

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

19, 20 and 21 June 2018

(Extract from book 9)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable KEN LAY, AO, APM

The ministry

(from 16 October 2017)

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Premier | The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP |
| Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services | The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP |
| Treasurer and Minister for Resources | The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP |
| Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects | The Hon. J. Allan, MP |
| Minister for Industry and Employment | The Hon. B. A. Carroll, MP |
| Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy, and Minister for Small Business | 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 Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence | The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP |
| Special Minister of State | The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC |
| Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and Minister for Local Government | The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP |
| Minister for Families and Children, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth Affairs | The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC |
| Minister for Police and Minister for Water | The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP |
| Attorney-General and Minister for Racing | The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP |
| Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development | The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC |
| Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs | The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP |
| Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections | The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC |
| Minister for Planning | The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP |
| Cabinet Secretary | Ms M. Thomas, MP |

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Mr Dalidakis, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Springle, Ms Symes 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, #Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning — Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, #Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, #Dr Ratnam, #Ms Symes, Ms Truong and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, Ms Fitzherbert, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Dr Ratnam, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing, Mr Somyurek, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

Port of Melbourne Select Committee — Mr Mulino, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

Fire Services Bill Select Committee — Ms Lovell, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Rich Phillips, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Noonan and Ms Thomson.

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

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

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

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

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

House Committee — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms 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*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Gepp. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Ms Patten, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing. (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath and Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Blandthorn, Mr J. Bull, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

Council — Acting Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

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The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

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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:

Dr S. RATNAM

| Member | Region | Party | Member | Region | Party |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman | Eastern Metropolitan | LP | Mikakos, Ms Jenny | Northern Metropolitan | ALP |
| Barber, Mr Gregory John ¹ | Northern Metropolitan | Greens | Morris, Mr Joshua | Western Victoria | LP |
| Bath, Ms Melina ² | Eastern Victoria | Nats | Mulino, Mr Daniel | Eastern Victoria | ALP |
| Bourman, Mr Jeffrey | Eastern Victoria | SFFP | O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁸ | Eastern Victoria | Nats |
| Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ³ | Western Metropolitan | AC | O'Donohue, Mr Edward John | Eastern Victoria | LP |
| Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary | Southern Metropolitan | LP | Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip | Northern Metropolitan | LP |
| Dalidakis, Mr Philip | Southern Metropolitan | ALP | O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁹ | Northern Victoria | Nats |
| Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon | Eastern Metropolitan | LP | Patten, Ms Fiona ¹⁰ | Northern Metropolitan | RV |
| Davis, Mr David McLean | Southern Metropolitan | LP | Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret | Southern Metropolitan | Greens |
| Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ⁴ | 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 | VILJ |
| Elasmr, Mr Nazih | Northern Metropolitan | ALP | Ramsay, Mr Simon | Western Victoria | LP |
| Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C. | Western Metropolitan | LP | Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini ¹¹ | Northern Metropolitan | Greens |
| Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret | Southern Metropolitan | LP | Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth | South Eastern Metropolitan | LP |
| Gepp, Mr Mark ⁵ | Northern Victoria | ALP | Shing, Ms Harriet | Eastern Victoria | ALP |
| Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred ⁷ | Western Metropolitan | Greens | Somyurek, Mr Adem | South Eastern Metropolitan | ALP |
| Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁶ | Northern Victoria | ALP | Springle, Ms Nina | South Eastern Metropolitan | Greens |
| Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne | South Eastern Metropolitan | ALP | Symes, Ms Jaclyn | Northern Victoria | ALP |
| Leane, Mr Shaun Leo | Eastern Metropolitan | ALP | Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne | Western Victoria | ALP |
| Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann | Northern Victoria | LP | Truong, Ms Huong ¹² | Western Metropolitan | Greens |
| Melhem, Mr Cesar | Western Metropolitan | ALP | Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling | Eastern Metropolitan | LP |
| | | | Young, Mr Daniel | Northern Victoria | SFFP |

¹ Resigned 28 September 2017

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ DLP until 26 June 2017

⁴ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁶ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁷ Resigned 9 February 2018

