

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

16 September to 13 October 2016

(Extract from book 14)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

HANSARD¹⁵⁰



1866–2016

Following a select committee investigation, Victorian Hansard was conceived when the following amended motion was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 23 June 1865:

That in the opinion of this house, provision should be made to secure a more accurate report of the debates in Parliament, in the form of *Hansard*.

The sessional volume for the first sitting period of the Fifth Parliament, from 12 February to 10 April 1866, contains the following preface dated 11 April:

As a preface to the first volume of “Parliamentary Debates” (new series), it is not inappropriate to state that prior to the Fifth Parliament of Victoria the newspapers of the day virtually supplied the only records of the debates of the Legislature.

With the commencement of the Fifth Parliament, however, an independent report was furnished by a special staff of reporters, and issued in weekly parts.

This volume contains the complete reports of the proceedings of both Houses during the past session.

In 2016 the Hansard Unit of the Department of Parliamentary Services continues the work begun 150 years ago of providing an accurate and complete report of the proceedings of both houses of the Victorian Parliament.

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 20 June 2016)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, and Minister for Emergency Services (from 10 June 2016) [Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation 10 June to 20 June 2016]	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, Minister for International Education and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. S. R. Herbert, MLC
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms G. A. Tierney, MLC

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Hartland, Mr Herbert, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips and Ms Wooldridge.

Procedure Committee — The President, Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Pennicuik, Ms Pulford, Ms Tierney and Ms Wooldridge.

Legislative Council standing committees

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, Mr Morris and Mr Ondarchie.

Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning — #Mr Barber, Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, Mr Mulino, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Mr Somyurek, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

Port of Melbourne Select Committee — Mr Barber, Mr Mulino, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

Joint committees

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

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

Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Nardella and Ms Ryall.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 COUNCIL
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

President:

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

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The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of the Greens:

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁴ Appointed 12 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; VILJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

CONTENTS

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	5094
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	5094

16 SEPTEMBER TO 13 OCTOBER 2016

<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	5067
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	5067
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	5068
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	5068
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	5069
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	5069
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region</i>	5069
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	5070
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	5070
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	5071
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	5071
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	5072
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	5072
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	5073
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	5073
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	5074
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region</i>	5074
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	5075
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	5075
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region</i>	5076
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	5076
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	5077
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	5077
<i>South Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	5078
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	5078
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	5079
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	5080
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	5080
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region</i>	5081
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	5081
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	5082
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	5082
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	5083
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	5083
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	5084
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	5084
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	5084
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	5085
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region</i>	5085
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	5086
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	5086
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	5086
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	5087
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	5087
<i>South Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	5088
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	5088
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	5089
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	5089
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	5090
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	5091
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	5091
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	5092
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	5092
<i>South Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	5092
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	5093
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region</i>	5093

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers and received by Hansard in the period shown.

16 September to 13 October 2016**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 11 February 2016

ANSWER:

The Level Crossing Removal Authority will consider each and every level crossing on its own merits and each location will be subject to its own planning, design and consultation process to determine the best solution for removing these dangerous and congested level crossings.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's 2015-16 Budget is the single biggest injection of education funding in Victoria's history, providing almost \$4 billion in additional funding to early childhood, schools and training. We are offering more resources and support to help children and young people excel academically not just in literacy and numeracy, but in the sciences, languages, music and the arts.

I am advised that the Instrumental Music Coordinator employed in the South-Western Victoria Region (Region) retired on 12 July 2016. Currently, the Region is considering a number of options for continuing this important and valued program. I am confident that students in the Region will continue to have access to the Instrumental Music program.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Women
Asked on: 22 June 2016

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Western Metropolitan for his question Family violence is one of the most significant social issues facing the Victorian community and is our greatest law and order problem.

That is why the Andrews Labor Government is working to implement all 227 recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Family Violence. This will build a system that will help to prevent and respond to this harm now and into the future. As a starting point, the 2016-17 Budget invested a record \$572 million to begin implementing the recommendations, including \$61.6 million to fund prevention initiatives.

To help guide implementation of the recommendations, we have established a Social Services Taskforce to lead our social services reform, including family violence reforms, across government. In addition a number of advisory committees have been established to help guide the implementation of recommendations, including a Ministerial Taskforce on the Prevention of Family Violence and the Victim's Advisory Council, chaired by Rosie Batty.

Family violence reform is a whole of government initiative, requiring all Ministers to work with their departments to implement recommendations. As the Special Minister for State is leading the government's family violence reform agenda, I would encourage the Member to contact his office to seek further advice on how constituents in the Western Metropolitan region will be consulted.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 23 June 2016

ANSWER:

Malvern continues to receive a 24-hour police service and Victoria Police has no plans to adjust the 24-hour counter service at the Malvern Police Station.

