

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS**

**27 November to 10 December 2015**

**(Extract from book 19)**

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FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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**Deputy Speaker:**

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Mr Thompson, Ms Thomson, Ms Ward and Mr Watt.

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**Deputy Leader of The Nationals:**

Ms S. RYAN

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*Council* — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

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**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

<b>Member</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Party</b>
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Andrews, Mr Daniel Michael	Mulgrave	ALP	Merlino, Mr James Anthony	Monbulk	ALP
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McCurdy, Mr Timothy Logan	Ovens Valley	Nats	Wynne, Mr Richard William	Richmond	ALP

<sup>1</sup>Elected 31 October 2015

<sup>2</sup>Resigned 3 September 2015

<sup>3</sup>Resigned 3 September 2015

<sup>4</sup>Elected 14 March 2015

<sup>5</sup>Elected 31 October 2015

<sup>6</sup>Resigned 2 February 2015

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

ALP — Labor Party; Greens — The Greens;  
Ind — Independent; LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals.

## Legislative Assembly committees

**Privileges Committee** — Ms Allan, Ms D’Ambrosio, Mr Morris, Ms Neville, Ms Ryan, Ms Sandell, Mr Scott and Mr Wells.

**Standing Orders Committee** — The Speaker, Ms Allan, Ms Asher, Mr Brooks, Mr Clark, Mr Hibbins, Mr Hodgett, Ms Kairouz, Mr Nardella, Ms Ryan and Ms Sheed.

## Joint committees

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(*Council*): Ms Bath, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes.

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

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(*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmar and Mr Melhem.

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

**Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee** — (*Assembly*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson, Mr Tilley and Ms Ward. (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Mr Young.

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

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

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

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

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

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





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**ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS**

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

**27 November to 10 December 2015****Melton electorate****Question 408**

**Question asked by:** Member for Melton  
**Directed to:** Minister for Local Government  
**Asked on:** 18 August 2015

**REPLY:**

The Roadside Weeds and Pests Program provides valuable support to councils to clear weeds and pests from rural roadsides. This roadside treatment is essential to protect the State's \$11.4 billion per annum agricultural production.

I am pleased to announce the Government is providing \$5.2 million over the next two years for the continuation of the program. Under this program a number of new initiatives have been approved, including an increase in the maximum grant from \$50 000 to \$75 000 per year and an expansion of eligible weeds to include 'restricted weeds'. This increases the number of weeds that can be treated by 85 across the State.

Melton City Council and Moorabool Shire Council will receive an additional \$1420 and \$7304, respectively, under the new program. Melton City Council will receive \$11 300 in both 2015-16 and 2016-17 while Moorabool Shire Council will receive \$35 358 in each of these years. This will be valuable in treating the wide array of weeds that are found across the rural roads in the Melton electorate. I understand the City of Melton is most affected by Chilean needle grass but also treat weeds occurring at less than one percent cover, such as serrated tussock and Paterson's curse. The Shire of Moorabool contains over 400 kilometres of road that need to be treated for gorse and serrated tussock and over 190 kilometres of road to be assessed for rabbit activity. The provision of additional funding under the 2015–2017 program will be of great assistance in treating weeds and pests across the Melton electorate.

**Yan Yean electorate****Question 527**

**Question asked by:** Member for Yan Yean  
**Directed to:** Minister for Local Government  
**Asked on:** 3 September 2015

**REPLY:**

Thank you for your question regarding the Interface Growth Fund.

This significant \$50 million investment from the Andrews Labor Government is an initial investment towards meeting the critical infrastructure needs of communities in Melbourne's diverse and fast-growing outer suburbs. This funding will enable councils to begin a program of work to deliver the types of infrastructure communities need to deliver economic benefits, provide local jobs and improve access to services for growing communities.

I was delighted to announce the 26 successful projects from the initial IGF investment in early October. As the Member for Yan Yean points out the Yan Yean electorate is in one of Victoria's largest growth corridors. The local government areas of Mitchell, Nillumbik and Whittlesea will now be in a better position to respond to this growth and changing demographics following a \$15.3 million investment in a range of projects across the municipalities.

Mitchell Shire Council will benefit from a \$3 million investment to build the Wallan Integrated Learning Centre and revitalise Hadfield Park Play Space, two very exciting and much needed community infrastructure projects.