⁸ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁹ Appointed 12 October 2016

¹⁰ ASP until 16 January 2018

¹¹ Appointed 18 October 2017

¹² Appointed 21 February 2018

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

AC — Australian Conservatives; ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals; RV — Reason Victoria
SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; VILJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

CONTENTS

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 2018

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <i>The Babes Project</i> | 3119 |
| <i>Ballarat railway station precinct</i> | 3119 |
| <i>Grahamvale Primary School</i> | 3120 |
| <i>Eastern Metropolitan Region sporting clubs</i> | 3121 |
| <i>Broadford Football Netball Club</i> | 3121 |
| <i>Petitions</i> | 3123 |
| <i>Bus contracts</i> | 3123 |
| <i>Ballarat level crossings</i> | 3123 |
| <i>Shepparton bypass</i> | 3124 |
| <i>Yarra Boulevard, Kew</i> | 3125 |
| <i>Menzies Creek Primary School</i> | 3125 |
| <i>Northern Metropolitan Region sporting facilities</i> | 3125 |
| <i>Lincoln Road, Essendon</i> | 3126 |
| <i>Brown Coal Innovation Australia</i> | 3127 |
| <i>State Sports Centre Trust</i> | 3127 |
| <i>Yarra Valley Water waste-to-energy facility</i> | 3128 |

WEDNESDAY, 20 JUNE 2018

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <i>Sunbury Road duplication</i> | 3129 |
| <i>Eastern Victoria Region public transport</i> | 3130 |
| <i>Southern Metropolitan Region sporting facilities</i> | 3130 |

THURSDAY, 21 JUNE 2018

| | |
|----------------------------------------|------|
| <i>Hazelwood Pondage</i> | 3131 |
| <i>Greater glider protection</i> | 3131 |

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Tuesday, 19 June 2018

The Babes Project

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 7 February 2018

REPLY:

The Babes Project works alongside a growing network of services to provide vulnerable women and families additional support through pregnancy and in the early years.

A strong universal service system delivering early and ongoing access to care and support during pregnancy and continuing into the postnatal period as well as the early childhood and school years is fundamental to the long-term health and wellbeing of women and babies.

Across Victoria, including in our growing western metropolitan suburbs, expansion of both our universal and targeted early years services are ensuring that more women and young families get the help they need as they transition to parenthood.

Expansion of the enhanced maternal and child health services in the 2017-18 State Budget will see 37 000 families provided additional support during the first three years. Doubling of the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies program from nine to 18 sites in 2016-17 is ensuring that more women facing disadvantage or vulnerability are provided the assistance and support they need to access maternity, maternal child health and other specialist services, with three sites operating in Melbourne's west.

Now available in each of the 17 Department of Health and Human Services Areas, the Cradle to Kinder program is delivering intensive support and care over four years to very vulnerable young women and families at risk of entering or escalating within the child protection system. Flexible, holistic and culturally safe pregnancy and postnatal care for Aboriginal women, babies and families living in western metropolitan Melbourne is provided through the Koori Maternity Service program.

Together these services are seeing more women and families get the help they need to protect and care for their children; and I thank the member for the Western Metropolitan Region for his interest in the services and support available for Victoria's women, families and children.

Ballarat railway station precinct

Raised with: Minister for Regional Development
Raised by: Mr Morris
Raised on: 1 May 2018

REPLY:

I am pleased to report that there has been significant progress at the Ballarat Station precinct site, with major soil excavation for the 405-space commuter car park now complete.

Regional Development Victoria has requested Pellicano investigate matters relating to soil transportation on site.

Regional Development Victoria has sighted a thorough geotechnical soil analysis report prepared for Pellicano conducted earlier this year for the commuter car park site.

It was noted in the geotechnical soil report that "Category C" soil concentrations present at site do not present an acute health risk.

As verified through a thorough review of implemented operational procedures and in accordance with Worksafe practices, Pellicano has assured me that all relevant safety procedures were adhered to during excavation and transportation of soil from the site.

