

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**28 and 29 November 2017**

**(Extract from book 21)**

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## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable KEN LAY, AO, APM

## **The ministry** (from 16 October 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 and Minister for Resources . . . . .	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, 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 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, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water . . . . .	The Hon. L. M. Neville, 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

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry**

(to 15 October 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
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Cabinet Secretary .....	Ms M. Thomas, MP

## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

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
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade . . . . .	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development . . . . .	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports . . . . .	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
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Special Minister of State . . . . .	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
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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 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** — Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing, #Ms Symes and Mr Young.

**Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues** — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, 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 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 Elasmarr 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

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**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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**Deputy President:**

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**Leader of the Opposition:**

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**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

**Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

**Leader of the Greens:**

Dr S. RATNAM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John <sup>1</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina <sup>2</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>7</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel <sup>3</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>8</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>4</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	V1LJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini <sup>9</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark <sup>5</sup>	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph <sup>6</sup>	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 28 September 2017

<sup>2</sup> Appointed 15 April 2015

<sup>3</sup> DLP until 26 June 2017

<sup>4</sup> Resigned 27 May 2016

<sup>5</sup> Appointed 7 June 2017

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

<sup>7</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>8</sup> Appointed 12 October 2016

<sup>9</sup> Appointed 18 October 2017

**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





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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, 28 November 2017**

**Setting the Record Straight for the Rights of the Child Initiative**

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Raised by:** Ms Springle  
**Raised on:** 21 September 2017

**REPLY:**

Good record keeping is essential in out-of-home care to help children develop and nurture their sense of identity and connection to family and community.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the Betrayal of Trust report have highlighted the negative long term impacts poor record-keeping and inconsistent record release practices can have on people seeking records relating to their time in out-of-home care and has identified a number of ways this can be improved.

The Department of Health and Human Services has listened to these findings and is working hard to improve its record keeping and release practices.

The department has undertaken a range of projects to streamline and improve services offered to care leavers seeking to access their records:

The department holds more than 1 million ward-related paper based records. The department has completed its Ward Records Plan. All of the department's ward-related records are now indexed electronically and easier to find.

On 1 October 2016 the Care Leavers' Records Service was established and handles all requests for records from care leavers. The service adopts a pro-release approach to records access. Staff are trained to understand the distress that some care leavers may experience upon receiving their records. The service uses a sensitive and trauma informed approach to assist care leavers to: understand what records may be available; lodge an application to access records; and understand the historical context in which the records were created.

Importantly if care leavers have previously tried to find information where none was available but later a record is found, the department proactively contacts them in order to provide them with that documentation.

The Finding Records website was launched on 1 December 2016 to ensure that care leavers are easily able to find information about accessing records and support.

Recent amendments to the Freedom of Information Act mean that processing times for most FOI requests received from 1 September 2017 will be reduced from 45 days to 30 days. This is a positive step forward.

I acknowledge and applaud the important work of the Setting the Record Straight for the Rights of the Child Initiative.

My department is looking into the matters raised by this Initiative and assessing how this might further assist in improving our future record keeping practices for children in out-of-home care.

## STEM Sisters

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Ms Shing  
**Raised on:** 17 October 2017

### REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education is one of the Andrews Labor Government's priorities in its vision for Victoria as the Education State, recognising that our future prosperity is greatly reliant on a workforce that is increasingly STEM literate.

Lifting STEM achievement requires improving student engagement in STEM. There is a gender gap in participation and engagement in STEM, which widens, as students get older. So we need to ensure that Victorian schools are delivering STEM learning experiences that all students see as interesting, relevant and achievable. To this end we are investing in high quality STEM teaching and learning in Victorian schools to ensure all students have access to STEM expertise, leading-edge technology, and the latest advancements in a rapidly changing STEM environment.

