

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS**

**18 September to 8 October 2015**

**(Extract from book 14)**

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## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

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FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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**Deputy Speaker:**

Mr D. A. NARDELLA

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Ms Kilkenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr McGuire, Ms McLeish, Mr Pearson, Ms Ryall, Ms Thomas,  
Mr Thompson, Ms Thomson, Ms Ward and Mr Watt.

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The Hon. D. M. ANDREWS

**Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Deputy Premier:**

The Hon. J. A. MERLINO

**Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. M. J. GUY

**Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. D. J. HODGETT

**Leader of The Nationals:**

The Hon. P. L. WALSH

**Deputy Leader of The Nationals:**

Ms S. RYAN

**Heads of parliamentary departments**

*Assembly* — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

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

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

<b>Member</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Party</b>
Allan, Ms Jacinta Marie	Bendigo East	ALP	McLeish, Ms Lucinda Gaye	Eildon	LP
Andrews, Mr Daniel Michael	Mulgrave	ALP	Merlino, Mr James Anthony	Monbulk	ALP
Angus, Mr Neil Andrew Warwick	Forest Hill	LP	Morris, Mr David Charles	Mornington	LP
Asher, Ms Louise	Brighton	LP	Mulder, Mr Terence Wynn <sup>1</sup>	Polwarth	LP
Battin, Mr Bradley William	Gembrook	LP	Naphthine, Dr Denis Vincent <sup>2</sup>	South-West Coast	LP
Blackwood, Mr Gary John	Narracan	LP	Nardella, Mr Donato Antonio	Melton	ALP
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Brooks, Mr Colin William	Bundoora	ALP	Noonan, Mr Wade Matthew	Williamstown	ALP
Bull, Mr Joshua Michael	Sunbury	ALP	Northe, Mr Russell John	Morwell	Nats
Bull, Mr Timothy Owen	Gippsland East	Nats	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>3</sup>	Gippsland South	Nats
Burgess, Mr Neale Ronald	Hastings	LP	O'Brien, Mr Michael Anthony	Malvern	LP
Carbines, Mr Anthony Richard	Ivanhoe	ALP	Pakula, Mr Martin Philip	Keysborough	ALP
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Eren, Mr John Hamdi	Lara	ALP	Sandell, Ms Ellen	Melbourne	Greens
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Kairouz, Ms Marlene	Kororoit	ALP	Victoria, Ms Heidi	Bayswater	LP
Katos, Mr Andrew	South Barwon	LP	Wakeling, Mr Nicholas	Ferntree Gully	LP
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Kilkenny, Ms Sonya	Carrum	ALP	Ward, Ms Vicki	Eltham	ALP
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McCurdy, Mr Timothy Logan	Ovens Valley	Nats	Wynne, Mr Richard William	Richmond	ALP
McGuire, Mr Frank	Broadmeadows	ALP			

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 3 September 2015

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

<sup>3</sup> Elected 14 March 2015

<sup>4</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

**Accountability and Oversight Committee** — (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.  
(*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.

**Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee** — (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Nardella and Ms Ryall.  
(*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 Kealy, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto. (*Council*): 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.*

**18 September to 8 October 2015****Pascoe Vale electorate****Question 379**

**Question asked by:** Member for Pascoe Vale  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 4 August 2015

**REPLY:**

VicRoads advises me that the community consultation process is currently under development. There will be an opportunity for the community to further participate in the review of the road rules and road safety legislation via web-based consultation and a public forum.

The VicRoads website will also provide information on the consultation process once it has been finalised. The community consultation page will be a key platform for this consultation and information about the public forum will be available on the Cycling Road Rules Review page. The community consultation will take place in October 2015.

**Carrum electorate****Question 388**

**Question asked by:** Member for Carrum  
**Directed to:** Minister for Ports  
**Asked on:** 5 August 2015

**REPLY:**

Parks Victoria recently (late 2014) completed a review of the dredging operations and channel design at both Patterson River and Queenscliff.

In regard to Patterson River the recommendation is to increase the actual dredged channel depth from -2.5 to -5 metres Chart Datum (CD) and the depths at which dredging is initiated from -1.5 to -2.0 metres CD. This is intended to reduce the necessary frequency of dredging and improve accessibility of the channel.