Further investigation has since confirmed that there has been significant soil transportation from the site between 18 April 2018 and 24 April 2018 with over 8000 cubic meters of clean soil removed from site. All material was disposed of utilising common soil transport procedures by which trucks do not require covering for this clean soil.

Soil movements from 26 April 2018 onwards that did involve some contaminated Category C material was completed in accordance with relevant EPA procedures including the use of EPA licenced and covered trucks for transport.

Pellicano has also installed an air monitoring system which tracks air quality on site which has yielded results of fair or better during this time well within the acceptable EPA range.

We do understand the frustration that the community may have felt due to large volumes of soil being transported prior to the publicly communicated soil transport start date of 26 April. Pellicano has apologised for any inconvenience caused and have given strong assurances that such an occurrence will not happen again.

Grahamvale Primary School

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 8 May 2018

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Andrews Labor Government. This has been demonstrated through our last four State Budgets that delivered the largest ever investment in Victorian school infrastructure, allocating more than \$3.8 billion to build, upgrade and maintain schools across the state. This funding means that 70 new school projects are now completed or underway.

Across the State Electorate of Shepparton Labor has now invested more than \$37.7 million into local school infrastructure. This compares to an unacceptable \$1.7 million for some minor maintenance across the electorate under the former Liberal and National government.

I find it encouraging that you are now taking an 'interest' in local schools given you neglected them and ignored their needs when you had the chance.

Developing a new school is a significant investment and involves a number of stages to ensure that public money is invested in the right place at the right time. The Department of Education and Training's state-wide school planning process involves an annual in-depth analysis of demographic data and enrolments at existing schools. Part of this analysis is to assess whether sufficient existing and future capacity can be met by expanding existing schools' infrastructure potential.

Regarding the expansion of Grahamvale Primary School in the Shepparton area, I am aware of Grahamvale Primary School's needs, and on 18 April 2018 the Department made a submission in relation to the recently exhibited Shepparton North East Precinct Structure Plan, indicating that it recognises the impact of the proposed development on the existing Grahamvale Primary School, and acknowledging that an expansion of the Grahamvale Primary School site could potentially ameliorate issues which may arise in the future such as potential future growth in student enrolment triggered by future development.

The Government will continue to monitor the need for this site expansion and additional school capacity in this location in order to ensure options for providing sufficient government primary places in Shepparton area will receive fair and equitable consideration through the State Budget process.

Eastern Metropolitan Region sporting clubs

Raised with: Minister for Sport
Raised by: Mr Leane
Raised on: 9 May 2018

REPLY:

I refer to your adjournment debate matter regarding a request for information sessions to be held in the Eastern Metropolitan Region for sporting clubs to discuss the funding opportunities available. Firstly, I'd like to commend you on your commitment to advocating the importance of sport and recreation in your electorate.

As you may be aware, Sport and Recreation Victoria of the Department of Health and Human Services is holding information sessions on funding opportunities and the new Fair Play Code across metropolitan and regional Victoria, including the Eastern Metropolitan Region, which was held on 14 May 2018 at the Coopersmith Pavilion, Ringwood East.

At these sessions brief overviews, case studies and guidance will be provided on current funding opportunities for community sport including:

For women:

- Community activation grants
- Workforce development grants
- Female friendly facilities fund
- Gender equality in sport & recreation pilot program

Infrastructure:

- Community sports infrastructure fund
- Better indoor stadiums fund
- World game facilities fund

Equipment:

- Emergency grant equipment program
- Defibrillators for sporting clubs & facilities program

There will also be a presentation on the new Fair Play Code of conduct for sport and recreation in Victoria which updates the Victorian Code of Conduct for Community Sport introduced in 2010.

Broadford Football Netball Club

Raised with: Minister for Sport
Raised by: Ms Symes
Raised on: 9 May 2018

REPLY:

I refer to your adjournment debate matter regarding the Broadford Football and Netball Club. Firstly, I'd like to commend you on your commitment to advocating the importance of sport and recreation in your electorate.

