

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**22 and 24 May 2012**

**(Extract from book 9)**

Internet: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard)

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer



## **The Governor**

The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

## **The ministry**

Premier and Minister for the Arts . . . . .	The Hon. E. N. Baillieu, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Bushfire Response, and Minister for Regional and Rural Development. . . . .	The Hon. P. J. Ryan, MP
Treasurer . . . . .	The Hon. K. A. Wells, MP
Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business, and Minister for Tourism and Major Events . . . . .	The Hon. Louise Asher, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Finance . . . . .	The Hon. R. W. Clark, MP
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, and Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade . . . . .	The Hon. R. A. G. Dalla-Riva, MLC
Minister for Health and Minister for Ageing . . . . .	The Hon. D. M. Davis, MLC
Minister for Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Veterans' Affairs . . . .	The Hon. H. F. Delahunty, MP
Minister for Education . . . . .	The Hon. M. F. Dixon, MP
Minister for Planning . . . . .	The Hon. M. J. Guy, MLC
Minister for Higher Education and Skills, and Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession . . . . .	The Hon. P. R. Hall, MLC
Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship . . . . .	The Hon. N. Kotsiras, MP
Minister for Housing, and Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development. . . . .	The Hon. W. A. Lovell, MLC
Minister for Corrections, Minister for Crime Prevention and Minister responsible for the establishment of an anti-corruption commission . . . .	The Hon. A. J. McIntosh, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads . . . . .	The Hon. T. W. Mulder, MP
Minister for Ports, Minister for Major Projects, Minister for Regional Cities and Minister for Racing . . . . .	The Hon. D. V. Napthine, MP
Minister for Gaming, Minister for Consumer Affairs, and Minister for Energy and Resources . . . . .	The Hon. M. A. O'Brien, MP
Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. . . . .	The Hon. E. J. Powell, MP
Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Technology and Minister responsible for the Aviation Industry . . . . .	The Hon. G. K. Rich-Phillips, MLC
Minister for Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Youth Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. R. Smith, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, and Minister for Water. . . . .	The Hon. P. L. Walsh, MP
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women's Affairs and Minister for Community Services . . . . .	The Hon. M. L. N. Wooldridge, MP
Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Mr D. J. Hodgett, MP

## Legislative Council committees

**Privileges Committee** — Ms Darveniza, Mr D. Davis, Mr P. Davis, Mr Hall, Ms Lovell, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Scheffer.

**Procedure Committee** — The President, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Viney

## Legislative Council standing committees

**Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee** — Mr Barber, Ms Broad, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, #Mr Leane, #Mr Lenders, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford, Mr Ramsay and Mr Somyurek.

**Economy and Infrastructure References Committee** — Mr Barber, Ms Broad, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Mr Leane, #Mr Lenders, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford, Mr Ramsay and Mr Somyurek.

**Environment and Planning Legislation Committee** — Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Petrovich, Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, #Mr Tarlamis, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

**Environment and Planning References Committee** — Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Petrovich, Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, #Mr Tarlamis, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

**Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee** — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, #Mr Elsbury, Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Brien, Mr O'Donohue, Mrs Petrovich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

**Legal and Social Issues References Committee** — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, #Mr Elsbury, Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Brien, Mr O'Donohue, Mrs Petrovich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

# Participating member

## Joint committees

**Dispute Resolution Committee** — (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Lovell and Ms Pennicuik. (*Assembly*): Mr Clark, Ms Hennessy, Mr Holding, Mr McIntosh, Mr Merlino, Dr Naphthine and Mr Walsh.

**Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Leane, Mr Ramsay and Mr Scheffer. (*Assembly*): Mr Battin and Mr McCurdy.

**Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Peulich. (*Assembly*): Mr Burgess, Mr Foley, Mr Noonan and Mr Shaw.

**Education and Training Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Elasmr and Ms Tierney. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Ms Miller and Mr Southwick.

**Electoral Matters Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Finn, Mr Somyurek and Mr Tarlamis. (*Assembly*): Ms Ryall and Mrs Victoria.

**Environment and Natural Resources Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Koch. (*Assembly*): Mr Bull, Ms Duncan, Mr Pandazopoulos and Ms Wreford.

**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Coote and Ms Crozier. (*Assembly*): Mrs Bauer, Ms Halfpenny, Mr McGuire and Mr Wakeling.

**House Committee** — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*) Mr Drum, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, and Mr P. Davis. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Ms Beattie, Ms Campbell, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Graley, Mr Wakeling and Mr Weller.

**Law Reform Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Petrovich. (*Assembly*): Mr Carbines, Ms Garrett, Mr Newton-Brown and Mr Northe.

**Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Kronberg and Mr Ondarchie. (*Assembly*): Ms Graley, Ms Hutchins and Ms McLeish.

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee** — (*Council*): Mr P. Davis, Mr O'Brien and Mr Pakula. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Ms Hennessey, Mr Morris and Mr Scott.

**Road Safety Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Elsbury. (*Assembly*): Mr Languiller, Mr Perera, Mr Tilley and Mr Thompson.

**Rural and Regional Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Drum. (*Assembly*): Mr Howard, Mr Katos, Mr Trezise and Mr Weller.

**Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee** — (*Council*): Mr O'Brien and Mr O'Donohue. (*Assembly*): Mr Brooks, Ms Campbell, Mr Gidley, Mr Nardella and Mr Watt.

