



Question: 143 QUESTION ON NOTICE — Ms Sandell to ask the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing —
What is the total number of public housing properties and their occupancy and vacancy rates in the Carlton, North Carlton, North Melbourne, Kensington and Flemington areas.

Answer: I am informed that:

The Member would be aware that the total number of public housing properties varies subject to maintenance, renovation, upgrade, disposal or relocation. The Member would also appreciate that occupancy and vacancy rates fluctuate on a daily basis.

As the Member's question does not specify a date for the relevant figures, I can advise the Member that the government estimates that it will hold 85279 dwellings at the end of this financial year.

In addition to this, the government expects to acquire 371 new dwellings in the 2015-16 financial year.

Specific to the areas listed by the Member, I am pleased to inform the Member that the government intends to spend a further \$7.5 million on upgrading properties on the Carlton estate which will secure more properties in this area.

Martin Foley MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 07/05/2015

Question: 144 QUESTION ON NOTICE — Ms Victoria to ask the Minister for Public Transport —
As community consultation and design works have been completed for the removal of level crossings at Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road in Bayswater, will the Minister please specify on whose recommendation and why are existing plans being scrapped.

Answer: I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:
These sites are part of the Andrews Labor Government's program to remove 50 of the most dangerous and congested level crossings across Melbourne over the next eight years. This significant program is a key step to transforming our public transport system into an international-style metro, while removing congestion on our roads.
There are significant challenges to removing the level crossings at the Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road in Bayswater and, in particular, the Government is currently investigating whether access to the train maintenance facility can also be grade-separated, given it was not part of previous plans developed and would have achieved a sub-standard outcome, with a level crossing remaining on the site.
The Level Crossing Removal Authority and VicRoads are currently in discussions with local council officers, stakeholders and design experts to further develop the reference designs. This would ensure that the State obtains the best solution; one that provides value for money and meets the communities transport and liveability needs.
To facilitate the level crossing removals, the Government has brought forward funding of \$100 million to establish the Level Crossing Removal Authority. The Authority is developing a strategic plan for the efficient removal of the 50 level crossings, including optimal planning, procurement and construction methods and best practice community and stakeholder engagement.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 03/06/2015

Question: 145 QUESTION ON NOTICE — Ms Victoria to ask the Minister for Public Transport — When will further consultation be complete and new plans be made public regarding the removal of level crossings at Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road in Bayswater.

Answer: I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:
These sites are part of the Andrews Labor Government's program to remove 50 of the most dangerous and congested level crossings across in Melbourne over the next eight years. This significant program is a key step to transforming our public transport system into an international-style metro, while removing congestion on our roads.

There are significant challenges to removing the level crossings at the Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road in Bayswater and, in particular, the Government is currently investigating whether access to the train maintenance facility can also be grade-separated, given it was not part of previous plans developed and would have achieved a sub-standard outcome where a level crossing remained on the site.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority and VicRoads are currently in discussions with local council officers, stakeholders and design experts to further develop the reference designs to ensure that the state obtains the best solution that provides value for money and meets the communities transport and liveability needs. Further engagement will occur with the community before proposals are finalised in the coming months.

To facilitate the level crossing removals, the Government has brought forward funding of \$100 million to establish the Level Crossing Removal Authority. The Authority is developing a strategic plan for the efficient removal of the 50 level crossings, including optimal planning, procurement and construction methods and best practice community and stakeholder engagement.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 03/06/2015

Question: 146 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Victoria to ask the Minister for Education — My constituency question is directed to the Minister for Education. One of my constituents has come to me with concerns about the future technological needs of his children. He has been looking at enrolling his son into foundation next year at various schools in my electorate, and most of the schools require the purchase of an iPad for the child. My constituent, who has worked in the information technology sector for 15 years, feels there is no case for principals and schools to be pushing the purchase of a \$900 Apple iPad when there are similar Android or Windows products on the market for about \$300. He believes the forced use of an Apple product is a restriction of trade and that software that runs on other tablets is compatible with teacher and school programs. I ask the minister to review the education department policy which oversees the necessity for tablet purchases for schools and to ensure that schools are able to allow Android or Windows tablets to be used by students and teachers. I would also ask the minister to look at funding for tablets and computers in schools in my electorate to minimise the cost outlay for parents.

Answer: The Department of Education and Training does not endorse specific devices. Victorian Government Schools are governed by locally elected school councils that are best placed to determine the programs and resources, to meet the learning needs of their students.

The Department provides advice to assist schools to plan and select technologies to support teaching and learning, including 1-to-1 programs using tablet devices. This advice includes case studies and available apps for Apple, Android and Windows products.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 27/04/2015

Question: 147 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Dimopoulos to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety — My constituency question is directed to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. I ask the minister if he can provide information and advice regarding any investigations into the unsafe traffic conditions along Grange Road, Carnegie, specifically the section between Oakleigh Road and Leila Road, and their related intersections. The very busy Grange Road caters to both locals and others travelling between North Road and Dandenong Road. Whilst a similar road nearby, Koornang Road, has roundabouts at the intersections of Oakleigh and Leila roads, Grange Road has not. Numerous accidents have occurred at these intersections on Grange Road. Oakleigh Road is home to the Ormond Community Kindergarten, and Kilvington Grammar — a school of some 700 students — is located on Leila Road. Both roads are also used by train patrons on the Frankston line. They therefore attract a significant number of pedestrians, as well as vehicle traffic. I believe these intersections to be significant black spots in need of urgent action, potentially the installation of traffic signals or roundabouts. I would welcome a visit by the minister to these sites.

