the services that received additional funds to support the provision of responsive, evidence-based palliative care to people at home, as well as supported care for their families and carers.

In addition to this, on 1 March 2017, I announced a \$5 million equipment and infrastructure grant for community palliative care services. This additional funding will enable community palliative care providers in rural and metropolitan areas to purchase equipment and upgrade their clinical services.

I am advised that Ballarat Hospice was successful in their grant applications out of this process.

Furthermore, The Andrews Labor Government has opened up the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund to publicly funded community palliative care services for the first time.

The Andrews Labor Government will continue to work with Ballarat Hospice as they continue to provide high quality palliative care to Ballarat and the community.

Newton Reserve, St Kilda

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert
Raised on: 2 May 2017

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government's 2016-17 State Budget included \$19.4 million of new funding to continue and expand the Community Crime Prevention Program. This includes funding to extend the popular Public Safety Infrastructure Fund and Community Safety Fund grants programs. The government is also continuing to provide the Graffiti Prevention Grants program.

Crime prevention begins at a local level, and this funding is ensuring our communities are well supported through local grants programs to help them tackle local crime issues.

Applications are open until 14 July 2017 for the Community Safety Fund grants, which provide up to \$10 000 for community groups and councils to implement practical, locally based crime prevention initiatives, such as improving security at community facilities and improvements to make public spaces safer.

The Public Safety Infrastructure Fund provides grants of up to \$250 000 to Victorian councils for the development of public safety and security infrastructure to improve community safety and confidence in public places. The types of projects that can be funded include streetscape and amenity improvements, lighting and CCTV systems.

I am advised that Victoria Police are aware of community concerns in relation to Newton Court Reserve and are actively patrolling the area. I am also advised that Port Phillip City Council has initiated a safety audit of the reserve to look at how it is currently being used and its design, and to explore any opportunities to make the area safer.

I encourage council to consider applying for funding to make any safety improvements identified through the safety audit and discussions with police and the local community. The 2017-18 round of Public Safety Infrastructure Fund grants is scheduled to open for applications in the coming months.

I am pleased to note that the Andrews Labor Government provided \$246 250 in funding to Port Phillip City Council in the last round of the Public Safety Infrastructure Fund for the installation of seven CCTV cameras to help improve safety in nearby Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. Local police have reported that the cameras have been used by police on a daily basis and assisted in a number of arrests.

Detailed information on the grants programs is available on the Community Crime Prevention website at <http://www.crimeprevention.vic.gov.au/>

The Bubble student support centre

Raised with: Minister for Training and Skills
Raised by: Ms Shing
Raised on: 9 May 2017

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

My Department has sought confirmation from Federation Training about the assistance offered to Ms Pasquill to assist her in undertaking a Diploma of Nursing.

I am advised that Federation Training has been in touch with Ms Pasquill on several occasions to reassure her that support is available and that Ms Pasquill indicated to the Institute that she was satisfied with the support provided.

I can also advise that Federation Training reviewed the effectiveness of the Bubble, and decided to provide support services under an integrated support service model that places support staff in classrooms to ensure that students are able to access support where and when they need it — during class. This aims to help better address student needs, and is an important step in achieving better student outcomes.

Federation Training's Skills and Jobs Centres provide a variety of services to current students and community members to support them in achieving both employment and training outcomes. I have received very positive feedback on the work of these centres, particularly in reference to the support they have given to workers exiting the Hazelwood power plant.

I have written to Ms Pasquill to commend her on her dedication to her studies and confirm the supports offered to her by Federation Training.

Thank you for raising this matter and for your commitment to ensuring that constituents of Eastern Victoria are receiving the best outcomes from the Andrews Labor Government's ongoing investment in Skills and Training.

St Kilda Road tram services

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Mr Davis
Raised on: 10 May 2017

REPLY:

St Kilda Road/Swanston Street is the world's busiest tram corridor with a tram every minute during peak times. Additionally, development of the western end of the CBD has meant that people's travel patterns are changing, with more people accessing jobs in the west of the CBD.

In July 2015, the option to combine routes 8 and 55 into the new Route 58, were comprehensively consulted on with various stakeholders and the general public.

The new Route 58 provides a more balanced network allowing passengers from the eastern and south-eastern suburbs direct tram access to the west of the CBD for the first time. It will deliver more frequent, accessible and reliable services and importantly, allow more low floor, accessible trams to travel to the Melbourne Hospital precinct.