## 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 W. R. Tunnecliffe

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

**President:** The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:** Mr M. VINEY

**Acting Presidents:** Ms Crozier, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Mr O'Brien, Ms Pennicuik, Mr Ramsay, Mr Tarlamis

**Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. D. M. DAVIS

**Deputy Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. W. A. LOVELL

**Leader of the Opposition:**

Mr J. LENDERS

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

Mr G. JENNINGS

**Leader of The Nationals:**

The Hon. P. R. HALL

**Deputy Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr D. DRUM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Hon. Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Lenders, Mr John	Southern Metropolitan	ALP
Broad, Ms Candy Celeste	Northern Victoria	ALP	Lovell, Hon. Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP
Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	O'Brien, Mr David Roland Joseph	Western Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Hon. Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Darveniza, Ms Kaye Mary	Northern Victoria	ALP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Davis, Hon. David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pakula, Hon. Martin Philip	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Davis, Mr Philip Rivers	Eastern Victoria	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Petrovich, Mrs Donna-Lee	Northern Victoria	LP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Elsbury, Mr Andrew Warren	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Hon. Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Guy, Hon. Matthew Jason	Northern Metropolitan	LP	Scheffer, Mr Johan Emiel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hall, Hon. Peter Ronald	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Tarlamis, Mr Lee Reginald	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tee, Mr Brian Lennox	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Koch, Mr David Frank	Western Victoria	LP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Kronberg, Mrs Janice Susan	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Viney, Mr Matthew Shaw	Eastern Victoria	ALP



# CONTENTS

---

## WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

### TUESDAY, 22 MAY 2012

<i>Duncans Road, Werribee: traffic management</i> .....	2739
<i>Tourism: cruise ships</i> .....	2739
<i>Rail: Marshall station</i> .....	2740
<i>Public transport: fares</i> .....	2740
<i>Climate change: reports</i> .....	2741
<i>Maltese Association Hobsons Bay: funding</i> .....	2741
<i>Mentone: beach renourishment</i> .....	2742
<i>Sunbury: closed-circuit television cameras</i> .....	2742
<i>Rail: Balaclava station</i> .....	2743
<i>Housing: Our Voices project</i> .....	2743
<i>Roads: Eastern Metropolitan Region</i> .....	2744
<i>Department of Primary Industries: regional job losses</i> .....	2744
<i>William Ruthven Secondary College: funding</i> .....	2745
<i>Public transport: maintenance program</i> .....	2745
<i>Tip Top Poultry: future</i> .....	2750
<i>Victorian certificate of applied learning: funding</i> .....	2750
<i>Parker-Whitehall streets, Footscray: safety</i> .....	2751
<i>Timber industry: road funding</i> .....	2751
<i>Schools: body image resource</i> .....	2752
<i>Carbon tax: local government</i> .....	2752
<i>Sandringham College: funding</i> .....	2753
<i>Wandin East: weather station</i> .....	2753
<i>Anzac Day: Mount Macedon horse ride</i> .....	2754
<i>Wind farms: road damage</i> .....	2754

### THURSDAY, 24 MAY 2012

<i>City of Brimbank: elections</i> .....	2757
<i>Wallan-Kilmore bypass: route</i> .....	2757
<i>Rail: fencing</i> .....	2758





**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Tuesday, 22 May 2012**

**Duncans Road, Werribee: traffic management**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads

**Raised by:** Mr Finn

**Raised on:** 8 November 2011

**REPLY:**

I am advised that the construction of westerly oriented ramps at Duncans Road to complete a full diamond interchange was one of five recommendations arising from the Werribee Street/Cottrell Street study. The study was completed by VicRoads in 2008 to identify short, medium and long-term options to alleviate congestion in Werribee and more broadly in the municipality.

Over the next two years, the Department of Planning and Community Development and the Department of Transport, on behalf of the coalition government, will prepare the new metropolitan planning strategy which will consider the impacts of Melbourne's population growth in the decades ahead.

Melbourne's growth will be undertaken in a sustainable way by addressing future settlement and transport needs. Planning for any improvements to the Duncans Road interchange will be considered in this context.

**Tourism: cruise ships**

**Raised with:** Minister for Tourism and Major Events

**Raised by:** Mrs Coote

**Raised on:** 14 March 2012

**REPLY:**

As Tourism and Major Events Minister, I was delighted to be able to welcome the *Queen Mary 2* on her inaugural visit to Melbourne on 5 March 2012.

As Mrs Coote has stated, it was the largest cruise ship ever to visit Melbourne, with 2500 passengers and 1200 crew.

The arrival of the *Queen Mary 2* comes as we experience a bumper cruise ship season for Victoria, with 58 ships visiting Victorian ports including two to Geelong. There are already 60 ships booked to visit during the next season in 2012–13.

The number of homeport ships in Melbourne is set to increase from eight to 15 which will deliver a significant economic impact for the state, because of the food, fuel and other provisions that are taken on board when based in a port. The value of homeport visits is significantly higher than the estimated \$1 million each visiting cruise ship contributes to Melbourne's economy.

Despite recent challenges to tourism such as the global financial crisis and the high Australian dollar, cruise shipping continues to perform strongly for the industry. The government is committed to maintaining the momentum of the industry's growth and will work with the sector to ensure we remain globally competitive.

The government, through Tourism Victoria and the Port of Melbourne Corporation, worked with the peak industry body Cruise Down Under to attract ships to Victoria. I am pleased to report that Tourism Victoria just last month met with all major cruise lines at the leading international exhibition and conference Cruise Shipping Miami, to discuss future cruise ship deployments to Victoria.

The government will also continue to lead a strategic approach in cruise shipping, working across all levels of government and the private sector to leverage opportunities and ensuring the right infrastructure is in place to attract ships to regional ports such as Geelong and Portland.

### **Rail: Marshall station**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Ms Tierney

**Raised on:** 14 March 2012

#### **REPLY:**

A new railway station named Marshall opened in 2005. Further changes to Marshall station in 2010 failed to include an enclosed shelter for passengers and there are currently no plans to construct a shelter. However, the coalition government has committed to construct a new railway station at Grovedale.