Implementation of these proposed changes is expected to provide a higher level of service to the channel users and be more cost effective to deliver.

Approval to amend the Coastal Management Act 1995 dredging consent to reflect these proposed changes is currently being sought and are expected to be in place by late 2015. Works will proceed once approval is obtained.

**Croydon electorate****Question 400**

**Question asked by:** Member for Croydon  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 6 August 2015

**REPLY:**

As a newly elected Government committed to Victoria's transformation into the Education State, we were keen to take stock of the assets available in support of that agenda as well as reassess others previously earmarked for

disposal. With respect to the later, I asked the Department of Education and Training to review the list of closed school sites to determine whether any might serve a future educational purpose.

This is an important consideration for retained sites will continue to support educational provision in areas with changing demographics, while the proceeds from the sale of confirmed surplus sites can be directed towards the development of new school facilities elsewhere.

As a result of this review, I can affirm that the former Croydon South Primary School has been declared surplus by the Department. In accordance with the Victorian Government Land Transactions Policy and Guidelines, the Department is currently consulting with the City of Maroondah regarding its interest in all or part of the property.

If any part of the site were to be sold publicly, the land will be rezoned. That process will involve a public exhibition and community consultation that will inform any decision about the future use of the site, including public open space.

In relation to the former Yarra Hills Secondary College, this site is still required to ensure sporting facilities for educational use in the area, and the Department is in discussion with the Yarra Ranges Shire Council to make it available for ongoing community use. This will ensure that the Government retains an asset which can be factored into future school provision while, in the meantime, giving the community access to valued facilities.

### **Kororoit electorate**

**Question 403**

**Question asked by:** Member for Kororoit  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 6 August 2015

**REPLY:**

VicRoads met with representatives of V/Line and Victoria Police on 12 August 2015 to discuss the operation of traffic signals at this level crossing.

VicRoads has agreed to change the sequencing of the traffic signals at this level crossing to improve northbound traffic flow when boom gates are activated. VicRoads expects to complete these changes by the end of September 2015.

VicRoads will conduct a site survey following the implementation of the changes to evaluate their effectiveness. Victoria Police will continue to monitor driver behaviour at this crossing.

### **Bendigo West electorate**

**Question 406**

**Question asked by:** Member for Bendigo West  
**Directed to:** Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
**Asked on:** 18 August 2015

**REPLY:**

Registered Aboriginal Parties, or RAPs, have significant responsibilities under State legislation (the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010) and are integral to the administration of Victoria's cultural heritage management system.

Earlier this year, I met with staff and members of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation as part of my listening tour of RAPs and Traditional Owner organisations throughout Victoria. Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners shared with me the considerable work they undertake in managing their exceptional cultural heritage. I was particularly impressed with the Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger program, which provides employment opportunities to Dja Dja Wurrung people in managing our parks and reserves.

Dja Dja Wurrung is committed to achieving better protection for Aboriginal cultural heritage, while pursuing a more efficient and streamlined cultural heritage management process. Dja Dja Wurrung is currently exploring ways to build strong and lasting partnerships with the local government authorities in its RAP area. Better engagement between local governments and RAPs will ensure greater compliance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and certainty for developers and land users.

I am delighted and heartened to hear that your constituents are keen to promote local Aboriginal culture. When I met with members of Dja Dja Wurrung they told me about their company, Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises. Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises provides environmental management services such as pest plan and animal control, and also delivers cultural awareness training, promoting understanding and pride in Victoria's rich Aboriginal cultural heritage. This Government is committed to supporting RAPs not only undertake their statutory responsibilities, but to expand and take on new roles and functions.

I recently discussed this with RAPs from across the State, including Dja Dja Wurrung, at the June RAP Forum, where I announced this Government's new investment of \$20.9 million for the Victorian Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy, and our commitment to amending the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. These funds will strengthen the protection and management of Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage, support sustainable RAPs, and enable RAPs to take on new opportunities to expand their important work in strengthening Aboriginal culture. This significant investment will ensure the voices of Traditional Owners remain at the centre of decision-making which is consistent with our commitment to self-determination.

