

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

22 and 23 August 2017

(Extract from book 14)

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)

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

Legislative Council committees

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

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

Legislative Council standing committees

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — #Mr Barber, Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr 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*): 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 Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina 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
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
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; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

CONTENTS

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST 2017

<i>Gatwick Hotel</i>	4395
<i>Trade Union Joint Police Task Force</i>	4396
<i>Police resources</i>	4396
<i>Bendigo Health</i>	4397
<i>Ballarat police resources</i>	4397
<i>Bellarine Peninsula Neighbourhood Watch</i>	4398
<i>Inflation Nightclub incident</i>	4399
<i>Caulfield–Dandenong line elevated rail</i>	4399

WEDNESDAY, 23 AUGUST 2017

<i>Cairnlea development</i>	4401
<i>Bolte Bridge safety barriers</i>	4401
<i>Gippsland rail services</i>	4402
<i>Aurora estate, Epping</i>	4402

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Tuesday, 22 August 2017

Gatwick Hotel

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert
Raised on: 21 March 2017

REPLY:

As I have previously advised, Victoria Police operations and tasking are determined by the Chief Commissioner. Victoria Police advises that there are a number of ongoing operations that are targeting identified high risk areas, including around the former Gatwick Private Hotel in St Kilda which closed earlier this year.

In preparation for the closure of the Gatwick Hotel, Victoria Police began a number of strategic partnerships and working groups with local government and community organisations.

The Gatwick Hotel Steering Committee was established by Victoria Police to assist with the smooth transition of residents leading up to the closure of the Gatwick Hotel on 1 July 2017. Members of the Gatwick Hotel Steering Committee included the City of Port Phillip, the Department of Health and Human Services, St Kilda Housing Association, Launch Housing and Alfred Health.

Similarly, the Gatwick Hotel Closure Steering Group developed a High Level Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan outlines a governance model, an operational model; strategies of stakeholder engagement, plans for housing and resident transition and relocation, and public release of information and timeframes.

In December 2016, Victoria Police and the City of Port Phillip also established a strategic working group regarding Boarding Houses in the local government area. The group identifies opportunities to enhance safety at rooming houses. Since its formation, the working group has seen Worksafe, Consumer Affairs Victoria, MFB, the Coroners Court, Port Phillip Housing Association, St Kilda Housing Association and Alfred Health share information and conduct formal inspections of the Gatwick Hotel.

These measures in preparation for the closure of the Gatwick Hotel followed a number of targeted operations undertaken by Victoria Police to ensure community safety in St Kilda.

On 16 November 2016, Victoria Police conducted a Community Safety Forum regarding perceptions of safety within St Kilda. Local traders and the community identified their concerns in relation to drug and alcohol abuse, mental health issues, and homelessness occurring within and around the Gatwick Hotel. In response to the Community Safety Forum, Victoria Police launched an extensive number of initiatives and operations to ensure community safety on Fitzroy Street, St Kilda.

On 16 December 2016, a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system was rolled out by Victoria Police in conjunction with the City of Port Phillip with support from the Government. The CCTV system is fully operational, and assists local police to prevent and detect crime.

I also want to emphasise the broader commitments by the Government to addressing crime in Victoria and to ensuring that all Victorians feel safe. We are working closely with Victoria Police to ensure that they have powers and the resources they need to prevent crime in our communities and to hold perpetrators to account. The Community Safety Statement outlines our \$2 billion investment in Victoria Police resources and our commitment to boost police numbers right across the State.

Central to the Community Safety Statement is increasing police numbers across Victoria. In total, the Victorian Government is funding 3135 additional frontline police over the next five years. The first 300 frontline police have

been allocated to Melbourne's growth suburbs from May 2017. The Southern Metropolitan Police Region will receive 50 additional frontline police, which will greatly strengthen local police responses in the region.

Trade Union Joint Police Task Force

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

REPLY:

I am advised that Taskforce Heracles was specifically established to assess all referrals and other matters arising from the Trade Union Royal Commission.

