

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIFTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

18–20 JUNE 2019

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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

Premier	The Hon. DM Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education	The Hon. JA Merlino, MP
Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. TH Pallas, MP
Minister for Transport Infrastructure	The Hon. JM Allan, MP
Minister for Crime Prevention, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Youth Justice and Minister for Victim Support	The Hon. BA Carroll, MP
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Solar Homes	The Hon. L D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Child Protection and Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers	The Hon. LA Donnellan, MP
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. MP Foley, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Workplace Safety	The Hon. J Hennessy, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Ports and Freight	The Hon. MM Horne, MP
Special Minister of State, Minister for Priority Precincts and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs	The Hon. GW Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and Minister for Suburban Development	The Hon. M Kairouz, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Water and Minister for Police and Emergency Services	The Hon. LM Neville, MP
Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, and Minister for Racing	The Hon. MP Pakula, MP
Minister for Roads, Minister for Road Safety and the TAC, and Minister for Fishing and Boating	The Hon. JL Pulford, MLC
Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. RD Scott, MP
Minister for Local Government and Minister for Small Business	The Hon. A Somyurek, MLC
Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Resources	The Hon. J Symes, MLC
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Higher Education	The Hon. GA Tierney, MLC
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Minister for Women and Minister for Youth	The Hon. G Williams, MP
Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. RW Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

Economy and Infrastructure Standing Committee

Mr Barton, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, Mrs McArthur, Mr Quilty and Ms Terpstra.

Participating members: Ms Bath, Dr Cumming, Mr Davis, Mr Limbrick, Mr Meddick, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Rich-Phillips and Ms Wooldridge.

Environment and Planning Standing Committee

Mr Atkinson, Ms Bath, Mr Bourman, Mr Hayes, Mr Limbrick, Mr Meddick, Mr Melhem, Dr Ratnam, Ms Taylor and Ms Terpstra.

Participating members: Ms Crozier, Dr Cumming, Mr Davis and Mr Quilty.

Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee

Ms Garrett, Dr Kieu, Ms Lovell, Ms Maxwell, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Patten, Dr Ratnam and Ms Vaghela.

Participating members: Ms Bath, Ms Crozier, Dr Cumming, Mr Grimley, Mr Limbrick, Mr O'Donohue and Mr Quilty.

Privileges Committee

Mr Atkinson, Mr Bourman, Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Grimley, Mr Jennings, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

Procedure Committee

The President, the Deputy President, Ms Crozier, Mr Davis, Mr Grimley, Dr Kieu, Ms Patten, Ms Pulford and Ms Symes.

Joint committees

Dispute Resolution Committee

Council: Mr Bourman, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Symes and Ms Wooldridge.

Assembly: Ms Allan, Ms Hennessy, Mr Merlino, Mr Pakula, Mr R. Smith, Mr Walsh and Mr Wells.

Electoral Matters Committee

Council: Mr Atkinson, Mrs McArthur, Mr Meddick, Mr Melhem, Ms Lovell and Mr Quilty.

Assembly: Ms Blandthorn, Ms Hall, Dr Read and Ms Spence.

House Committee

Council: The President (*ex officio*), Mr Bourman, Mr Davis, Ms Lovell, Ms Pulford and Ms Stitt.

Assembly: The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr T Bull, Ms Crugnale, Ms Edwards, Mr Fregon, Ms Sandell and Ms Staley.

Integrity and Oversight Committee

Council: Mr Grimley and Ms Shing.

Assembly: Mr Halse, Mr McGhie, Mr Rowswell, Mr Taylor and Mr Wells.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Council: Ms Stitt.

Assembly: Ms Blandthorn, Mr Hibbins, Mr Maas, Mr D O'Brien, Ms Richards, Mr Richardson, Mr Riordan and Ms Vallence.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee

Council: Mr Gepp, Mrs McArthur, Ms Patten and Ms Taylor.