We are investing \$30 million to improve science and mathematics teaching for students who need it most — those students in our most disadvantaged and rural schools. This investment includes the Secondary STEM Catalysts initiative, where, 60 teachers in 30 schools will receive specialist training to lead, encourage and mentor other teachers to make STEM education come alive for Years 7 and 8 students. This commitment to boosting the professional learning opportunities for teachers in STEM education also includes funding for 200 teachers at 100 primary schools across the state to become mathematics and science specialists in the Primary Mathematics and Science Specialists initiative.

The Tech Schools initiative is part of the Government's commitment to creating the Education State. Under the initiative, the Government is investing \$128 million to construct and establish 10 Tech Schools across the state, with further ongoing funding to support operation.

The 10 state-of-the-art Tech Schools will use leading-edge technology, discovery and innovation to deliver the advanced education and training that Victorian school students need to be able to flourish in the rapidly changing global economy, including STEM knowledge and skills. Each Tech School and its learning programs will be linked with one or more of the Victorian Government's six priority industries.

The Gippsland Tech School will be nestled amongst the \$17 million Latrobe Valley's Hi-Tech Precinct, announced by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews in November 2016. Based at the Federation Training Morwell site, the Hi-Tech Precinct will bring together global industry partners, private tenants, Federation University, Federation Training and the Tech School. The Gippsland Tech School will have an industry and education focus on food and fibre, health, new energy and advanced manufacturing and offer programs to students from seven local secondary schools.

List of partner schools

- Baringa Special School
- Berry Street Victoria Inc (Morwell Campus)
- Kurnai College
- Lavalla Catholic College
- Latrobe Special Developmental School
- Lowanna College
- St Paul's Anglican Grammar School
- Traralgon College

We know from these initiatives that exciting, real-world learning experiences are vital for student engagement.

**Wonthaggi Secondary College**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 17 October 2017

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

When I along with Member for Eastern Victoria, Harriet Shing, met with the principal of Wonthaggi Secondary College, Darren Parker and other college representatives on 18 October 2017, they were cognisant of the significant school infrastructure backlog inherited by the Andrews Labor Government and the challenges associated with addressing this.

So, I was thrilled that the Andrews Government could deliver where the previous Liberal-National Government failed so miserably.

As you may be aware, the Premier joined Ms Shing in announcing a new \$32.5 million senior campus for Wonthaggi Secondary College. This project is being funded through the Andrews Labor Government's total allocation of \$31 million and a contribution of \$1.5 million by the Bass Coast Council. It will provide Wonthaggi Secondary with modern and inclusive facilities that are capable of delivering a broad curriculum.

This funding is in addition to the previously announced allocation of \$175 000 to Wonthaggi Secondary College for planned maintenance. I can confirm that the College will have asbestos removal works programmed as part of its capital works project, and any additional removal required will be scheduled within the next three years.

This is all in contrast with the mean and miserly efforts of the former Liberal-National Government, which invested nothing in Wonthaggi Secondary College.

Your Legislative Council colleague, Harriet Shing, deserves full credit for her continued representations and record of delivery for the people of Eastern Victoria, including the school and the school community at Wonthaggi Secondary College.

Thank you for bringing your belated concerns about Wonthaggi Secondary College to my attention.

In summary, only Labor invests in our government schools.

**Queenscliff cultural hub**

**Raised with:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 17 October 2017

**REPLY:**

I thank the Hon Member for his question as it provides an opportunity for me to outline the very substantial support provided to the Borough of Queenscliffe to date by the Government.

Firstly, \$5 850 550 of State funding has been provided towards the \$9.69 million Destination Queenscliff project.

Secondly, the \$750 000 Point Lonsdale Lighthouse Reserve Stage 1 Project has received \$500 000 from the Regional Infrastructure Fund. This project will revitalise the Reserve while also protecting the area's rich natural and heritage assets, making it a more attractive location to be enjoyed by residents and visitors.

In addition, the \$65 000 Economic Development Strategy for the Borough of Queenscliffe has received \$40 000 from the Regional Infrastructure Fund. This Strategy will provide strategic direction for the Borough to actively promote and facilitate new economic activity, investment and employment creation.