The Office of the Chief Commissioner has informed me that given all of the recommendations from the Royal Commission have now been examined, a decision has been made to conclude involvement in the taskforce. This was an operational decision made solely by Victoria Police.

Victoria Police will continue to liaise with federal and state counterparts on matters involving trade unions and any incidents reported to, or uncovered by, Victoria Police will be investigated.

A member of the Victoria Police Crime Command remains as a contact point for the taskforce.

Police resources

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 6 June 2017

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government has 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.

The \$26 million investment outlined in the Community Safety Statement includes the biggest increase in resources in Victoria Police's history. The Government is funding 3135 additional frontline police, which are on top of attrition, over the next five years to support police in responding to crime in our communities. This is in stark contrast to the previous Government, which did not fund a single additional police officer in four years.

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. It will also help police predict how many will be needed in the future — so they can start planning for them now. The SAM will be used to determine where the additional 3135 frontline police are deployed.

The first 300 additional frontline police began to roll out in May 2017. Victoria Police's Geelong Division was allocated 10 police as part of this initial rollout. This builds upon the 2015–2016 Budget measures, which saw an additional 15 police officers deployed to Geelong and Bellarine.

Further to this, Geelong currently has 18 Police Custody Officers on duty. This has freed up hundreds of police shifts. That means 32 new police and PCOs in the Geelong region since November 2014.

Police now have additional resources to increase patrols in the Bellarine Peninsula and Geelong CBD, and around transport hubs. Policing across the Greater Geelong police service areas is managed in a flexible manner to ensure the best possible use of available police resources.

Further, the Crime Statistics Agency's significant trend test over 24 months indicates that the number of offences recorded in the Greater Geelong Local Government Area (LGA) is stable.

In the year ending March 2017, the number of offences recorded in the Greater Geelong LGA increased by 2.1 per cent. When accounting for population growth in Greater Geelong, the rate of offences per 100 000 population rose 1.3 per cent. This rise included a number of historical sexual offences.

Bendigo Health

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Ms Wooldridge

Raised on: 7 June 2017

REPLY:

Safer Care Victoria is the peak State authority for leading quality and safety improvement in healthcare. Safer Care Victoria was established by the Andrews Labor Government in January 2017 to oversee and support our health services to provide safe, high-quality care to patients: every time, everywhere. As well as monitoring the standards of care provided, Safer Care Victoria is partnering with consumers and their families, clinicians and health services to support the continuous improvement of health care.

Bendigo Health's transition to an anaesthetic nurse model in its operating theatres has brought staffing into line with the organisational practices of similar hospitals across Victoria.

Safer Care Victoria is working closely with Bendigo Health managers, clinicians and scientists to assess proposed changes to its microbiology service to ensure any changes continue to ensure patient safety and quality service delivery.

In relation to the elective surgery waiting list, transition to the new hospital has resulted in reduced activity levels temporarily. A phased approach to increasing surgical sessions has been taken, in order to ensure there is no compromise to safety and quality while new systems are established. Bendigo Health is currently increasing its surgical capacity and has also put in arrangements with Castlemaine Health, St John of God Bendigo and Bendigo Day Surgery to reduce the waiting list.

Ballarat police resources

Raised with: Minister for Police

Raised by: Mr Morris

Raised on: 20 June 2017

REPLY:

In relation to your comments about the Ballarat and Ballarat West Police Stations, I can advise that neither of these stations have seen a decrease in operating hours. The Ballarat Police Station operates and offers a counter service hours 24 hours a day. The Ballarat West Police Station, which commenced its operations on 3 August 2016, operates response units from 7am to 11pm on weekdays, in addition to a counter service from 9am to 9pm on weekdays. On occasion, these hours may be subject to change dependent upon police tasking and resourcing requirements.

There has also been no reduction in frontline police in Ballarat, or in Victoria generally. The community of Ballarat continues to receive a 24-hour police response. It is serviced as a part of Western Region Division 3, which has seen a 3 percent increase in police resources overall since November 2014.