Assembly: Mr Burgess, Ms Connolly and Ms Kilkenny.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly: Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms B Noonan

Council: 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-NINTH PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION

President

The Hon. SL LEANE

Deputy President

The Hon. WA LOVELL

Acting Presidents

Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmr, Mr Gepp, Mr Melhem, Ms Patten

Leader of the Government

The Hon. GW JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government

The Hon. J SYMES

Leader of the Opposition

The Hon. DM DAVIS

Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Ms G CROZIER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Maxwell, Ms Tania Maree	Northern Victoria	DHJP
Barton, Mr Rodney Brian	Eastern Metropolitan	TMP	Meddick, Mr Andy	Western Victoria	AJP
Bath, Ms Melina Gaye	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Cumming, Dr Catherine Rebecca	Western Metropolitan	Ind	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip ¹	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Patten, Ms Fiona Heather	Northern Metropolitan	FPRP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Quilty, Mr Timothy	Northern Victoria	LDP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Garrett, Ms Jane Furneaux	Eastern Victoria	ALP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Grimley, Mr Stuart James	Western Victoria	DHJP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hayes, Mr Clifford	Southern Metropolitan	SA	Stitt, Ms Ingrid	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Kieu, Dr Tien Dung	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Taylor, Ms Nina	Southern Metropolitan	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Terpstra, Ms Sonja	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Limbrick, Mr David	South Eastern Metropolitan	LDP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Vaghela, Ms Kaushaliya Virjibhai	Western Metropolitan	ALP
McArthur, Mrs Beverley	Western Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP

¹ Resigned 17 June 2019

Party abbreviations

AJP—Animal Justice Party; ALP—Labor Party; DHJP—Derryn Hinch's Justice Party;
FPRP—Fiona Patten's Reason Party; Greens—Australian Greens; Ind—Independent;
LDP—Liberal Democratic Party; LP—Liberal Party; Nats—The Nationals; SA—Sustainable Australia;
SFFP—Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; TMP—Transport Matters Party

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Questions on notice

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown. Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council. Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers. Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Tuesday, 18 June 2019

HEALTH

201. MS PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to smoking quit rates, according to Local Government Area, for each year for the past four years how many:

- (a) Victorians smoke;
- (b) Victorians quit smoking;
- (c) Victorians took up smoking; and
- (d) packets of cigarettes were sold in Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Each year, smoking claims 4,400 Victorian lives and costs \$3.7 billion in tangible costs, including \$602 million in health care costs. Despite considerable progress, smoking remains the leading risk factor for chronic disease including cancer, heart and lung disease and stroke. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing smoking and the burden of disease attributed to smoking on the Victorian community.

The only Victorian survey that collects smoking prevalence data by Local Government Area is the Victorian Population Health Survey, conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services.

While the Victorian Population Health Survey is conducted annually, the sample size is increased every three years to allow publication of data at the Local Government Area level. The last published data at the Local Government Area level is from 2014. This falls outside the scope of the four year period requested.

The department does not collect or have access to data on how many packets of cigarettes are sold in Victoria each year.

The Government, through Alfred Health and Quit Victoria, makes smoking cessation expertise available to all hospitals, to support them to assist patients to manage nicotine addiction, or make a quit attempt.

\$9 million is invested each year in tobacco control measures to reduce smoking prevalence and the harm caused by smoking in the Victorian community.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

315. MR HAYES—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to Visitor Centres in National Parks:

- (1) Have the Visitor Centres in the following National Parks closed—
 - (a) Organ Pipes;
 - (b) Port Campbell; and
 - (c) Point Nepean.
- (2) Does the 660,000 hectare Alpine National Park have a Visitor Centre, given that the 1992 and 2016 Management Plans asked for at least one in feeder towns like Falls Creek and Omeo.
- (3) Does the Government have any plans to increase the number of Visitor Centres in National Parks so that both Victorians and tourists can better appreciate the rich natural and indigenous heritage, and be better educated about nature and the environment.