As the fleet of trams is used to its full capacity during peak times, there is no possibility of restoring the Route 8 service to run alongside the Route 58 without decreasing frequencies on both routes.

Devondale Murray Goulburn

Raised with: Minister for Regional Development
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 11 May 2017

REPLY:

On Tuesday, 16 May, I met with workers from Murray Goulburn's Kiewa and Rochester dairy manufacturing sites, which Murray Goulburn recently announced would close.

My Department, through Regional Development Victoria (RDV), will continue to work with Murray Goulburn and its outplacement service provider, Prima Careers, to provide support and information to help these workers find alternative employment.

This includes help to connect these job seekers with regional businesses that are expanding and hiring new employees, particularly businesses where the Victorian Government is providing direct assistance to attract new investment and create jobs in regional Victoria.

Transitioning to new employment is not easy, particularly for long term employees, and may require re-training and re-skilling for new jobs. The government will provide Business in Transition Support sessions, which includes information on government retraining assistance for employees being made redundant, and other information from government providers such as Centrelink, the Rural Financial Counselling Service, and local Skills and Jobs Centres.

The government will continue to invest in cities and towns in regional Victoria to make them attractive places to live, work and invest; as well as to support those communities in need. RDV is currently in discussions with local government, Murray Goulburn and other agencies about measures which would support affected communities. On Friday 9 June I am also facilitating a meeting between Murray Goulburn and the National Union of Workers — the union that represents workers at both plants.

Whilst there is speculation as to whether or not Murray Goulburn will sell these sites, the government will work to maximise economic and employment outcomes should this occur.

Hurstbridge rail line

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Mr Leane
Raised on: 11 May 2017

REPLY:

I would first like to thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan and the Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure for his efforts to ensure the Andrews Labor Government's ambitious infrastructure agenda includes working with social enterprises.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) welcomes the opportunity to work with local government, members of Parliament and other interested parties in identifying opportunities for social enterprises to be engaged on the Hurstbridge Rail Line Upgrade project.

The Hurstbridge Rail Line Upgrade is being delivered by the North Eastern Program Alliance (NEPA), and to date NEPA has been in discussion with 22 social benefit suppliers.

The contractors within NEPA have also recently worked with Mr Leane, who played an integral role in identifying opportunities for social enterprises on the Bayswater Level Crossing Removal project, including successful partnerships with Nadrasca and Yarra View Nursery.

LXRA look forward to discussing future opportunities with social benefit suppliers that can be explored for the Hurstbridge Rail Line Upgrade.

Deer consumption

Raised with: Minister for Agriculture
Raised by: Mr Bourman
Raised on: 11 May 2017

REPLY:

The Sustainable Hunting Action Plan is a \$5.3 million investment by the Andrews Labor Government to support safe and sustainable hunting. The Plan contains 22 key actions which support hunters and hunting in Victoria.

The Labor Government's plan includes an action to facilitate game meat processing (action 2.2), which will investigate and reduce barriers to the processing of wild harvested game meat to allow optimal use of game harvest. This action will consider the use of deer meat for pet food.

Gippsland internet access

Raised with: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Raised by: Ms Shing
Raised on: 11 May 2017

REPLY:

I appreciate the considerable frustration to Gippsland and LaTrobe Valley residents and businesses who are unable to access high speed internet services or have experienced mobile and internet service dropouts in recent months. Victoria's efforts to eradicate mobile black spots have again been thwarted by the Turnbull Government which continues to play political games with the state's Mobile Black Spot Programme funding.

Not only is the Turnbull Government short-changing Victorians on infrastructure funding, they're now refusing to help some of our most disconnected regional communities, many of which are in bushfire-prone areas. Despite being home to a quarter of the country's population, just 19 of the Federal Government's 125 priority sites can be found in Victoria.

This continues an alarming pattern. Under round 2 of the programme, Victoria received less than 10 per cent of federal infrastructure funding despite the fact that we are home to a quarter of Australia's population and its fastest growing state. However, despite this, I can assure you that the Victorian Government continues to be committed to improving mobile coverage and broadband access across our regions.

The Victorian Government is providing a total of \$33 million to construct 141 new mobile towers in regional Victoria under the state's round one and two bids for the Commonwealth Government's Mobile Black Spot Program (MBSP). The state's round one and two MBSP funding secures a \$114 million infrastructure investment for Victorian regional communities.

