

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**9, 10 and 11 May 2017**

**(Extract from book 8)**

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## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

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(from 10 November 2016)

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Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections . . . . .	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning . . . . .	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Ms M. Thomas, MP

### Legislative Council committees

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

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

### Legislative Council standing committees

**Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure** — #Mr Barber, Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr 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** — #Mr Barber, #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmr, Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Donohue, 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*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Patten, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing. (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr 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

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**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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

<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



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**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Tuesday, 9 May 2017**

**Sexual harassment and assault in licensed venues**

**Raised with:** Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation  
**Raised by:** Ms Springle  
**Raised on:** 7 February 2017

**REPLY:**

The Sexual Harassment and Assault in Licensed Venues Taskforce was established by this government in response to concerns about sexual assault and harassment in licensed venues.

The Taskforce has developed a plan of action to ensure that staff in licensed venues are better equipped to, manage incidents occurring at their venue.

The Andrews Government has already committed funding towards progressing the work of the Taskforce. This funding will deliver a pilot in nine Victorian live music venues that includes staff training and awareness-raising materials. Importantly, the pilot will be evaluated to help inform any future measures adopted by industry to address sexual harassment and assault occurring in their venues.

We aim to launch the pilot around the middle of the year.

**Endeavour Hills police station**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Raised on:** 21 February 2017

**REPLY:**

Victoria Police has advised that a trial took place at Endeavour Hills Police Station between 6 November 2016 and 6 February 2017, in which public counter service on Saturdays and Sundays was restricted to the hours between 9am and 5pm. The weekday counter service was maintained and available from 7am to 11pm. Outside of these hours, any member of the public who attended the station was able to use an intercom which connected them to police at Narre Warren Police Station.

During the trial, the Endeavour Hills area continued to receive a 24-hour police response to calls for assistance.

I am informed that the trial was designed to establish, and evaluate, the outcomes of expanded operational patrols resulting from police officers being released from counter service duties and deployed to where they are needed most — in the community and on the roads.

Victoria Police advises that as a result of the trial, 48 police officers, making up 24 patrol units, were made available for targeted patrols, attending 274 events that were despatched through the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority. While these events would otherwise still have been responded to, police were able to do so more quickly as a result of resource availability.

During the trial, a vehicle registration and status check was conducted on 252 vehicles by police while patrolling the roads with 75 of these vehicles subsequently stopped. These 75 incidents are included in the total 306 incidents of public contact recorded by police while the trial was being conducted. It is the view of Victoria Police that the number of public contact incidents is significantly higher than it would have otherwise been had the additional patrol units not been made available.

Twenty Five offenders were identified during the trial, including those suspected of traffic offences, some of these having been identified by the additional patrolling units.

An additional two Police Sergeants from Endeavour Hills were also available each weekend for the supervision of operational shifts across the Police Service Area and Police Division.

The trial is now in an evaluation and community consultation phase and following this, a report outlining the recommendations will be developed. Victoria Police will provide The Police Association and the City of Casey with the outcomes of the evaluation when they become available.

### **Gatwick Hotel**

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

#### **REPLY:**

I can confirm that your letter of 16 January 2017, requesting information on attendance by Victoria Police at the Gatwick Hotel in St Kilda was responded to on 27 February 2017.

The information you seek is available through the Corporate Statistics Unit of Victoria Police.

### **North Road, Ormond, level crossing**

**Raised with:** Minister for Water  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 21 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Melbourne Water has developed a flood warning system for parts of the Elster Creek including Ormond. The system is in a testing phase, and was used to issue flash flood alerts during the flood on 29 December 2016.

In May 2016, VicSES completed flood education doorknocks in the Ormond and McKinnon area as part of the VicSES/Melbourne Water Partnership and VicSES FloodSafe program. The Glen Eira Unit volunteers delivered doorknocks in McKinnon (628) and Murrumbeena (198), focussing on residential properties that have been identified as being at risk of flooding during significant weather events. A further 1926 properties received a flood information pack that included the Home Emergency Plan, Emergency Toolkit Flipchart and a letter to the resident.

Following the flooding event, Melbourne Water has been meeting with residents, councils and local members across its operating area to understand and discuss flooding concerns and impacts. This includes councils, residents and a local Member of Parliament in the Elster Creek catchment. Melbourne Water and the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) are continuing to work together to ensure the drainage system is functioning as it should.