These investments from the Interface Growth Fund will assist the local government areas of Mitchell, Nillumbik and Whittlesea to bring forward important community services and infrastructure to support the community.

I look forward to being able to work closely with local members and local governments to deliver these outcomes for communities.

### **Bass electorate**

**Question 1288**

**Question asked by:** Member for Bass  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 6 October 2015

**REPLY:**

McGregor Road is currently a municipal road managed by the Cardinia Shire Council. The council has widened the sections of McGregor Road, north and south of the railway crossing.

VicRoads is aware of the constraints to through movement at the railway crossing and will continue to work with the council to monitor traffic conditions and prioritise future road infrastructure improvements in this growth corridor, including at the McGregor Road railway crossing.

### **Broadmeadows electorate**

**Question 3674**

**Question asked by:** Member for Broadmeadows  
**Directed to:** Minister for Local Government  
**Asked on:** 20 October 2015

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government is extremely committed to supporting jobs and economic growth across all of the State and has embarked on a number of initiatives to help generate increased employment opportunities for all Victorians. Included in this agenda is the \$100 million 'Back To Work' program, a landmark plan to work with business leaders, grow our industries and help create 100 000 full time jobs for the unemployed.

The 'Back to Work' program has also recently received a significant boost by providing an additional \$70 million package to bolster jobs and training which incorporates \$50 million for more apprenticeships and training at TAFE and a \$20 million 'Reconnect Program' to help address the drop in early school leavers taking up training and significant incentives to employers in hiring and training young unemployed job seekers.

These substantial funding initiatives will ensure that our communities, where there is an identified need, are supported by providing greater employment, education and training opportunities.

In addition, the Government's Interface Growth Fund has been designed to deliver the provision of much needed community infrastructure across metropolitan Melbourne's ten interface councils. The fund is helping these councils on Melbourne's urban fringe to improve, build and deliver community spaces that matter to local residents, while creating jobs and growth.

Hume City Council recently received funding for the Annandale Interim Community Facility from the Interface Growth Fund. The grant of \$500 000 will deliver improved early years activities and community programs as well as enhanced playgroups and general community meeting areas targeted for the Mickleham growth area.

I have recently announced the process for a second round of funding applications to the Interface Growth Fund. I encourage Hume City Council, and all Interface councils, to work with Local Government Victoria in order to develop the best possible applications for that funding.

Continued investment, delivered with the support of the council and the community will ensure that the Government provides the right funding, at the right time, to the areas of most need, in a coordinated manner.

This is integral to ensuring that the community is assisted to deliver strong and tangible opportunities for those most in need and it will continue to invest in projects and opportunities in the Broadmeadows area that support jobs and sustainable growth.

### **Gembrook electorate**

**Question 3677**

**Question asked by:** Member for Gembrook  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 20 October 2015

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

I have been asked this question on behalf of students of grade 6K at Beaconsfield Primary School. I am delighted to see government school students interacting with the parliamentary process.

The students have asked me about the Andrews Labor Government's future plans for funding chaplaincy programs within schools. The Department of Education and Training administers the Commonwealth-funded National School Chaplaincy Programme (NSCP) which commenced in Victorian schools at the start of the 2015 school year. In implementing this new programme the Commonwealth reduced funding for Victorian schools from approximately \$14m per year to \$12.25m per year. As a result, many Victorian schools such as Beaconsfield Primary School missed out on funding. This does not mean that the need in this school community is seen as having reduced, only that available funding was insufficient to meet all requests for additional support.

The Victorian Labor Government understands the challenges that Victorian government schools face in supporting all students, particularly those who are most vulnerable, to achieve their potential.

With this in mind, the Government has committed to funding a range of health and wellbeing initiatives to support schools. These include Breakfast Club in 500 of the State's most disadvantaged primary schools, expanding the State Schools Coalition Victoria, providing mentoring programs for young people in need, placing doctors in a number of secondary schools, and providing a significant fund to support families in need to cover the costs of camps, excursions and sporting activities.

In addition, the Department of Education and Training provides schools with policy, guidance and resources on a range of aspects concerning student health and wellbeing, particularly through its Student Support Services program which provides effective strategies and specialised support for students at individual, group, school and network levels.