### **Bayswater electorate**

**Question 429**

**Question asked by:** Member for Bayswater  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 19 August 2015

**REPLY:**

VicRoads is pleased to meet with you and the residents in the area to discuss pedestrian safety concerns at the intersection of Canterbury Road and Bedford Road/Aringa Court in Heathmont. VicRoads will arrange the meeting with your office.

The issue of motorists 'running' the red light at this intersection is an enforcement matter for Victoria Police. Accordingly, VicRoads has discussed your constituents' concerns with Victoria Police and requested that appropriate enforcement be undertaken.

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

**Question 431**

**Question asked by:** Member for South-West Coast  
**Directed to:** Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water  
**Asked on:** 19 August 2015

**REPLY:**

The amenities block in Tower Hill Reserve was built in 1969, prior to community expectations, legislation and government policy requiring the provision of accessibility for public buildings.

Accessible toilets at Tower Hill Reserve will be built soon as part of Parks Victoria's statewide schedule of built asset renewal. The new facilities will be in accordance with Australian Standard 1428, as required by the Building Code of Australia. In the meantime, people who require all-access public toilets may visit facilities at Koroit and Dennington townships, each within a ten-minute drive from the reserve.

**Polwarth electorate****Question 433**

**Question asked by:** Member for Polwarth  
**Directed to:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Asked on:** 19 August 2015

**REPLY:**

Thank you for your question regarding funding opportunities for cost variations for projects approved under the Regional Infrastructure program stream of the \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF).

Applicants for funding from this program stream are provided with guidance from Regional Development Victoria (RDV) in the development of project scope.

In the case of the Simpson and District Community Centre hub project, the Corangamite Shire Council has advised RDV that there is a \$55 000 cost overrun on the project, however, Council is working with the sporting club to raise the additional amount required and is confident of achieving the required outcome.

RDV staff work closely with the applicants throughout the project development and implementation phase to ensure that projects are completed to budget and to work through other issues as they arise.

It is not proposed to develop an additional contingency funding stream.

**Gembrook electorate****Question 436**

**Question asked by:** Member for Gembrook  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 20 August 2015

**REPLY:**

A well-resourced police force, with a strong commitment to community engagement and policing, is critical to keeping communities safe.

In May 2010, Labor committed funding for an additional 1966 police to the frontline. This led to an increase of 153 police in the Southern Metro Region Division 3, which includes the Cardinia police service area and Pakenham.

The Andrews Labor Government's first budget in 2015-16 delivered a record \$2.5 billion to Victoria Police to continue their important work in keeping our community safe.

The Andrews Labor Government is investing \$148.6 million over four years to redeploy 400 police to our communities where they are needed. This will occur by recruiting, training and deploying 400 custody officers to initially supervise prisoners at around 22 police stations across Victoria.

In total since coming to government, the Andrews Labor Government has funded over 600 additional positions to Victoria Police.

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

As you would expect, the government works closely with the Chief Commissioner to ensure Victoria Police is appropriately resourced to tackle law and order issues facing the Victorian community. I am assured by the Chief Commissioner that the level of policing is continuously monitored by the respective command officers, with a view to ensuring community safety.

I can assure you that the residents of the Cardinia police service area will continue to receive a 24-hour police response. If any Pakenham residents have any immediate concerns about their safety or the safety of others, or an

offence is in progress, they need to report the matter to Victoria Police through the emergency number '000'. Calls made to '000' are processed and responded to by the closest appropriate police personnel.

Alternatively, less urgent matters can be reported anonymously to Crime Stoppers by calling 1800 333 000 or visiting [www.vic.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.vic.crimestoppers.com.au). Information provided to Crime Stoppers is valuable to police, as it allows them to initiate targeted enforcement operations in areas of high risk.

### Wendouree electorate

#### Question 437

**Question asked by:** Member for Wendouree  
**Directed to:** Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
**Asked on:** 20 August 2015

#### REPLY:

Registered Aboriginal Parties, or RAPs, have significant responsibilities under State legislation (the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010) and are integral to the administration of Victoria's cultural heritage management system.

Earlier this year, I met with staff and members of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation as part of my listening tour of RAPs and Traditional Owner organisations throughout Victoria. Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners shared with me the considerable work they undertake in managing their exceptional cultural heritage. I was particularly impressed with the Dja Dja Wurrung Ranger program, and the environmental and cultural work being undertaken through Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises.