At the request of Member of Parliament, Mr Nick Staikos, and residents, Melbourne Water and LXRA will provide further information to residents as it becomes available.

**North Road, Ormond, level crossing**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 23 February 2017

**REPLY:**

The previous Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Frankston line. In contrast, the Andrews Government is removing 13, with three already gone.

The area that flooded on 29 December 2016 in McKinnon and Ormond is located within the flood prone Elwood Canal Catchment recognised by Melbourne Water. This is reflected in the Glen Eira Planning Scheme, which identifies the area as subject to flooding.

The Member for Bentleigh, Nick Staikos, has been working very proactively with residents, the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA), Melbourne Water and my office on this matter.

Melbourne Water and LXRA continue to investigate drainage issues with Melbourne Water conducting its own review of the flood plain. The LXRA and Melbourne Water will continue to communicate directly with the community on this matter.

**Gender equality**

**Raised with:** Minister for Sport  
**Raised by:** Mr Elasmarr  
**Raised on:** 8 March 2017

**REPLY:**

I am committed to working in partnership with Minister Richardson to create gender equality and address family violence in Victoria by using community sport and recreation as a powerful vehicle for social change. My portfolio is contributing to this important work by increasing participation of and leadership by women and girls in sport and active recreation.

Last year I received the final report of the Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation — a five year game plan for Victoria (the Game Plan Inquiry), which found that women are under-represented in the sport and recreation sector, particularly in leadership roles.

The Game Plan Inquiry made nine recommendations to change this culture by increasing leadership and participation opportunities for women and girls in sport and active recreation. The Andrews Labor Government has started implementing all nine recommendations, with \$1 million allocated through the sport portfolio to assist with this work.

Last November I launched the Change our Game campaign to inspire and motivate the sport and recreation sector, as well as state and local government, to increase leadership and participation by women and girls, which includes a website and social media campaign.

In addition, \$10 million has been committed for the development of women's change facilities under the Female Friendly Facilities category of the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund.

Funding has also been made available to 41 sport and active recreation sector organisations through the Supporting Victorian Sport and Recreation Program to deliver innovative projects addressing many of the Inquiry's recommendations.

I look forward to continuing this work to support gender equality and ensuring that all Victorians are treated with respect and fairness.

I would like to thank you for the invitation to join you in the Northern Metropolitan Region to promote the importance of these initiatives to clubs and would ask you to contact my office to discuss the invitation.

### **Levee bank maintenance**

**Raised with:** Minister for Water  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

As the levee banks in the Strathmerton area are not currently maintained by any authority, the future levee maintenance arrangements are being determined by the revised Regional Floodplain Management Strategy, an initiative instigated by the Andrews Labor Government. The following two future arrangements, as outlined in the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, are being considered:

1. A landowner or a group of landowners can maintain the levees themselves by obtaining a levee maintenance permit from the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.
2. A Local Government Authority can maintain the levees.

Where a Local Government Authority maintains the levee, the Australian and Victorian Governments may fund up to two thirds of the capital cost for major renewal and/or refurbishment works. This capital funding is subject to a benefit-cost assessment, community engagement and support, and the Local Government Authority funding the remaining one third of the capital costs plus all ongoing maintenance costs.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, in partnership with relevant local government authorities and emergency services, are preparing the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy. Landholders can contact the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority to provide their input to the regional strategy.

The owner of the penstocks is responsible for its operation. VICSES can be contacted on ph: 132500, if there is a landholder concern in the case of an impending flooding.

### **Toll road debt collection**

**Raised with:** Attorney-General  
**Raised by:** Ms Dunn  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

In 1995, the State of Victoria and Transurban City Link Ltd entered into a Concession Deed where Transurban would build, own, operate and transfer the City Link tollway and Exhibition Street extension. In 2004, a similar Concession Deed was entered into with ConnectEast Ltd to operate EastLink. These require anyone travelling on a toll road to pay the relevant fee.

As part of these Concession Deeds it was agreed that the State would enforce unpaid tolling amounts. These arrangements are reflected in the Melbourne City Link Act 1995 and the EastLink Project Act 2004, which are both administered by the Minister for Roads and Road Safety.

The requirement to pay a toll fee is well publicised and motorists actively choose to drive on toll roads. Toll roads are also clearly signposted and motorists can elect whether to use the road or not.