Providing high quality sport and recreation infrastructure is a key aim of the Victorian Government, and is integral to the health and well-being of all Victorians.

Since 2014, the Andrews Labor Government have made new investments totalling \$1.33 billion.

This includes:

- \$578 million towards community sporting infrastructure and programs across the state.
- \$758 million towards major event and high-performance facilities to maintain Victoria's position as the sporting capital.

This is a 228 per cent increase over the previous four years (2010-2014).

On 13 April 2018 I announced a government commitment of \$241 million for community sport, including \$60 million for the continuation of the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund and another \$15 million for the Female Friendly Facilities Fund.

The existing \$9 million Country Football and Netball Program provides funding through local governments to country football and netball clubs to upgrade their local facilities.

In addition the Victorian Government also provides funding through existing programs including the \$22 million Better Indoor Stadiums Fund and The World Game Facilities Fund which has funding of \$2.5 million.

The Change Our Game campaign is designed to work in partnership with the sport and recreation sector to deliver an equal playing field for Victorian women and girls from grassroots through to elite levels.

The Office for Women in Sport and Recreation leads the delivery of this campaign, assisting industry organisations to collectively create more leadership opportunities and pathways for women and girls in sport and recreation.

The \$100 000 Change Our Game Community Activation Grants program is an example of a recent funding opportunity available to clubs such as Broadford Football Netball Club. This program offers grants of up to \$5000 to support initiatives that bring communities together to promote and boost gender equality through sport. Applications closed on 18 May 2018.

Clubs also recently had the opportunity to partner with State Sporting Associations, State Sport and Recreation Bodies or Local Government Authorities to benefit from initiatives supported through other Change Our Game programs, including:

- the Workforce Development program, which is funding initiatives that grow opportunities for women and girls to take up different roles, paid and volunteer, at all levels in sport and recreation. Expressions of interest closed on 21 May.
- the \$220 000 Change Our Game Scholarships program, which creates opportunities for women to pursue their leadership and development in the sporting and active recreation industry. Applications closed on 4 May.
- the Gender Equality in Victorian Sport and Recreation Pilot Program, which provides grants to organisations to deliver gender equality and cultural change initiatives in sport and recreation settings, which contribute to the prevention of violence against women in Victoria. Applications closed on 21 May.

For several of these programs, there will be future opportunities to apply for funding.

The Sporting Club Grants Program provides grants to assist in the purchase of sports uniforms and equipment and to improve the capacity and accessibility of Victorian clubs and other community sport and recreation organisations and increase the skills of their coaches, officials and managers. The next funding round of the Sporting Club Grants Program opened on 22 May 2018. Applications close on 27 June.

Information on all grant programs is available at: <http://www.sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-funding/our-grants>.

Petitions

Raised with: Special Minister of State
Raised by: Ms Patten
Raised on: 9 May 2018

REPLY:

I would like to thank Ms Patten for her adjournment matter which is seeking the enactment of a process where petitions can be responded to, noted or actioned on once they have been tabled.

I can advise Ms Patten that I have requested that this matter be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Procedures Committee.

Bus contracts

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Mr Davis
Raised on: 9 May 2018

REPLY:

Since early 2017, the State has consulted and negotiated directly with bus operators and the Bus Association Victoria to develop new Metropolitan Bus Service Contracts (MBSCs) that provide greater flexibility for the State and operators to improve services and put passengers first. I must reiterate that there is no compulsory acquisition of existing businesses by the Government. We have provided bus operators with a number of contract options, including different asset options in regard to the sale of buses; the sale or lease of depots; or the option to not transfer existing assets to the State at all. Each operator has been able to decide what is right for them and their business.

Bus operators were provided the choice of negotiating directly with the State, or to have the Bus Association Victoria negotiate template contracts on their behalf. Over the course of seven months and more than 30 meetings, the Bus Association Victoria negotiated three template contracts with the State. The template contracts agreed with the Bus Association Victoria included the asset option choices outlined above — it did not include compulsory acquisition. Bus operators who elected this pathway have commenced negotiation of contract details and preparation of their contract offers.

