

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**7, 8 and 9 February 2017**

**(Extract from book 1)**

Internet: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard](http://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, Mr Herbert, 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 Elasmr, Mr Finn, 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 Eideh, #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 Elasmr, Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, 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.

### Joint committees

**Accountability and Oversight Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Bath, 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, Mr Nardella 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 Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson, Mr Tilley and Ms Ward.

**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): 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 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* — 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**

**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 <sup>2</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>4</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin <sup>3</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	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
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	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>2</sup> Appointed 15 April 2015

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

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>4</sup> 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



# CONTENTS

## WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

### TUESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2017

<i>Retail tenancy regulation</i> .....	275
<i>Bellarine police resources</i> .....	275
<i>East Gippsland students</i> .....	277
<i>Autism programs</i> .....	277
<i>Residential planning zones</i> .....	277
<i>Family violence</i> .....	278, 303
<i>Stawell employment</i> .....	278
<i>GriefLine Community and Family Services</i> .....	279
<i>Respectful relationships education</i> .....	279
<i>Drug harm reduction</i> .....	280, 282
<i>Local government elections</i> .....	280
<i>Problem gambling</i> .....	281
<i>Frankston line level crossings</i> .....	281
<i>Bushfire preparedness</i> .....	282
<i>Western distributor</i> .....	283
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region small business</i> .....	283
<i>Hazelwood power station</i> .....	284
<i>Korean War commemoration</i> .....	285
<i>Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre</i> .....	285
<i>Melbourne Airport</i> .....	286
<i>Melbourne–Sunbury road</i> .....	287
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region level crossings</i> .....	287
<i>Eastern Health</i> .....	287
<i>Craiglee Vineyard</i> .....	288
<i>Seymour rail services</i> .....	288
<i>Latrobe Valley Authority</i> .....	288
<i>Vietnam War school resource</i> .....	290
<i>Northern Victoria Region roads</i> .....	290
<i>Lilydale Primary School</i> .....	291
<i>Local government councillors</i> .....	291
<i>Compensation legislation</i> .....	291
<i>Regional and rural roads</i> .....	292
<i>Shrine of Remembrance poster competition</i> .....	292
<i>Goulburn-Murray irrigation district</i> .....	292
<i>Long service leave portability</i> .....	293
<i>Murchison-Tatura Road</i> .....	293
<i>IVF services</i> .....	294
<i>Public transport disability access</i> .....	294
<i>Hume planning scheme amendment</i> .....	295
<i>Keysborough South schools</i> .....	295
<i>Regional partnership representation</i> .....	296
<i>Shepparton rail services</i> .....	296
<i>Belfast Coastal Reserve</i> .....	296
<i>Beaumaris Secondary College site</i> .....	297
<i>United Firefighters Union</i> .....	297
<i>All-terrain vehicle safety</i> .....	298
<i>Riverside Meats</i> .....	298
<i>Goulburn Valley Highway</i> .....	299
<i>Mildura rail services</i> .....	299
<i>Bayswater level crossings</i> .....	300
<i>Tullamarine Freeway tolls</i> .....	300
<i>Ballarat railway station precinct</i> .....	301
<i>Risk</i> .....	301
<i>School swimming program</i> .....	302
<i>Mernda rail extension</i> .....	303

<i>Motor vehicle registration concessions</i> .....	304
<i>Elevated rail construction safety</i> .....	304
<i>Ballarat rail services</i> .....	305
<i>Ambulance services</i> .....	305
<i>Domain railway station</i> .....	306
<i>Macedon district roads</i> .....	306
<i>Santa’s flight path</i> .....	307
<i>Sunbury rail line emergency access</i> .....	307
<i>Child protection</i> .....	307
<i>Northern suburbs roads</i> .....	308
<i>Berwick Secondary College</i> .....	308
<i>Country Fire Authority volunteers</i> .....	309
<i>Interfaith Centre of Melbourne</i> .....	309
<i>Victims of crime financial assistance</i> .....	309
<i>School cleaners</i> .....	310

### WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2017

<i>The Bubble student support centre</i> .....	311
--	-----

### THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2017

<i>Broadford Community Centre</i> .....	313
<i>North Road, Ormond, level crossing</i> .....	313





**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Tuesday, 7 February 2017**

**Retail tenancy regulation**

**Raised with:** Special Minister of State  
**Raised by:** Ms Symes  
**Raised on:** 2 September 2015

**REPLY:**

Thank you for raising the matter of Mr Roy Grafton and the presentation of his National Emergency Medal. I would like to join with all Victorians in thanking Mr Grafton for his services during the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

I understand that Mr Grafton has received his National Emergency Medal, and that the matter raised in your adjournment debate has, therefore, been resolved.

**Retail tenancy regulation**

**Raised with:** Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 22 June 2016

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government is committed to making the process of purchasing property clearer and fairer for all Victorians. Under the Australian Consumer Law and the Estate Agents Act 1980, both of which are administered by Consumer Affairs Victoria, property advertising must not be misleading or deceptive. However, despite these laws, misleading or deceptive conduct can still occur.

The government is currently reviewing consumer property legislation, including the Estate Agents Act 1980, Owners Corporations Act 2006, Conveyancers Act 2006 and Sale of Land Act 1962. These reviews, combined with the passing of the Estate Agents Amendment (Underquoting) Bill 2016, will contribute to a fairer marketplace.

In relation to our concerns about the conduct of a member of parliament, this is not a matter for Consumer Affairs Victoria. Accordingly, I suggest this matter be raised with the President of the Legislative Council.

**Bellarine police resources**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 17 August 2016

**REPLY:**

I am pleased to advise the Member for Western Victoria that there are more police resources across the Geelong and Bellarine area than there was in November 2014.

As local member for the Bellarine electorate and as the Minister for Police, community safety is my top priority. I am proud to be associated with a Government that campaigned for more police resources, and delivered more police resources.

Unlike the previous Government, I was not prepared to see police resources taken out of the Bellarine Peninsula. In the first budget of the Andrews Government, \$7.8 million was invested in the Geelong and Bellarine area to bring in 15 extra police to meet the current and future demand.

We have also seen expanded service across the Bellarine with services being run out of the Portarlington, Drysdale and Queenscliff Police Stations.

To ensure community engagement and empowerment I have also organised the establishment of the Bellarine Community Safety Group, a partnership between the local community and local police to work together and prevent crime.

At a state level, the Andrews Labor Government continues to work closely with Victoria Police about what resources and powers they need to address crime and see the crime rate start to turn around.

The Government is responding to the law and order challenges faced by our state with a comprehensive strategy to prevent, detect and disrupt crime. The Community Safety Statement, released in December 2016 outlines the range of new investment, powers, tools and capability that Victoria Police will be equipped with to stabilise the crime rate and begin to reduce the level of harm being caused in the community.

Central to the Community Safety Statement is boosting of police numbers right across the state. In total, the 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.

It is the biggest boost to frontline police in Victoria's history, and it is crucial to dealing with the growing demand on police services, particularly the challenges of repeat youth offenders, increasing aggravated burglaries, high-volume crime such as car theft, and family violence.

Victoria Police has developed a new and sophisticated staff allocation model, 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.

These extra 3135 police, which are on top of attrition, are the lynchpin of the Victoria's first-ever Community Safety Statement, which you can find at <http://www.vic.gov.au/community-safety-statement-2017.html>.

This statement outlines our new \$2 billion commitment to keep Victorians safe, prevent harm in our communities and hold perpetrators accountable

The results of all this activity and investment means that police in the Geelong and Bellarine areas are now better resourced than under the former government. The local community expect their elected representatives to be strong on community safety.

That means you have to do more than just talk about it — which is the unfortunate record of the former government. You have to deliver on it. And that is the fundamental difference between the Andrews Labor Government, and the government that the Member for Western Victoria was part of.

This Government will continue to invest and deliver on police and community safety outcomes for the Bellarine and Geelong areas.

### East Gippsland students

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 18 August 2016

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Training is aware of the disadvantage experienced by students in more remote areas of the State and has provided more resources to rural areas including Outer Gippsland as part of the Education State reforms.

The Department is facilitating connections across schools to share expertise and to connect students to broader learning opportunities through a range of mechanisms including virtual classrooms, career teachers and senior school leaders who are also working and planning together, along with tertiary providers such as Federation Training, Federation University and RMIT to build learning communities.

In addition many schools have developed strong connections to local and urban tertiary providers. For example, Orbost Secondary College students have access to free bus travel provided by a metropolitan based university to attend Open Days and have a strong partnership with Federation University to provide students as young as Year 8 with exposure to the world of university. Through the strengthening of collaboration across schools there are now greater supports for schools to plan together, share and enhance connections and programs, such as taking groups of students to Open Days or urban based camps.

With greater collaboration across schools in these areas, and a focus on raising expectations, which has been identified by schools as an area for growth, students will be exposed to more opportunities and a broader range of contacts to help overcome the challenges of rural isolation.

### Autism programs

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 11 October 2016

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government recognises that no single approach will meet the needs of all children and young people on the autism spectrum, and a number of actions, strategies and approaches are employed to best meet their individual learning and support needs. Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), is one of many effective strategies for children and young people on the autism spectrum.

Victorian government schools make decisions about how best to support the learning of all students in their care.

### Residential planning zones

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Ms Dunn  
**Raised on:** 11 October 2016

**REPLY:**

I am advised that the development proposal you refer to is for the proposed redevelopment of the Calvary Health Care Bethlehem hospital site in the City of Glen Eira.

The ability to allow educational, recreational, religious, community and a limited range of other non-residential uses to serve local community needs in appropriate locations has long been a feature of the residential zones in Victoria. Such uses include schools, churches, hospitals, childcare and community facilities. It is inappropriate to restrict the height of such facilities in a blanket fashion. For example a church spire would become prohibited under such mandatory height restrictions.

However, this does not mean that large institutional uses should be permitted in a 'carte blanche' fashion in residential neighbourhoods. I bring to your attention correspondence dated 15 December 1997 from the then Minister for Planning and Local Government the Hon Robert Maclellan to the City of Stonnington regarding community concern about contentious development proposals for the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club and the future development of Cabrini Hospital in relation to the (at that time) new Victoria Planning Provisions.

In his letter to the Council, the Minister indicated that a proper master plan was needed for both sites and that these plans needed to be developed in consultation with Council, both institutions and most importantly, with residents to ensure traffic, parking, density and other development issues are clearly articulated.