Answer: I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised: VicRoads has assessed the need for improvements along Grange Road and has developed a proposal to install traffic signals at the intersection of Grange Road and Oakleigh Road. This proposal will be evaluated for funding in the future. I would be happy to visit these sites with you in the coming months.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 18/05/2015

Question: 148 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Walsh to ask the Minister for Public Transport — My constituency question is for the Minister for Public Transport and is on behalf of Kevin Simpson of Echuca and other constituents who use the V/Line service to connect with Bendigo and Melbourne. Will the minister commit to delivering the planned upgrades for the Echuca rail line and

services, which include \$1 million of line upgrade works as well as the addition of an extra weekday return service between Echuca and Bendigo, that were due to start in 2016? Some 20 000 passengers a year are estimated to use the V/Line Echuca line. The plans announced last year were widely welcomed by Echuca residents and businesses alike, and my constituents are very keen to know if the Labor government will continue the upgrade.

Answer: The Minister for Public Transport - I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Public Transport Victoria will soon commence consultation with communities across the state, on its Network Development Plan for Regional Victoria.

The Network Development Plan - Regional Victoria will establish a forward strategy to grow the public transport network in each region, and to focus services towards community needs. In doing this, community participation is essential and PTV will be consulting with communities throughout the state.

Given the integrated nature of the public transport network, it is important that planning occurs in a holistic and integrated manner. Ad-hoc changes create an inefficient and inconsistent network. The Andrews Government has a vision for public transport in regional Victoria and the Network Development Plan is the right way to articulate that vision, and importantly to provide regional Victorians with the opportunity to have a say in how their network evolves.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 23/03/2016

Question: 149 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Kairouz to ask the Minister for Public Transport — My constituency question is for the Minister for Public Transport. It relates to the many petitions, letters, emails, phone calls and visits to my electorate office in relation to the removal of bus route 451 by the coalition government. For many decades this bus route was the only means for many of my constituents to conduct their local shopping, attend medical appointments and remain socially connected. Under what could only be described as a poor process, the previous government scrapped this bus route, replacing it with services that simply do not provide the same level of direct access to local facilities. My question is: will the minister squash the decision taken under the previous government and reinstate this vital bus route in my electorate?

Answer: I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:
I thank the member for her question and her interest in public transport services in her community. The member is dogged in her support for the people of Koroit.
As you are aware, a new Brimbank bus network commenced in July 2014. However, this is in the context of a botched process by the former government to reduce the bus services across Melbourne's north and west by up to 20 per cent. Public Transport Victoria (PTV) advises that the former bus Route 451 is now almost entirely serviced by routes 400, 420, 423 and 427 in the new network. Funding is not currently available to reinstate bus Route 451. However, PTV assures me it will continue to review the network, and this issue in particular. I look forward to continuing to work with her on this important matter.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 18/05/2015

Question: 150 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Thompson (Sandringham) to ask the Minister for Public Transport — My constituency question is directed to the Minister for Public Transport. On or around 12 November last year the Labor Party announced that grade separations would take place in Mentone and in Cheltenham, and more specifically that there would be separations of road and rail proximate to the Mentone and Cheltenham railway stations. This is an important factor in the minds of numbers of my constituents in terms of potentially alleviating gridlock and the build up of traffic in that precinct, and I ask: when will the works commence and when will the works be completed? This was an important election commitment made by the Labor Party prior to the last election, and many constituents are keen to ascertain when these works will be completed.

Answer: Over the next eight years, the Andrews Government will remove 50 of the most dangerous and congested level crossings in Melbourne. This significant program is a key step to transforming our public transport system into an international-style metro, while removing congestion on our road network. I am pleased to inform you that the level crossings at Balcombe Road, Mentone and Charman Road, Cheltenham will be removed by 2022 as part of this program, along with nine other level crossings on the Frankston line.
To facilitate the level crossing removals, the Government has brought forward funding of \$100 million to establish the Level Crossing Removal Authority. The Authority is developing a strategic plan for the efficient removal of the 50 level crossings, including optimal planning, procurement and construction methods and best practice community and stakeholder engagement.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 18/05/2015

Question: 151 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Spence to ask the Minister for Local Government — My constituency question is to the Minister for Local Government. Given that the June 2014 local government panel report on Sunbury separating from Hume City Council acknowledged that "de-amalgamations are complex processes that can cause disruption not only to council administration but also to local communities", can the minister provide an update as to what the impact of Sunbury separating from Hume City Council would be to constituents in Yuroke? As the minister is no doubt aware, there is a considerable amount of uncertainty and concern in the community as to what effect the separation would have on residents remaining with Hume City Council. In particular, residents are concerned about the potential disruption referred to in the report as well as the impact on rates and services and the provision of community infrastructure. Her advice on this impact would be appreciated.