I am pleased to say that as of 1 June 2018, contracts with three operators covering approximately 60 per cent of Melbourne's bus services covered by the MBSC negotiations were secured under new contracts.

In addition, as of 1 June 2018, several other bus operators have submitted offers for one of the Bus Association Victoria-negotiated template contracts. We expect to be able to reach agreement with these operators shortly, confirming that the contract options provide viable choices for operators to support their businesses. This is in addition to the three bus operators who elected to negotiate directly with the State, who have already signed new 10-year contracts.

Ballarat level crossings

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Mr Morris
Raised on: 9 May 2018

REPLY:

On 9 May 2018, V/Line confirmed that three level crossings between Ballarat and Wendouree operated continuously with booms being down between 1.15pm and 4.15pm.

The fault was caused by contractors who damaged one of the signalling cables when completing works on that section of track. As a safety precaution, when there is a signal fault, boom gates at level crossings are activated.

Replacement coaches were provided for affected passengers while crews worked as quickly as possible to rectify the signal fault.

The Ballarat Line Upgrade is part of the \$1.7 billion Regional Rail Revival program that will upgrade every regional passenger line in Victoria. This includes \$518 million for the Ballarat line upgrade already underway, with an extra \$39 million for Stage 2 of the project, which will pave the way for better services for Ararat and Maryborough. Since 2015, the Andrews Labor Government has added nearly 600 new regional services across the network.

Shepparton bypass

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 10 May 2018

REPLY:

VicRoads is completing the planning investigations for Stage 1 of the Shepparton Bypass.

In the 2017-18 Victorian State Budget, \$10.2 million was provided to fund planning, design and early works for this project. The investigations undertaken to date include:

- flood impacts and modelling;
- geotechnical assessments;
- draft bypass concept designs;
- cultural heritage investigation;
- community and stakeholder consultation;
- flora and fauna and aquatic surveys;
- cost estimation and economic analysis;
- traffic modelling and impacts;
- urban design and landscape assessment; and
- impacts from adjoining and related developments and investigations.

Further investigations to be undertaken include completing the statutory requirements for land acquisition, detailed archaeological survey and sub-surface testing for a cultural heritage management plan, updates to noise and air quality assessments, continued consultation, relocation of essential services, and an update of bypass concept designs and cost estimation.

As the planning investigations continue, the State Government will work closely with the Commonwealth Government regarding future funding for the project.

Yarra Boulevard, Kew

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Ms Pennicuik
Raised on: 10 May 2018

REPLY:

As you may be aware, VicRoads has been working closely with its key partners and stakeholders, the Boroondara City Council, Victoria Police and Parks Victoria, to develop potential safety treatments along Yarra Boulevard.

VicRoads advises me that it is currently reviewing feedback received from the information session held on 28 March 2018. Feedback received from this session, together with its safety record data and input from key partners and stakeholders will inform its endeavours to secure funding for potential safety treatments. VicRoads will continue to work closely with its key partners and stakeholders and advise them of the outcome of the processes, accordingly.

Menzies Creek Primary School

Raised with: Minister for Education
Raised by: Mr O'Donohue
Raised on: 10 May 2018

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government remains committed to investing in education and school infrastructure. This has been demonstrated through the allocation of \$3.8 billion to school facilities over the last four state budgets. However, fulfilling our ambitious agenda to make Victoria the Education State will take some time. Our ongoing challenge is to responsibly balance and prioritise the needs of over 1500 government schools, all in varying condition.

The Department of Education and Training only provides on-site car parking for staff in situations where is practical to do so. Where site conditions permit—and subject to the availability of funds—provision will be made in accordance with long-term enrolment numbers. The Department, however, does not provide parking for the vehicles of parents or other non-staff. Please note that the allocation of flashing 40km/h speed signs is within the remit of the Minister for Road Safety, not the Minister for Education. Therefore, I have raised this matter with the respondent Minister on behalf of the school and school community.