Since then many councils have availed themselves of the master planning process to manage large institutional uses in their neighbourhoods. For example, the City of Boroondara requires all private schools within its municipality to prepare master plans to guide the future development of these institutions before any building improvements can be made.

I have previously advised Glen Eira on 21 October 2015 to make use of the tools available in the Victoria Planning Provisions to control the design and scale of development in the municipality.

### **Family violence**

**Raised with:** Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence  
**Raised by:** Mr Eideh  
**Raised on:** 12 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I thank the Member for raising economic abuse in the context of family violence with me. The Royal Commission into Family Violence found that women who lived with a violent partner are more likely than other women to experience financial difficulty, and examined the various ways that a perpetrator may use financial insecurity as a form of abuse.

Our government understands the importance of implementing safeguards to prevent all forms of family violence, including financial abuse, before it occurs. That's why we are developing Victoria's first Primary Prevention Strategy, as recommended by the Royal Commission into Family Violence. This work is being done in partnership with our new Ministerial Taskforce on the Prevention of Family Violence.

In relation to our government's investment for more specifically trained financial counsellors to help support victims, the delivery of this initiative falls outside my portfolio area. The Member may wish to raise this matter with the Hon Jenny Mikakos MP, who holds the portfolio responsibilities for this initiative.

### **Stawell employment**

**Raised with:** Minister for Industry and Employment  
**Raised by:** Mr Morris  
**Raised on:** 12 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Government has been working closely with local businesses, the Northern Grampians Shire and the community to support economic development initiatives that will generate employment opportunities for the area.

I am advised that since 2014 the government's Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund has supported an impressive range of business activities and projects in Stawell.

This includes: Funding to upgrade the meat processing facilities of local business Frewstal; Funding to develop a large-scale, high tech hydroponic glasshouse facility at Nectar Farms; \$19 million for the Grampians Peaks Trail which will boost visitor numbers to the region, and; \$1.75 million for construction of the first underground physics laboratory in the southern hemisphere.

Further, we recently created the Jobs4Stawell website which will assist local employers connect with jobseekers affected by the recent mine closure in Stawell. Jobs4Stawell will be a central portal for both businesses and job seekers to use not only to fill jobs in the area, but also find advice and resources to assist in the job application and interview process.

The platform will help jobseekers promote their skills and experience and connect to the largely 'hidden' job market for locally based employers.

Overall, this government has contributed more than \$20 million for economic development projects in the Northern Grampians Shire since 2014. These investments, together with other projects in the pipeline, will generate hundreds of new jobs in Stawell.

The creation of new jobs for Victorians is one of our top priorities. This is especially the case for regional Victoria and the community of Stawell.

### **GriefLine Community and Family Services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Mental Health  
**Raised by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Raised on:** 26 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I am aware of GriefLine and the important work it does.

I understand that the CEO of GriefLine is looking at partnership opportunities with other telephone services, that it has sought to reduce the number of groups that it runs to maintain focus on its telephone services and it is exploring funding options including with the Commonwealth government. I note that the organisation along with many others is facing the new challenges of what was until your suggestions to the contrary, a bipartisan support for the NDIS reform. I am disappointed that you would undermine the processes for sustaining organisations in the face of a changing national funding system — a system your government rightly signed the State up to and which the Prime Minister recommitted to in his first action.

In order to support GriefLine to better align with current state and commonwealth reform agendas I have approved funding for GriefLine to engage a consultant to assist it to ensure ongoing viability. I have also approved a further 12 months funding of \$125,000 per annum until June 2018 to allow the consultant's recommendations to be put in place. I note these organisational sustainability measures are ones that your government failed to make.

### **Respectful relationships education**

**Raised with:** Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence  
**Raised by:** Mr Eideh  
**Raised on:** 25 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I would like to thank the Member for their question in relation to our government's Respectful Relationships program.

As the member is aware, after the home environment, school is the single biggest influence in a child or young person's life. That is why our government introduced respectful relationships education into the school curriculum from 2016, and why we have reaffirmed our commitment by investing an additional \$21.8 million in the 2016-17 Budget.

As the curriculum for this initiative has been developed by the Department of Education, the Member will need to direct their question relating to learning materials to the Minister for Education.

### **Drug harm reduction**

**Raised with: Minister for Mental Health**

**Raised by: Ms Patten**

**Raised on: 26 October 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The Victorian Government provides more than \$17 million per year to support a number of evidence-based harm reduction activities that are designed to reduce the harm to people who currently use alcohol and other drugs.

As part of this, the Victorian Government provides funding to Harm Reduction Victoria for the Dancewize program, which involves peer educators attending dance parties, festivals and nightclubs.

Drug related overdose can occur for any number of reasons including the size, weight and general health of a person, as well as whether the person is used to taking a particular drug or if they have taken other drugs at the same time. Pill testing kits are not a guarantee against overdose.

The Victorian Government is investing \$192.5 million in 2016-17 to reduce the harm associated with alcohol and other drug use, including expanded access to treatment for people with issues relating to alcohol and other drug use.

### **Local government elections**

**Raised with: Minister for Local Government**

**Raised by: Mr Purcell**

**Raised on: 26 October 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The 2016 local government general elections were a significant undertaking with elections held across 78 out of Victoria's 79 councils and 637 councillor positions being filled.

Recent changes to the scheduling of mail delivery by Australia Post has meant that voters in postal elections would have received their ballot packs later than at previous elections. The Victorian Electoral Commission, which conducted all elections, has informed me that during this period it worked closely with Australia Post, which has advised it was confident all ballot packs had been delivered to voters.

In recognition of the slower mail delivery times, the Government this year introduced regulations to enable postal votes cast at council elections by the close of voting, to be received until the Friday following election day.

The voter turnout at councils that had postal elections in 2016 was 73.75%, up from 72.53% at the 2012 general elections. It is also interesting to note that in two prominent Councils in the member's electorate, Moynes and Warrnambool, the turnout rate also rose.

The Government will continue to consider and implement reforms to the electoral arrangements that will ensure that future elections are not compromised by delays in the delivery of postal material.

### Problem gambling

**Raised with:** Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation  
**Raised by:** Mr Melhem  
**Raised on:** 26 October 2016

#### REPLY:

The government acknowledges the vital work of the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation (Foundation) in reducing gambling-related harm and fostering responsible gambling. In 2015-16, the government committed \$148 million over four years for responsible and problem gambling initiatives.

The Love the Game school education program is a key part of the Foundation's work to educate young people and their parents about the risks of gambling, and prevent future harm.

In the past three years the Foundation's school education program has reached more than 10 000 secondary students through face-to-face workshop sessions for Year 10–12 students with over 100 secondary schools involved in the program each year.

The new program provides resources that broaden the Foundation's support for schools by enabling them to embed gambling education across the curriculum, including:

- ten math focused lesson plans for the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) students, developed in partnership with the Mathematical Association of Victoria
- seven teacher lesson plans for VCAL and Year 10 students focusing on the chances of winning, the normalisation of gambling, and help seeking for young people
- a multimedia based teacher resource for VCE students, featuring five 30 second videos, that aims to debunk commonly held myths about gambling.

The Foundation has also developed a gambling policy template that schools can adapt and adopt to take a whole-of-school approach to gambling education.

These resources will be sent to all government, Catholic and independent secondary schools in the coming weeks to assist with their curriculum planning for 2017.

### Frankston line level crossings

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 26 October 2016

#### REPLY:

The former Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Frankston line during their four years in Government. In contrast, the Andrews Labor Government is removing eleven, with three already gone.

The community remains very aware that the Liberal Opposition continues to do everything they can to prevent or delay the removal of 50 of Victoria's most dangerous and congested level crossings. They even supported Supreme Court action that unsuccessfully attempted to delay the removal of some of the most congested and dangerous crossings in Victoria.

The eight level crossings to be removed between Cheltenham and Frankston are spread out over approximately 20 kilometres and the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) has completed extensive community consultation on the different design options at each site. The Government has consistently ruled out an extended elevated solution to remove these crossings.

The Liberal Party's opposition to rail bridges is a new policy position as there are 98 rail bridges across Melbourne's metropolitan train network and the Liberal Members for Hawthorn, Malvern, Burwood, Box Hill, Ringwood, Sandringham, Brighton, Caulfield and Mount Waverley all have sections of elevated rail within their electorates.

In contrast to the Liberal Party, the Andrews Government will continue to honestly and openly consult with the community on the best way to remove these congested death traps.

### **Bushfire preparedness**

**Raised with:** Minister for Emergency Services

**Raised by:** Ms Lovell

**Raised on:** 27 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Victorian Government recognises the critical importance of effective action to reduce the impacts of bushfire on Victorian communities. An effective fuel management program is an essential part of this broader picture — it is one of a range of actions needed before, during and after fire to reduce impacts. Fuel management, including planned burning, is an essential part of this mix, alongside strategies such as fuel breaks, community warnings and evacuation planning, or rapid response through ground and air attack.

The Government's policy agenda for bushfire management is set out in 'Safer Together'. Under this policy, land and fire agencies partner with community to deliver actions to reduce bushfire risk that draw on local knowledge and world-leading bushfire science. Part of this is an ongoing commitment to effective fuel management.

While an essential part of effective bushfire management, planned burning is highly weather dependent, wet and cool conditions this Spring have meant limited opportunities to conduct planned burns safely and effectively.

Further information about bushfire risk reduction targets at state and landscape levels can be found on the DELWP website at [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/safer-together](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/safer-together).

This coming Summer season, Victoria will be protected by a mix of 48 contract firefighting aircraft specialising in a range of different types of fires and terrain. In addition, over 100 'call when needed' aircraft will be available. The fleet will include two Large Air Tankers, capable of dropping over 12 000 litres of water or fire retardant, and four large Helitak, including the two familiar orange Air-cranes.

A range of multi-agency briefings and exercises at the State, Regional and local levels are underway, involving personnel from a range of departments, agencies, non-government organisations and local councils.

To support the Victorian community's preparedness for the summer, 'Fire Action Week' was held from 23 October this year.

### **Drug harm reduction**

**Raised with:** Minister for Mental Health

**Raised by:** Ms Hartland

**Raised on:** 27 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Victorian Government provides more than \$17 million per year to support a number of evidence-based harm reduction activities that are designed to reduce the harm to people who currently use alcohol and other drugs.