The decision of how and where resources are deployed is appropriately a matter for the Chief Commissioner of Police. However, the Government is committed to ensuring that Victoria Police has necessary resources and capabilities to reduce the level of harm being caused in the community, investing a record \$2 billion in Victoria Police as part of the Community Safety Statement.

In relation to comments on the rates of crime such as aggravated burglary in Ballarat area, I have been advised by Victoria Police that aggravated burglary is a high priority for the Division, as are all high volume crime categories. The Western Region Division 3 has a High Volume Crime Team that, amongst other functions, is comprised of

Burglary, Recidivist Offenders, Response, and Drug teams. Police units are tasked on a daily basis to target this kind of offending, dependent upon intelligence.

Police ran a number of specific operations during 2016 and 2017, specifically targeting high volume crime categories. These operations resulted in over 90 arrests in connection with the offences of aggravated burglary, burglary, theft, and handling stolen goods from the reporting period of 31 October 2016 to 30 April 2017. These operations have been highly successful in disrupting these offences in the Ballarat and surrounding areas.

The first 300 of the additional frontline police officers began to be deployed in April 2017 in Melbourne's high demand and high growth suburbs. It is important to stress that this is just the start. We have 2729 more police yet to be allocated across the state, as well as 100 Protective Services officers to help provide an even safer public transport network.

The Government is absolutely committed to ensuring Victoria Police in every municipality, including Ballarat, has the resources and powers they need to reduce harm in the community and keep Victorians safe.

Bellarine Peninsula Neighbourhood Watch

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 20 June 2017

REPLY:

I thank Mr Ramsey for his question and I can assure him that the Andrews Labor Government has shown its commitment to keep Victorians safe through our efforts to prevent, detect and disrupt crime through our Community Safety Statement. The Statement outlines the Victorian Government's \$2 billion investment to equip Victoria Police with new resources and capabilities to prevent and reduce the level of harm being caused in the community.

The decision on how and where resources are deployed is appropriately a matter for the Chief Commissioner. 10 police have been allocated to the Geelong Division as part of the first 300 frontline police deployment of this record investment in growth areas. Policing across the Greater Geelong police service areas is managed in a flexible manner to ensure the best possible use of available police resources.

The Crime Statistics Agency reports that crime in the Greater Geelong Local Government is stable.

With regards to the specific neighbourhoods you mentioned, while there have been some increases in these areas, the overall numbers of offences remain low.

In the year ending March 2017, the postcode of 3224 which includes Leopold, there were just 38 more offences, in the postcode of 3222 which includes Clifton Springs and Drysdale, there was an increase of just 141 more offences, including just 10 more drug offences from 8 to 18 offences and 20 more dangerous and negligent acts involving people from 55 to 75 offences in this category.

The Government is continuing to support Neighbourhood Watch Victoria. Under the Community Safety Statement, the Government has committed \$200 000 funding over the next two financial years (1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019). The funding will strengthen its capacity to support local community safety and crime prevention initiatives.

The Government is further supporting community safety in Bellarine through \$30 000 funding for the Bellarine Community Safety Group (BCSG) which has representatives from Neighbourhood Watch. Funding was allocated to address specific crime prevention initiatives in this Bellarine Peninsula, with funding drawn from the Community Crime Prevention grants program for targeted place-based initiatives in areas of high crime and disadvantage.

The besafebellarine.com.au website allows residents and holiday makers to easily access information on a range of community safety topics including personal, road and beach safety as well as crime prevention tips. It also features

live news feeds from a range of emergency services, such as Victoria Police and CFA and provides everyone with a one-stop shop for all community safety advice.

The Government continues to support Victoria Police in a joint effort to reduce crime in all communities and keep Victorians safe.

Inflation Nightclub incident

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Ms Patten
Raised on: 22 June 2017

REPLY:

The Victorian Government is extremely concerned about drug use and fatal overdoses that have occurred in night clubs and music festivals, which have resulted in many deaths and hospitalisations.