I thank the students of Beaconsfield Primary School for their question. I can assure them that the health and wellbeing of students are key priorities on the Labor platform for implementing Victoria as the Education State, and that the Government is committed to ensuring children and young people are provided with the opportunities they need to be actively engaged and connected to school.

### **St Albans electorate**

**Question 3678**

**Question asked by:** Member for St Albans  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 20 October 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government recently announced an additional \$747 million in extra funds over four years to deliver great schools for every community and great teachers in every classroom as part of our plan to make Victoria the Education State.

\$493 million of that funding will be targeted to students most in need of help, to break the cycle of disadvantage and give our kids the best opportunities to succeed. We are also providing \$72.3 million in funding to secondary schools to help students who have fallen behind catch up.

These reforms represent the biggest ever increase in equity funding in Victoria. The new model for distributing funding towards students most in need of help will help schools to break the cycle of disadvantage and give our kids the best opportunity to succeed. The new formula for distributing funding for social disadvantage is fairer and better reflects the latest global evidence of educational need, including in Victoria's government schools.

I appreciate your concern for schools in your electorate, and I am pleased to inform you that St Albans North Primary School will receive more than \$430 000 in equity funding in 2016, an increase of more than \$40 000 compared to the equity funding the school received in 2015.

The new funding model introduces a combined measure of disadvantage, which as you note, uses both parental occupation and education. Consistent with evidence from around Australia and the world, this model was developed based on an analysis of Victorian data which shows the combined measure has a stronger correlation with student outcomes than parental occupation alone.

I have asked the Department of Education and Training to work with the school regarding the Principals concerns.

The Government will continue to explore ways to improve our school system by building on the new equity funding reforms, including being informed by outcomes from the Bracks Government School Funding Review, due to report to me by the end of the year.

### **Footscray electorate**

**Question 3680**

**Question asked by:** Member for Footscray  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 20 October 2015

**REPLY:**

Thank you for your question regarding Western English Language School.

I am aware of the accommodation needs of Western English Language School. I have asked the Department of Education and Training to work with the local community to investigate options to ensure that the learning needs of newly arrived students enrolled in the western suburbs are met.

These options will include use of the buildings at the former Rosamond Special School in Rosamond Road Maidstone.

### **Eltham electorate**

**Question 3689**

**Question asked by:** Member for Eltham  
**Directed to:** Minister for Local Government  
**Asked on:** 21 October 2015

**REPLY:**

The Interface Growth Fund is an important Government initiative delivering on the commitment to support the provision of much needed community infrastructure across metropolitan Melbourne's ten interface councils. The fund is helping these councils on Melbourne's urban fringe to improve, build and deliver community spaces that matter to local residents, while creating jobs and growth.

The State Government is proud to contribute more than \$6.3 million to the Eltham Leisure Centre Aquatic Redevelopment Project and the Eltham Community and Reception Centre redevelopment projects, supporting a total investment of \$19 million in much needed community infrastructure for the Shire of Nillumbik.

Both projects will enable delivery of upgrades to existing infrastructure by expanding access and capacity, contributing to local job creation and economic development, will deliver strong social benefits and reduce disadvantage, and improve environmental resilience and liveability.

These investments from the Interface Growth Fund will assist the Shire of Nillumbik to bring forward important community services and infrastructure to support the community.

I would like to thank the Member for Eltham for her advocacy on these projects. The Member has been an energetic and vocal advocate for her community and these investments, and many others by the Andrews Labor Government, are in part a result of the Members hard work.

I look forward to working with the Member and Nillumbik Council on the roll out of these projects, and hope the Government is in a position to make further investments in community infrastructure for outer suburbs like those in Nillumbik into the future.

### **Gippsland South electorate**

**Question 3690**

**Question asked by:** Member for Gippsland South  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 21 October 2015

**REPLY:**

V/Line publishes on its website the average capacity of trains during the peak periods for all regional commuter lines.

The government is investing in new VLocity trains, built locally at Dandenong to provide additional capacity on the V/Line commuter network. This investment will assist the regional commuter network to keep pace with growth going forward, as well as providing local jobs.