As part of this, the Victorian Government provides funding to Harm Reduction Victoria for the Dancewize program, which involves peer educators attending dance parties, festivals and nightclubs.



Drug related overdose can occur for any number of reasons including the size, weight and general health of a person, as well as whether the person is used to taking a particular drug or if they have taken other drugs at the same time. Pill testing kits are not a guarantee against overdose.

The Victorian Government is investing \$192.5 million in 2016-17 to reduce the harm associated with alcohol and other drug use, including expanded access to treatment for people with issues relating to alcohol and other drug use.

### **Western distributor**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 27 October 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Western Distributor Project is essential for maintaining Melbourne's liveability and competitiveness.

It will address some of the city's most critical traffic and population growth challenges and represents an opportunity to deliver real and much needed improvements to Melbourne's transport network.

We know peak hour is a challenge on many of our major roads, which is why we are getting on with making improvements to them through projects like the Western Distributor, the Monash Freeway Upgrade, the M80 upgrade and CityLink Tulla Widening.

The Government will continue to negotiate strongly with Transurban to get the best value for the Victorian taxpayers, local residents and motorists, unlike the true "dog of a project" called the East West Link, which the Member was happy to support knowing it would return only 45 cents in every dollar invested.

### **Northern Metropolitan Region small business**

**Raised with:** Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade  
**Raised by:** Mr Elasmarr  
**Raised on:** 8 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is investing heavily in start-ups and innovative businesses across Victoria. The funding vehicle LaunchVic and a variety of Business Victoria grants are accessible for businesses with innovative ideas.

LaunchVic's role is to provide the right environment for entrepreneurs to develop, incubate and grow early-stage innovative businesses.

Although Round Two funding applications closed on 18 November 2016, LaunchVic has already allocated \$6.5 million to a raft of projects in Round One. These projects will underpin startup growth across regional areas, for different sectors, such as agriculture and cybersecurity, and allow access to startup development for groups such as women and youths.

An example of a successful LaunchVic grant application from a business in the Northern Metropolitan Region is the building of a world class tech and startup destination at Abbotsford Convent. Organised by the Conventory Campus, the aim is to equip the Convent with share-laboratories, conference facilities, hardware assembly, on-demand childcare and co-working zones.

Businesses and innovative enterprises in the Northern Metropolitan Region, and across Victoria, that have great, innovative ideas to develop the startup ecosystem can apply by going to LaunchVic's website: [www.launchvic.org](http://www.launchvic.org). There they will find further information, including the round guidelines and frequently asked questions, and can download and submit their applications online.

The Victorian Government also has two other government grant programs for innovative businesses; the Victorian-Israel Science and Technology Scheme (VISITS), and the Victoria-Jiangsu Province Technology & Innovation Agreement. Further information about both of these government grant programs can be found by going to Business Victoria's website: <http://www.business.vic.gov.au>.

I encourage you to promote these grants to the innovative businesses in your Region.

### **Hazelwood power station**

**Raised with:** Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade  
**Raised by:** Ms Shing  
**Raised on:** 8 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The announcement by French energy company, Engie, that it will close the Hazelwood power plant and mine is gut wrenching news for Hazelwood workers, their families and Latrobe Valley communities.

The Andrews Labor Government will stand with these workers and their families, and ensure the Valley has a strong future.

It must be said that it is completely unacceptable for the Commonwealth to play ugly political games with this matter. The communities and industries of the Latrobe Valley are of vital importance to the Andrews Labor Government and that's why we've established the Latrobe Valley Cabinet Taskforce, chaired by the Premier, to coordinate the Governments response and ensure the valley has a strong future.

As you've correctly noted, a total package of support has been provided to the Latrobe Valley area, encompassing proactive responses to many of the areas of concern that you've identified, including:

- A Worker Transition Centre established in Morwell in partnership with the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council — a one-stop-shop for individual support
- Education, counselling, financial advice and subsidised job-seeker training for workers in transition
- Tailored support for businesses to help them identify new opportunities and develop a transition plan
- An expansion of the Back to Work program to businesses that employ workers in the Latrobe Valley

An additional \$20 million will fund the establishment of a dedicated Latrobe Valley Authority to lead the Government's response and manage the transition and the future economic development of the Latrobe Valley.

I am pleased to be able to inform the member that I will be visiting the Latrobe Valley shortly, to meet directly with small businesses and view the constructive and positive steps being taken by local small businesses and commerce groups to encourage residents to shop locally to support their communities, as well as discuss with local business how the Andrews Labor Government will continue to support them through this transitional period.

Through Small Business Victoria a range of services will be offered to help affected businesses move forward, including, but not limited to free business mentoring. The Small Business Bus and business mentoring will be available on several dates and locations in the Latrobe Valley and mentoring will also be offered through local council facilities.

**Korean War commemoration**

**Raised with:** Minister for Veterans  
**Raised by:** Mr Melhem  
**Raised on:** 8 November 2016

**REPLY:**

I thank the member for Western Metropolitan Region for his question and for his support for veterans, and interest in recognising our Korean Veterans. It is critically important that those who served in all conflicts are remembered and appreciated publicly, particularly those from the Korean War. The Andrews Labor Government has been working steadily and thoughtfully to ensure that our Korean War veterans are recognised formally. To that end we have collaborated most productively with the Consulate of the Republic of South Korea, the Korean Veterans Association of Victoria and the Korean War Memorial Committee. An announcement on this matter will be made in the very near future, once arrangements around the most appropriate site are made. I thank you again for your work and interest in this important matter.

**Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre**

**Raised with:** Minister for Emergency Services  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 8 November 2016

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government closed the Country Fire Authority (CFA) Training Centre at Fiskville (Fiskville) on 26 March 2015 based on a unanimous recommendation of the CFA Board, after test results showed levels of contamination from per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) (including perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)) that were, in some instances, well above the levels set in safe drinking water guidelines and including in areas that had previously shown to have no contamination.

Unlike the former government, which refused to act on Fiskville, the Government refused to jeopardise the safety of the CFA workers and volunteers who used the site. The Government recently responded to the Parliamentary Inquiry supporting in whole, in part or in principle all of its recommendations.

Recently, testing at the Craigieburn Victorian and Emergency Management Training Centre (VEMTC) identified the presence of small amounts of PFCs, PFOS and PFOA in the trade waste plant that treats water from the Petrochemical Training Area.

I am advised the testing showed the amounts present were under acceptable drinking water limits and safe to humans under the current standards, and immediate steps were taken to eliminate the risk of contamination of the local environment or individual exposure to these substances.

I am also advised that WorkSafe and the Environmental Protection Authority have been closely engaged and are supportive of the agencies' response.

The Government is firmly committed to ensuring the health and safety of firefighters, and continues to closely monitor the clean-up process and engage with agencies and stakeholders to ensure firefighters and others attending VEMTC are protected.

## Melbourne Airport

**Raised with:** Minister for Tourism and Major Events  
**Raised by:** Mr Eideh  
**Raised on:** 9 November 2016

### REPLY:

Melbourne Airport does a great job in bringing millions of visitors to Victoria every year.

In the 2015-16 financial year, 33.9 million passengers passed through Melbourne Airport's terminals, an increase of 5 per cent on the previous year. Of these, 9.2 million were international passengers, an increase of 9.5 per cent over the same period. Victoria's share of Australia's international passenger market is now more than 25 per cent.

This strong performance has been reflected in the tourism industry as a whole, with international visitation and expenditure experiencing year on year growth. Over the last five years, international overnight visitors to Victoria grew at an average annual rate of 8.8 per cent, to 2.6 million. Over the same period, international visitor expenditure grew at an average annual rate of 10.7 per cent to \$6.7 billion.

Tourism is a significant economic driver for Victoria. Tourism in Victoria was estimated to be worth \$21.7 billion in Gross State Product and employed approximately 210 400 people in 2014-15.

The government recognises the importance of the visitor economy to the State. The Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy, released on 25 July 2016, aims to increase visitor Gross State Product to \$37 billion and tourism employment to 320 700 jobs by 2025.

As part of the implementation of the Strategy, last year the Government announced the establishment of Visit Victoria. Visit Victoria brings together marketing, major events and business events attraction and will ensure that Victoria remains the number one tourism and events destination in Australia. Visit Victoria commenced operations on 1 July, and will receive \$38 million over two years from the Government to run its ambitious marketing campaigns.

The Strategy sets the direction and framework for Visit Victoria, Government, communities and industries generally to work together to grow Victoria's visitor economy. One of the priorities under the Strategy is to build a skilled and capable sector, that is able to maximise the employment opportunities generated by the visitor economy.

The Government has established a Visitor Economy Ministerial Advisory Committee to ensure a partnership approach with industry and across government. The Committee provides direction for the implementation of the Strategy in the short and medium term.

The Government recognises the importance of air services to growing the State and will continue to work with Melbourne Airport and Avalon Airport to improve air connections with Victoria's tourism, education, business and trade markets.

Visitors boost Victoria's economy, supporting jobs and investment. The Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy will ensure that all of Victoria will benefit from increased visitation, by maximising the benefits from events held across the State, skilling workers in the tourism industry and improving infrastructure, making it easier to travel around Victoria.

**Melbourne–Sunbury road**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 9 November 2016

**REPLY:**

VicRoads maintains Melbourne to Sunbury Road and inspects it weekly for hazards and defects to ensure that the road is maintained in a safe and accessible condition. Melbourne to Sunbury Road includes sections of Melbourne to Lancefield Road and Sunbury Road. A number of potholes were treated over a 16-kilometre length on these roads during the current financial year.

VicRoads completed asphalt and spray seal surfacing works on this road, between Oaklands Road and Uniting Lane in February 2015 and May 2015, respectively.

Due to inclement weather experienced over recent months, the arterial road network has experienced increased deterioration in isolated locations. VicRoads has and will continue to regularly conduct inspections and complete essential maintenance works across the network so that roads are maintained in safe and accessible conditions. Roads in poor condition will be signed accordingly until permanent repairs can be made.

**Southern Metropolitan Region level crossings**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 9 November 2016

**REPLY:**

The former Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Frankston line. The Andrews Government is removing eleven with three already gone at North Road, Centre Road and McKinnon Road.

The Government fast tracked the removal of these crossings and through careful planning reduced the actual construction time by six months.

While there were some short term impacts on some businesses during construction, the long term benefits for all of the community, including small businesses, are now being realised.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority's "Open for Business" initiative helped assist many businesses through the construction period with many benefitting from the large number of workers shopping in the adjacent precincts.