The 2012–13 state budget includes \$8.4 million to continue planning and land acquisition for a new station at Grovedale. The new station will feature a fully enclosed waiting room, a car park and a booking office.

Since becoming minister, I have also established a station user panel to ensure that the needs of passengers are clearly considered when railway stations are designed.

### **Public transport: fares**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Mr Eideh

**Raised on:** 15 March 2012

#### **REPLY:**

The coalition government is making significant investments in public transport. Highlights include:

- \$222 million for seven new metropolitan trains and supporting infrastructure;
- \$171.9 million for additional regional rail network maintenance;
- an additional \$100 million as part of the Maintaining Our Rail Network Fund;
- \$49.7 million to protect the corridor for the Melbourne Metro rail tunnel;
- additional regional rolling stock and two grade separations in Sunshine that have been reinstated into the scope of the regional rail link project.

The fare increase you refer to in your adjournment matter was approved by the previous Labor government in 2009. Labor's Victorian transport plan said:

When new trains and additional capacity are delivered to the public transport network in 2011, fares will increase above consumer price index (CPI) to reflect some of the cost of the investment.

Revenue from fare increases was included in the budget forward estimates when the coalition took office. The coalition also inherited cost blow-outs of around \$1.3 billion associated with myki, the regional rail link, digital train radio system, M1 freeway upgrade and West Gate Bridge strengthening.

If the government had not proceeded with the fare increase, tens of millions of dollars would not have been available to help fund public transport improvements.

### **Climate change: reports**

**Raised with:** Minister for Environment and Climate Change

**Raised by:** Ms Pennicuk

**Raised on:** 15 March 2012

**REPLY:**

It was stated on the DSE website that the Victorian government will consider the timing of the guide's release in the context of other initiatives under development as part of the Future Coast program.

The Victorian Coastal Hazard Guide is currently being finalised and will be released in due course. The Climate Change Victoria website has been updated to reflect this time line.

The Coastal Climate Change Advisory Committee and associated report does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Environment and Climate Change. It falls under the responsibility of the Minister for Planning.

### **Maltese Association Hobsons Bay: funding**

**Raised with:** Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship

**Raised by:** Mr Finn

**Raised on:** 27 March 2012

**REPLY:**

I write in response to a matter you raised in the adjournment debate on 27 March 2012, in relation to the Maltese Association of Hobsons Bay.

The Maltese Association of Hobsons Bay is one of the many important community organisations that support the cohesive, multicultural society we enjoy in Victoria.

The Victorian government has provided the association with a number of community strengthening grants in recent years.

I am advised that the association has applied to the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship for a building and facilities improvement grant through the 2012–13 community grants program.

I understand the application is for funding to build a performance stage at the council owned hall in Altona East. I am informed that the application is currently being considered and that the association will be advised accordingly.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

**Mentone: beach renourishment**

**Raised with:** Minister for Environment and Climate Change

**Raised by:** Mrs Coote

**Raised on:** 28 March 2012

**REPLY:**

In May 2011, the government announced funding of \$9.536 million for the Protection of Port Phillip Beaches and Foreshore (PPPBF) program.

In January 2012, I approved a works schedule which essentially funds beach renourishment and coastal protection works at 15 beaches over the next four years from 2011–12 to 2014–15.

Mentone and neighbouring Parkdale beaches will be renourished with 15 000m<sup>3</sup> of sand sourced from Mordialloc beach.

Public information for this project has been disseminated by the City of Kingston in media releases and a public information meeting held in the Mentone Life Saving Club on 18 April 2012.

Works are expected to commence in June 2012 and take approximately 5 weeks to complete depending on weather conditions.

**Sunbury: closed-circuit television cameras**

**Raised with:** Minister for Crime Prevention

**Raised by:** Mrs Petrovich

**Raised on:** 29 March 2012

**REPLY:**

I refer to the adjournment debate you raised in relation to Sunbury: closed-circuit television. I have recently written to the mayor of Hume City Council reaffirming the government's commitment to provide council with \$200 000 for the purchase and installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) infrastructure for the Sunbury business district and entertainment precinct. I have asked council to confirm by 18 May 2012 whether it wishes to accept this funding, on the same terms as provided to any other council.

The government has consistently stated that funding is available as a contribution to the costs of infrastructure, and that responsibility for the costs associated with ongoing maintenance and management would remain with councils, as the asset owners.

The costs of the CCTV infrastructure, and its ongoing maintenance, will of course depend on the specific system chosen. The Department of Justice has produced a guide to developing CCTV for public safety in Victoria, which sets out the range of considerations that will assist councils to determine the final scope, size and cost of a CCTV system. A copy of this publication has been provided to Hume City Council. It is also available on [www.justice.vic.gov.au](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au).

On Tuesday 24 April 2012, I met with Michael Osborne, head of the Sunbury Traders Association, to discuss the urgent requirement for CCTV in Sunbury. At this meeting, they informed me that there have recently been at least three robberies in the Sunbury trading area and emphasised to me their request to have CCTV installed in the Sunbury trading area to address these issues. As stated, the government remains committed to providing council with \$200 000 for the purchase and installation of CCTV infrastructure for Sunbury and awaits council's confirmation that it wishes to accept this funding on the terms outlined to it.

I trust this information is of assistance and thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

**Rail: Balaclava station**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Mrs Coote

**Raised on:** 17 April 2012

**REPLY:**

The Balaclava station upgrade is a \$13.3 million project to improve access, safety and customer facilities at Balaclava railway station.