The Victorian government has provided significant funds to provide new mobile coverage across regional Victoria including Eastern Victoria. I am pleased to note that 31 new mobile towers are being built across the local government areas of Gippsland. Mobile base stations in Austins Hill, Benambra, Dumbaulk, Gormandale, Sandy Point and Strzelecki are already constructed and providing services to the community. I am aware, however, that there are still large geographical areas of regional Victoria with mobile service gaps. The Commonwealth Government has announced a further \$60 million to fund a third round of the Mobile Black Spot Programme (MBSP).

The Victorian Government through its Victorian Budget 2017–18 is providing \$45 million for the Connecting Regional Communities Program (CRCP), which included further funding of \$11 million to participate in the MBSP. This will deliver vastly improved mobile coverage for many regional Victorian residents, businesses and visitors, ensuring that they have quality access to mobile communications whether they are at home, at work or commuting. I believe that wide-spread and affordable access to high speed broadband and mobile services are essential for a prosperous and inclusive Victoria. I will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government for better broadband and mobile services for all Victorians.

Growing Suburbs Fund

Raised with: Minister for Local Government
Raised by: Mr Mulino
Raised on: 11 May 2017

REPLY:

I would like to thank the honourable member for the invitation to visit his electorate and, in particular, his recommendation to visit the Destination Rosebud project funded through the 2015-16 Growing Suburbs Fund.

The Growing Suburbs Fund is a significant investment from the Andrews Government towards meeting the critical infrastructure needs of communities in Melbourne's diverse and fast growing interface local government areas.

I was delighted to visit the Mornington Peninsula on 18 May 2017 where I met with the Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. I also had the privilege of officially opening Destination Rosebud at the wonderful playground that is the centrepiece of that project. The \$4.15 million Destination Rosebud project will deliver significant economic and social benefits to Rosebud providing residents and visitors with even better access to the foreshore, a contemporary, all access playground and a safe connection between the foreshore and the local shops. Just as importantly, the completed works will make Rosebud a destination of choice for visitors to the region.

I would like to congratulate Mornington Peninsula Shire Council for their vision and hard work in delivering this project.

This government has demonstrated its commitment to supporting interface councils by delivering community infrastructure that matters. A further investment of \$50 million over a longer time period for the Growing Suburbs Fund recognises that investment in critical community infrastructure must continue.

Interface councils have responded to this funding and are getting on with delivering for their communities. The government's investment of \$100 million to date has been more than matched by councils and communities resulting in a total infrastructure investment of \$235.5 million.

Of the 76 projects already funded, 25% have been completed and councils will continue to deliver the remaining 59 projects over the next two years.

South Geelong–Waurin Ponds rail line duplication

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 11 May 2017

REPLY:

The \$1.45 billion Regional Rail Revival Package announced by the Government on 30 April will upgrade every passenger line in regional Victoria and deliver more frequent, reliable services for passengers across the State.

As you know, this package will be funded by money owed to Victoria under the Asset Recycling Initiative signed with the Federal Government in 2014. Victoria's share of Federal infrastructure currently sits at only 8 per cent — despite being the fastest growing state and home to a quarter of Australia's population.

I encourage you to take your support for our Regional Revival Package to your Federal counterparts. The sooner we get the money that is owed to us, the sooner we can begin to plan and deliver improvement to rail in Geelong.

\$3 million was provided by the Andrews Labor Government in last year's State Budget to undertake critical planning for the future duplication of the line to Waurin Ponds.

This work is ongoing, and involves environmental and geotechnical investigations of the corridor — to inform the detailed scope and design of the project.

The \$110 million Surf Coast Rail Stage 1 announced will deliver the infrastructure necessary to prepare the line for duplication, including signalling upgrades and a second platform and pedestrian overpass at Waurn Ponds Station.

The timeline for the duplication will be determined through the planning and investigations already under way.

Employment initiatives

Raised with: Minister for Industry and Employment

Raised by: Mr Leane

Raised on: 24 May 2017

REPLY:

The Memorandum of Understanding recently signed by the Premier and the Civil Contractors Federation (CCF) highlights this Government's commitment to help disadvantaged Victorians into work and to share in the economic benefits that come from employment.