Furthermore, as parking beyond school boundaries and traffic management are local authority responsibilities, I encourage the school to consult with VicRoads and the Yarra Ranges Shire Council to resolve any parking or safety concerns.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Northern Metropolitan Region sporting facilities

Raised with: Minister for Sport
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 22 May 2018

REPLY:

We are currently working collaboratively with other state, territory and the Commonwealth governments reviewing the current national high performance model, including the role of the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) and regional academies. I am yet to be formally presented with the outcomes of that review.

I understand that the Commonwealth Government will outline its view in the National Sports Plan, due for release in the coming months.

Victoria already does a lot of heavy lifting in the high performance system including significant investment in the VIS, regional academies, infrastructure and events.

We will wait for the findings or outcomes from this review, before making any further changes or investments to the system.

Lincoln Road, Essendon

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 22 May 2018

REPLY:

VicRoads understands that there has been an increase in traffic volumes on Lincoln Road and an increase in pedestrian activities over the years near St Therese's Church and school.

VicRoads' Speed Zoning Guidelines include a number of different low speed zones that can be applied at locations where significant pedestrian activity occurs. These lower speed areas include school speed zones, remote school crossings, 40km/h pedestrian activity precincts, and 40km/h local area speed zones.

VicRoads advises me that it has assessed the speed limit on Lincoln Road between Braemar Street/Thorn Street and Miller Street, taking into consideration the following factors:

- the number of access points along the route;
- the nature of the road and roadside environment;
- adjacent speed zones;
- road user types;
- the crash history in the area;
- the school speed zone on Lincoln Road outside St Therese's School;
- the pedestrian crossing signals outside the church; and
- the pedestrian crossing signals located approximately 300 metres north of the church outside Lincoln Park providing alternative crossing facilities to the local community.

VicRoads' assessment found that the current speed limit of 60km/h, with the 40km/h school speed zone, is appropriate for this section of Lincoln Road at this time.

In regards to the speed limits of surrounding local streets, the Moonee Valley City Council manages these roads. As such, VicRoads has forwarded the Essendon Neighbourhood Watch Group's concerns to the council for investigation and direct response to the group. Should the group wish to follow-up on this matter, Ms Anna Psarras, Transport Coordinator, Moonee Valley City Council (Tel: 9243 9164), is the appropriate contact.

Brown Coal Innovation Australia

Raised with: Treasurer
Raised by: Ms Bath
Raised on: 22 May 2018

REPLY:

I refer to the Adjournment Matter raised on 22 May in the Legislative Council. I thank the Member for Eastern Victoria for raising this issue — recognising that opportunities for uses of brown coal are of great importance to her and her electorate.

This Government is committed to drive investment, create jobs and balance environmental needs in future Victorian coal projects. This is clearly evidenced by the Government's partnership in the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain pilot project announced in April of this year.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources is currently in discussions with Brown Coal Innovation Australia (BCIA) regarding future funding for its operation.

BCIA is also in discussions with its other members.

I would also like to reiterate that the Victorian Government will continue to support coal projects that are consistent with our Statement on Future Uses of Brown Coal.

State Sports Centre Trust

Raised with: Minister for Sport
Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert
Raised on: 22 May 2018

REPLY:

I refer to your adjournment debate matter regarding funding support and visitation rates at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre.

I would like to highlight that whilst visitation is down at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, visitor numbers at State Netball and Hockey Centre and Lakeside Stadium have been steadily increasing each year.

The closure of the wave pool and recent maintenance of the Leisure Pool area has had an impact upon visitor numbers at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. Whilst this is the case, the State Sport Centres Trust has been implementing initiatives to improve visitation to their centres. These include the recent renovation of the fitness studios and the completion of the Sir Albert Café.

My department continues to work closely with the State Sport Centres Trust to ensure that initiatives implemented are targeted at increasing participation and visitation at all of their facilities.

In regards to your comment of increase in government funding support, the State Sport Centres Trust's facilities are expensive to operate in comparison to other aquatic and leisure facilities due to its status as a state-level centre and its limited ability to recover costs through commercial activity.