The Government continues to work closely with the Chief Commissioner about what resources and powers police need to address crime and see the crime rate start to turn around.

The Andrews Labor Government has introduced into Parliament specific and targeted stand-alone offences for carjacking and home invasions after consultation with Victoria Police. The laws reflect the seriousness of these crimes, and, as the community would expect, the penalties are significant.

If this legislation is passed, a statutory minimum non-parole period of three years will apply to aggravated carjacking. This means that a court will have to impose a non-parole period of three years unless special reasons apply. Home invasion will have a maximum penalty of 25 years and aggravated home invasion will attract a statutory minimum non-parole period of three years.

And it doesn't stop at the new laws. We have hundreds of extra frontline police being recruited and trained to give our police the support they need to keep communities safe. We want to send a strong message to those who carry out these offences that they will be brought to justice in the strongest of terms. This sort of behaviour is unacceptable.

Day and night patrols are being conducted at high risk locations to prevent offences taking place. Since the formation of Operation Cosmas at the start of May, police have made more than 180 arrests over aggravated burglary and theft of motor vehicle. Many of the offenders are on remand and facing serious charges.

My strong belief is that more police are needed on the frontline. That is why the Andrews Labor Government has funded additional sworn police in both of the state budgets brought down by this Government. The most recent state budget has provided for an additional 406 sworn police to be recruited and deployed to areas of need, including the growth corridors of Melbourne. Funding frontline police are the hallmarks of State Labor Government.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 16 August 2016

ANSWER:

The concerns about passenger facilities at Murchison East railway station were noted by the community in the recent Regional Network Development Plan consultation, however the inclusion of additional rail services was the community's first priority.

The Government has committed to running five services a day on this corridor, with the fourth daily service already in the 106-17 State budget and scheduled for commencement in early 2017.

As part of scoping and funding the fifth daily service, Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and V/Line will look at the passenger facilities along the line and recommend improvements or upgrades.

The Member for Shepparton, Suzanna Sheed MP has been an ongoing advocate for better regional public transport and her efforts have been of great benefit to your local community.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Mental Health
Asked on: 16 August 2016

ANSWER:

Suicide prevention interventions are best done together. It takes communities, businesses, schools, families, services and government — local, state and federal working together to come up with solutions that can work for the local community. The Victorian Government will partner with local agencies to develop and implement suicide prevention strategies that draw on and maximise existing local efforts in suicide prevention and mental health more broadly. The Latrobe Health Assembly will be a critical part of this.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 16 August 2016

ANSWER:

A strong focus of the Western Distributor Project is to improve direct freight access to the Port, reduce travel time and remove thousands of trucks from local streets. Quicker journeys and reduced 'wear and tear' on vehicles will provide incentives for trucks and truck companies to use the tolled roads. Truck drivers who use the toll roads will avoid up to 17 sets of traffic lights for trips between the western suburbs and the Port, which provides significant efficiencies as well as improved air quality and noise outcomes through reduced use of truck exhaust brakes.

The Trucks in the Inner West Partnership involving several state, local government and community representatives has a role in working with the community and industry to identify ways to improve the inner west that strike a balance between the needs of the whole community and the industry, which is a key employer of local people.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Mental Health
Asked on: 16 August 2016

ANSWER:

Significant work has been undertaken by the Department of Health and Human Services in response to issues raised regarding the supply of Terumo 1 ml needles and syringes and sourcing of alternate products.

The Penington Institute recently conducted a survey of clients on behalf of the Department to determine a suitable replacement for the current product. The Department had been working to secure a supply of the preferred product, however the manufacturer has recently advised it is not able to supply the product due to production capacity issues. The Department is working closely with other suppliers to secure supply of alternative clinically acceptable products to meet clients' needs.

An update on these matters has recently been provided to all needle and syringe program providers.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 16 August 2016

ANSWER:

The new Ballarat West Police Station complements the 24-hour Ballarat Police Station in the CBD, and gives police more flexibility to target and respond to crime across the wider Ballarat region. This will deliver an even better police response to the Ballarat community.

The Ballarat Police Station became operational on the 3 August 2016. The counter service will operate from 9am to 9pm on weekdays, subject to operational policing requirements, and will be reviewed after the first three months of operation to determine whether they are meeting the needs of the community. As the Ballarat West Police Station has been operating for a short time, Victoria Police advises that it is too early to make a definitive decision on counter services hours.