This commitment is evidenced by the Government's allocation of \$53 million from the 2016-17 State Budget to establish Jobs Victoria, and the provision of a further \$10.2 million in the 2017-18 Budget.

Jobs Victoria is providing targeted support services for people looking for work and employers looking for workers. To date, more than 3450 Victorians looking for work have been registered with Jobs Victoria services, and more than 1000 jobseekers have found jobs through the program.

I will be meeting with the CCF to discuss their plans to train and create employment opportunities for unemployed and disadvantaged Victorian job-seekers, specifically through a proposed new Earthmoving Industry Centre of Excellence, based in Tullamarine and Werribee.

Spectrum Journeys

Raised with: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing

Raised by: Mr Finn

Raised on: 24 May 2017

REPLY:

The 2017-18 State Budget provides over \$2 billion in funding for disability services, including for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. This funding contributes to a range of disability services and supports, including advocacy services, aids and equipment, individualised support for people to live in the community, supported residential accommodation, respite services and to building strengthened safeguarding oversights for people with a disability.

In the 2016-17 financial year the Victorian government invested \$17.7 million in autism specific services.

This government will continue to support families, including people with autism, to be ready for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Spectrum Journeys is encouraged to seek opportunities that will further support people with Autism Spectrum Disorder through the National Disability Insurance Scheme as it rolls out in Victoria.

Shepparton freight airport

Raised with: Minister for Regional Development
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 25 May 2017

REPLY:

The existing Shepparton Aerodrome is located 8 kilometres south of the Shepparton CBD and is owned by Greater Shepparton City Council and regulated by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

In 2014, Council successfully applied for joint funding of a \$250 000 Feasibility Study into the Shepparton Aerodrome Relocation and Expansion.

Originally funded through the previous governments Developing Stronger Regions Program, the Feasibility Study was completed in May 2016.

While Council has endorsed the final report, it has not committed to a schedule regarding future relocation activities.

It should be noted that the State Government remains ready to work with freight and logistics project proponents in developing their proposals.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Wednesday, 21 June 2017

Boris and Lana Zaitzen

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Ms Dunn
Raised on: 25 May 2017

REPLY:

I can advise that the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) has carried out its regulatory functions in what has been a particularly complex matter involving investigations into nine practitioners over a period of time, including building surveyors, engineers, a draftsman, an inspector and three different builders.

These investigations have resulted in disciplinary actions for a number of these practitioners.

I note that Mr and Mrs Zaitzen also currently have civil matters on foot in relation to their building issues.

Warrnambool Special Developmental School

Raised with: Minister for Education
Raised by: Mr Morris
Raised on: 6 June 2017

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

As you may know, Warrnambool Special Developmental School was allocated \$5 million by the Andrews Labor Government in the 2015-16 State Budget. This stands in stark contrast to absolutely nothing invested by the former Liberal Government in the entire Warrnambool Local Government area. This funding represents the first stage of our commitment to build a new home for the school, and has been used to purchase a new site and begin the planning process. I am pleased to advise that a master plan has been prepared, and I have asked the Victorian School Building Authority to continue to work closely with the school to ensure that this important project is shovel ready when funding is made available in a future state budget.

The Andrews Government believes that all children should have access to a first-class education, no matter where they live. This is why we have a focus on investment in regional areas, and the 2017-18 Budget allocates funding for upgrade and modernisation projects to 59 regional and rural schools.

Further to this, the 2017-18 State Budget invests \$44.4 million into upgrading six special schools across Victoria. This builds on our unprecedented investment in the 2016-17 State Budget of \$68.5 million towards upgrading 20 specialist schools, including seven in regional Victoria, ensuring that every child has a chance to reach their full potential.

Regarding future funding for the rebuild of Warrnambool Special Developmental School, the Government considers the needs of all schools when determining future priorities for the capital works program. Let me assure you that Warrnambool Special Developmental School will continue to receive consideration through the State Budget process, and we will continue to use all available data, including the detailed planning undertaken by the school, when allocating funding in future budgets.

Ombersley quarry

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Mr Davis
Raised on: 6 June 2017

REPLY:

I acknowledge the local community concerns that have been raised about the potential environmental, amenity and economic impacts of this controversial basalt stone quarry proposal on rural land at 320 Mooleric Road, Ombersley.