ANSWER:

- (1) In response to Mr Hayes question regarding closed visitor centres in the above mentioned national parks:
- a) *Organ Pipes National Park:* A visitor centre is periodically opened and staffed by Parks Victoria at this park through a booking system. Interpretive information is also provided in a shelter external to the building and is accessible at all times.
- Friends of Organ Pipes National Park use this space several times each month for meetings and gathering survey data for ongoing fauna survey work within the park. Education programs are also conducted at this site.
- b) *Port Campbell National Park:* There is no visitor centre within the Port Campbell National Park. However, there is a visitor information board located at the park's entrance that provides park specific information to enhance visitor experience. Park information is also available online.
- In addition, Corangamite Shire Council operates a Visitor Information Centre in the Port Campbell township that provides a range of services to park visitors to the region.
- c) *Point Nepean National Park:* The visitor centre at the Quarantine Station is open and staffed by Parks Victoria. It provides park information, bike hire and a small retail space. In addition, the park has extensive interpretive and information signage.
- (2) The Alpine National Park does not have its own visitor centre. However, there is a diverse range of interpretive and information signage across the park and extensive park information is also available online.
- Parks Victoria is liaising with the Falls Creek Alpine Resort on the development of the resort's potential visitor and cultural centre as set out in the Greater Alpine National Park Management Plan (2016). The proposed centre would provide orientation, information and interpretation services and presents an opportunity for Parks Victoria to showcase the park.
- (3) The Andrews Labor Government is committed to enhancing improve visitor experiences across its parks and reserves, including appropriate visitor infrastructure and centres where appropriate.
- Interpretive and information signage remains onsite across Victorian national parks and will continue to be maintained by Parks Victoria.
- Parks Victoria will continue to service its visitor centres throughout its estate.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- 318. MR HAYES**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to endangered plant species in Victoria:
- (1) Is the Minister aware of research published in the Australian Journal of Botany identifying the top 100 Australian plant species at risk of extinction, including a number of Victorian species.
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the leading threat to these plant species was identified as urbanisation, and that inappropriate fire regimes and pressure from feral animals were also identified as threats.
- (3) What action is the Government taking to protect endangered plant species from urbanisation, inappropriate fire regimes, and feral animals.

ANSWER:

The report published in the Australian Journal of Botany forms part of a project under the Commonwealth National Environmental Science Program. Under this project researchers applied the International Union of the Conservation of Nature Red List criteria to assess the risk of extinction of selected Australian plants.

The top 100 Australian plant species at risk of extinction included 10 Victorian species such as the Grampians Pincushion-lily and Southern Shepherd's Purse. I understand that the report identified urbanisation, inappropriate fire regimes, and feral animals amongst the threats affecting native plants in Australia. However for the Victorian species, the predominant threats identified were pest animals and weeds.

The Andrews Labor Government has implemented a range of programs aimed at conserving our unique biodiversity, including the release in 2017 of *Protecting Victoria's Environment—Biodiversity 2037*. This strategic plan is being implemented driven by a funding commitment made by the government in the 2017 Victorian Budget. In that budget, \$86.3 million was committed over the first four years to implement the plan, with \$20 million per year ongoing.

One of the early milestones was the announcement of funding for 85 projects across Victoria, the product of the first round of Biodiversity Response Planning, a collaborative approach to designing on-ground projects involving government agencies, community groups and traditional owners.

Many of the funded projects included action on pest animals and weeds, guided by my department's Strategic Management Prospects tool, which is used to identify the most cost-effective management actions to protect the largest number of native species in a given area.

The Andrews Labor Government continues to implement the Weeds and Pest on Public Land program, which delivers major, long-term projects such as the successful Southern Ark project in East Gippsland. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning has also recently sought public comment on a draft strategy for the management of deer in Victoria, including proposed actions to manage the threat these introduced species pose to native plants.

In addition, on 26 July 2018 the Andrews Labor Government declared the feral or wild population of the cat (*Felis catus*) (feral cat) an established pest animal on specified Crown land in Victoria under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. Feral cats have a major impact on Victoria's biodiversity and are one of the most significant threats to our native wildlife. Forty-three *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* listed threatened species are at increased risk of extinction as a direct result of feral cats. The declaration is an important milestone in protecting them.

EDUCATION

319. MR HAYES—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In relation to residential developments within the Glen Waverley Activity Centre and immediate surrounds, such as The Sky Garden at The Glen which will result in 555 apartments and The Galleria which will result in 267 apartments: What plans does the Government have to increase the capacity of Primary and Secondary schools in Glen Waverley.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria the 'Education State' through significant school infrastructure reform. Central to this is ensuring that we have the right school infrastructure in place to meet the needs of growing communities.