To further support business, an extremely successful "Family Fun Day" was held in November, with thousands of people celebrating the removal of the crossings, visiting the new stations and shopping locally.

Further information on the successful removal of these congested death traps, including endorsements from local businesses, can be found at [www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](http://www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au)

**Eastern Health**

**Raised with:** Minister for Health  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 9 November 2016

**REPLY:**

Thank you, Mr Leane for your offer to accompany me to meet the new Chief Executive Officer for Eastern Health. I would be delighted to meet with you and Mr Plunkett to discuss future plans. I thank you for your ongoing

advocacy and passion for Eastern Health's success and for continued quality health outcomes for Melbourne's Eastern suburbs.

### **Craiglee Vineyard**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 10 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I thank Mr Finn's for his kind offer of a visit to Craiglee, but I must sadly decline. However, I would like to reassure Mr Finn that the matter of Craiglee Vineyard, amongst other issues, is being considered by the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) in their work for Amendment C207 to the Hume Planning Scheme.

Amendment C207 seeks to balance the logical and orderly extension of the Sunbury Township with the need to protect and enhance biodiversity conservation areas and native vegetation through the appropriate zoning controls and outlining interface treatments to sensitive areas. With regards to Craiglee, the controls proposed by Amendment C207 will provide for the ongoing use of the land as a vineyard, winery and ancillary uses.

Future land use or development proposals however will be required to have regard to the vineyard's sensitive interface with Jacksons Creek and the conservation outcomes identified in Victoria's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors.

Amendment C207 is currently on public exhibition, and any person who may be affected by the amendment can make a written submission to the VPA by Monday 6 February 2017.

I encourage interested parties to actively participate in this amendment process.

### **Seymour rail services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Symes  
**Raised on:** 10 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I would like to thank the Member for Northern Victoria for her strong representation on behalf of her community for rail service improvements.

Ms Symes and the community advocated for a change to a morning train service from Seymour to get shift workers to Melbourne by 6.32am. Under the timetable change being introduced on 29 January 2017, the 5.15am service from Seymour to Southern Cross will now depart 15 minutes earlier at 5.00am. Arriving at Southern Cross Station at 6.32am allows more time for workers with a 7.00am start to get from the station to their place of work on time.

This timetable change is a result of direct feedback from Ms Symes and the local community and I would like to again thank them for contributing to our work to improve rail services on the North East line.

### **Latrobe Valley Authority**

**Raised with:** Premier  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 10 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

Thank you Ms Bath for your questions of 10 November 2016 about the Victorian Government's efforts to revitalise the Latrobe Valley, and in particular, the establishment of the Latrobe Valley Authority (the Authority).

### AUTHORITY and functions

For decades, successive Governments have sought to provide support to the Latrobe Valley during periods of hardship. Now, for the first time, a single Victorian Government Authority will coordinate and drive actions to improve outcomes for the Latrobe Valley. From day one, the Authority will report directly to the Secretary of Premier and Cabinet, in his role as head of the Victorian Public Service, and directly to me, in my role as Premier.

The Latrobe Valley Authority office is situated at 131 Princes Drive, Morwell, with members of the community able to walk in the door, meet a staff member face-to-face, and get tailored support for impacted workers and businesses — as well as discuss their ideas for the future of the region. The Authority's staff, led by the CEO, are meeting with local government, community groups and businesses to hear their ideas and concerns, to inform the work of the Authority.

The Authority will also play a key role in overseeing the Victorian Government's investments in the region, to ensure that the funding is targeted and focussed, achieving real outcomes that the community wants and needs.

### Local staff

The Authority is hiring now and local people are encouraged to apply — the Authority is based in the region to work on local priorities and the best way to do this is with locally based staff. The initial advertisements for the positions have created a great deal of interest and there will be more positions to come.

From the very beginning, the Authority has been staffed by people who live and work in the region; people with an understanding of the area, who come from across Victorian Government departments to get the Authority up and running. This includes the Authority's Interim CEO, Kylie White, who grew up in the Gippsland region and is a widely respected public servant with extensive experience working on issues that are faced by the region.

### Worker Transition

The Authority's mandate is to help diversify the economy and to support workers and their families through the transition period. The community is experiencing high unemployment rates and has recently suffered another blow with Engie's announcement of the closure of Hazelwood. Situations like these not only impact workers, but also their families and the broader communities they live in.

Workers and businesses affected by the closure of the Hazelwood mine and power station are able to access a range of support services through the Authority. Support isn't just for workers affected by Hazelwood — everyone in the region has access to the Authority's assistance. People can speak to staff about their needs, receive tailored support and advice, and be connected with opportunities to reskill and retrain, building on their existing skill sets. We are working in close partnership with the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council to provide this support.

### Initiatives Announced

There's no single solution to addressing the challenges and realising the opportunities in the Latrobe Valley. Vibrant, healthy communities are just as important to the region's economy as skills and training. That's why the Government's \$266 million plan for the region invests in economic, social and environmental initiatives. This includes:

- \$50 million for a Latrobe Valley Economic Growth Zone, encouraging new and expanding businesses;
- up to \$17 million for the Gippsland Hi-Tech Precinct, an Australian first that will provide jobs and foster cooperation between education and industry;
- \$20 million to fund community facilities;
- \$5 million to upgrade classrooms and school facilities;
- \$22 million over four years for immediate worker and business transition support; and
- \$20 million over four years for the Latrobe Valley Authority.

More initiatives will be announced in the coming months and years, through the Government's \$174 million Latrobe Valley Community Infrastructure and Investment Fund. The Victorian Government will be working alongside the communities of the region, for the long haul. We're standing with workers, businesses and the community, because we believe in a vibrant Latrobe Valley.

### **Vietnam War school resource**

**Raised with:** Minister for Veterans  
**Raised by:** Mr Eideh  
**Raised on:** 10 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I am pleased to advise that the new curriculum material on the Vietnam War has been released by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. A media release from the Acting Minister for Veterans, the Hon Philip Dalidakis MP, was released on 5 October 2016. The Department of Education has promoted the material on social media and the Shrine of Remembrance is also promoting the material amongst its networks.

This material will support the Middle Secondary History curriculum and is aimed at students studying Year 9 and 10. The material is a unique look at Australia's longest military engagement of the 20th century and includes information about the Battle of Long Tan, the ideologies and beliefs that led to Australia's involvement in the war and the fierce public debate that divided a nation back home. Schools can download the materials at [www.vcaa.vic.edu.au](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au).

### **Northern Victoria Region roads**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 10 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

In 2016, Victoria recorded its wettest September in 100 years. Victorian rainfall was 94 per cent above average. The highest on record was in the north and west of the state.

As an indicator to the extent of damage and interruption, there have been 120 landslides alone recorded on the Great Ocean Road and at the peak of the floods, 200 roads were closed across the state.

Road crews and contractors are repairing damaged roads.

It is important to understand that temporary pothole repairs and patching are often carried out until more permanent repairs can be arranged. In some locations, the speed limits have been reduced to allow works to be done as safely and as quickly as possible.

VicRoads has messages out requesting that the community be patient with the repair process and appealing to motorists to slow down and obey any speed restrictions to ensure the safety of road workers.

On the matter of funding, the current total state budget for pavement resealing (that is to say resurfacing) and pavement reconstruction is 57 per cent greater than the funding for the 2013-14 financial year. It is also a 12 per cent increase compared to 2015-16.

For rural regions, the current pavement periodic and rehabilitation budget is 34 per cent greater than the 2013-14 financial year.

The Government's \$62 million pavement resealing program for rural Victoria, has commenced and is expected to continue through until March/April 2017. Some pavement rehabilitation has also commenced.



The upside of a wet spring is the highly anticipated bumper harvest season. VicRoads continues to work with its regional communities to ensure that roads are well prepared and in good condition for additional traffic and loading.

In 2015, the State and Federal governments announced the Stronger Country Bridges Program, which is a collaborative and joint initiative to strengthen 52 bridges across Victoria.

This is aimed at reducing transport costs for the freight industry and these strengthened bridges will increase productivity by allowing high productivity freight vehicles on major routes and avoiding load limits on other routes.

### **Lilydale Primary School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Veterans  
**Raised by:** Mr Mulino  
**Raised on:** 10 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I am pleased to advise that funding of \$2119 has been approved for this project in the last round of Anzac Centenary Community Grants, announced on 10 November 2016. It is always a pleasure to assist in the recognition of those who have served and to help young people carry remembrance of their service and sacrifice into the future.

### **Local government councillors**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government  
**Raised by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Raised on:** 10 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

Local Government Victoria has published comprehensive good practice guidelines on this subject titled Ensuring Unbiased Democratic Council Decision Making.

I would encourage all councillors to review these guidelines if they are unsure of their obligations in this respect.

The guidelines are available at:

[http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/244791/2013-Ensuring-Unbiased-Democratic-Council-Decision-Making-April-2013.pdf](http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/244791/2013-Ensuring-Unbiased-Democratic-Council-Decision-Making-April-2013.pdf)

### **Compensation legislation**

**Raised with:** Minister for Finance  
**Raised by:** Mr Eideh  
**Raised on:** 22 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

This Bill will benefit all Victorian workers and road users, including those in the Western Metropolitan region, by ensuring that appropriate income support is available to those injured at work or on the roads until they reach pension age. The Bill aligns the maximum age for compensation with recent changes to the Commonwealth pension age, which increases the age of retirement from 65 to 67 by July 2023. This will ensure Victorian injured workers and road users in receipt of income support payments can make a smooth transition to receiving the age pension upon reaching retirement age.

The Bill will also benefit Victorian road users and their families, by introducing a new entitlement to allow the Transport Accident Commission to pay reasonable travel and accommodation expenses for immediate family members to attend the funeral of a person who has died as a result of a transport accident.

The establishment of a Board to manage the Accident Compensation Conciliation Service will benefit all Victorian workers, including those in the Western Metropolitan region, by enhancing the accountability of Victoria's independent workers compensation dispute resolution process and ensuring its governance arrangements are in line with best practice. This will facilitate ongoing improvement in the performance of the Accident Compensation Conciliation Service.

### **Regional and rural roads**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 22 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Victorian Government has secured an agreement from the Commonwealth Government that the \$1.5 billion in Federal funding previously allocated to the East West Link project can now be repurposed and matched by the Victorian Government to new projects across the state.