As part of my tour, I also met with staff and members of the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation, who talked to me about their ideas for expanding the roles of RAPs into areas such as education and cultural awareness.

More recently I met with RAPs from across the State at their June RAP Forum, where we discussed expanding RAP roles and functions and RAP sustainability and capability. I also announced this Government's new investment of \$20.9 million for the Victorian Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy, and the Government's commitment to amending the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. These funds will strengthen the protection and management of Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage, support sustainable RAPs, and enable RAPs to take on new opportunities to expand their important work in strengthening Aboriginal culture. This significant investment will ensure the voices of Traditional Owners remain at the centre of decision-making which is consistent with our commitment to self-determination.

There is a proven record of effective cultural heritage management where RAPs are appointed. There are currently ten appointed RAPs, which cover approximately 60% of the State. This Government is committed to appointing RAPs over more of Victoria. I have recently worked with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council to improve the RAP application process. Additionally, amendments to the Act will create a more efficient RAP application process by providing the Council flexibility in its decision making and the ability to mediate dispute resolution.

The Victorian Government is also investing in the successful Right People for Country program, which assists Traditional Owner groups resolve disputes regarding boundaries and group composition, and prepares groups for the challenges and responsibilities of functioning as a RAP.

### Sunbury electorate

**Question 439**

**Question asked by:** Member for Sunbury  
**Directed to:** Minister for Ambulance Services  
**Asked on:** 20 August 2015

**REPLY:**

I was pleased to attend this forum on 29 April to discuss the Ambulance Performance and Policy Consultative Committee's interim report. Thirteen community forums have been held around Victoria to hear feedback from the community and paramedics. The feedback provided at these forums is informing the Committee's deliberations as it works towards developing its final report which will be made available before the end of 2015.

I established the Ambulance Performance and Policy Consultative Committee to work together with paramedics, union officials, and representatives from Ambulance Victoria to improve Ambulance Victoria's service performance and culture.

The Committee is progressing three key reform opportunities to:

- better integrate ambulance services and the broader health system, to ensure patients receive the most appropriate care option;
- change Ambulance Victoria's culture and improve paramedic health and wellbeing; and
- improve ambulance call taking and dispatch

Through the 2015-16 Budget, the Government invested an extra \$99 million to improve ambulance services, upgrade ambulance stations and provide new and replacement vehicles and equipment. This extra funding will also increase the support services available to Victoria's hardworking paramedics.

This investment included \$20 million to modernise and upgrade ambulance facilities across Victoria. In metropolitan Melbourne ambulance stations will be upgraded in Kew, Preston, Eltham and Dandenong. In regional Victoria, ambulance stations will be upgraded in Sale, Orbost, Traralgon, and Echuca. A new ambulance station will also be built in Karingal to provide a permanent home to the Langwarrin ambulance branch. More announcements will be made in coming weeks.

The Government has also removed red tape so that MICA paramedics can now use their skills wherever they're located, including in non-MICA branches. This will mean better services and responses for Victorians in regional and rural areas.

### Brighton electorate

**Question 440**

**Question asked by:** Member for Brighton  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 20 August 2015

**REPLY:**

VicRoads is currently working with the Bayside City Council and Dendy Village Shopping Strip traders to prepare a concept design for pedestrian-operated signals across Hampton Street. The design provides for the removal of the pedestrian refuge as part of the installation of the signalised crossing.

The installation of these pedestrian-operated signals will be considered for funding in a future program. In the meantime, the existing pedestrian refuge will remain in place due to the important safety benefits provided to pedestrians crossing the road.



In regard to the request for a 40km/h speed limit, VicRoads has undertaken an assessment of the section of Hampton Street between Marriage Road and Pine Street, and found that it is significantly shorter than the minimum (400m) length that experience shows is required to support good driver speed compliance in a 40km/h pedestrian activity precinct.

VicRoads will continue to monitor safety along Hampton Street in Brighton.

### **Oakleigh electorate**

#### **Question 441**

**Question asked by:** Member for Oakleigh  
**Directed to:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Asked on:** 20 August 2015

#### **REPLY:**

Thank you for the question Mr Dimopoulos. The Victorian government does indeed have a program that can and does support expectant and new parents in your electorate and across Victoria.