To achieve this, the Victorian Government will deliver 100 new schools over the next eight years. This includes a commitment to building and opening 45 schools within the next four years, with nine of these opening this year. Our New Schools Planning fund is ensuring that planning for the remaining 55 new schools will start now, in line with our commitment to open them progressively by 2026.

While the most intense and sustained population growth is being experienced on Melbourne's outer metropolitan fringe, I am well aware that challenges are also being experienced in established and infill areas within inner and middle suburbs. These challenges include localised enrolment pressures at some schools and under-enrolment at others.

As you would appreciate, developing a new school or expanding an existing one is a significant investment. It involves a number of stages to ensure that public money is invested in the right place at the right time.

Each year, the Department of Education and Training reviews historic and forecast demographic data, development trends and actual school enrolments to identify expected government school shortfalls. The Department is employing improved data, including increasingly sophisticated spatial mapping, to manage planning challenges for schools in established areas.

I can assure you that the Department will continue to monitor and plan for government education provision across the established areas of Melbourne, including Glen Waverley, to ensure that all Victorian students have access to high-quality education as the population continues to grow.

I have also asked the Department to ensure regular consultation is undertaken with local government and planning agencies to accurately forecast growth at a local level.

I trust this information is of assistance.

PLANNING

322. DR RATNAM—To ask the Minister for Regional Development (for the Minister for Planning): In relation to the proposed Montarosa development on the nationally significant Gellibrand River floodplain at Princetown:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the local council has provided approval for this development, although it has been flooded three times in the past seven years, in 2010, 2015 and 2017.
- (2) What steps is the Minister and Victorian Government taking to ensure that this development is not occurring in an unsuitable area that creates risks to human safety and property assets.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan for her question.

On 20 December 2016, Corangamite Shire Council resolved to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit for the proposed Montarosa tourist resort development at Princetown after having given public notice of the planning permit application and referral of the application to relevant government departments and authorities, including the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA), which is the relevant floodplain management authority.

An application for review of the council decision was subsequently lodged with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). Compulsory conferences were held by VCAT on 15 May and 23 June 2017, resulting in agreement between all participating parties and the grant of the planning permit. The permit contains 70 planning permit conditions that the proponent must comply with. The comprehensive set of conditions recognises the complexity of this major project and the sensitive nature of this coastal and riverine area.

The CCMA is responsible for providing advice on flooding on the Gellibrand River. The CCMA did not object to the granting of a permit, subject to conditions to address flood risks. As a result of this advice, the planning permit contains conditions requiring minimum finished floor levels for all buildings, and minimum finished surface levels for vehicle access tracks and pedestrian paths within the site, on the local access road (Old Coach Road) and on the Old Coach Road bridge. This will ensure safe access and provide ongoing protection of life and property in the event of a one-in-100-year flood event. These levels also account for a possible sea level rise of 0.8 metres by 2100.

As the planning permit has been granted at the direction of VCAT, the decision is final. Corangamite Shire Council is the responsible authority for the administration and enforcement of the planning permit conditions. The CCMA will help review, as appropriate, the plans and reports that must be endorsed under the permit.

TREASURER

328. MS WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): In relation to the Government's \$20 million loan to Carbon Revolution:

- (1) What prompted the Government to offer this loan to Carbon Revolution.
- (2) Was this loan part of the Investment Attraction and Assistance Program, and if not, from what stream of funding was it offered.
- (3) Will any jobs be created as a condition of offering the loan, and if so, how many.
- (4) Will further loans be offered to other businesses looking to scale-up operations.