This is a great outcome for the State. It means that priority State projects such as the roads in the Green Triangle Region, the Great Ocean Road, the Princes Highway West and the Murray Basin Rail Project can now be delivered. The delivery of these projects will support regional communities, make our roads safer and boost the competitiveness of regional businesses across the state.

### **Shrine of Remembrance poster competition**

**Raised with:** Minister for Veterans  
**Raised by:** Mr Elasmr  
**Raised on:** 22 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Shrine of Remembrance Poster Competition challenges students to think about the mateship, fairness and determination of the ANZACs. The competition attracts entries from students all over Victoria, it is wonderful to see so many young people actively participating in Remembrance Day. It is a great chance for kids to show off their artistic flair, but also to learn more about Australia's wartime legacy.

Enthusiasm for the Remembrance Day Poster Competition encourages me to believe that the Anzac legacy will be honoured and treasured by this generation, and those of the future. I am very pleased to advise that the Shrine of Remembrance Poster Competition will be continuing for the foreseeable future and I thank the Shrine for their continued delivery of this initiative.

### **Goulburn-Murray irrigation district**

**Raised with:** Minister for Water  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Sullivan  
**Raised on:** 22 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Basin Plan is important for all our futures, and that's why I'm fighting hard for what's best for our communities and the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of the basin.

As Mr O'Sullivan noted, recovery of the additional 450GL of "upwater" in the plan can't be delivered unless there are neutral or improved socio-economic outcomes. This is a crucial point, and it's set out in the Basin Plan.

My department has recently commissioned a socio-economic review. This will provide us with more information about the socio-economic impacts to date and possible future impacts.

### Long service leave portability

**Raised with:** Minister for Industrial Relations  
**Raised by:** Mr Melhem  
**Raised on:** 22 November 2016

**REPLY:**

On 8 June 2016, the Victorian Parliamentary Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee handed down its report into employer schemes that provide portable long service leave (LSL) for Victorian workers. The Committee made two recommendations; firstly, that the Victorian Government commission a feasibility study for a contract cleaning portable LSL scheme, and secondly, a similar study be commissioned for the security industry. The Committee also found that there is merit in considering a portable LSL scheme for the community services sector.

On 23 November 2016 the Victorian Government's formal response to the Committee's report was tabled in Parliament.

The Victorian Government recognises the need for laws to change to keep pace with how the contract cleaning, security and community services sectors evolve, ensuring employees are not disadvantaged.

The Government has announced that it will examine options for the design of portable long service leave schemes for the cleaning, security and community services sectors to determine how to make such schemes viable. In doing so, extensive consultation will occur with key stakeholders including unions, employer groups and community organisations.

Portable LSL schemes already operate for contract cleaners, community service sector workers and security guards in other States and Territories.

Separately, the Government is also reviewing the Long Service Leave Act 1992 (Vic).

### Murchison-Tatura Road

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 23 November 2016

**REPLY:**

An unusually wet winter and heavy rainfall in September and October have resulted in significant deterioration to road pavements in the North East and across Victoria.

VicRoads is currently managing the deterioration of Murchison Tatura Road through repairs and warning signs to advise motorists of the changed conditions.

VicRoads has also been working closely with Victoria Police regarding safety on the Murchison-Tatura Road. For the safety of all road users, traffic movements in the area are being monitored to ensure compliance with the speed restrictions.

VicRoads will continue to inspect and monitor all arterial roads, including the Murchison-Tatura Road and will undertake maintenance as required.

**IVF services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Health  
**Raised by:** Ms Hartland  
**Raised on:** 23 November 2016

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to supporting women's reproductive choices, and in the 16/17 budget we committed \$6.6 million toward women's sexual and reproductive health, including for fertility issues, help and advice.

The Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority (VARTA) received almost \$1 million last year in funding from the Government to provide regulation and education services related to Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART).

VARTA provides independent information and support for individuals, couples and health professionals on fertility and issues related to ART. This includes IVF, surrogacy and donor-conception.

Further to this education role, VARTA has responsibilities for the registration of ART clinics.

Medically required fertility treatments currently attract a rebate from Medicare as well as subsidised medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

I am aware of some Medicare bulk-billed IVF clinics in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane that are delivering more affordable assisted reproductive treatment services for women and families, however their funding is provided by the Commonwealth.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to delivering safe and high quality maternity and newborn services for Victorian women, babies and families. This includes antenatal, birthing and postnatal care and support to women who have conceived via assisted reproductive technologies.

**Public transport disability access**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 23 November 2016

**REPLY:**

The Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) and Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) are committed to ensuring all customers get where they need to go during rail disruptions as part of the Level Crossing Removal Project (LCRP).

MTM proactively engages with disability services and support organisations prior to rail disruptions to brief staff and clients about the project and temporary changes that will impact their regular travel routine. Where possible, MTM will partner with these organisations as was the case with social enterprise, Nadrasca, whose staff provided support services to the Bayswater level crossing removal project recently.

During rail closures, customer service staff are onsite at all affected train replacement bus stops to assist customers with accessibility requirements. The majority of train replacement buses are compliant under The Disability Discrimination Act 1992, however not all wheelchairs and motorised scooters can travel on the train replacement bus services, especially during peak times, when the buses are at capacity. In these cases, wheelchair accessible taxis are provided as an alternate travel options. Individual arrangements are also made for some customers with vision impairments who would have difficulty accessing train replacement bus stops and transitioning from buses to trains at stations they are unfamiliar with.

LXRA and MTM will continue to work with local communities, disability employers, trainers and user groups during rail disruptions across the LXP to provide advanced notice to customers of disruptions across the network.

Customers are encouraged to visit <http://www.metrotrains.com.au/> or call 1800 800 007 (6:00am to midnight daily).

### **Hume planning scheme amendment**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 23 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I appreciate Mr Finn's ongoing concern about the township of Sunbury and note his query in relation to the exhibition of Amendment C207 to the Hume Planning Scheme which proposes to implement the Sunbury South Precinct Structure Plan (the PSP).

In regards to the timeframes prescribed for the exhibition of an amendment, I direct Mr Finn to the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act).

Under the Act, the prescribed public exhibition time is no less than one-month. However, the VPA decided to extend the consultation period beyond the standard one-month time frame.

The consultation opened on November 18, 2016 (including full website access to documents) and the formal exhibition period commenced on November 24, 2016, when the amendment appeared in the Victoria Government Gazette. The due date for submissions is 6 February 2017.

This extended time frame gives landowners and the broader Sunbury community a significant opportunity over two and half months to review the PSP and amendment documents, and to prepare any submissions.

I also note that extensive community engagement has occurred during the preparation of both the PSP and Amendment C207. Therefore, having regard to the work already undertaken by the VPA in consultation with Hume City Council and with assistance from government agencies, service authorities and major stakeholders, I am confident that this is sufficient time to allow proper consideration of the amendment by affected parties.

### **Keysborough South schools**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Raised on:** 23 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is conscious that enrolment growth pressures are being felt in a number of communities, including in the City of Greater Dandenong. In response to these pressures the Andrews Labor Government allocated \$1.8 billion overall through the 2015-16 and 2016-17 State Budgets to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state. Included in this funding was an allocation for land acquisition for a proposed primary school in Keysborough South.

I can confirm that a potential site for a proposed primary school in Keysborough South has been identified and negotiations to secure the site are currently underway. The Department of Education and Training is working to purchase the land for this school within the 2016-17 financial year. The Department will continue to progress this matter to ensure a timely resolution for the Keysborough community.

**Regional partnership representation**

**Raised with:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Raised by:** Mr Morris  
**Raised on:** 23 November 2016

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government stands by its decision to appoint local government Chief Executive Officers to Regional Partnerships.

**Shepparton rail services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 24 November 2016

**REPLY:**

Many of the strategic objectives described by the Rail Futures Institute, in relation to improving service standards and frequencies over time, are broadly similar to the Government's plan for regional rail outlined in the Regional Network Development Plan. The Regional Network Development Plan was launched in May 2016, following consultation with the Shepparton community and contains a number of initiatives for the Shepparton Region:

- Rolling stock improvements and planning for the retirement of classic fleet on the North East line.
- Additional Seymour to Shepparton service extension each day.
- Upgrade Wallan and Kilmore East car park facilities.
- Upgrade Shepparton station waiting area.
- Install bike facilities at major stations in the region.
- Extra shelters at major bus stops in Shepparton.
- Upgrade Seymour coach interchange.

In addition, the Andrews Labor Government is currently undertaking work on several projects that will benefit the Shepparton Region, such as the V/Line Classic Fleet upgrade project, and planning for the Next Generation Regional Train. Planning is also underway for the Upfield to Somerton rail link that will provide additional track capacity in Melbourne, that will allow more train services to the Goulburn Valley services to operate.

Local Member Suzanna Sheed MP has been a strong and effective advocate for better regional services for her community and the Andrews Labor Government was pleased to announce the extension of five services to Shepparton as part of the January 2017 timetable change.

**Belfast Coastal Reserve**

**Raised with:** Minister for Racing  
**Raised by:** Mr Purcell  
**Raised on:** 24 November 2016

**REPLY:**

The Government recently announced a balanced approach to managing commercial horse training on the beaches between Warrnambool and Port Fairy. The introduction of a licensing system to manage the number of thoroughbred horses accessing the beach ensures cultural heritage and environmental considerations are met, while meeting the needs of land managers, beachgoers and the broader South West Victorian community.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to a viable country racing industry, and the new approach to managing commercial horse training on the beaches between Warrnambool and Port Fairy will ensure that Warrnambool and the South West remain a vital regional centre for racing and horse training. Thoroughbred racing in the region delivers an annual economic benefit of \$97 million, generates more than 950 full-time equivalent jobs and over 4500 part-time and volunteer positions.

Decisions regarding the granting of licences for horse access to the beaches along the Belfast Coastal Reserve between Warrnambool and Port Fairy fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. On 15 November 2016, the Ministerial Order approving the granting of licences by the delegated land managers to the Warrnambool Racing Club, for access to the beaches along the Belfast Coastal Reserve, was published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

I thank the member for Western Victoria for raising this matter.

### **Beaumaris Secondary College site**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Ms Pennicuik  
**Raised on:** 24 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The new Beaumaris Secondary College will provide a much needed state-of-the-art school for 650 Year 7-12 students and first rate sporting facilities built in partnership with the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC). The project is part of the Victorian Government's broader school building program to ensure all Victorians have access to a great school.