A program of reform of the infringements system that started with the passage of the Fines Reform Act 2014 (Fines Reform) will be rolled out this year. Fines Reform will bring significant improvements to the infringements system including new initiatives targeted at disadvantaged members of our community such as payment arrangements which will enable fines to be collated into a single payment, and a new IT system which will improve the administration of fines.

**Youth justice centre staff**

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

**REPLY:**

Physical and sexual violence is not acceptable in any workplace, including in youth justice facilities. Female and male youth justice staff receive the same training in relation to the negotiation and management of challenging behaviours.

The Department of Justice and Regulation (the Department) advises that youth justice custodial staff must report all allegations and incidents suspected to be of a criminal nature to Victoria Police.

While I am advised that lewd remarks made by young offenders toward staff have been an issue for many years, they are completely unacceptable.

The youth justice workforce is supported in their psychological and emotional wellbeing through a dedicated staff wellbeing Program. This Program aims to create a continuum of care where staff are supported in times of distress but it is also focused on assisting staff in working pro-actively to develop an understanding of their mental health needs. Staff are also able to access support through the Department's Employee Assistance Program.

The Department is currently implementing a new client behaviour management model to establish a consistent behaviour management approach across all three youth justice precincts. Under the new model, difficult behaviours are dealt with through a consequences and rewards system that draws on national and international evidence and best practice. It has been developed in consultation with frontline staff.

As you are aware, additional staff have also been deployed to youth justice custodial facilities to provide additional support and security.

Furthermore, the government will introduce legislation to ensure that any assault on a staff member in youth justice will impact the young offender's sentence and parole.

**North Road, Ormond, level crossing**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 21 March 2017

**REPLY:**

The previous Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Frankston line. In contrast, the Andrews Government is removing 13, with three already gone.

The area that flooded on 29 December 2016 in McKinnon and Ormond is located within the flood prone Elwood Canal Catchment recognised by Melbourne Water. This is reflected in the Glen Eira Planning Scheme, which identifies the area as subject to flooding.

The Member for Bentleigh, Nick Staikos, has been working very proactively with residents, the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA), Melbourne Water and my office on this matter.

Melbourne Water and LXRA continue to investigate drainage issues with Melbourne Water conducting its own review of the flood plain. The LXRA and Melbourne Water will continue to communicate directly with the community on this matter.

**Seymour Justice Service Centre**

**Raised with:** Minister for Corrections  
**Raised by:** Ms Symes  
**Raised on:** 22 March 2017

**REPLY:**

I thank the Honourable Member for the invitation to join her on a visit to the Seymour Justice Centre, and am pleased to advise that I will be visiting there on Thursday 1 June 2017.

Seymour Community Correctional Services has three full-time staff who manage approximately 130 offenders. The Seymour office is a key centre within the Hume Region of the Department of Justice and Regulation. It has an extensive catchment area with offenders residing from Nagambie to Kinglake and from Broadford to Euroa.

Recent additional funding by the Andrews Labor Government has provided for two additional staff at Seymour, which will allow more outreach work and access to additional programs for offenders.

In its regional programs, Corrections Victoria is committed where appropriate to involving offenders in making reparation to the community. There is a wide range of local community work sites across the region that benefit the community and offenders.

I look forward to visiting the Seymour Justice Centre and having the opportunity to meet with the dedicated staff there, in the company of the Honourable Member for Northern Victoria.

**Western Metropolitan Region crime**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Mr Melhem  
**Raised on:** 22 March 2017

**REPLY:**

I thank Mr Melhem for his question and for his support of the Andrews Labor Government's plan to keep Victorians safe through our efforts to prevent, detect and disrupt crime. The Government continues to support Victoria Police in a joint effort to reduce crime in all communities in Victoria. We are working together to address the root causes of crime and increase public safety.

In December 2016, I announced that the Andrews Labor Government is investing \$10 million over two years to help tackle youth crime through three streams of funding to support appropriately tailored community-led interventions to address youth offending.

Funding for the Youth Crime Prevention Grants program includes \$6.5 million across eight priority communities with higher crime rates and higher proportions of recidivist youth offenders. The funding includes Hume and Wyndham in the western region.

Hume and Wyndham will each receive \$700 000 in funding to support community partnerships to tackle youth offending in those areas. I am advised that these communities are currently developing their project proposals.