ANSWER:

This matter is not part of the Treasurer's portfolio. The Question on Notice should be directed to the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

373. MR HAYES—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): Is the Minister aware of the 16 January 2019 article by Mr Patrick Hatch in The Age titled Essendon Airport DFO plans call safety planning into question.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question; however, this is not a matter for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure. The primary responsibility sits with the Federal Government, with Victoria's input provided through the Minister for Planning. Therefore, the question should be directed to the Minister for Planning, the Hon Richard Wynne MP.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

375. MR HAYES—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): In relation to Essendon Airport and the DFO Essendon complex: Is it correct that:

- (a) the International Civil Aviation Organization recommends a minimum 300 metre runway strip width, so that there is a 150 metre buffer zone either side of the runway’s centre line; and
- (b) DFO sits 128 metres from the centre of the runway.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question; however, this is not a matter for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure. The primary responsibility sits with the Federal Government, with Victoria’s input provided through the Minister for Planning. Therefore, the question should be directed to the Hon Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Planning.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

376. MR HAYES—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): In relation to Essendon Airport and the DFO Essendon complex: Is it correct that:

- (a) the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requires that a detailed safety case be prepared and all relevant stakeholders consulted before a runway strip width can be less than 300 metres, and if so, did this happen in the case of Essendon Airport and the DFO buildings;
- (b) the Federal Government approved the DFO development on condition that the airport consult with CASA about its plans and comply with its safety requirements; and
- (c) CASA advised the Airport that “gathering the information required for the authority’s assessment of whether every item in a Draft Master Plan will be compliant with civil aviation safety requirements would be time-consuming and expensive”.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question; however, this is not a matter for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure. The primary responsibility sits with the Federal Government, with Victoria’s input provided through the Minister for Planning. Therefore, the question should be directed to the Hon Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Planning.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

377. MR HAYES—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): Was the Victorian Government consulted at the time the former Federal Transport Minister approved the DFO Essendon building on the condition that it did not adversely impact on “navigation aids or operational activities” at Essendon Airport.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question; however, this is not a matter for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure. The primary responsibility sits with the Federal Government, with Victoria’s input provided through the Minister for Planning. Therefore, the question should be directed to the Hon Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Planning.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

378. MR HAYES—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): Is there a potential safety risk if buildings are built too close to runways, particularly in the light of the February 2017 crash of a Beechcraft King Air light aircraft shortly after take-off into the southern end of the DFO Essendon complex, which killed all five people on board.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question; however, this is not a matter for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure. The primary responsibility sits with the Federal Government, with Victoria’s input provided through the Minister for Planning. Therefore, the question should be directed to the Hon Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Planning.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- 379. MR HAYES**—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): Given that Essendon Airport is home to Victoria's emergency services air wings, has the Minister been consulted concerning any proposal to further narrow the runway strip, and if so, what response has the Government provided to either Essendon Airport or the Civil Aviation Safety Authority concerning this proposal.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question; however, this is not a matter for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure. The primary responsibility sits with the Federal Government, with Victoria's input provided through the Minister for Planning. Therefore, the question should be directed to the Minister for Planning, the Hon Richard Wynne MP.

Questions on notice

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Wednesday, 19 June 2019

TOURISM, SPORT AND MAJOR EVENTS

- 21. MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events): In what financial year will the \$70,000 promised to the Montmorency Cricket Club Juniors to improve its practice nets be funded and when will the project be completed.

ANSWER:

Funding was released in the 2018–19 financial year and the project is expected to be completed by late 2020.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

- 334. MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): In relation to the SEA 1350 contract: What support is being provided to Advanced Magnetic Ranges Australia to assist its pursuit of the SEA 1350 contract.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Defence Alliance—Submarine is providing advocacy, mentoring and capability support to assist Advanced Magnetic Ranges Australia’s pursuit of the SEA 1350 contract. The Alliance is a partnership between the Victorian Government and Australian Defence Alliance (Vic), formerly the Australian Industry and Defence Network (AIDN). The Alliance assists Victorian companies to win work in national and international defence industry supply chains.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

- 335. MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): In relation to the Local Jobs First Commissioner:

- (1) How many information sessions for suppliers has the Commissioner run since being appointed.
- (2) How many information sessions for procurers has the Commissioner run since being appointed.

ANSWER:

Pursuant to the powers and functions of the Local Jobs First Commissioner (the Commissioner) under the *Local Jobs First Act 2003*, since being appointed on 26 October 2018, the Commissioner has been actively promoting the Local Jobs First Policy across agencies and industry and working with Victorian industry to facilitate collaborations between contractors.