The project will deliver:

- new ramps and stairs to both station platforms;
- upgraded station buildings with accessible toilets;
- better passenger information;
- improved shelter and seating;
- better lighting and CCTV to improve safety.

Following completion of the upgrade, Balaclava will become a premium station with staffing seven days a week, from first to last train.

The project team has recently sought community feedback on the concept designs through activities including a coffee morning at the station, a display at St Kilda library and staffed sessions which were attended by local people with an interest in the project.

Community and stakeholder feedback will be considered in the development of the final design. Further information will be provided prior to construction in 2013.

**Housing: Our Voices project**

**Raised with:** Minister for Housing

**Raised by:** Ms Crozier

**Raised on:** 17 April 2012

**REPLY:**

I would like to thank Ms Crozier, member for Southern Metropolitan, for her strong support of the Our Voices employment support initiative in St Kilda.

The Our Voices project will help disadvantaged residents of St Kilda including homeless and other vulnerable Victorians to access services, community programs, and education and employment opportunities.

The Our Voices project is in addition to the five work and learning centres that the government is establishing in public housing areas in partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

I would be delighted to attend a meeting of the Our Voices project and meet some of the participants should a suitable opportunity arise.

**Roads: Eastern Metropolitan Region****Raised with: Minister for Roads****Raised by: Mr Leane****Raised on: 17 April 2012****REPLY:**

1. The Victorian coalition government has committed \$12.7 million to the duplication of Stud Road from the Mountain Highway to Boronia Road, Wantirna. The project includes upgrades to the Boronia Road and Mountain Highway intersections. Construction of the Stud Road duplication is due to start in late 2013 and be completed by late 2014. VicRoads is undertaking pre-construction activities and will work closely with local businesses and the community to keep them informed on the progress of the project.
2. VicRoads has developed a proposal to install traffic signals at the intersection of Tormore Road and Boronia Road with a total estimated cost of \$1.3 million, which is fully funded. VicRoads will commence construction works in late 2012.
3. VicRoads has awarded a contract to undertake the government commitment to signalise the Hull Road, Cardigan Road and Brice Avenue intersection in Mooroolbark. Work is scheduled to commence in mid 2012. I confirm that the \$800 000 government commitment is sufficient to deliver the works.
4. The Maroondah City Council expressed concerns about the appropriateness of signals at the Eastfield Road and Morinda Street intersection. The council, in consultation with VicRoads, the community, and other stakeholders, has developed a package of appropriate safety improvements for the intersection, which will be completed by the end of June 2012.

**Department of Primary Industries: regional job losses****Raised with: Minister for Agriculture and Food Security****Raised by: Mr Lenders****Raised on: 17 April 2012****REPLY:**

I refer to the matter raised by you in the Legislative Council during the adjournment debate on 17 April 2012 in relation to regional job losses in the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

The Department of Primary Industries has, like all government departments, been asked to find structural efficiencies and focus on strategic priorities to help ensure the Victorian budget return to a sustainable position.

The coalition government inherited an unsustainable public sector from the Labor Party, with growth in the public sector outstripping growth in the Victorian economy under the former government.

As has already been made clear by this government, the focus of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) will be different in the future as these saving measures come into effect over the coming financial year.

I have requested the department to sharpen their focus on areas of research and development work in areas of industry demand. Furthermore DPI will concentrate efforts on where staff can help the sector be more profitable and competitive, boost food and fibre production and best deliver outcomes for farmers and the Victorian economy.

I welcome the additional investments in agriculture that was announced in the state budget, a total of \$61.4 million which will be invested into DPI operations over the next four years which will help deliver on these priorities.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

**William Ruthven Secondary College: funding**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Ms Mikakos

**Raised on:** 17 April 2012

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian coalition government is committed to upgrading government primary and secondary schools across the state.

The government must responsibly balance and prioritise the capital needs of over 1500 government schools across the state.

The *Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Plan for Education* identifies a number of priority capital works projects to be undertaken in the first term of government. Additional schools identified for capital funding are announced in the Victorian budget.

I understand that William Ruthven college was left on a waiting list of over 200 schools under the previous government's Building Futures capital works program, without any certainty as to when building work would be funded.

The former Lakeside Secondary College, Lalor Park Primary School and Mernda Primary School sites are on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's disposal schedule.

All school sites and buildings are disposed of in accordance with guidelines issued by the government land monitor. The guidelines state that a site which is declared surplus is initially offered to other government departments, then to the local government authority for purchase at a market price determined by the valuer-general.

In the event that neither government departments nor the local council have an interest in the site, it is rezoned, if necessary, and offered for sale through public tender or auction. Funds from the disposal of land are returned to the department's capital works program and reinvested in other educational facilities.

Officers from the department will continue to work with William Ruthven Secondary College on planning for school improvement.

**Public transport: maintenance program**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Mrs Coote

**Raised on:** 18 April 2012

**REPLY:**

Rail asset renewal and rail maintenance are essential to improving the reliability and punctuality of our rail system and ensuring its effective and efficient performance. To this end, the coalition government has committed \$900 million through a new Maintaining Our Rail Network Fund for rail asset renewal and maintenance, including \$100 million in additional funding administered by Public Transport Victoria (PTV), to increase maintenance on tracks, points, ballast and other rail network basics.

The works outlined in the attached tables are part of the Metro and Yarra Trams annual works plans, covering the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 for the southern metropolitan region. Metro and Yarra Trams may amend their annual works plans as required from time to time.

Yarra Trams successfully completed major track and electrical overhead works between the Arts Centre and Commercial Road over the Easter period.