The Hon Member is incorrect in his assumption that a funding application for the Queenscliff Hub has been rejected by the Government. In fact, it is the Federal Government's, not the State Government's, application that has been rejected.

The discussion on advancing this project is ongoing with Regional Development Victoria. Due to the failure of the Federal Government to fund this project, the Borough of Queenscliffe now have the very significant task to work through how they might fund the now significant shortfall.

### **Shepparton Sports Stadium**

**Raised with: Minister for Sport**

**Raised by: Ms Lovell**

**Raised on: 19 October 2017**

#### **REPLY:**

Thank you for your recent adjournment matter regarding the Shepparton Sports Stadium.

I had the pleasure of visiting the site of the Shepparton Sports Stadium upgrade in August this year, when I toured the Greater Shepparton Regional Sports Precinct, including the Regional BMX Complex.

Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities in Victoria is integral to the health and wellbeing of all Victorians. That is why the government is investing \$120 million into the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund and a further \$22m into the Better Indoor Stadiums Fund to facilitate the upgrade and development of community sports facilities.

I can confirm the Victorian Government has funded 21 infrastructure projects and events in Greater Shepparton, including:

- Kialla Park Recreation Reserve Multi-Purpose Oval Lighting — \$100 000 for the installation of 200 lux lighting
- Regional BMX Track Upgrade — \$100 000 for the installation of junior pumps track, upgraded lighting and construction of an eight metre starting hill
- Deakin Reserve Female Facilities — \$100 000 for female-friendly change facilities for netballers and the AFL Youth Girls team
- 2017 and 2018 Beach Volleyball World Tour — \$100 000 to host the Beach Volleyball World Tour.

There are also a further four infrastructure proposals currently under assessment with Sport and Recreation Victoria. They are:

- 2018-19 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund — Minor Facilities category — Kialla Park Oval Redevelopment requesting \$100 000
- 2018-19 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund — Minor Facilities category — Youth SPOTS requesting \$100 000
- 2018-19 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund — Small Aquatic Projects category — Merrigum Pool Water Play Facility requesting \$200 000

Further to this the Government, through the Significant Sporting Events Fund and the Regional Events Fund, has funded the following events in the Greater Shepparton region:

- \$50 000 for the 2014 BMX National Championships
- \$30 000 for the 2017 and 2018 Challenge Shepparton
- \$10 000 for the recent Melbourne City preseason match

- \$10 000 for the 2015 Junior Davis/Fed Cup
- \$10 000 for the 2016 TSA Australian Teams Carnival and Individual Championships
- \$5000 for the 2016 ANZ Pre Season Netball Challenge
- \$10 000 for the 2016 AFL National Girls Diversity Championships
- \$10 000 for the 2017 Shepparton Festival
- \$5000 for the 2015 Kids Fest

Through the Better Indoor Stadiums Fund, local councils are eligible to apply for up to \$3 million towards the development of indoor multi-sport courts.

I encourage Greater Shepparton City Council to consider applying for support from this fund, as they have not submitted an application to redevelop the Shepparton Sports Stadium as yet.

Thank you for raising this matter with me, I trust this information has been useful.

### **Taxi and hire car industry**

**Raised with:** Premier  
**Raised by:** Mr Davis  
**Raised on:** 19 October 2017

#### **REPLY:**

As this matter is currently before the courts it would be inappropriate for me to comment.

However what I can say is that the Victorian Labor Government is committed to establishing a single commercial passenger industry that will create 3500 jobs, give Victorians greater transport choices and better security for drivers and passengers.

In August 2016, the Labor Government announced an industry support package for taxi and hire car licence holders, as part of reforms to the commercial passenger vehicle industry.

The Government acknowledges that there are taxi and hire car licence holders who are affected by the reforms. As such, the Government has provided eligible licence holders with financial assistance in the form of Transitional Assistance payments at a fair and reasonable amount. Perpetual metropolitan taxi licence holders received \$100 000 for their first licence and \$50 000 per licence for up to three more.