The Victorian School Building Authority has released a fact sheet on its website that details the partnership with the MCC, and hard copies of this document were also provided at a public information session held at Beaumaris Library on 25 November 2016. The fact sheet contains extensive detail about the joint use agreement, including how access for the MCC sporting teams and broader community outside of school hours will be managed.

To deliver the new school, a tree and vegetation removal and replacement program must be undertaken. Independent arborist and vegetation assessment reports have been prepared and every effort is being made to retain existing vegetation.

Following consultation with community groups, including the Beaumaris Conservation Society, during the period September to November 2016, the VSBA has identified a further 18 trees to be retained, subject to root assessments (currently underway). This is a direct result of community feedback leading to design adjustments that were able to be accommodated without compromising the functionality of the new school. Further consultation with the community and local conservation groups was conducted as promised, and will continue as the focus moves to the replanting and species selection.

### **United Firefighters Union**

**Raised with:** Minister for Emergency Services  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 24 November 2016

#### **REPLY:**

As the Premier has stated publicly, the issue you have raised is a matter between the United Firefighters Union and the Country Fire Authority.

**All-terrain vehicle safety**

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Sullivan  
**Raised on:** 24 November 2016

**REPLY:**

Quad bike safety is a priority for the Andrews Labor Government, and the quad bike rebate scheme is designed to save lives. In Australia, it is estimated that around 6000 rollover protection devices have already been fitted to quad bikes. Those who oppose the fitting of these life saving devices have been unable to show any incidences of injury or death caused by these devices. Tragically, however, there have been dozens of examples of riders being crushed to death by quad bikes that were not fitted with rollover protection.

The Dynamic Research report was not commissioned by the Victorian government or WorkSafe. I am advised that the report prepared by Dynamic Research is publically available on a Dynamic Research website: <http://www.dri-atv-rops-research.com/>. The Institute for Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research (ISCRR) undertook a literature review of quad bike safety research in 2012, and identified limitations with the research methodology used in the Dynamic Research report. The review is available on the ISCRR website: [http://www.iscrr.com.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/297753/Quad-Bike-Safety-Devices.pdf](http://www.iscrr.com.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/297753/Quad-Bike-Safety-Devices.pdf).

**Riverside Meats**

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Raised by:** Ms Patten  
**Raised on:** 24 November 2016

**REPLY:**

Thank you for your question in relation to the licensing of Riverside Meats Echuca by PrimeSafe.

Animal cruelty in any form is completely unacceptable, and it is illegal. The Andrews Labor Government condemns any act of cruelty to animals.

The footage taken of Riverside Meats in Echuca is incredibly disturbing and shocking.

Victoria's meat and seafood regulator, PrimeSafe, received a formal complaint on 25 October 2016. PrimeSafe immediately directed that certain staff be removed from their duties and commenced its initial investigation the next day. Breaches of the mandatory welfare standards were identified and sanctions have been imposed on the abattoir, including directing them to make modifications to infrastructure, equipment and procedures, and retrain staff.

Weekly audits have been ordered until Riverside Meats can demonstrate compliance with Australian standards.

As you are aware Section 46(1) of the Meat Industry Act 1993 (the Act) provides that PrimeSafe must exercise its powers and perform its functions under the Act and the Seafood Safety Act 2003 subject to any specific written directions given by the Minister in relation to a matter or class of matter specified in the directions.

The Minister's power under Section 46(1) is limited to matters that are related to the exercise and performance of powers and functions conferred on PrimeSafe under the Act.

The functions of PrimeSafe are set out under Section 44 of the Act. These functions are primarily about standards of meat production, safety of meat processing and transportation facilities, and protection of public health. As such, it is beyond the Minister's power under Section 46(1) of the Act to direct PrimeSafe to suspend or cancel the licence held by Riverside Meats on the basis of a breach of animal welfare standards applicable to the operations permitted under that licence.



As Minister responsible for matters of animal welfare remain very concerned by the nature and seriousness of these allegations.

That's why I have asked Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Charles Milne, to lead an additional investigation through Agriculture Victoria to examine what breaches of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 may have occurred and determine what further action should be taken.

Where laws have been broken, those responsible should be properly held to account, in accordance with the law. Like other Victorians, our government will not stand for deliberate cruelty to animals.

While the use and monitoring of closed circuit television (CCTV) in meat processing facilities is encouraged, the Government has no plans to mandate the installation of CCTV monitoring in private businesses. We will, however, carefully consider deficiencies in standards or monitoring as we modernise Victoria's animal welfare legislation, foreshadowed in our Draft Animal Welfare Action Plan.

### **Goulburn Valley Highway**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 6 December 2016

#### **REPLY:**

Significant rainfall since May 2016 and heavy rainfall in September and October 2016 have resulted in a deterioration of the pavements across the State. This has resulted in a backlog of damaged pavements.

Repairs to the Goulburn Valley Highway near the Calder Woodburn Rest Area were completed during December 2016. These works have enabled both lanes to be open to traffic over the Christmas period. However, the speed limit will remain at 80 km/h until the New Year to allow for the work to settle due to the high temperatures forecast over this period and for the line marking to be reinstated.

### **Mildura rail services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Raised by:** Ms Dunn  
**Raised on:** 6 December 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Kennett government closed Mildura Passenger Rail service 1993.

During visits to Mildura I have taken the opportunity to speak with people at all levels within the community, including the Mildura Rural City Council, about the priority projects important to them. I also recently attended the first Mallee Regional Assembly on 1 December 2016, which was attended by approximately 150 community members.

The Mildura airport is by far Victoria's largest and busiest regional airport and by upgrading the runway, a \$25 million project that has very recently been supported by a \$5.04 million State Government grant, it will cut transport costs for industry, create up to 700 direct and indirect jobs in the long term and boost the local economy with more than \$20 million in economic benefits each year.

Passenger rail services is a matter for the Minister for Public Transport.

### **Bayswater level crossings**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 6 December 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I first would like to thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan for his hard work as we deliver this important project. I was pleased to visit the Bayswater site on 12 December 2016, to inspect the amazing progress made since the construction blitz got underway on 5 November. My visit coincided with the first day of operation of the new Bayswater Station and the return of trains to the Belgrave Line.

I'd like to congratulate and thank the Bayswater Project Alliance (consisting of Laing O'Rourke, Fulton Hogan and AECOM, together with Public Transport Victoria, Metro Trains, LXRA and VicRoads) for their outstanding round the clock work which minimised disruption to the community and saw normal train services resume as promised on 12 December. In just 37 days, the Bayswater Project Alliance successfully lowered the rail line under Scoresby Road and Mountain Highway, excavating 63 000 cubic metres of soil, installing 8000 tonnes of ballast and laying 2.5kms of new rail. They also constructed and opened the new road bridge on Scoresby Road (with the level crossing removed for good), and built the new Bayswater Station — the seventh new station opened in 2016.

I agree with you that this level crossing removal project is transforming the face of Bayswater and helping to revitalise the area. From the design and planning stage right through to construction, the Victorian Government has worked closely with the City of Knox to ensure that this project is in line with Council's vision for Bayswater. The new station with its cutting edge design and open forecourt offers improved pedestrian connectivity with the shops on Mountain Highway and Station Street. Through an innovative design approach to the Mountain Highway road bridge, additional space has been created for a new shared user path running underneath the road, better connecting cyclists to the new station.

As a result of our great cooperation with local stakeholders on this project, we have also been able to add additional streetscape works into the project for Council. These works, to be undertaken by the project Alliance, will deliver wider footpaths with new glass partitioned dining areas and the undergrounding of power lines so new trees with larger canopies can be planted.

At the time of my visit, work on the Mountain Highway road bridge was significantly advanced and on-track to be opened before Christmas. Construction work to complete Bayswater Station, a shared user path, station carpark, bus interchange, landscaping and the new streetscape on Mountain Highway will continue in the first half of 2017.

### **Tullamarine Freeway tolls**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 6 December 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The CityLink Tulla Widening project will reduce congestion and improve travel times on one of Melbourne's busiest stretches of road.

A new lane in each direction between the CBD and Melbourne Airport will increase capacity by 30 per cent and shave 17 minutes off peak-hour trips. Coupled with a state-of-the-art freeway management system to manage traffic flow and incident response, Melbourne's drivers will get home to their families safer and sooner.

To get the job done, VicRoads has partnered with Transurban and is delivering an ambitious works program that sees crews maximise the use of night-time works to undertake construction while the roads are quieter.

All lanes are kept open during peak periods to minimise the impact on drivers.

At times, this means closing the freeway overnight — which is planned meticulously to ensure the impact on drivers is kept to a minimum. Drivers are kept informed of freeway closures via advertising, customer alerts, social media, the VicTraffic app and on-road signage of real-time travel information so that they can choose to take CityLink or seek an alternative route.

During a freeway closure, detour routes are clearly signposted and ample warning is provided on the road so drivers can choose to exit early.

CityLink customers pay a toll for the journey travelled, not the journey ahead. If a driver passes under a toll gantry and is then detoured off CityLink due to roadworks, that driver will not pay for the trip ahead.

We know that road works cause disruption for Melbourne's drivers, but they are necessary to improve the road network for our growing population. VicRoads and Transurban are doing all they can to keep drivers informed of the works so that they can get on with the job of delivering new lanes by 2018.

### **Ballarat railway station precinct**

**Raised with:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Raised by:** Mr Morris  
**Raised on:** 6 December 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is getting Ballarat back on track. The Ballarat Railway Station Precinct Redevelopment project will transform the site into a vibrant and accessible community, commercial and transport hub. It will inject up to \$44 million into the regional economy, increase visitation to the region, create employment opportunities and enhance the prosperity of the Ballarat community.

The redevelopment will deliver 420 secure, formalised car parking spaces within the precinct. 270 car parking spaces dedicated to commuters and another 150 spaces provided for general use, including by the hotel and conference centre patrons. In addition, the footings of the multi-story car park are being reinforced during construction to allow for future expansion should it be warranted by increasing demand.

### ***Risk***

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Sullivan  
**Raised on:** 6 December 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

Thank you for referring me to the book *Risk* by Ms Fleur Ferris and for highlighting the importance of educating children and young people on cybersafety (adjournment debate, 6 December 2016).

Schools pay a crucial role in keeping all children and young people safe and protected from bullying, sexual exploitation and grooming, both in the real world and online.