Victoria Police perform a difficult role in balancing the competing rights and interests of citizens while maintaining public order and security. I am informed that Victoria Police responded to a triple zero call at the Inflation nightclub. All calls for police assistance are treated seriously and police response times will vary depending on the urgency of the matter and available police in the area.

I can assure you that the Victorian Government is committed to reducing the harm to individuals and the broader community that results from drug use, and is continuing to develop new initiatives and invest substantial funds to tackle this problem.

Caulfield–Dandenong line elevated rail

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Mr Davis
Raised on: 8 August 2017

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is removing all nine level crossings between Caulfield and Dandenong and the Liberal Party's opposition to this project is well understood by the local community.

A comprehensive noise and acoustic analysis report was released last year. The report found that "The proposed design will result in an overall reduction in noise throughout the corridor and surrounding area through the use of considered design measures."

Numerous multi-level residential properties already exist immediately adjacent to elevated rail across Melbourne.

Several multi-level residential projects adjacent to the elevated rail project between Caulfield and Dandenong have already been approved with some developers using the benefits of the elevated rail project as a key marketing tool.

More information on the noise modelling, including the report, and the benefits of the project can be found at www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Wednesday, 23 August 2017

Cairnlea development

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Mr Eideh
Raised on: 24 May 2017

REPLY:

The land on the north east corner of Ballarat Road and Cairnlea Drive is known as 147a Cairnlea Drive. The land was rezoned to allow a mixture of land uses under Amendment C120 to the Brimbank Planning Scheme in September 2016 and transferred to Places Victoria (now Development Victoria) from the Commonwealth in late 2016.

The whole of the land is affected by the Environmental Audit Overlay to recognise its previous uses and the potential for contamination. A Statement of Environment Audit has been issued permitting the land to be used for commercial purposes, and Development Victoria is required to undertake monitoring on the site as a condition of this approval. A new Statement of Environment Audit will be required to develop the land for residential or recreational purposes.

Development Victoria has installed fencing around the site to prevent the dumping of waste and to minimise any safety risks associated with unauthorised entry. Site investigations, including soil and groundwater testing, will be carried out during 2017. These preliminary investigations are required to be substantially completed before any meaningful design work for the Cairnlea development can begin.

An arborist report commissioned by Development Victoria found mature Sugar Gum trees on the site are a hazard due to their declining health. They are being monitored and are progressively being removed. Residents were advised of planned felling of four trees that took place on Thursday 20 July and Friday 21 July 2017. The remaining trees will be removed when development begins (or sooner if they are deemed to be a risk). The draft master plan for future development of the area currently includes improved landscape reserves and makes provision for more than 750 new trees to be planted on the site.

Bolte Bridge safety barriers

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert
Raised on: 24 May 2017

REPLY:

This is an incredibly tragic incident and my sympathies are with the young man's family and friends.

I am advised by VicRoads that Transurban, as the operator of CityLink, is responsible for the management of the Bolte Bridge. Transurban follows strict policies put in place by VicRoads regarding public safety on bridges as outlined in the VicRoads Bridge Public Safety Barrier Policy.

While it provides no consolation to those grieving a lost loved one, there is restricted access for pedestrians on the bridge, CCTV surveillance and automatic detection systems which are triggered if anyone does walk onto the bridge. CityLink uses radar technology to monitor the bridge 24/7 and incident response crews are on stand-by at all times.

My office, VicRoads and Transurban regularly assess safety measures across the road network to identify if other measures need to be taken.

Gippsland rail services

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Ms Shing
Raised on: 8 August 2017

REPLY:

Transport For Victoria is currently undertaking the relevant planning and development activities in consultation with various agencies.

Timeframes for individual projects within this program are yet to be finalised in consultation with the Federal Government. I thank the Member for Eastern Victoria for her ongoing advocacy for improved public transport for her community and for her support in campaigning the Federal Government for the money owed to Victoria to deliver this important upgrade.

Aurora estate, Epping

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Mr Ondarchie
Raised on: 10 August 2017

REPLY:

The matters raised fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Major Projects, as the Minister responsible for Development Victoria. The Member will need to redirect his question to the Hon Jacinta Allan MP.