Built in 1997, Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre is now over 20 years old, the State Netball Hockey Centre is 17 years old, and the Lakeside Stadium is now 6 years old. As a consequence, many assets have reached the end of their life-cycle resulting in a significant increase in asset renewal costs.

In addition to ageing infrastructure, utility and maintenance costs have also increased by 10 per cent and 37.5 per cent respectively over the past two years. This has resulted in greater funding support required by government to protect these important facilities from temporary or permanent closure.

I assure you that this funding support will continue to provide world-class sporting and leisure facilities for the local community and sporting bodies alike.

Yarra Valley Water waste-to-energy facility

Raised with: Minister for Water
Raised by: Mr Leane
Raised on: 23 May 2018

REPLY:

The Andrews Government is encouraging the entire water sector to pursue initiatives to lower carbon emissions such as Yarra Valley Water's Wollert Waste to Energy Facility. I am very supportive of projects like this that show leadership by Victoria's water sector in tackling climate change.

I was pleased to be able to launch the Wollert Waste to Energy Facility in June 2017, and have followed its progress with great interest. The facility recently achieved a record high single day of waste processing, resulting in over 180 tonnes of organic waste diverted from landfill.

The Wollert Waste to Energy Facility addresses the combined challenges of food waste, landfill and greenhouse gas emissions, in a way that works in well with the local environment, has no impact in terms of noise and odour and is commercially viable.

Approximately 20 per cent of Yarra Valley Water's total electricity requirements are met by the Wollert Waste to Energy Facility. This ensures a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions as well as reducing pressure on water bills over time. This innovative project was recently recognised by being awarded the prestigious 2017 Banksia Award for Leadership in the Circular Economy.

Building on the success of the Wollert Waste to Energy Facility, Yarra Valley Water has commenced early planning for a second facility within its Lilydale Sewage Treatment Plant. Like the Wollert facility, the proposed Lilydale facility will divert food waste from landfill to produce clean, renewable energy.

Yarra Valley Water envisages the new facility has the potential to meet an additional 30 per cent of Yarra Valley Water's energy needs. Prior to finalising the business case or awarding construction contracts, Yarra Valley Water will be undertaking a comprehensive engagement process with the community and stakeholders to ensure they are part of the project's planning process.

Whilst the planning is in its infancy, Yarra Valley Water are hopeful of progressing to a delivery of the facility later in 2019.

This project is an example of the innovation being driven from the Water for Victoria policy that requires all water authorities to tackle the challenges of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the benefit of all Victorians.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Wednesday, 20 June 2018

Sunbury Road duplication

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 1 May 2018

REPLY:

Drivers in suburbs across Melbourne will get less congested, more reliable roads, with the Andrews Labor Government to make the biggest investment in suburban roads in Victoria's history.

The recently announced upgrade of Sunbury Road is part of the Andrews Labor Government's \$4 billion investment in the Suburban Roads Upgrade program.

Sunbury Road will be widened between Powlett Street in Sunbury and Bulla-Diggers Rest Road in Bulla from two lanes to four lanes and the intersection of Lancefield Road and Francis Boulevard will be upgraded. New wire rope barriers and a shared cycling and pedestrian path will also be installed.

The Northern Roads Upgrade package will also include:

- Duplicate Craigieburn Road between Mickleham Road and Hume Freeway in Craigieburn
- Duplicating Bridge Inn Road between Plenty Road and Yan Yean Road
- Yan Yean Road between Kurrak Road and Bridge Inn Road in Doreen
- Duplicating Epping Road from two to four lanes between Craigieburn Road East and Memorial Avenue
- Upgrading three intersections at Main Road, Porter Street and Foote Street on Fitzsimons Lane in Eltham
- Duplicating Childs Road in Mill Park from Beaumont Crescent to Prince of Wales Avenue

These high priority upgrades will be delivered within five years and will be overseen by the Major Road Projects Authority — a new dedicated authority to deliver the Labor Government's more than \$14.9 billion pipeline of major road projects.