The “We are Family Program” is a free program offered in 60 maternity hospitals and 500 maternal and child health centres across Victoria and includes an outreach program with obstetricians.

The program is aimed at expectant and new parents and provides a guide to nurturing the child-pet relationship from pregnancy to kindergarten.

The program aims to educate parents on how to live safely with dogs and cats in the home; including preparing your home and pet for the new baby, safely introducing a new baby to a pet; the change in dynamic as baby starts to move; understanding dog and cat body language; and disease transfer from pets to humans (zoonoses).

The program has become part of antenatal education programs and is facilitated by hospital antenatal educators and nurses in maternal and child health centres.

A DVD forms the basis of the presentation with the opportunity for discussion and questions; and is supported by a 32 page information booklet which is available to all families and a website [www.wearefamily.vic.gov.au](http://www.wearefamily.vic.gov.au).

The program has been so successful that in the last couple of years that both NSW and SA have contracted my Department to deliver it in those states.

The key messages of the We Are Family Program are:

- Prepare your pets and the home environment for the arrival of a baby.
- Actively supervise all interaction between your pets and children.
- If you cannot actively supervise your pets and children then securely separate them.

### **Bass electorate**

#### **Question 444**

**Question asked by:** Member for Bass  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 20 August 2015

#### **REPLY:**

I refer you to the Speaker’s ruling on 1 September 2015. All documents that were requested by the Speaker were provided.

**Gembrook electorate****Question 480**

**Question asked by:** Member for Gembrook  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 1 September 2015

**REPLY:**

A key part of the Andrews Labor Government's Homesafe trial is extra Protective Service Officers and Transit Police presence to provide a secure network that people feel safe to use. There will be PSOs at the busiest stations across the network and extra Transit Police travelling on many Homesafe services.

The deployment of extra police personnel will provide assistance and reassurance, improve passenger safety, and help make sure the public transport environment is safe for passengers and other staff.

In addition to PSOs and Transit Police, other security measures already on the network will be in place, including monitored CCTV, emergency assistance buttons, and a staff presence.

Victoria Police will continually assess and respond to any safety matters during the Homesafe trial.

**Sandringham electorate****Question 484**

**Question asked by:** Member for Sandringham  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 1 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Government is committed to the creation of a new stand-alone year seven to twelve secondary college at the current Beaumaris campus of Sandringham College.

The Department of Education and Training has established a team to work closely with the Beaumaris community and key stakeholders to progress the development of the new school. The continued use of the site by local sporting clubs and community groups is being considered as part of the development process including the exploration of opportunities to partner with the Melbourne Cricket Club to include first-class sporting facilities as part of the school development.

I was pleased to visit Beaumaris in May and can assure you that the Department will continue to work closely with the community to ensure that any disruptions to community groups is minimised. This will include providing regular updates on the status of the project to key community groups, including the Beaumaris Soccer Club and the Beaumaris (Rotary) Farmers Market.

**Essendon electorate****Question 485**

**Question asked by:** Member for Essendon  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 1 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government has a vision to make Victoria the Education State. This includes providing educational excellence and opportunity in every community.

Recently, I launched a consultation process to give every Victorian the chance to shape the future of the Education State, starting with our early years services.

I encourage all Victorians to participate in the conversation about the Education State and to put forward their ideas, experiences and aspirations. A number of consultation forums have already been held around the State, including in Geelong, Frankston, Bendigo and Broadmeadows. I also congratulate you for hosting your own local forum for your constituents and encourage you to ensure this feedback is provided via the Education State website at [www.educationstate.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.educationstate.education.vic.gov.au).

There are a number of early learning facilities in Essendon that service the local community and surrounding suburbs. Hopetoun Children's Centre has received Victorian Government funding to renovate and upgrade the existing kindergarten room and to add a new early learning facility. These works are due for completion by November this year and I look forward to visiting the centre in the New Year as part of its official opening.

The views of all early childhood services, including kindergarten, maternal and child health services, early childhood intervention services and playgroups, are important in framing the future of early childhood services both locally in Essendon and in Victoria.