The Government has also established a Fairness Fund to provide targeted financial support to taxi and hire car licence holders experiencing significant financial hardship as a result of the reforms. Applications are being carefully assessed on a case-by-case basis against the eligibility criteria. Payments will continue to be made progressively.

It should be noted that the only suggested amendments the Liberals made to our legislation was to strip away the provisions that provided for compensation. The Liberals supported legalising ridesharing, they supported deregulating the industry, they supported the Government's changes to licencing — they just didn't support any financial assistance to the existing industry.

### **Ballarat rail services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Morris  
**Raised on:** 19 October 2017

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering the \$518 million in the Ballarat Line Upgrade to deliver more trains and improved reliability for Melbourne's outer western suburbs, Melton, Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and Ballarat. Construction started in October 2017, with upgrades to stations and track duplication to start next year and the project to be completed by late 2019.

The Ballarat Line Upgrade will enable much needed extra services in the morning and afternoon peak, and a train every 40 minutes off-peak for these growing communities, and all others along the rail corridor.

The Ballarat Line Upgrade will duplicate 18 kilometres of single track between Deer Park West and Melton, and build new stabling facilities, station platforms and car parking — creating space for more trains, more often for growing communities right along the line. Extra passing loops will provide more ways for trains to pass each other, which will help services recover from unexpected delays more quickly. The removal of five level crossings as part of the decommissioning of the Bungaree loop will improve safety for motorists and the local community.

The Ballarat Line Upgrade will create up to 400 jobs during construction, with apprentices, trainees, and engineering cadets making up at least 10 per cent of the project's total labour hours.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to further improving regional rail, and has confirmed its Regional Rail Revival package of major upgrades across regional Victoria, which includes a further \$39 million for Stage 2 of the project, to pave the way for better services for Ararat and Maryborough.

### **WorkCover**

**Raised with:** Minister for Finance  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 20 October 2017

#### **REPLY:**

WorkSafe Victoria's (WorkSafe's) travel reimbursement rate is calculated to provide for the extra running costs incurred as a result of injured workers need to attend approved healthcare appointments, utilising their own vehicle. The running costs include fuel, tyres, servicing, repairs, and a component of vehicle depreciation.

The methodology used to calculate the travel reimbursement rate for injured workers reflects a Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal decision, requiring WorkSafe to have the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV) review the rate for travel reimbursement for the extra running costs. The RACV has completed subsequent reviews for WorkSafe, with the current reimbursement rate recommended at 30 cents per kilometre.

WorkSafe has its next RACV review prior to 1 July 2018. Any recommended changes will be reflected in WorkSafe's 2018-19 pricing, and is applicable from 1 July 2018.

It would be inappropriate for me to comment on how other jurisdictions set their travel reimbursement rates.

A worker who was injured on or after 5 April 2010 in Victoria, is entitled to superannuation contributions on their weekly payment once they have received 52 weeks of compensation. This is as a result of legislative changes that took effect from that date.

The national superannuation guarantee scheme does not require employers to make superannuation contributions during periods of incapacity caused by work-related injury or illness. This is because superannuation contributions are calculated on the basis of 'ordinary time earnings', and a worker's compensation payments are not classified as ordinary time earnings.



### Gippsland public transport

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Shing  
**Raised on:** 1 November 2017

#### REPLY:

I thank the Member for Eastern Victoria for her question, and for her ongoing advocacy for the people of Gippsland.

Transport for Victoria (TN), Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and V/Line are working together to continuously improve communication so passengers are kept up-to-date with changes to the network. I have raised this matter with TN, which will continue to find ways to strengthen passenger communication.

Passenger information is published and updated on the PTV website at least one week prior to a planned disruption, detailing how passengers can continue to travel during the affected period. A summary of this information is available in the PTV app and via the PTV journey planner. PTV also delivers a subscription-based email every Wednesday outlining planned disruptions taking place over the coming 10 days. Passengers can sign up to this service via the PTV website.