### **Sunbury electorate**

**Question 3695**

**Question asked by:** Member for Sunbury  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 21 October 2015

**REPLY:**

In the case of Sunbury West Primary School, I understand that the principal and the School Council President have expressed to you a great need for assistance in providing high quality physical education and recreation facilities.

I am pleased to confirm that an additional \$12 000 has been allocated to the school to build facilities that encourage physical activity and enhance wellbeing.

The Andrews Labor government is committed to making Victoria the Education state and part of that is ensuring that our students have excellent outdoor recreation and exercise facilities to use in physical education classes and during breaks.

**Bass electorate****Question 3696**

**Question asked by:** Member for Bass  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 21 October 2015

**REPLY:**

The 2015-16 State Budget provided the single biggest injection of education funding in Victoria's history, providing almost \$4 billion in additional funding to early childhood, schools and training. This includes \$730 million to build, upgrade and maintain schools. This is more than double the average annual investment in school infrastructure over the past four years.

The funding provided through the 2015-16 State Budget represents a crucial first step in creating the Education State and we will continue to invest in school facilities throughout this term of government.

The capital redevelopment of Wonthaggi Secondary College was not an election commitment made by the Labor Party. The 2015-16 State Budget focuses on delivering resources to commitments made during the state election.

The Government's challenge is to deliver new schools to meet the needs of growing communities as well as responsibly prioritising the needs of over 1500 existing government schools across the state, all in varying condition.

The capital needs of all schools, including Wonthaggi Secondary College, will continue to be considered when determining future priorities for the Government's capital works program.

**Evelyn electorate****Question 3887**

**Question asked by:** Member for Evelyn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 22 October 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government's promise was to return TAFE and higher education to Lilydale. I am very proud that we have delivered on our election commitment and thank everyone who campaigned so passionately on this important local issue including the Yarra Valley Educational Precinct Committee.

The process for the re-opening of the Lilydale campus is primarily the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Higher Education and Skills and I am responding on his behalf. Box Hill Institute will deliver a range of degrees on site at the Lilydale campus as well as providing enhanced access to the Deakin University course offering through a Cloud Deakin eLearning Centre and through guaranteed pathways from selected VET courses. William Angliss Institute will also deliver higher education at the campus, focussing on their unique offering of hospitality and tourism. I'm sure Box Hill Institute will be eager to provide further information regarding higher education courses in the coming months in preparation for 2016 enrolments. This is an exciting new partnership that will deliver a new era of outstanding education in the region from 2016 into the future.



**Mordialloc electorate****Question 3892**

**Question asked by:** Member for Mordialloc  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 22 October 2015

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Mordialloc for this important question regarding the issue of graffiti vandalism. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to responding to community concerns about graffiti vandalism.

Victoria has among the toughest penalties for graffiti vandalism, with maximum fines of more than \$35 500 and up to two years' prison time. However, we also recognise that tough penalties are not enough - graffiti vandalism is not an issue that the police can tackle alone and we also need to focus on graffiti prevention.

Through our Graffiti Prevention grants, the government provides up to \$25 000 to councils to partner with community groups to develop and deliver projects to prevent graffiti vandalism in local communities. Just last month I announced funding of nearly \$500 000 for 25 local graffiti prevention projects across Victoria. This includes funding for design initiatives, such as murals and plantings to discourage graffiti vandalism at hotspots, and anti-graffiti education and diversion initiatives.

I am delighted to advise that the City of Kingston was one of the successful councils, receiving two grants for graffiti prevention projects with communities in the municipality.

Council has received \$25 000 for their "Friends of Kingston" project which will fund the purchase of a graffiti removal trailer which council will make available to support the great work of local community groups in helping to remove graffiti. This includes the Friends of Mentone Station and Gardens, Friends of Aspendale Train Station Group and the Friends of Chelsea Bonbeach Train Station Group, as well as local scouts groups, sporting clubs and traders' groups. The project will also install artworks at the Aspendale train station underpass to beautify the area and deter graffiti.

Council also received over \$2000 for a project to work with students at Westall Secondary College to install a mural on a vandalised wall at the college and in the process to help educate students about the consequences of engaging in illegal graffiti — for them and their family, as well as the impacts on others in the community.

The government is also continuing to support the Community Correctional Services' Graffiti Removal Program (GRP), which puts supervised teams of offenders on community orders to work removing graffiti from vandalised state and local government assets, as well as community assets and some private property.