Answer: The Minister for Local Government - I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised: I have appointed the Hon Frank Vincent AO QC and Mr John Watson as Transition Auditors to review all of the financial and non-financial implications of the separation of Sunbury from Hume City Council on the broader community. In carrying out this review the transition auditors are to ensure that this information is easily accessible so that both communities are fully informed about what the impact of Sunbury separating from Hume City Council will be. The Transition Auditors are due to report to me by 31 August 2015 and provide me with recommendations on the way forward.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 18/05/2015

Question: 152 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Sandell to ask the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing — My question is to the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing. Will the Labor government commit funding for the Venny adventure playground in Kensington? The Venny-Kensington Adventure Playground provides much-needed services for local kids, especially those in public housing who have no backyards, few places to go before and after school and who suffer various forms of disadvantage. The Venny lost its funding due to the former government's cuts. It is only open due to the generosity of the local community and Melbourne City Council, but it urgently needs a relatively small injection of funds from the state government to support it and to ensure that it can keep its doors open.

Answer: The Venny is one of five adventure playgrounds in inner Melbourne whose funding was cut. This was a cruel cut of the Abbott Government in the horror 2014 Federal budget.

These adventure playgrounds were federally funded, and have always been federally funded. They're not the type of programs that would be expected to be funded by the State Government.

While some of the adventure playgrounds found alternative funding last year, this was always going to be an interim measure, giving the Federal Government time to reverse their cuts.

The Federal Government no longer says there is a so-called "budget emergency", so it's time for everyone in this debate to call on the Federal Government to return to their historical role in funding these adventure playgrounds.

Martin Foley MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 28/05/2015

Question: 153 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Suleyman to ask the Minister for Public Transport — My constituency question is to the Minister for Public Transport. I ask the minister to inform me of plans to reinstate bus route 418 in St Albans. Lately local residents have raised with me the issue of the route 418 bus service that was removed by the previous government. This bus service operated for more than 30 years, providing reliable transport to local residents, including to a primary school and a number of childcare centres along its path. St Albans pensioner Rita used this bus route as her only means of transport to and from St Albans. Like Rita, many others are suffering from the removal of this bus route. Eight months later bus shelters remain in place along the axed bus route.

I ask again the Minister for Public Transport to inform me of the plans to reinstate the 418 bus service — —

Answer: I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:
Under the former government, Public Transport Victoria restructured the Brimbank area bus network in July 2014. In the St Albans area, bus Route 418 was realigned along Arthur Street in St Albans. I am informed that peak period patronage continues to grow on this route.
The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$100 million in the 15-16 State Budget toward creating stronger bus networks. This commitment will improve and expand services and introduce new routes across Victoria, working with local communities to identify how bus services can be improved to meet demand. Routes including the 418 bus service will be considered as part of our commitment to improve Victoria's bus network.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 03/06/2015

Question: 154 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Ryall to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety — Can the Minister for Roads and Road Safety provide me with the number of cars per day that cross the Heatherdale Road, Mitcham, level crossing, the Blackburn Road, Blackburn, level crossing, and prior to its removal the Mitcham Road, Mitcham level crossing so that I can inform my constituents?

Answer: The Minister for Roads and Road Safety - I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:
The number of cars per day that cross the level crossing at Heatherdale Road, Mitcham, is 12,000.
The number of cars per day that cross the level crossing at Blackburn Road, Blackburn, is 15,000.
The number of cars per day that cross the level crossing at Mitcham Road, Mitcham, is 16,800. Before the level crossing removal, the number was 16,000.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 18/05/2015

Question: 155 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Pearson to ask the Minister for Education — My constituency question is to the Minister for Education. Strathmore Primary School turned 70 years of age last year, and the school is really showing its age. The roof leaks, the window frames are rotting, and the buildings are in a general state of disrepair. At the 2010 state election Labor promised to spend \$5.7 million on rebuilding the school. After the election the coalition government refused to rebuild the school. As a consequence of this neglect, the school is now in an even worse state. The Premier and the minister have both visited the school in the past 12 months and have seen for themselves the need for this school to be rebuilt. Can the minister therefore advise when Strathmore Primary School will be rebuilt?

Answer:
Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Victorian Government which has announced a \$730 million education infrastructure package for Victoria. The 2015-16 State Budget provides funding to refurbish and renovate schools, deliver brand-new relocatable classrooms and construct new schools.

I am pleased to confirm that the Government has announced \$5.7 million for Strathmore Primary School to refurbish and enhance facilities at the school.

The Department of Education and Training has commenced planning for all schools announced in the 2015-16 State Budget, including Strathmore Primary School. I understand that the school has commenced preparing its Asset Management Plan and that, following initial training in March, members of the leadership team will attend a second training session in May to allow them to complete the plan and begin implementing their project as soon as possible.

I have asked the Department to continue to work closely with the school on their future plans for capital improvement.

**< span style="font-family: 'Verdana','sans-serif'; font-size: 10pt">The Hon. James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education**

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 25/05/2015