I agree with you that it is important that young people are informed of the dangers of online engagement with strangers, and that teachers have a role in raising awareness of this.

#### *Cybersafety*

The whole-of-government Keeping Children Safe from Sexual Exploitation Strategy aims to help prevent and protect children from sexual exploitation, and prosecute perpetrators who prey on vulnerable children. Much of this activity can begin online.

As part of its commitment to the Strategy, the Department of Education and Training has developed a suite of fact sheets specific to preventing, identifying and responding to sexual exploitation including grooming for universal use by all Victorian school-based staff, parents and carers, and young people.

These fact sheets complement the existing range of PROTECT and Bully Stoppers resources, professional development programs and training for school staff and allied health workforces that address issues such as online grooming and bullying already provided by the Department. These include:

- an \$11.5 million partnership with the Alannah and Madeline Foundation which has led to over 1600 Victorian schools participating in eSmart Schools, a framework that assists schools to develop a culture that promotes the safe, smart and responsible use of technology.
- a \$4.5 million investment in the Bully Stoppers initiative. The evidence-based Bully Stoppers online toolkit has been developed to support and empower everyone in the school community to prevent and respond to bullying, cyberbullying and inappropriate behaviours, including those that take place in the online environment. Bully Stoppers supports school communities to become aware of cybersafety issues for students. The online safety resources were developed in partnership with cybersafety experts including Robyn Treyvaud, Susan McLean and Andrew Fuller, as well as staff and students from Victorian schools.

### *Curriculum*

On your request to add *Risk* to the curriculum I note that Year 7 texts are not prescribed. Individual schools choose the books as a local school-based decision. Schools should select texts that have literary merit, are suitable for their student cohort and can effectively support the content of the curriculum.

Text lists are only prescribed for the Victorian Certificate of Education by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

### **School swimming program**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**  
**Raised by: Ms Bath**  
**Raised on: 6 December 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The development of swimming and water safety skills are important life skills to reduce the risk of drowning and injury. There were 43 drowning deaths in Victoria in the 12-month period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. This is five more than the 10-year average between 2005/6 to 2014/15.

The Victorian Curriculum F-10 will be implemented in government and Catholic schools in 2017 and includes water safety and swimming as part of the Health and Physical Education core curriculum area. Development of knowledge and skills relating to survival swimming and basic water safety can significantly reduce a child's drowning risk and enhance community safety.

Schools across the state are encouraged to form partnerships with neighbouring schools, organisations such as the YMCA and local providers to ensure children have access to swimming programs.

Individual schools are able to make decisions about how they incorporate water safety and swimming into their teaching and learning program.

The Andrews Labor Government delivered its \$148.3 million Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund last year to support the education of eligible students. This funding can be used for swimming programs and is available for eligible students in Government, Catholic and independent schools.

### Family violence

**Raised with:** Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence  
**Raised by:** Mr Eideh  
**Raised on:** 7 December 2016

#### REPLY:

I would like to thank the Member for raising the Community Partnership for Primary Prevention Grants with me. Our government is funding \$2.7 million to support the establishment and expansion of partnerships to coordinate and drive activities that prevent family violence.

As the Member is aware, no community is immune from family violence and it is essential that strategies to prevent violence are tailored to the diverse needs of each community. Through the program, grants of up to \$150 000 will be awarded for new or existing organisations seeking to form a local partnership and develop an action plan to drive primary prevention efforts at the local level, as well as up to \$50 000 for individual organisations.

I encourage you to promote these grants amongst your networks in the Western Metropolitan Region. Applications can be accessed at [www.vic.gov.au/women](http://www.vic.gov.au/women) and close on 15 February 2017.

### Mernda rail extension

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Raised on:** 7 December 2016

#### REPLY:

I would first like to thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan for his interest in the Andrews Labor Government's Mernda Rail Extension Project. This nearly \$600 million project will include 8 km of duplicated track between South Morang and Mernda. The three new stations are expected to be used by more than 8000 passengers a day.

We've designed the Mernda, Hawkstowe and Marymede stations using universal access principals. The new stations can accommodate people with a disability, the elderly, people with prams and children, people with luggage or shopping and more.

At Mernda and Hawkstowe stations we will install two oversized lifts with back-up power to ensure there is always access if one lift is not working.

At these two stations the platforms are around nine metres above the concourse (or as high as a three storey building). We did not design ramps because they would be over 170m long and would take a long time and a lot of energy for users to travel up a very long 170m ramp compared to a lift. A ramp of this length would also not meet the current PTV Vertical Access Guidelines for equitable access.

The project will meet the:

1. Disability Discrimination Act 1992 requirements,
2. Australian Standard AS1428 — Design for access and mobility,
3. Design Standards for Accessible Public Transport and
4. Public Transport Victoria's 2016 Vertical Access Requirements and Design Guide, which are based on universal design principles.

Accessible public transport benefits everyone involved. The design of these new stations, and associated infrastructure, aims to be inclusive and accessible to all Victorians.

**Motor vehicle registration concessions**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Dunn  
**Raised on:** 7 December 2016

**REPLY:**

Through the Road Safety (Vehicles) Regulations 2009, the Victorian Government allows vehicles used by or for incapacitated persons to be registered without a registration fee. Qualification for the nil registration fee varies according to the type of user, vehicle and extent of disability.

Exemptions from part or all of the motor vehicle duty are in the Duties Act 2000. VicRoads acts as an agent of the State Revenue Office (SRO) for the collection of motor vehicle duty. While the majority of motor vehicle duty exemptions for registration or transfer of registration can be automatically applied, some can only be obtained from the SRO directly. In other cases, system restrictions prevent VicRoads from applying the concession at time of registration and the applicant must apply to the SRO for a refund.

VicRoads will amend the information on its website to ensure that information regarding motor vehicle duty exemption entitlements on registration and transfer are detailed.

In relation to the process for establishing the identity of the registered operator, VicRoads has advised that it will retain the current requirements. While recognising the difficulties that may be encountered when an incapacitated person is unable to complete an Authority to Register, the current process ensures that the legal position of the incapacitated applicant is protected.

**Elevated rail construction safety**

**Raised with:** Minister for Finance  
**Raised by:** Mr Davis  
**Raised on:** 7 December 2016

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government and WorkSafe Victoria (WorkSafe) take every workplace incident seriously.

WorkSafe is satisfied that risks associated with the piling works on the Caulfield to Dandenong project are currently being adequately managed, and will maintain oversight of the project and continue to liaise with relevant contractors and employee representatives.

A WorkSafe inspector initially attended the Murrumbena level crossing removal site on 17 November 2016 to make enquiries about an incident in which a metal component of a piling rig disengaged and struck the roof of a house nearby. The specific component has since been removed from all four rigs being used on the project so there cannot be a repeat of that incident.

WorkSafe inspectors have made further visits to the site and reviewed documents relating to the safety critical aspects of the operations, including operator qualifications, exclusions zones, rig maintenance and inspection records and soil engineering reports to ensure stability of the rigs.

Consistent with its statutory obligations, WorkSafe has issued Entry Reports to relevant duty holders for each of the visits it has conducted.

Works involving large piling rigs are currently being undertaken at a number of locations on the Canfield to Dandenong project. Narrow constraints at various locations of the rail corridor often require rigs to work in close proximity to residences. I note that it is common practice for piling rigs to work right up to the boundary on many CBD construction sites.

The main contractor on the Caulfield to Dandenong project has employed a range of safety measures including notification of residents when rigs will be working in proximity to their homes and providing 'observers' to monitor backyards to ensure members of the public do not approach the rigs. In some instances temporary alternative accommodation is also offered to nearby residents.

WorkSafe has an established inspector team and a range of proactive safety programs targeting the construction sector, due to the high-risk nature of this industry. In 2015-16, WorkSafe conducted over 10 000 visits of construction workplaces.

### **Ballarat rail services**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Mr Morris**

**Raised on: 7 December 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government has announced 10 new services on the Ballarat line as part of its January 2017 regional timetable change. These services are part of the Government's 170 additional services funded in the 2016-17 State Budget.

The timetable change coincides with the opening of the new Caroline Springs Station, delivering train services to this booming community in Melbourne's west for the first time.

During the peak, Caroline Springs will be serviced by trains to and from Bacchus Marsh. This will mean no extra passengers on the busiest Ballarat services, ensuring more space for local passengers.

The Labor Government is also reducing crowding on Ballarat trains by adding new carriages.

We have ordered 48 new V/Locity carriages, the first six of which hit the network in November and were all added to Ballarat services.

The former Liberal and National Government didn't order a single new regional carriage in their first two years in office.

### **Ambulance services**

**Raised with: Minister for Emergency Services**

**Raised by: Ms Symes**

**Raised on: 7 December 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of volunteer firefighters of the Broadford and Tatura Country Fire Authority (CFA) Brigades who selflessly devote their time and skills to promote the safety and wellbeing of the community.

The CFA is currently sourcing suitable land for new stations at Broadford and Tatura, and this process will involve consultation with the community, including local brigades.

Emergency Management Victoria is also developing an Investment and Asset Strategy 2017-2027 that will establish a sector-wide framework that prioritises investments and actions relative to a community-centred, risk-based approach and emergency management reform objectives. The Strategy will consider current and future facility and equipment needs of emergency service organisations and identify opportunities for co-location and joined-up approaches.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

**Domain railway station**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Raised on:** 7 December 2016

**REPLY:**

The former Liberal Government scrapped the Metro Tunnel project leaving Victorians stuck in congestion for many more years.

The Andrews Government has fully funded the project and work has begun.

Although the Liberal Party decided not to put in a submission to the Environmental Effects Statement (EES), many Victorians did and these submissions are currently being assessed.

No trees on St Kilda road will be removed until the completion of the EES process.

The Member for Southern Metropolitan continually raises excuses to justify her opposition to this project and Victorians are very aware of the Opposition's continued calls for the project to be delayed.

The Andrews Government is delivering on our election commitments and will continue to work with all Victorians on this major project.

**Macedon district roads**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 8 December 2016

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government has guaranteed funding of at least \$1 billion over eight years for the upgrade and repair of unsafe and congested roads and level crossings across regional Victoria. The Government is also committed to working with local councils to identify road infrastructure needs in local communities.