The Suburban Roads Upgrade program will reduce congestion and travel times, improve safety and connect communities across the outer-northern, western and south-eastern suburbs.

As you are aware, VicRoads completed a planning investigation for the Bulla Bypass and has been undertaking further work in response to a request from the Minister for Planning, the Hon Richard Wynne MP.

Eastern Victoria Region public transport

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Ms Bath
Raised on: 9 May 2018

REPLY:

The Government regularly provides briefings for Opposition members of Parliament.

There are several reasons this briefing has not occurred, including your office widening the meeting scope and delays responding to my office.

I also understand that an alternative date and time has been sought by my office but no response has been forthcoming as yet.

Southern Metropolitan Region sporting facilities

Raised with: Treasurer
Raised by: Ms Crozier
Raised on: 22 May 2018

REPLY:

Thank you for your adjournment matter regarding this Government's funding into grassroots community sporting facilities.

In this year's budget, this Government funded a record amount of \$489.3 million for sports and recreation across the State.

In relation to community sports facilities, \$60.0 million has been allocated to the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund. This fund is a grants programme that enables grass roots sporting and community organisations to apply for funding through Sports and Recreation Victoria. Any club in the Southern Metropolitan Region is eligible to apply for a grant.

An additional \$15 million of funding over two years was provided to expand the Female Friendly Facilities Fund as part of the Women and Girls in sport initiative. This program will continue to assist local clubs and organisations to develop grounds, pavilions, courts and lighting to enable more women and girls to participate in sport and active recreation. Projects funded through this grant program will ensure that women and girls have equitable access to existing and new facilities.

The community sports infrastructure loan funding is in addition to the grants programs to increase community infrastructure investment. This funding supports groups who want access to funding this year outside the grants programs. Funding of \$5.0 million over four years has been provided for government contributions towards interest repayments on these borrowings. This low interest loan facility will enable creditworthy organisations to get on with building infrastructure immediately. It is expected that up to \$100.0 million worth of loans will be available for community groups to access.

This Government's funding of \$225.0 million for the redevelopment of the Etihad Precinct is not a 'free kick' to the AFL but an investment in this precinct to work with the AFL to deliver improved access and amenity in and around Etihad Stadium. This investment provides long term benefits to the State, guaranteeing the AFL Grand Final to remain at the MCG until 2057. This deal also secures other content to be able to be provided at Etihad Stadium.

As an extension of the Government's desire to redevelop the precinct around Etihad Stadium, an arrangement was negotiated with the AFL around the site of the existing AFL House and the relocation of the AFL organisation to another location. This allows the existing AFL House site to be incorporated in the precinct wide redevelopment by the State. These negotiations are considered commercial in confidence.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Thursday, 21 June 2018

Hazelwood Pondage

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Ms Bath
Raised on: 1 May 2018

REPLY:

This matter sits within the portfolio of the Minister for Resources and should be referred to him for response.

Greater glider protection

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Ms Dunn
Raised on: 22 May 2018

REPLY:

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is preparing a draft action statement under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 for the Greater Glider. The draft action statement will set out protection measures and priority actions to protect Greater Glider populations and their habitat.

In advance of the action statement, the Andrews Labor Government has announced two strategic interventions to reduce the impact of forestry on Greater Gliders: the protection of all large old trees greater than 2.5 metres in diameter from timber harvesting throughout state forest; and the protection of approximately 2500 hectares of important habitat in East Gippsland (the Kuark Forest).

Targeted survey work commenced in 2017 to update knowledge of the distribution and abundance of Greater Gliders across eastern Victoria. Further landscape-wide surveys are planned over the next year as part of a broader program of biodiversity assessments feeding in to the modernisation of Victoria's Regional Forest Agreements, due to be completed by March 2020.

The protection measures listed above, along with measures to be put forward in the draft action statement, will provide protection in the short term while the longer-term protection measures are considered as part of the Regional Forest Agreement modernisation process.