



Question: 61 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr McGuire to ask the Treasurer —

My constituency question is to the Treasurer. I invite the Treasurer to come to an economic and cultural development summit in Broadmeadows to look at how we can have a coordinated strategy for jobs and growth, given that the former coalition government in this state and also the federal government have allowed the unemployment rate to reach 26.4 per cent. That unemployment rate is higher than that of Spain and equal to that of Greece. I also note that the Prime Minister is now talking about a new strategy for national security. In the community that I represent, we have the highest number of Muslim families, twice the number of any other electoral district. We also have Christian refugees from Iraq and Syria living side-by-side, who want to have hope. They need jobs, and we need a strategy that coordinates this. I hope the Treasurer will agree to come out to help our coordinated strategy, which has already been supported by the City of Hume. This issue is above politics.

Answer:

In response to the Member for Broadmeadows' constituency question raised in the Legislative Assembly on 24 February 2015, I confirm that I would be delighted to attend and address an economic and cultural development summit in Broadmeadows.

As raised in my response to the Member for Broadmeadows' adjournment matter of 11 February 2015, under coalition governments Broadmeadows has been left with an unemployment rate of 26.4 per cent - higher than that of Spain and equal to that of Greece.

I congratulate the Member for Broadmeadows for his work in advocating for jobs in his community. The Labor Government is committed to fixing the jobs crisis through our Back to Work plan which includes:

- \$100 million (over 2 years) for Incentive payments targeting young, long term unemployed and retrenched workers;
- \$500 Million for the 'Premiers jobs and investment panel'; and
- \$200 Million for Future Industries: Medical, New Energy Tech, Food&Fibre, Transport, defence and construction technology, International Education and Professional Services.

I look forward to working with the Member for Broadmeadows and his community to find more opportunities.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 31/03/2015

Question: 62 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Ryall to ask the Premier —

My constituency question is to the Premier. Given the Premier has ordered work to stop on the east-west link project, what is his response to the tradies, independent contractors and small and medium business owners in Ringwood, who ask: now that the work has been stopped, how do you expect us to survive and put food on the family table?

Answer: I can advise that:

The Labor Government's priority is to get Victorians back to work. Between December 2010 to November 2014, unemployment rose from 4.9% to 6.8%. That's why the first piece of legislation introduced into Parliament was the Back To Work Act. The Back to Work Act will establish a \$100million fund for payroll tax relief for companies who hire unemployed young people, the long-term unemployed and retrenched workers.

I can also advise the Member that the Victorian Government is getting on with vital infrastructure projects to assure workers, contractors and small and medium businesses.

The Victorian government will work with the private sector to deliver:

- removing the 50 worst level crossings - creating 4,500 jobs
- Melbourne Metro Rail - creating 3,500 jobs

To see the full jobs and infrastructure plan, I encourage the Member to direct people in Ringwood to premier.vic.gov.au

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP

Premier

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 09/04/2015

Question: 63 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Kairouz to ask the Minister for Public Transport — My constituency question is to the Minister for Public Transport. My question relates to the \$220 million commitment made in 2009 by the Brumby government to fund four new railway stations, including Caroline Springs station. In 2011 the previous government redirected funds away from Caroline Springs, in an area where 30 per cent of households in the city of Melton do not live within 400 metres of public transport. Despite Caroline Springs being located in a major growth corridor, the former government neglected the people of the west and provided no promise of funding for the Caroline Springs station.

The only trace of the Caroline Springs railway station is the famous 'road to nowhere', which leads to unkempt scrubland. The halt in the construction of the Caroline Springs station has had adverse effects on the local community in Caroline Springs. They are becoming socially isolated and disconnected from the networks of metropolitan Melbourne. Can the minister commit to building the Caroline Springs railway station and outline the time line for the project's completion?

Answer: Minister for Public Transport - I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised: Work continues on the new Caroline Springs station. The tender process for the main station construction works opened in late 2014 and closed on 5 February 2015. A tender is expected to be awarded in May 2015 and construction on the station will commence in mid-2015. The station is expected to be completed in early 2016. PTV will provide further information to the public, including the council and the local community, subject to tender evaluation and award timeframe. This will also include the official station name and the successful tenderer.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 15/04/2015

Question: 64 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Smith (Kew) to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety — My question is to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety regarding the promised upgrade to the Chandler Highway bridge. Given Labor's 16 June 2014 press release that said works would start immediately upon it coming to government, why has work not started already on the Chandler Highway bridge?

Answer: Minister for Roads and Road Safety - I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised: I am pleased to advise that VicRoads is undertaking planning and early design work for the Chandler Highway project.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 13/04/2015

Question: 65 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Pearson to ask the Minister for Police — My constituency question is to the Minister for Police. I ask the minister to provide me with an update on current policing activities on the Flemington housing estate. The Flemington housing estate has a very large culturally and linguistically diverse community. In the past there has been some tension between officers at the Flemington police station and some residents of the estate. In more recent times there has been some improvement, but the residents are keen to explore how this relationship can be strengthened. Therefore I ask that the minister consider coming to Flemington to meet with the sworn officers at Flemington police station as well as with representatives of the community.

Answer: I had the opportunity to visit the Flemington Police Station on 11 March 2015 with the Member for Essendon. I would like to thank the Station Commander, Acting Inspector Steve Kehagias, and the officers at the Station as well as local community leaders for speaking with me about their experiences.

The Flemington Police Station provides a 24-hour response to the community. Police officers are committed to responding to the diverse needs of the community in a professional and respectful manner.

Victoria Police is committed to strengthening the relationship between local police and local communities through a range of local and corporate initiatives, including:

- cultural competency training for police members;
- community engagement functions and events;
- Multicultural Liaison Officer program;
- the administration for the Police and Community Advisory Committee (PACMAC);
- the Victoria Police Multi-Faith Council; and
- the New and Emerging Community Liaison Officer (NECLO) program.

The NECLO at Flemington Police Station plays a key role in breaking down barriers between police and new and emerging communities in the area. The NECLO is instrumental in co-ordinating a range of local initiatives including the Food & Culture Project which involves the Horn of Africa community members attending the police station to share food every 6 weeks and Operation Asmara, a monthly operation which consists of uniform members being accompanied by Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Elders to engage with youth and the community within the vicinity of the Flemington high rise estate.

These initiatives demonstrate the commitment of the Flemington Police Station to continuing to strengthen relationships with the local community.

I note the commitment of the Member for Essendon in ensuring that Victoria Police and members of the community continue to have confidence in each other. I commend him for his work in continuing to promote strong relationships in Flemington.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 16/03/2015