**TABLE 1a – SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION – RAIL AND TRAM TRACK WORKS – 1 JULY 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012**

Operator & Infrastructure	Renewal Activity (Southern Metropolitan Region)	Unit of measure	Quantities of Work for Southern Metropolitan Region 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012			
			A Completed to 31 Mar 2012	B Location completed	C Total Planned	D Locations to be completed
Rail Track	Drains - Clean Cess Drain	kilometres (km)	0.518	Ripponlea, Heyington	0.518	
	Major Resleepering	number	561	Willison, Canterbury, Riversdale, Camberwell, Glenferrie, Caulfield	13,961	Camberwell to Alamein
	Mainline Turnout (Points & Crossings) - Replace with 60 kg rail	number	8	Caulfield, Sandringham, Oakleigh, Brighton	8	
	Level Crossings - Recondition road (Tamp & Seal)	number	0		1	Mentone
	Re-railing	kilometres	30.24	Caulfield line, Patterson, Sandringham, Camberwell	30.24	
	Insulated Joint Renewals	number	11	Oakleigh, Macaulay, Highett, Camberwell, Sandringham, East Camberwell, Brighton Beach	11	
	Track Drainage Rehabilitation	kilometres	0.635	Windsor, Ripponlea, East Malvern	0.635	
	Surface Tamping - Track	kilometres	18.5	Caulfield line	18.5	
	Surface Tamping - Crossings	number	4	Caulfield, Sandringham	4	
	Renewal - Mud spot	metres	1,087	Caulfield line	1,387	Richmond-Caulfield, Toorak Mathoura Road
Drainage Improvement Program	location	0		2	Caulfield, Toorak	



**TABLE 1a – SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION – RAIL AND TRAM TRACK WORKS – 1 JULY 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012**

Operator & Infrastructure	Renewal Activity (Southern Metropolitan Region)	Unit of measure	Quantities of Work for Southern Metropolitan Region 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012			
			A Completed to 31 Mar 2012	B Location completed	C Total Planned	D Locations to be completed
Tram Track	Embedded Track - Straight	metres - single track	116	Glenferrie Road	2,716	St Kilda Road
	Curved Track Embedded		0	-	2	Riversdale Road/Hawthorn Depot and Power/Wallen Streets
	Crossover	number	0	-	1	Riversdale Road / Wallen Street
	Depot Embedded Track	depots	1	Camberwell	2	Southbank

**TABLE 1b – SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION – RAIL AND TRAM POWER & OVERHEAD WORKS – 1 JULY 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012**

Operator & Infrastructure	Renewal Activity (Southern Metropolitan Region)	Unit of measure	Quantities of Work for Southern Metropolitan Region 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012			
			A Completed to 31 March 2012	B Locations Completed	C Total Planned	D Locations to be completed
Rail Power & Overhead	Contact Wire	kilometres	5.9	2 km Sandringham Line, 2.4 km to Glen Iris (Glen Waverley Line), 1.5 km Caulfield Line	7.7	1.8 km Richmond
	Section Insulators	number	3	various	3	
	AC (Alternating Current) Circuit Breakers	number	1	Hawthorn Substation	1	
	Rectifier and Rectifier Transformer as a pair	pair	1	Hawthorn Substation	1	
	DCCB's (Direct Current Circuit Breakers) Refurbishment	number	3	various	3	
	DCCB replacements	number	7	Hawthorn Substation	7	
	22 kV (kilovolts) Switches	number	1	Hawthorn Substation	1	
	Earthing	substation	1	Hawthorn Substation	1	
	Insulator Replacement	number	60	various	60	
	AC Protection Relays	number				
	1500 V (Volts) Switch Isolators	number	6	various	6	
	22 kV AC Transmission	kilometres				
	Auxiliary Transformers	number	1	Hawthorn Substation	1	
Substation Batteries	number	6	various	6		

**TABLE 1b – SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION – RAIL AND TRAM POWER & OVERHEAD WORKS – 1 JULY 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012**

Operator & Infrastructure	Renewal Activity (Southern Metropolitan Region)	Unit of measure	Quantities of Work for Southern Metropolitan Region 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012			
			A Completed to 31 March 2012	B Locations Completed	C Total Planned	D Locations to be completed
Tram Power & Overhead	Renewal of Underground Cables	kilometres	1.58	St Kilda	1.58	
	Trolley Renewal	kilometres (single track)	6	Burke Road (2 km both tracks), Victoria Parade (1 km both tracks)	9.2	St Kilda Road
	Section Insulator Replacement	pairs	3.5	High Street, Park Street, Commercial Road, Camberwell Depot	10	
	Depot Overhead Cables	kilometres	0.444	Camberwell Depot	0.444	no further known
	Renew Junction Overhead Networks	number	1	Fitzroy Street/Park Street	9	St Kilda Road, Riversdale Road, Camberwell Junction
	Renew Crossover Overhead Networks	number	4	Burke Road, Fitzroy Street, Commercial Road, High Street.	6	St Kilda Road, Swan Street.

**TABLE 1c – SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION – RAIL AND TRAM STRUCTURES & BUILDING WORKS – 1 JULY 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012**

Operator & Infrastructure	Renewal Activity (Southern Metropolitan Region)	Unit of measure	Quantities of Work for Southern Metropolitan Region 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012			
			A Completed to 31 March 2012	B Locations Completed	C Total Planned	D Locations to be completed
Rail Structures & Buildings	Subway Replacement	number	2	Tooronga Road - Caulfield	2	
	Footbridge Replacement	spans	3	Arthur Street - South Yarra	3	
	Replace Existing Guy Bases with new Galvanised Structure	number	15	In Southern region	15	
	Replace Existing Overhead Structure Foundation Capping	number	19	In Southern region	19	
	Replace Timber Coping Face	number	0		1	Alamein Platform 1
	Resurface Existing Platform Surface	number	0		3	Alamein Platforms 1, Burwood Platforms 1 & 2
	Install New Fence-Rail Reserve	metres	171	Hartwell	591	Hartwell
	Station Painting	stations	2	Toorak & Armadale	2	