The Commissioner has run two information sessions for suppliers and has attended and presented at another six. These include information sessions organised by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions’ Office of Industry Participation and Jobs.

The Commissioner has attended and presented at five information sessions for procurers.

The Commissioner will attend and present at further information sessions for both suppliers and procurers in the 2018/19 financial year, including sessions in rural and regional Victoria.

Questions on notice

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown. Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council. Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers. Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Thursday, 20 June 2019

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

304. MS WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Economic Development): In relation to the attraction of Praxis Precision Medicines to Parkville:

- (1) Was any inducement provided to Praxis to locate to Melbourne, and if so, what was the nature of the inducement.
- (2) What was the value of the inducement.
- (3) When will the headquarters be completed.

ANSWER:

- (1) The Victorian Government is delighted that Praxis Precision Medicines (Praxis) has chosen Melbourne as its Asia-Pacific headquarters. This decision highlights Victoria's strengths as a leading location for research and development, clinical trials, and the development and commercialisation of innovative new therapeutics. Praxis received no financial incentives from the Victorian Government.
- (2) The Victorian Government, through its offices in the USA and Melbourne, provided facilitation support including introductions to stakeholders in the Australian research and medical community, visit programs to Melbourne to demonstrate the capabilities of the existing medical sector, advice on the Australian regulatory regime and processes as well as identification of clinical partners.
- (3) Praxis has established its APAC headquarters which is currently co-located at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health (in the Parkville Medical Precinct).
- (4) In collaboration with its local research partners, Praxis have applied for and received merit-based grants from the Australian research and medical community.

TREASURER

339. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How much has the State Revenue Office (SRO) expended on legal costs for matters related to individual SRO staff or former SRO staff, in each of the following years:

- (a) 2015-16;
- (b) 2016-17;
- (c) 2017-18; and
- (d) 2018-19 to date.

ANSWER:

- (a) \$40,259.07
- (b) \$83,751.18
- (c) \$438,269.86
- (d) \$1,585,799.73

TREASURER

340. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many proceedings initiated at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal by individual State Revenue Office (SRO) staff or former SRO staff (or their representatives), has the SRO been a party to for the years in each of the following years:

- (a) 2015-16;
- (b) 2016-17;
- (c) 2017-18; and
- (d) 2018-19 to date.

ANSWER:

- (a) 0
- (b) 0
- (c) 4
- (d) 2

Note: 4 of these 6 matters were initiated by the same person.

TREASURER

341. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many barristers or solicitors have been briefed or engaged by or on-behalf of the State Revenue Office (SRO) on matters related to individual SRO staff or former SRO staff in each of the following years:

- (a) 2015-16;
- (b) 2016-17;
- (c) 2017-18; and
- (d) 2018-19 to date.

ANSWER:

- (a) 0
- (b) 2
- (c) 6
- (d) 1

Note: Some of the Barristers were briefed as others became unavailable during the proceedings.

TREASURER

342. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many proceedings initiated at the Fair Work Commission by individual State Revenue Office (SRO) staff or former SRO staff (or their representatives), has the SRO been a party to in each of the following years:

- (a) 2015-16;
- (b) 2016-17;
- (c) 2017-18; and
- (d) 2018-19 to date.

ANSWER:

- (a) 0
- (b) 2
- (c) 2
- (d) 1

TREASURER

343. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many proceedings initiated at the Supreme Court by individual State Revenue Office (SRO) staff or former SRO staff (or their representatives), has the SRO been a party to in each of the following years:

- (a) 2015-16;
- (b) 2016-17;
- (c) 2017-18; and
- (d) 2018-19 to date.

ANSWER:

- (a) 0
- (b) 0
- (c) 1
- (d) 0

TREASURER

344. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many complaints lodged with the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission by individual State Revenue Office (SRO) staff or former SRO staff (or their representatives), has the SRO been a respondent to in each of the following years:

- (a) 2015-16;
- (b) 2016-17;
- (c) 2017-18; and
- (d) 2018-19 to date.

ANSWER:

- (a) 0
- (b) 0
- (c) 1
- (d) 0