Since it commenced operations in 2005, the GRP has seen offenders undertake 735 000 hours of unpaid community work as reparation for their offences to remove over 2.5 million square metres of graffiti from local communities. To put this into perspective, that amount of graffiti would cover nearly 115 MCG playing fields. Kingston City Council is a partner in the GRP.

I congratulate Kingston City Council and the broader Kingston community for coming together to help improve the visual amenity of their community whilst also making it more inviting and appealing to others who may want to visit the beautiful beaches and attractions the City of Kingston has to offer.

I look forward to hearing about the outcomes of these projects in the coming months. Thank you for raising this matter with me.

**Bendigo West electorate****Question 3894**

**Question asked by:** Member for Bendigo West  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 22 October 2015

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Bendigo West for her important question regarding the issue of graffiti vandalism. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to responding to community concerns about graffiti vandalism.

The Victorian Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 gives police powers to investigate a range of suspected graffiti offences, and provides among the toughest penalties for graffiti vandalism in the country, with maximum fines of more than \$35 500 and up to two years prison time. However, the Andrews Labor Government also recognises that tough penalties are not enough – graffiti vandalism is not an issue that the police can tackle alone and we also need to focus on graffiti prevention. That is why the Andrews Labor Government provides Graffiti Prevention grants of up to \$25 000 for local councils to partner with community groups to develop and deliver projects to prevent graffiti vandalism in local communities.

In November I announced funding of nearly \$500 000 for 25 local graffiti prevention projects across Victoria. This includes funding for design initiatives, such as murals and plantings to discourage graffiti vandalism at hotspots, and anti-graffiti education and diversion initiatives. I am delighted to advise that one of these very important projects will take place in Bendigo.

I have approved a grant of \$17 300 to the City of Greater Bendigo to partner with their community to deliver the Bendigo Central Business District Graffiti Prevention Project. This exciting project will bring together a group of young men and women aged between 14 - 21 years, including young people at risk of tagging, to help prevent further tagging in the Bendigo Central Business District (CBD) especially in isolated laneways where owners are absent.

Community artists will also work with young people to install an art mural on the wall of Morely Johnson Building in Mitchell Lane which is the new home for project partner, Radius Disability Services. A community education program involving police, council, business and legal representatives, will educate the group of participating young people about the impacts of illegal tagging on business and the community.

Tags within the Bendigo CBD will be removed, with a particular focus on shopfronts, laneways and arcades, and an audit to identify graffiti tags will also be conducted to help Victoria Police identify and apprehend offenders.

I congratulate the City of Greater Bendigo for working with their local community to reduce graffiti hotspots within the CBD of Bendigo and raising awareness about the impacts of graffiti vandalism.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

**Nepean electorate****Question 6327**

**Question asked by:** Member for Nepean  
**Directed to:** Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water  
**Asked on:** 10 November 2015

**REPLY:**

The restaurant building has been demolished after it was seriously damaged by the recent fire. I can confirm that the lessee's have been issued with a new planning permit to rebuild the restaurant on the same site within the existing footprint. The lessees are now seeking a building permit and expect to commence building works early in the new year.

Officers from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning are working with the lessees and the Mornington Peninsula Shire to enable the earliest possible re-opening of the new building which I understand will retain a look and feel that reflects the building's long history. I fully support the lessee's efforts to rebuild the business.

### **Narre Warren South electorate**

**Question 6332**

**Question asked by:** Member for Narre Warren South  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 10 November 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to completing the duplication of Thompsons Road between EastLink in Carrum Downs and Berwick-Cranbourne Road in Clyde North, including the removal of the rail level crossing at Merinda Park station, Cranbourne.

In the 2015 State Budget, \$20 million has been committed to the project, in addition to \$500 000 committed earlier this year to facilitate an early start to the necessary planning and pre-construction works required to progress the project.

VicRoads advises me that a wide range of pre-construction and site investigation works are currently being undertaken for this project, including a range of studies required to obtain planning and environmental approvals for the project. A customer feedback survey has been used to obtain community input to the project with over 1500 people making the time to provide their comments. Although the survey only closed at the end of October, the feedback provided is currently being used by VicRoads to refine the design development of the project.