To support this commitment, the Government has provided \$260 million to repair and upgrade unsafe and deteriorating roads across regional Victoria. The Government recently announced more than \$40 million to repair and rehabilitate arterial roads across north and north eastern Victoria to make regional roads safer and more reliable for drivers. A number of sites will receive major repairs and maintenance works including the Midland Highway and key rural roads including Bacchus Marsh-Gisborne Road.

The Federal Government also provides direct funding to local councils for the maintenance of local roads and bridges. These programs include the Roads to Recovery Programme and the Bridges Renewal Programme. The Federal Government also provides financial assistance grants to local councils that can be used for roads and for general purposes.

In addition to this maintenance expenditure, I recently approved \$2.18 million for an enhanced maintenance program to address road pavement conditions on roads favoured by motorcyclists. Many of these roads are in the northern Victoria electorate. In addition, eleven motorcycle specific projects totalling \$13 million to improve safety of road infrastructure have been approved in 2016. These projects include work to keep gravel off the road and improve the safety of existing guardrail with the fitting of rubrail guards, specifically designed for motorcyclist safety. Further motorcycle specific projects funded from the Motorcycle Safety Levy will be prepared for approval in 2017.



### **Santa's flight path**

**Raised with:** Premier  
**Raised by:** Ms Patten  
**Raised on:** 8 December 2016

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for bringing this important matter to my attention.

As always at this time of year, the necessary steps are taken to ensure safe passage of Santa and his sleigh.

When it comes to the environment, Victoria is definitely not on the naughty list. We are leading the nation when it comes to tackling climate change.

Have a safe and happy Christmas.

### **Sunbury rail line emergency access**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 8 December 2016

**REPLY:**

Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) maintains all of the land and assets it uses to operate train services (including vehicle access tracks) in a manner that ensures those services can be delivered in a lawful and safe manner.

To ensure that emergency services are able to respond to incidents which occur on the rail network, MTM engages with and shares its Emergency and Crisis Management Plan (Plan) with both Victoria Police and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Both Victoria Police and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade have also endorsed the Plan.

In addition, MTM meets regularly with Victoria Police and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and has recently developed an access map to support emergency services to identify the best locations to access the rail network when an incident may occur.

### **Child protection**

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Raised by:** Ms Springle  
**Raised on:** 8 December 2016

**REPLY:**

It is important that the case allocation rate is understood in the context of the increased reports to child protection, fuelled in part by the growing community awareness of the harms inflicted on children as a result of child abuse and family violence.

Reports to child protection have increased by 94 percent over the last five years.

All children whose cases are substantiated by child protection are overseen by a senior child protection worker. As such, there is always someone responsible for ensuring the needs of vulnerable children and young people in child protection are met.

Two additional Child Protection case support staff are currently employed across the Bayside Peninsula Area to support Child Protection practitioners to undertake case support work.

The Division has recently restructured the Bayside Peninsula Child Protection program to maximise the capacity and responsiveness within the Area. The new structure seeks to improve case allocation capacity and workflow. This new structure commenced in December 2016.

The Andrews Labor Government has recently committed funding for additional 150 case carrying Child Protection Practitioners to address the growth in Child Protection demand across Victoria. All Divisions have been initially allocated twenty five new case carrying Child Protection Practitioners from 20 December 2016 with a further staff allocation expected in January 2017. Within South Division seven of these new positions have been immediately allocated to Bayside Peninsula. South Division is currently recruiting to these positions.

### **Northern suburbs roads**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Raised on:** 8 December 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government recognises the need to improve the network in all key growth areas and, as such, is currently considering upgrades and maintenance.

As part of the infrastructure investments in Melbourne's outer north, the Victorian Government has announced funding of up to \$139.4 million for the upgrade of Plenty Road between McKimmies Road in Mill Park and Bridge Inn Road in Mernda.

The Victorian Government has also announced funding of \$131.2 million for the upgrade of Yan Yean Road between Diamond Creek Road and Kurrak Road in Plenty.

### **Berwick Secondary College**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mr Mulino  
**Raised on:** 8 December 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

I thank you for your strong advocacy for schools in Eastern Victoria, including Berwick Secondary College.

The Inclusive Schools Fund is a \$20 million fund designed to help make Victoria the Education State, providing Victorian government schools with quality new spaces and more inclusive facilities, based on best practice research and design.

It was my pleasure to recently announce successful applications to round 2 of the Inclusive Schools Fund. I am delighted to advise that Berwick Secondary College has been allocated \$195 100.00, to construct "The Womenjeka Centre" under round two of the fund.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust this information is of assistance.

### Country Fire Authority volunteers

**Raised with:** Minister for Emergency Services  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 8 December 2016

#### REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government greatly appreciates the selfless contribution made by career and volunteer firefighters of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to keep Victorian communities safe.

As with any Government building, CFA has security arrangements in place at its Headquarters in Burwood East.

Further, the Secondary State Control Centre is located at Burwood East and it is appropriate that there are security arrangements in place for this building.

This was a routine security upgrade undertaken by CFA Infrastructure Services as part of normal business processes.

Of course CFA volunteers are welcome to attend Headquarters, and arrangements will continue to be made to ensure they are able to do this.

### Interfaith Centre of Melbourne

**Raised with:** Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
**Raised by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Raised on:** 8 December 2016

#### REPLY:

The Victorian Government has a long-standing commitment to funding interfaith activities that foster and support community harmony and social cohesion in Victoria.

The Interfaith Centre's application to the 2016/17 Community Harmony Grants Program was assessed by a panel of representatives from the Victorian Multicultural Commission, the previous Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, local government and external organisations. The grants program was highly competitive with a high number of applications received.

In consideration of the Interfaith Centre's request and its ongoing commitment to interfaith activities in Victoria, I have requested representatives from the Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division to liaise directly with Ms Helen Summers.

### Victims of crime financial assistance

**Raised with:** Premier  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Raised on:** 8 December 2016

#### REPLY:

The Victorian Government acknowledges the significant hardship caused by the tragic loss of Korinne Aylward and Greg Tucker.

The Government will therefore provide financial support to assist Ms Marie Aylward & Ms Katelyn Dolman to care for Callum, Ryan and Grace. Officials from my Department are currently working with Ms Aylward and Ms Dolman to finalise this matter.

**School cleaners**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Ms Pennicuik  
**Raised on:** 8 December 2016

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

We value our school cleaners and the work they do, and it's concerning to hear reports that some cleaners may have been underpaid.

The Department of Education and Training has a robust framework which all Victorian Government schools must both use and comply with when engaging firms to clean Victorian government schools. The framework establishes the process, standards, criteria for use and entry onto the Cleaning Panel. At the core of the framework is a panel agreement which provides the key criteria and standards for cleaning Victorian Government Schools.

Entry onto the panel requires the requisite level of technical expertise, safety and quality assurance, labour practices, regulatory compliance, appropriate management and the skills to undertake and provide cleaning services. Cleaning contractors must meet strict standards on safety and quality assurance, labour and management practices and regulatory compliance.

The engagement of cleaning contractors is a school-based decision made locally by school councils, which is managed by a robust centralised framework. When selecting an appropriate cleaning contractor, school principals are also expected to review pricing structures contained in cleaning tenders to ensure quoted prices reflect the likely cost of service provision, taking into account relevant pay rates and the expected time cleaning will take.

The Department provides advice and support to schools in engaging contract cleaners in accordance with the requirements of the Cleaning Panel.

Cleaners who are concerned about being underpaid should immediately contact the Department of Education and Training's School Cleaning Contract Unit to investigate.

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Wednesday, 8 February 2017**

**The Bubble student support centre**

**Raised with:** Minister for Training and Skills  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 8 December 2016

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

Students at Federation Training will continue to have access to student services.

Federation Training has reviewed the effectiveness of the Bubble, and has made the decision to move towards an integrated support service with help in every class at every campus, as opposed to standalone centres. This decision is anticipated to help address student retention rates, and is an important step in achieving better student outcomes. You can have confidence in the student services being offered in 2017 at Federation Training.

Through the Skills and Jobs Centres Federation Training is working closely with the Latrobe Valley Authority to ensure workers affected by the closure of Hazelwood receive individualised support and advice where requested. Federation Training will deploy additional staff to further strengthen their capacity to provide support in the Skills and Jobs Centres to meet demand. These centres provide a valuable service in connecting local students into training and then into employment.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Thursday, 9 February 2017**

**Broadford Community Centre**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government  
**Raised by:** Ms Symes  
**Raised on:** 22 November 2016

**REPLY:**

Thank you for your question regarding the Broadford Community Centre.

I am proud to confirm a \$565 000 contribution was granted to the Broadford Community Centre from the 2016/17 Growing Suburbs Fund. I thank the Member for Northern Victoria for announcing this funding on my behalf. The project will transform the Broadford Community Centre into a modern community facility designed to respond to the changing needs of the expanding Broadford community.

In addition to the Broadford Community Centre, Mitchell Shire will receive \$2.14 million for the construction of a new community centre in the Mandalay Estate, and \$2.19 million to deliver a new town centre in Wallan.

In total, Mitchell Shire Council was successful in securing almost \$4.90 million from the 2016/17 Growing Suburbs Fund for three projects. This is in addition to the \$3.5 million Mitchell received for five projects in 2015/16.

I note that the Member for Northern Victoria has been a strong advocate, for this project. I would like to again thank her for her advocacy and I look forward to working closely with local members and local governments to deliver positive outcomes for communities.

**North Road, Ormond, level crossing**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 6 December 2016

**REPLY:**

The government's 2014 election platform included a commitment to actively pursue appropriate development opportunities on newly available land created by the removal of level crossings. Importantly, the proceeds generated from these development opportunities will be reinvested back into further improvements to the public transport system.

In September 2015, I gave further effect to the government's commitment by establishing an independent advisory committee to provide a consistent and transparent process for considering these development opportunities.

A consortium of John Holland and KBR was awarded the contract to deliver the North Road, Ormond level crossing removal works in June 2015. The consortium included details of an integrated development opportunity as part of its tender submission. This included an indicative development proposal prepared by the consulting private sector developer, Deal Corporation (DealCorp). This indicative proposal established the viability of an integrated development at Ormond.

A proposal for Ormond Station is currently being considered by the independent advisory committee. Submissions on the proposal were invited from 25 October 2016 to 9 December 2016 and a Directions Hearing was held on 20 December 2016. The Public Hearing commences the week of 13 February 2017.

I am responsible for considering the advisory committee report on the appropriateness of the proposal for Ormond Station.