### **Gippsland South electorate**

**Question 497**

**Question asked by:** Member for Gippsland South  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 2 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to the ongoing duplication of the Princes Highway between Traralgon and Sale, and some \$260 million has been allocated to this project from the State and Federal Governments. This commitment, including \$15 million in the current State Budget, will enable construction of approximately 30 kilometres of the total 43 kilometres required to finish the duplication.

VicRoads advises me that a further \$160 million is required to complete the duplication, beyond the currently committed funding.

The Victorian Government is, and will continue to work closely with the Federal Government to determine the highest priority projects for future joint funding in Victoria, including the completion of the Princes Highway duplication between Traralgon and Sale.

### **Ferntree Gully electorate**

**Question 499**

**Question asked by:** Member for Ferntree Gully  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 2 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Department of Education and Training is aware of the significance of the leadlight panels in the former Boronia Heights College and has endeavoured to arrange for their safe retrieval.

However, despite the efforts of Departmental staff, I am advised that when the appointed demolition project manager arrived on site, the panels were no longer present but had been removed by persons unknown and not authorised by the Department. There was no evidence that they had been destroyed, simply that they had been removed.

**Footscray electorate****Question 500**

**Question asked by:** Member for Footscray  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 2 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is a proud supporter of men's sheds. Men's sheds provide safe, friendly and inclusive places where men can work together on projects of interest and be connected to their community.

On 7 September 2015, I announced funding to support the construction of new men's sheds in fifteen high need communities across Victoria. Each of these projects is based on extensive community consultation and has a plan to grow the involvement of local residents and build strong partnerships with other community organisations like councils and neighbourhood houses.

One of the projects I was delighted to announce is a new multicultural men's shed in Tottenham. Auspiced by the Australia Light Foundation, this new men's shed will engage multicultural communities in the western suburbs and reduce the social isolation that many residents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds experience.

I know the Member for Footscray has been a strong supporter of the Australian Light Foundation in a range of areas in which they are active in the local community and I appreciate her broader advocacy and support for groups like this one who can partner with the Government to deliver services to people in culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The Australia Light Foundation is a highly regarded umbrella organisation that delivers culturally and socially sensitive programs to multicultural communities in the western suburbs. This new men's shed will offer men in these communities the opportunity to participate in exciting new activities such as trade based activities, health and well being information sessions and activities that connect participants to learning and employment opportunities, especially in building and trades.

**Bentleigh electorate****Question 502**

**Question asked by:** Member for Bentleigh  
**Directed to:** Minister for Health  
**Asked on:** 2 September 2015

**REPLY:**

My thanks to the Honourable Member for Bentleigh for his question.

The Andrews Labor Government values our nurses and midwives. The Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Bill 2015 recently introduced into Parliament will protect our nurses, midwives and Victorians utilising our public hospitals by taking minimum nursing and midwifery staff levels off the bargaining table and enshrining them into the law.

I am pleased to confirm that I plan to visit the Moorabbin Hospital over the coming months, and look forward to the opportunity to discuss the nurse to patient ratios being legislated with nurses at the hospital.

**Morwell electorate****Question 528**

**Question asked by:** Member for Morwell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation  
**Asked on:** 3 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government does not licence or approve lottery retailers under the Public Lottery Licence. The arrangement between the public lottery licensee, Tattersall's Sweeps Pty Ltd (Tattersall's) and its agents is a commercial matter between the parties.

I have expressed my concern to Tattersall's that the expansion of the sale of its lottery products into fuel convenience outlets may adversely affect small businesses such as family run newsagents that have formed the basis of its distribution network in the past. I have asked Tattersall's to consider carefully the locations chosen for the expansion to ensure they are complementary to its existing distribution outlets.

**Essendon electorate****Question 773**

**Question asked by:** Member for Essendon  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 15 September 2015

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is investing the largest-ever increase in needs-based funding for government schools to ensure that the Education State means all kids are given the best opportunities to succeed. All schools can expect to benefit from the recent changes to funding reform, including those in Essendon.

To assist schools with a clear direction on how to ensure their funding supports the state-wide priorities of excellence in teaching and learning, professional leadership, positive climate for learning and community engagement in learning, the Framework for Improving Student Outcomes was developed. This Framework, based on the latest research on student learning and global best-practice, will provide guidance on how schools can focus their efforts on these four priorities by engaging in six evidence-based initiatives. The six initiatives include:

- Building practice excellence
- Curriculum planning and assessment
- Building leadership teams
- Empowering students and building school pride
- Setting expectations and promoting inclusion
- Building communities.