PTV and V/Line also update their Twitter channels about a planned disruption the day before it begins. In response to your feedback, the teams will commit to more regular updates to this channel throughout the period of disruption.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority also provides regular Twitter updates on the works being undertaken on the Cranbourne/Pakenham line and the resulting disruption for passengers, including Gippsland line passengers.

On printed and online collateral, accessible bus services are shown with an access symbol on the front of the timetable booklet or next to the relevant service. They can be identified by the letter 'W' (wheelchair) or 'LF' (low-floor). PTV is currently reviewing the Latrobe Valley network timetables to ensure that all accessible services are clearly marked on all timetables.

### Residential planning zones

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Mr Morris  
**Raised on:** 1 November 2017

#### REPLY:

While the information pack stated that Ministerial Directions, Practice Notes and other guidance would be released by the middle of the year feedback received from councils and the development industry by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) during the first four months of the operation of the reformed residential zones, has shown that further advice needs to be developed around how the new minimum garden area requirement is to be applied.

This is understandable given that this is a new concept that has not existed in the planning system before. Rather than issue guidance on the provisions in the middle of the year, DELWP established two working groups — one for industry and one for local government — to better understand the issues that have been raised.

I am advised that a total of six workshops have been held by DELWP since August and this has provided valuable feedback about the operation of the reformed residential zones including the identification of opportunities for improvements to the provisions.

I am currently awaiting a report on the workshops from DELWP. If I decide to make any changes to the provisions to clarify their operation as a result of the feedback, I intend to release further guidance at the same time I make the changes.

### Goulburn-Murray Water

**Raised with:** Minister for Water  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Sullivan  
**Raised on:** 1 November 2017

**REPLY:**

I thank Mr O'Sullivan for identifying my action in appointing a Strategic Advisory Panel.

The panel will also provide advice on how to deliver efficient, cost-effective services to GMW customers, and any changes to current strategic direction, and how to promote and encourage further investment in the region.

The panel is the result of the community identifying the need for a clear strategic direction for the region to provide confidence in a sustainable, cost effective irrigation district and ensure local landholders and growers have confidence to continue to grow their businesses.

I will continue to visit and listen to irrigators and their communities across northern Victoria.

### Frankston line elevated rail proposal

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Raised on:** 1 November 2017

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering on our election commitments and getting on with removing 50 of Victoria's most dangerous and congested level crossings. It is acknowledged that the Member for South-Eastern Metropolitan has been a strong advocate against the Government's level crossing removal projects and the Victorian community is very aware of the Liberal Party's continued opposition to the removal of these dangerous crossings.

Some of Melbourne's most vibrant precincts exist immediately adjacent to elevated rail, including Glenferrie, Canterbury and Balaclava. In relation to the removal of the crossings on the Cranbourne/Pakenham and Frankston lines, the Government is undertaking a number of projects to enhance precincts and provide more open space.

All of the local councils listed by the Member in her Adjournment debate matter support these precinct and open space developments, and the Government continues to work with these councils proactively on all aspects of level crossings removals, including the ongoing opportunities and maintenance of the public spaces.

### Concord School, Bundoora

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Raised on:** 3 November 2017

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Training encourages active transport, such as walking or cycling to school, to promote the health and wellbeing of students and staff. Active transport also reduces the environmental impact of travelling to and from school by car, and can foster a strong sense of belonging and community between students and their families.

The Department provides on-site car parking for school staff where it is practical to do so. Where site conditions permit and funding is available, provision will be made in accordance with long-term enrolment numbers.

When acquiring school sites, the Department endeavours to purchase properties with three street frontages, preferably with indented parking, to allow for a wider dispersal of parking spaces. The Department, however, does not provide visitor car parking on school grounds or on adjacent sites to accommodate visitors to the school. Since the Department does not oversee traffic management, all matters concerning traffic congestion and parking beyond school boundaries fall within the jurisdiction of the relevant local council.

I am advised that the Concord School in Bundoora has a number of parking spaces as well as a special purpose drive way within the school grounds, where a number of buses and cars can safely deliver students to and from school.