Under the competitive grants program, \$2 million has been allocated to communities identified as experiencing significant socio-economic disadvantage and higher levels of crime. This competitive stream of grants is open to applications from all Victorian communities other than those eight municipalities receiving direct investment. Under these grants, 10 communities have been identified as priority areas for investment, including Brimbank and Melton. Applications closed on 3 March 2017. A total of 55 applications are currently being assessed by my department.

In addition, funding of \$1.5 million is also being directly allocated to Koori Youth Crime Prevention Grants. These grants acknowledge that young Koori people have disproportionately high rates of disadvantage and are

significantly over-represented in the criminal justice system. Applications across each Victorian region are currently being assessed by my department.

These grants are part of the Community Crime Prevention Program, which helps promote community safety and prevent crime in communities across Victoria. This funding will help make communities, such as those in the west, safer by intervening early, diverting young people from crime, and getting them more involved in their local areas.





**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Wednesday, 10 May 2017**

**Wyndham City Council**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 22 March 2017

**REPLY:**

The Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate is an independent integrity agency responsible for examining and investigating matters relating to councils' operations, council elections or electoral matters, and prosecuting offences under the Local Government Act 1989.

The Inspectorate has publicly confirmed it is investigating matters related to Wyndham City Council and it would not be appropriate for me to comment further while the investigation is being conducted.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Thursday, 11 May 2017**

**Family violence emergency relief**

**Raised with:** Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 7 March 2017

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for raising Women's Health West and the administration of crisis relief with me.

Family violence continues to be one of the most significant issues that we face as a community. As the Member is aware, family violence is incredibly complex and each victim requires tailored support to help them overcome their experience. That is why a whole-of-government approach has been adopted to implement every single one of the Royal Commission into Family Violence's recommendations.

As the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, I am leading state-wide initiatives to help prevent family violence before it starts. As part of this work, I recently launched Free from Violence — Victoria's strategy to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women (the Strategy). The Strategy builds on a range of efforts made across our state, especially by women's health organisations, to prevent family violence.

The specific delivery of Flexible Support Packages for those experiencing family violence falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Families and Children. The Member may wish to raise this matter with the Minister.

**Anakie Youang heritage listing**

**Raised with:** Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 22 March 2017

**REPLY:**

I thank the Honourable Member for raising this issue.

The Government is strongly committed to the protection and management of Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage. This commitment is demonstrated by our recent amendments to the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 improving the protection of Victoria's unique Aboriginal cultural heritage. This includes stone artefacts, rock art sites, Aboriginal Ancestral burials and significant cultural places.

My Department undertook a thorough and independent investigation into the claim of the Aboriginal significance of Anakie Youang. The result of that investigation was that Anakie Youang was placed on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register in July 2015 as an Aboriginal place of contemporary, social, historical, anthropological and spiritual significance to Aboriginal people, specifically, to the Wadawurrung people.

Aerolite Quarries Pty Ltd sought a declaration in the Supreme Court that Anakie Youang is not an Aboriginal place. This action was settled on 27 July 2016.

As part of the settlement, the Department is undertaking a reconsideration of the decision to include Anakie Youang on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register. Anakie Youang will remain on the Register whilst this process continues.

This is an extremely complex issue involving the recording of Aboriginal oral tradition and many contradictory expert reports.

This reconsideration process inevitably takes time and necessitates proper consultation. The Department has been particularly careful throughout the process to provide parties with an equal opportunity to respond to various documents throughout the reconsideration process.

I should note that Aerolite Quarries Pty Ltd applied for a cultural heritage permit to enable its existing quarrying activities to continue. These existing quarrying activities are on the scoria cones, which constitute the Aboriginal place.

The Department granted the permit on 6 January 2016. The permit allows the existing and some future quarrying activity to occur, but includes restrictions designed to minimise harm to the Aboriginal place. Aerolite Quarries Pty Ltd has also appealed these conditions to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The matter is due to be heard later this year.

I am unable to respond to your assertion regarding the City of Greater Geelong's understanding of the matter as I am not certain what planning application you referred to in your question.

As the Department is still undertaking its reconsideration of the decision following the Supreme Court settlement, it would not be reasonable to the affected parties — the Wadawurrung people and Aerolite — to review a process that has not concluded.