Schools are expected to focus their improvement activity on one or more of these six initiatives. By focusing the efforts of schools on a few key priorities, the Education State will ensure that the pursuit of excellence in every classroom, school and region across Victoria is a shared endeavour.

As part of the plan to support principals and school communities, the Department of Education and Training will also be strengthening regional services and supports for schools. There will be 17 new areas created within the current 4 regions and approximately 150 new staff will be employed in regional offices to work directly with schools. This initiative will ensure regional offices will be better equipped to meet the individual needs of local

schools and communities so that they are able to improve their performance and work on delivering what their students need. Stronger regional services and support will also ensure greater transparency and accountability across the school system.

This boost in funding and regional support will mean schools will have what they need to provide Victorian kids with the skills they need to have the best opportunities for work and for life.

### **Yan Yean electorate**

**Question 924**

**Question asked by:** Member for Yan Yean  
**Directed to:** Minister for Emergency Services  
**Asked on:** 16 September 2015

**REPLY:**

I am advised that:

The government greatly appreciates the commitment and dedication of volunteer and career firefighters in serving our community through their involvement with Victoria's fire services.

The government fully intends to honour its commitment of \$1.4 million to build a new fire station in Plenty and \$500 000 to upgrade the fire station in Wattle Glen.

I have received advice from the Country Fire Authority (CFA) that the upgrade to the Wattle Glen fire station is at the scoping and concept stage. The CFA has communicated this information to members of the brigade.

Regarding a new fire station in Plenty, the CFA has advised that the current site is too small to support the larger type of station that is being planned for Plenty. A feasibility study to secure a new site from VicRoads is being considered in connection with VicRoads's planned widening of the Yan Yean Road. I am advised that brigade members are aware of these developments.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

### **Ringwood electorate**

**Question 1082**

**Question asked by:** Member for Ringwood  
**Directed to:** Premier  
**Asked on:** 17 September 2015

**REPLY:**

I am advised:

No.

### Sunbury electorate

**Question 1087**

**Question asked by:** Member for Sunbury  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 17 September 2015

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is investing the largest-ever increase in needs-based funding for government schools to ensure that the Education State means all kids are given the best opportunities to succeed. All schools can expect to benefit from the recent changes to funding reform, including those in Sunbury.

The increase in funding for schools in Sunbury is a result of the Government's recent announcement of \$747 million in extra funds to deliver great schools for every community and great teaching in every classroom. \$493 million of the announced new funding will be targeted at 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 for a new catch up loading so that schools are better able to help kids who enter secondary school well behind where they should be.

To assist schools with a clear direction on how to ensure their funding supports the state-wide priorities of excellence in teaching and learning, professional leadership, positive climate for learning and community engagement in learning, we have also introduced the new Framework for Improving Student Outcomes. This Framework, based on the latest research on student learning and global best-practice, will provide guidance on how schools can focus their efforts on these four priorities by engaging in six evidence-based initiatives. The six initiatives include:

- Building practice excellence
- Curriculum planning and assessment
- Building leadership teams
- Empowering students and building school pride
- Setting expectations and promoting inclusion
- Building communities.

Schools are expected to focus their improvement activity on one or more of these six initiatives. By focusing the efforts of schools on a few key priorities, the Education State will ensure that the pursuit of excellence in every classroom, school and region across Victoria is a shared endeavour.

In addition, schools will be better supported to implement these initiatives and use this additional funding to improve student outcomes. As part of this plan, the Department of Education and Training will also be strengthening regional services and supports for schools. 17 new areas will be created within the current four regions and approximately 150 new staff will be employed in regional offices to work directly with schools. This initiative will ensure regional offices will be better equipped to meet the individual needs of local schools and communities so that they are able to improve their performance and work on delivering what their students need. Stronger regional services and support will also ensure greater transparency and accountability across the school system.

This boost in funding and regional support will mean schools will have what they need to provide Victorian kids with the skills they need to have the best opportunities for work and for life.