**TABLE 1c – SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION – RAIL AND TRAM STRUCTURES & BUILDING WORKS – 1 JULY 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012**

Operator & Infrastructure	Renewal Activity (Southern Metropolitan Region)	Unit of measure	Quantities of Work for Southern Metropolitan Region 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012			
			A Completed to 31 March 2012	B Locations Completed	C Total Planned	D Locations to be completed
Rail Structures & Buildings	Line Marking of Platforms	platforms	68	In Southern region	68	
	Station Roofs	roofs	1	Prahran	1	
	Retaining Walls	square metres	60	South Yarra	1800	South Yarra
Tram Structures & Buildings	Renew Pole Overhead Poles	number	49	Camberwell, South Yarra, St Kilda Road, Prahran	49	
	Heritage Pole Works	number	14	St Kilda	14	

**TABLE 1d – SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGION – SIGNALLING – 1 JULY 2011 TO 30 JUNE 2012**

Operator & Infrastructure	Renewal Activity (Southern Metropolitan Region)	Unit of measure	Quantities of Work for Southern Metropolitan Region 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012			
			A Completed to 31 March 2012	B Locations Completed	C Total Planned	D Locations to be completed
Rail Signalling	WRRS (Western Rail Road Supply Co.) Boom Mechanism	number	4	Lincare Road, Hampton and Dendy Street, Brighton	4	no further known
	Replace Cable Trunking	locations	9	1 Loc. - between Bentleigh and Patterson 3 Loc. - Caulfield and Glenhuntly 3 Loc. - Cheltenham and Mentone 2 Loc. - Ormond and McKinnon	9	
Tram Signals	Refurbish automatic point machines (with Track renewals)	number	0	-	5	Riversdale / Power CT St Kilda / Domain St Kilda / Park
	Replacement of track circuits	number	0	-	5	Riversdale / Power CT St Kilda / Domain St Kilda / Park
	Renewal of point control Induction Loops	number	0	-	5	Riversdale / Power CT St Kilda / Domain St Kilda / Park

**Tip Top Poultry: future**

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture and Food Security

**Raised by:** Mr Elasmarr

**Raised on:** 18 April 2012

**REPLY:**

I refer to the question you raised during the adjournment debate in the Legislative Council on 18 April 2012 concerning PrimeSafe's actions in relation to Tip Top Poultry.

PrimeSafe is an independent statutory authority established under the Meat Industry Act 1993 (the act). Under the act, PrimeSafe is responsible for maintaining food safety standards by establishing and administering a licensing and inspection system which incorporates mechanisms for adopting and implementing quality assurance programs.

PrimeSafe's ability to perform its regulatory roles and functions is supported by various powers under the act that allow it to take enforcement action to ensure compliance with food safety quality assurance systems. Section 74 of the act provides that under certain circumstances the chief executive officer (CEO) of PrimeSafe has the power to issue a notice, in writing, prohibiting the owner, operator or licensee of a meat processing facility from using the facility for a specified purpose and/or directing the owner, operator, licensee of a meat processing facility to remove any meat and meat products from the facility.

The CEO may only issue a section 74 notice if he or she has considered a report from an inspector on the matter in question and considers that it is appropriate to issue the notice in the interests of public health.

On 14 November 2011, the CEO of PrimeSafe, Mr Brian Casey, determined that there were immediate and serious food safety and hygiene issues at the Tip Top Poultry plant. Mr Casey deemed the issues identified by the inspector were sufficient that, in the interests of protecting public health, it warranted the issuing of a written notice under section 74 to ensure that the problems were rectified before the plant resumed operations.

The notice was revoked later in November when the problems identified by PrimeSafe were resolved. I understand the plant then resumed operations under interim arrangements that provided for a reduced throughput of birds. These interim arrangements ceased in January 2012 and the plant has since had the ability to operate at full capacity.

While it is certainly regrettable that this company has since entered administration and jobs have been lost, it is the responsibility of all meat processing facilities to meet the food safety standards required under the act. The maintenance of these standards is vital to ensuring the safety of the Victorian community and protecting the enviable food safety reputation of the Victorian meat industry.

**Victorian certificate of applied learning: funding**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Ms Darveniza

**Raised on:** 18 April 2012

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

VCAL is an alternative year 12 qualification to the Victorian certificate of education (VCE). It provides a valued pathway for students into employment, further education and training through applied learning.

Funding for the delivery of VCAL in government schools continues to be provided through the student resource package.

When VCAL was introduced in 2003, an additional co-ordination payment for program planning and development was provided to help establish the certificate. This support was later removed by the previous Victorian Labor government.

The remaining coordination payment ceased in 2011 bringing VCAL into line with the Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS) and VCE, which do not receive additional funding for coordination. Now in its 10th year, VCAL is a well-established senior secondary certificate in Victoria.

VCAL enrolments continue to grow, with the number of government students undertaking VCAL growing by 12 per cent in 2011. This year, 15 additional schools have started offering VCAL, 14 of those for the first time.

Schools have access to a number of support services for VCAL students. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA), the Victorian Applied Learning Association, the local learning and employment networks, and the workplace learning coordinators program provide support to VCAL providers and assist in developing curriculum resources and co-ordinating structured workplace learning placements. The VCAA also assists new VCAL providers to develop, plan and implement VCAL programs as part of its quality assurance support.

Additionally, the Victorian coalition government is boosting investment in vocational education by \$32 million over four years from 2011 to reflect the importance of VETiS to student learning and training, after this funding was left to lapse by the previous government.