Detailed traffic modelling is also continuing and this will help refine the scope of the project for further consideration of funding in subsequent state budgets. The commencement and completion dates of the upgrade will be confirmed once the final scope of the project is approved.

### **Bundoora electorate**

**Question 6426**

**Question asked by:** Member for Bundoora  
**Directed to:** Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water  
**Asked on:** 11 November 2015

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for both the constituency question and commend the Member for his work in resolving this issue.

I can confirm that the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) will offer the Strathallan Golf Club a direct lease for the golf club area at a nominal rent, that is, \$104 per annum, through to January 2020. DELWP will assist the Club to meet with the ongoing costs associated managing the habitat link land with the Club contributing towards that cost in lieu of rent (expected to be within the vicinity of \$1000 to \$2000 per annum).

This will allow the Club the opportunity to continue operating as long as possible until their lease with La Trobe University for the golf course expires. DELWP would then reassess as appropriate at that time.

**Burwood electorate****Question 6433**

**Question asked by:** Member for Burwood  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 11 November 2015

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government is committed to a well-resourced police force, with a strong commitment to community engagement and policing. In May 2010, the Labor Government committed funding for an additional 1966 police to the frontline.

Since coming to office in November 2014, the Andrews Government has funded almost 700 additional police personnel reflecting the Government's commitment to work with the Chief Commissioner to ensure we provide the resources to police that will keep our community safe. The commitment has seen additional resources for Victoria Police with more police officers, Protective Services Officers, intelligence experts, forensic analysts, and new Police Custody Officers.

Our continued investment in policing has seen a record \$2.5 billion budget for Victoria Police in 2015–16 to continue their important work.

As you can appreciate, under Victorian law, I cannot direct the Chief Commissioner of Police about the allocation or deployment of police officers to or at particular locations in accordance with section 10 of the Victoria Police Act 2013.

The Chief Commissioner has notified me of his intention to change the operating hours for the counter service at Ashburton Police Station to Tuesday and Thursday between 9am and 5pm given the limited demand for counter services at the police station. The Ashburton community will continue to receive a 24 hour police response. There will be no change to the level of police serving the Ashburton community.

I have sought the Chief Commissioner's reassurance that the level of policing will be continuously monitored by the respective command officers, with a view to ensuring community safety and to also keep me informed of how the changed service is being implemented.

**Euroa electorate****Question 6477**

**Question asked by:** Member for Euroa  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 12 November 2015

**REPLY:**

In response to the question raised by the Member for Euroa, Ms Stephanie Ryan, on 12 November 2015, regarding the impacts of the Kilmore-Wallan bypass on the communities of Wandong and Heathcote Junction.

As you are aware, a Planning Panel held public hearings in August and September 2014, to hear submissions on the Environment Effects Statement for the three bypass options. 130 submissions were received and considered, including a number from residents and groups from the Wandong district.

The Panel used ten evaluation objectives to consider the different environmental effects of the project, to provide an overall, integrated assessment of the three alignments.

The Planning Panel and the Minister for Planning's Assessment supported the Western option, as it would have the lowest overall environmental, social and amenity affect on the community.

On 11 March 2015, I visited Kilmore to announce that the Victorian Government has confirmed the Western route for the Kilmore-Wallan Bypass.

The western option will provide the greatest benefit to the whole community into the future.

### **Dandenong electorate**

**Question 6480**

**Question asked by:** Member for Dandenong  
**Directed to:** Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
**Asked on:** 12 November 2015

**REPLY:**

An official announcement regarding the location for an Indian Cultural Precinct was made by me on 2 December 2015. The City of Greater Dandenong will receive a \$500 000 grant to expand the existing Little India precinct to become a world class destination that will attract investment, draw tourism, stimulate local business and contribute to the local and broader economy. The decision was supported by extensive consultation and completion of an independent feasibility study.

### **Bass electorate**

**Question 6483**

**Question asked by:** Member for Bass  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 12 November 2015

**REPLY:**

Education is the Andrews Labor Government's number one priority. This is why we have committed \$50 million over four years to support local governments and other service providers to invest in early childhood infrastructure. This investment will support the provision of high quality early years programs for children and their families by increasing infrastructure capacity to deliver kindergarten programs for children in the year before school.