If the school would like further information, they can discuss this matter with their Senior Education Improvement Leader.

I trust this information is of assistance.

### **Taxi and hire car industry**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Mr Davis

**Raised on:** 16 November 2017

#### **REPLY:**

The Member for Southern Metropolitan is deliberately exploiting taxi and hire car licence holders. He stood on the steps of Parliament House telling licence holders that he believed they should receive additional financial assistance. He then went inside Parliament House and supported Liberal Party amendments that intended to remove financial assistance from the legislation. This was consistent with the approach of the Liberal Party when in Government. During their term of Government licence values were cut in half and not a single cent of financial assistance was provided.

The attempts from the Liberal Party to block financial assistance being provided failed, and over \$350 million has already been provided to over 4000 licence holders.

Applications to the Fairness Fund are assessed by the Chair of the Fund. Without any evidence, the Member for Southern Metropolitan has made the accusation that the assessments made by the Chair have been politically motivated. The Government rejects these claims and suggests that if the Member for Southern Metropolitan has any evidence to support his unfounded claims he provides it.

Payments made by the Fairness Fund will be fully assessed and audited as per standard Government auditing procedures.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Wednesday, 29 November 2017**

**Buckley Street, Essendon, level crossing**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Davis  
**Raised on:** 1 November 2017

**REPLY:**

It is sad to see that the Member for Southern Metropolitan continues to join his Liberal colleague Bernie Finn and members of the Moonee Valley Council to continue to stand in opposition to the removal of the dangerous and congested level crossing at Buckley Street, Essendon.

We know that the majority of locals in Melbourne's north-west support this project.

On behalf of the Andrews Labor Government, I am flattered by the claims from the Member for Southern Metropolitan that we invented the design of the Buckley Street level crossing but we cannot take credit as roads under rail lines have existed in hundreds of locations around the world for more than a century, including in Melbourne.

As stated many times before, an Alliance of John Holland and KBR won the contract for the north-west package of level crossing removal works. Buckley Street is one of five crossing removal projects across north-west Melbourne which will improve travel times, reduce congestion and improve community life.

With Camp Road construction well advanced and Skye Road pre-construction works underway, the Alliance and the Level Crossing Removal Authority are currently finalising a price and design for the Buckley Street project, factoring in community ideas and feedback.

Work at Buckley Street will begin later this year, with the boom gates expected to go by the end of 2018.

**Shepparton rail services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 3 November 2017

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is getting on with delivering more than \$3 billion of investment in Victoria's regional public transport network.

This includes delivering a massive upgrade of the Shepparton line and new coach services as part of an ongoing revival of public transport in regional Victoria.

The Victorian Budget 2017/18 allocated \$43.5 million to upgrade the Shepparton rail line, with enabling infrastructure works between Shepparton and Seymour to benefit the wider Goulburn Valley community.

The Shepparton line upgrade will provide new train stabling facilities near Shepparton and a crossing loop near Murchison East to enable V/Line to run more trains more often from 2020.

Whilst these works are under way, an additional coach service will operate in the evening between Seymour and Shepparton. The new coaches will start early next year, with timetabling to be determined through community consultation.

The Andrews Labor Government has secured \$1.42 billion in Commonwealth Government funding it was owed to deliver the Regional Rail Revival package — a once in a generation investment for improvements to every regional passenger line in Victoria.

This includes \$10 million to plan for an improved freight network in and around Shepparton, ensuring the freight network is not negatively impacted by future increases to passenger services.

The Andrews Labor Government is funding and delivering a number of other key transport projects that benefit Shepparton and the Goulburn Valley community, including \$877 million for 87 new regional VLocity carriages and a major re-design of VLocity trains to enable them to run to more places, including to Shepparton.

More than \$600 million has been invested into V/Line maintenance and operations, which is improving the quality and reliability of regional rail infrastructure and \$12.5 million to refurbish V/Line's classic train fleet.

The Andrews Labor Government is getting on with funding and delivering better public transport for regional Victorians, including Shepparton and the wider Goulburn Valley community.