The 2012–13 Victorian budget allocated \$1.4 billion in new funding for early childhood development, education and training.

### **Parker–Whitehall streets, Footscray: safety**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads

**Raised by:** Ms Hartland

**Raised on:** 18 April 2012

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

VicRoads, in consultation with the City of Maribyrnong and Bicycle Network Victoria, has undertaken detailed investigations to determine the most appropriate treatment options at the intersection of Whitehall Street and Parker Street in Footscray. A proposal to signalise the intersection with separate signals for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists is being considered.

### **Timber industry: road funding**

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture and Food Security

**Raised by:** Mr Lenders

**Raised on:** 18 April 2012

#### **REPLY:**

I refer to the matter you raised during the adjournment debate in the Legislative Council on 18 April 2012 regarding funding for timber roads.

The Victorian coalition government supports the Victorian timber industry. We are committed to providing greater resource certainty for industry and secure long-term access to native timber supplies through the timber industry action plan. Action 6 of the timber industry action plan is to improve freight infrastructure and logistics to support the timber supply chain.

In the Victorian budget 2012–13 the coalition government is providing \$1 million for road upgrades to widen and seal road shoulders used frequently by the timber industry.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

### **Schools: body image resource**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Ms Mikakos

**Raised on:** 18 April 2012

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The government recently provided funding of \$500 000 to the Queen Victoria Women's Centre for their SeeMe media literacy project in partnership with the Department of Business and Innovation. As part of the government's commitment, the Queen Victoria Women's Centre is currently developing material to promote the distribution of these written and web-based materials in all Victorian schools. The department will also support the promotion of the materials and orientation sessions for peer leaders and teacher champions through established professional networks.

The department also supports the framework for action in schools, developing positive body image and continues to liaise with the Department of Health (DH) and the Office for Youth to promote the framework as a quality resource to support students to develop positive body image in the context of effective health promotion approaches.

The Healthy Children/Healthy Communities initiative of the National Partnerships Agreement on Preventative Health will also address body image issues. As part of this initiative, the department is working closely with DH to develop the Victorian prevention and health promotion achievement program. The program will bring together various health and wellbeing activities into a comprehensive approach for schools and early childhood settings. In this context, SeeMe will be a useful resource for schools, providing practical activities to address body image.

Further to this, a new healthy eating advisory service will provide nutrition advice to early childhood services, primary and secondary schools. This service will provide an additional mechanism for distribution of Eating Disorders Victoria resources to address body image issues.

### **Carbon tax: local government**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government

**Raised by:** Mr Finn

**Raised on:** 19 April 2012

#### **REPLY:**

Local government financial sustainability is an ongoing issue that every Australian jurisdiction is grappling with. There are no easy fixes and it will require the joint efforts of all three levels of government to find solutions that are realistic and achievable.

Cost pressures on local councils are expected to be exacerbated by the introduction of the federal carbon tax and I join the member for Western Metropolitan Region in his concern about the impact this will have on local councils.

The member will be aware of estimates produced by the Municipal Association of Victoria which assess the impact of the carbon tax on council expenses at between 0.3 and 1.9 per cent, with the median being at 0.8 per cent. This is broadly consistent with the federal Treasury's estimate of the economy-wide impact.

I would like to assure the member for Western Metropolitan Region that I will always seek the best outcomes for Victorian local governments in my capacity as minister in my discussions with the commonwealth. I am pleased to advise that I have already approached the federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency on the need for funding assistance for Victorian councils.

### **Sandringham College: funding**

**Raised with: Minister for Education**

**Raised by: Mr Lenders**

**Raised on: 19 April 2012**

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

Sandringham Secondary College is a multi-campus college serving the suburbs of Beaumaris, Black Rock, Sandringham and Highett.

Its three campuses are located in Beaumaris, Sandringham and Highett. The Beaumaris and Highett campuses cater for years 7–10 students and the Sandringham campus is a senior campus catering for years 11 and 12 students.

The senior campus offers exemplary programs particularly in the arts and technology and many of its students travel from outside the local area to attend the school.

The college council has initiated an internal review on the future structure of the college which has generated a high level of community response. I welcome community interest in the future structure of the college.

The Beaumaris campus has had low enrolments for many years and one of the purposes of the review is to examine this issue.

The Victorian coalition government has committed \$6 million for the refurbishment of the college. I understand capital works planning is continuing with the expectation capital funding is appropriated in this term of government.

### **Wandin East: weather station**

**Raised with: Minister for Agriculture and Food Security**

**Raised by: Mr O'Donohue**

**Raised on: 19 April 2012**

#### **REPLY:**

I refer to the matter you raised during the adjournment debate in the Legislative Council on 19 April 2012 concerning the Wandin East weather station.

This is an important initiative achieved thanks to the work and advocacy you have undertaken on behalf of Silvan region farmers. The weather station is an example of the poor governance of the former government who allocated tax payer funds to build this infrastructure and then promptly put it in mothballs. The coalition will breathe new life into the facility.

Progress on the hand over of the Wandin East weather station has been made. Work is progressing on making data available through the internet. The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is drawing up an asset transfer agreement and work has been conducted to confirm the station is in operating condition.

Preparations to ensure that the weather station is operational include data storage and data access via internet web pages. Following these actions, discussions with the Wandin Silvan Field Day Committee will commence around how they would like to brand and provide the data to farmers.

The Wandin Silvan Field Day Committee has committed to accept ownership of the weather station. An agreement that details responsibilities of DPI and the Wandin Silvan Field Day Committee is being drawn up. This agreement will include the DPI commitment to pay the costs of data provision services, for a duration up to three years, during which time the Wandin Silvan Field Day Committee will have the time and opportunity to choose their own data acquisition service.