I would like to commend the work of the Bass Coast Shire Council in providing an excellent early-years service to the children of the area. It is a testament to the passionate commitment of all involved that the services provided strive to break a cycle of social disadvantage.

I am pleased to advise that the Bass Coast Shire Council has been successful in receiving a grant of \$900 000 as part of the 2015 Children's Facilities Capital Program. They have now been invited to submit a full application of their project to progress the works.

I look forward to hearing of the continuing good work of the community and Council of Bass Coast Shire. Clearly, the children of this region are fortunate to have such dedicated people to provide them with a strong start in life.

### **Ringwood electorate**

**Question 6500**

**Question asked by:** Member for Ringwood  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 24 November 2015

**REPLY:**

I understand Norwood Secondary College's request to re-engage previously selected architects to undertake the new gymnasium project at the school. I am pleased to advise that the appointment of architects following the correct process will be recommended before the end of 2015.

The Government is mindful of the need to ensure that consultants for consideration are ideally suited to the project and the School and those appointments are fairly shared across the list of qualified practices. It is important to note these appointments must be conducted in accordance with the Department of Education and Training's Procurement Policy and Government requirements for public construction.

**Yan Yean electorate****Question 6501**

**Question asked by:** Member for Yan Yean  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 24 November 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government has committed to making Victoria the Education State. Central to this is ensuring that sufficient services and facilities are available to meet the needs of growing communities. Providing a first class education for our students starts with investing in school buildings and infrastructure.

I am aware that enrolment pressure is being felt at Beveridge Primary school and that there are issues with the school's facilities.

I have been advised that Department of Education and Training representatives met with staff from Mitchell Shire Council in November 2015 and agreed that options for meeting the future needs of Beveridge Primary School include significant upgrades to the existing Beveridge Primary School and the relocation of the school to another site.

While the 2015-16 Budget focused primarily on resourcing our election commitments, the capital needs of all schools will be considered when determining future priorities for the capital works program. The Government will continue to use all available data, including condition assessments and pre-existing project plans, when allocating funding in future State Budgets.

As part of the long-term planning process, the Department works with the Metropolitan Planning Authority (MPA) and local government to identify possible future school sites across the state. The Department is aware that the Beveridge is a high priority area for meeting school demand in the Shire of Mitchell and a potential site has been identified within the Mandalay Estate in Beveridge West. Funding for this school will be considered as part of the annual state budget process alongside other state wide infrastructure projects.

I have asked the Department to continue to work with the Mitchell Shire Council and other relevant stakeholders, to monitor and plan for government education provision in the area to ensure all Victorian students have access to high quality education as the population continues to grow.

**Carrum electorate****Question 6503**

**Question asked by:** Member for Carrum  
**Directed to:** Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water  
**Asked on:** 24 November 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Government recently appointed a panel of experts that will investigate how to improve the management and health of Kananook Creek. This delivers on an election commitment by the Andrews Labor Government to protect the environmental and community value of the creek from inappropriate development.

The creek is widely used by water craft enthusiasts and maintaining its health is crucial to habitat and species that live in this wonderful marine and coastal environment.

The panel will thoroughly review current land and waterway management structures and make its recommendations with an eye to improving environmental outcomes. The panel will provide recommendations to the Minister next year as to the best management arrangements for the creek.

Currently, several different bodies have responsibility for managing the creek and its adjacent land and the new panel will immediately review the effectiveness of these arrangements.

Members of the panel will consult widely with the community and all those who have a stake in protecting the health of the creek in the long term.

### **South-West Coast electorate**

**Question 6532**

**Question asked by:** Member for South-West Coast  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 25 November 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to investing in school facilities and has allocated \$730 million in the 2015-16 State Budget to build, upgrade and maintain schools across the state.

I have visited Portland Bay School and have seen first hand the difficulties the school is facing. I instructed the Department of Education and Training to undertake a feasibility study to identify suitable long-term solutions for the school, including options to rebuild or relocate.

The feasibility study recommended that Portland Bay School co-locate with Portland Bay Primary School. The Department is undertaking community consultation to ensure that all issues and views are considered. This is a crucial part in the process to deliver the best result for the school and the community. Funding for the Portland Bay School will be considered in future state budgets.