After considering the report of the independent Advisory Committee that was appointed to consider the views and technical evidence of all parties, and the planning merits of the proposal, I recommended to the Governor in Council that a planning permit with conditions, as recommended by the Advisory Committee, should be granted for the MCG Group's proposed quarry.

On 6 June 2017, the Governor in Council made an order on the matter, including directing Colac Otway Shire Council to issue planning permit PP169/2014-1 subject to 87 specified conditions. The proponent MCG Group, the council, and all other parties have been informed of this determination.

The Advisory Committee final report was published on the Planning Panels Victoria website on 7 June 2017.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Thursday, 22 June 2017

Calder Freeway intersection, Niddrie

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 10 May 2017

REPLY:

I am happy to advise that after strong representation from the Member for Niddrie, the Andrews Labor Government has allocated \$4.8 million in the 2017-18 State Budget for the implementation of intersection improvements at the Keilor Road / Grange Road and Keilor Road / Newman Street / Calder Freeway intersections.

VicRoads advises me that it has commenced detailed development of the project and will implement intersection improvements over the next two years.

Tullamarine freeway closures

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 6 June 2017

REPLY:

The CityLink Tulla Widening project will increase capacity, ease congestion and provide a smoother and more reliable journey for the growing population of drivers in Melbourne by adding an extra lane in each direction, a state-of-the-art freeway management system and upgrading key interchanges.

To minimise disruption to drivers, major on-road works are carried out at night when traffic volumes decrease. In preparation for a freeway closure, lanes are progressively closed, followed by ramps, to safely transition drivers from the freeway to a detour route. Freeways are then fully closed at the advertised time.

On Saturday 3 June, in addition to the CityLink Tullamarine Freeway closure, there were scheduled works around the Flemington Road / Mount Alexander Road interchange. This work required Transurban to close the entry ramps at Flemington Road from 9pm as advertised.

While the entry ramps at Flemington Road were closed from 9pm to facilitate these works, and to prepare for the upcoming freeway closure later that night, I can confirm that the full freeway closure was not put in place until 11.30pm as advertised.

All notifications of works are provided to stakeholders in an adequate timeframe before commencing works that will impact drivers. This is achieved through an extensive advertising campaign up to a week prior to the works taking place.

Works in this area are ongoing and we appreciate this causes frustration for drivers. The CityLink Tulla Widening project team will continue to use all communications channels including the website, social media and radio ads to keep everyone informed of upcoming works.

The CityLink Tulla Widening project is on track to be finished in 2018 and we thank you for your ongoing patience while we deliver the largest upgrade to this section of road in nearly 20 years.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Friday, 23 June 2017

Ballarat railway station precinct

Raised with: Minister for Regional Development
Raised by: Mr Morris
Raised on: 24 May 2017

REPLY:

The Ballarat Station Precinct Redevelopment Project represents the delivery of the first stage of the Ballarat Station Precinct Masterplan.

The station precinct is completely underutilised and has been in a shocking state for many years. That's why in 2014 we made an election commitment of \$25 million towards a hotel and convention centre. In November 2016, the Victorian Government executed a Development Agreement with the Pellicano Group, to deliver a 4.5 star Quest Hotel, Goods Shed Convention Centre (operated by the Spotless Group), a new internal access road, commuter car parking and a public plaza for community events.

Recently, through the 2017-18 Budget an additional \$7 million has been allocated to deliver the bus interchange and provide additional free commuter carparks to a new total of 405 car parks.

The project will inject \$51 million to the local economy, create 140 jobs during construction, restore and respect the heritage of the precinct, boost visitation and deliver a fully integrated commercial and transport precinct that will activate the Ballarat CBD.

Extensive consultation with community and key stakeholders has continued throughout the project's development.

I understand there are strong views in the community about heritage, parking and ensuring the precinct functions as a transport hub. As the project moves towards construction, I am confident these concerns are being addressed and that the Ballarat Station Precinct will become the modern functional station precinct Ballarat deserves.

Your assertion that we promised to deliver a bus interchange as an election commitment in 2014 is false.

I am proud that the Labor Government made a \$25 million commitment to the first stage of the Ballarat Station Precinct Masterplan.

I should remind you that the previous Coalition Government only made a \$5.3 million election commitment to the Ballarat Station Precinct in 2014. This represents a momentous contrast between the \$25 million committed at the 2014 election by the Andrews Government. The Coalition Government had no plans or commitments for car parking, activating the precinct or upgrading the bus interchange.