The weather station will provide climate data on temperature, wind speed and direction, humidity, sunlight, and rainfall. The weather station does not provide any prediction services. The Bureau of Meteorology will remain an important source of timely weather warnings for local farmers.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

### **Anzac Day: Mount Macedon horse ride**

**Raised with: Minister for Environment and Climate Change**

**Raised by: Mrs Petrovich**

**Raised on: 19 April 2012**

#### **REPLY:**

The Riddells Creek Riders have been participating in the ANZAC Dawn Service at Mount Macedon for many years, riding their horses up Mount Macedon and camping the night before Anzac Day. They provide an important reference to the Light Horse Brigade and make a valuable contribution to the service.

Consent for their activities can be granted by issuing a permit to the group, to ensure their activities comply with the relevant regulations and management requirements of the Mount Macedon Regional Park. Given the historical significance of the group's activities and the strong support from the Mount Macedon ANZAC Dawn Service Committee and the RSL, Parks Victoria will continue to work with the group to develop an appropriate permit which ensures the Riddells Creek Riders can continue to be a part of the Anzac Day dawn service.

### **Wind farms: road damage**

**Raised with: Minister for Roads**

**Raised by: Mr Ramsay**

**Raised on: 19 April 2012**

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

Tuesday, 22 May 2012

COUNCIL

2755

---

The government is aware of the damage to roads caused by the construction of major project investments within Victoria.

VicRoads has recently developed guidelines for assessing the impact of wind farms energy projects, on the road network.

A key component of the guidelines is establishing a method for obtaining appropriate levels of developer-funded contributions from wind farms and other major energy developments.

The Department of Planning and Community Development is coordinating a local and state government response to cumulative impacts of major project investment in the Barwon south-west region.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Thursday, 24 May 2012**

**City of Brimbank: elections**

**Raised with: Minister for Local Government**

**Raised by: Mr Finn**

**Raised on: 26 October 2011**

**REPLY:**

On 22 May, I introduced a bill to extend the administration at Brimbank City Council.

I am aware of deep-seated community concerns about the possible return at the 2012 elections of individuals and factions who were the subject of damning criticism by the Ombudsman in his 2009 report. However, while lack of community confidence is a key factor, I also sought independent expert opinion about the impact of elections this year on Brimbank City Council's capacity to deliver effective local government.

Two independent reports, by Mr Bill Scales and Mr Doug Owens respectively, found that while the administrators have made much progress in rebuilding council's governance capacity, there were serious risks in a premature return to an elected council. I am confident that an extension of the administration until elections in March 2015 will provide Brimbank with its best chance of stable and effective local government in the long term.

I will expand more fully on these matters in my second-reading speech.

**Wallan-Kilmore bypass: route**

**Raised with: Minister for Roads**

**Raised by: Ms Broad**

**Raised on: 6 December 2011**

**REPLY:**

The Victorian coalition government is committed to the construction of a Kilmore-Wallan bypass by 2017. The coalition government has made a commitment to the communities of Kilmore and Wallan and is honouring this commitment.

I have asked VicRoads to undertake investigations into the effectiveness of a bypass to the west of Kilmore, together with the investigations into the three corridors to the east of Kilmore.

On 16 April 2012, I announced the alignment of a western option. VicRoads will incorporate the western option into its planning investigations and ongoing consultation with the community.

VicRoads is seeking the views of the broader community with respect to all bypass options to be investigated to contribute to a robust planning process. The planning investigations will include studies to be undertaken by specialist consultants.

I understand that there will be many different opinions on where a bypass should be located. The coalition government is listening to the community and it is important that the community's views are carefully considered prior to a decision being made on a final alignment.

I also understand that there are concerns amongst those residents potentially affected by the options being considered, however it is extremely important that each of the bypass options is fully and properly investigated and assessed prior to a decision being made on a preferred alignment. This assessment will be fully documented in the planning documentation to be publicly exhibited at the time of seeking an amendment to the Mitchell shire planning scheme for the preferred bypass option.

Community members will also have the opportunity to lodge formal submissions to an independent planning panel at the time of the public exhibition of the planning scheme amendment documentation.

The coalition government rejected the Labor government's use of local roads in the school precinct for the link road proposal that would continue to funnel bypass traffic and trucks through the centre of Kilmore. All the bypass options will keep this traffic away from the town centre and school precinct.

In general, local roads are not used for bypass routes. For planning purposes, local road names have been used for ease of reference and geographic identity for the various options within the local area.

Some sections of existing roads such as Sunday Creek Road and O'Gradys Road have been incorporated into bypass options where it is appropriate and safe to do so. The Quinns Road and western options would use and upgrade the existing arterial section of the Epping-Kilmore Road between Kilmore and Wandong. Elsewhere the bypass options run adjacent and parallel to existing local access roads, such as Kilmore East Road, preserving these roads as local roads for the benefit of local residential areas and minimising property and land severance impacts. Existing unused road reserves would be used to minimise property impacts where it is appropriate to do so.

It is recognised that each of the bypass options will potentially impact homes, properties, and the environment; however it is important that the options that have the best overall potential benefits are thoroughly considered so that a fully informed decision can be made.

### **Rail: fencing**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Hon. M. P. Pakula**

**Raised on: 17 April 2012**

#### **REPLY:**

VicTrack or the rail operator, Metro Trains Melbourne, have no responsibility for the maintenance of residential boundary fencing.

Under section 61 of the 1996 Rail Management Act, rail and tram operators are not obliged to fence or contribute to fencing on the rail corridor: this is the responsibility of the adjoining private owner.