In May 2010, the previous Labor Government committed funding for an additional 1966 police to the frontline and 71 of these police were allocated to the Western Region Division 3 in which the Ballarat West Police station is located. Victoria Police have enhanced their operational response across the region taking into account the staffing needs of Ballarat West once it became operational.

Custody officers based at Ballarat Police Station are also helping free up our police to get back on the beat.

Police in the Ballarat area have established a range of new crime response teams, including a team focusing on burglary and recidivist offenders and a Family Violence Unit.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Industry and Employment
Asked on: 16 August 2016

ANSWER:

The Jobs Victoria Employment Network (JVEN) program is the centrepiece of the \$53 million Jobs Victoria initiative announced in this year's budget, which is delivering a new, whole-of-government approach to streamline support services for disadvantaged jobseekers.

On Saturday 20 August 2016, the Andrews Labor Government announced that they will help more than 4000 disadvantaged Victorians find meaningful work and keep it through JVEN.

The government has approved \$39 million in funding to 38 employment providers across regional Victoria and Melbourne to deliver JVEN services; providing personalised and flexible assistance to place people in ongoing work, and help employers to find the staff they need.

Services to jobseekers will include career advice and mentoring, training relevant to employer needs, work readiness preparation and post-placement support.

Nine providers have been approved for funding who will service the Western Metropolitan region equating to over \$6.4 million in funding to achieve over 780 sustainable employment outcomes.

The providers that have been approved for funding in the Western Metropolitan region include:

- Australian Multicultural Community Services
- Choice Career Services

- Jesuit Social Services
- Orygen Youth Health
- PeoplePlus Enterprises
- Westgate Community Initiative Group
- Whitelion
- Wingate Avenue Community Centre
- Workways Australia.

A range of jobseekers will be supported by these providers, including refugees, retrenched automotive workers, youth justice clients, long-term unemployed people, disengaged young people, single parents, people with a disability, public housing tenants and Aboriginal Victorians.

Complementing the JVEN program, the government continues to fund a number of specialist employment programs including the Youth Employment Scheme (YES), the Business in Transition Support (BiTS) program and Work and Learning Centres.

If you, or any of your constituents would like more information about the program and how to access JVEN services, visit www.jobs.vic.gov.au.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 16 August 2016

ANSWER:

The Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) will consider the provision of shared user paths as part of the Hurstbridge Rail Line Upgrade and we are working with the Member for Ivanhoe on this issue.

Preliminary designs of the track duplication between Heidelberg and Rosanna stations and the Lower Plenty Road level crossing removal are being developed and community consultation for these designs will continue in September 2016. Provision of a shared user path alongside this section of the rail corridor will depend on a number of considerations, including having sufficient space alongside the rail corridor to ensure users' safety. The ability to include a safe shared user path will be investigated as the designs for the duplication and Lower Plenty Road level crossing removal are developed. LXRA will work with Banyule Council to review potential routes and will inform the community as the final design is progressed.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 16 August 2016

ANSWER:

The government appreciates the efforts of the Golden Plains Shire Council to identify potential opportunities to improve facilities for members of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES). The government is aware of the specific proposal put forward by the Golden Plains Shire Council and the related discussions that have occurred between the Council, CFA, VICSES and Emergency Management Victoria (EMV).

The proposal for Bannockburn is one of a number of similar proposals for co-location or improved facilities for emergency service organisations. EMV is working with the sector to develop an Emergency Management Investment and Asset Strategy 2017-2027 (the Strategy). The Strategy will establish a collaborative and integrated process by which investment and asset-related actions are agreed and prioritised within the sector.

A key focus of the Strategy will be the adoption of joined-up approaches, including agency co-location where such arrangements can contribute most effectively to emergency management objectives. The matter you raised will be considered as part of Strategy development which includes identifying and prioritising best options for co-location.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 16 August 2016

ANSWER:

Thank you Mr Mulino for your question on the Doctors in Secondary Schools program.

As you may be aware, on 1 September 2016 the Premier and I visited Mount Alexander College in Remington, one of the Victorian secondary schools selected to participate in the program, to announce the full list of 100 participating schools. I am pleased to advise that two schools in Mornington Peninsula Shire—Mornington Secondary College and Rosebud Secondary College—were selected to participate in the program. The Department of Education and Training will be contacting all participating schools with information on the program shortly.

Through the program, more than 70 000 Victorian students will have access to a doctor at their school. Half of the schools participating in the program are located in regional Victoria, where families often face barriers to accessing healthcare. A further 25 schools taking part in the program are located in Melbourne's growth areas and urban fringe to help meet demand for services created by Victoria's unprecedented population growth.

The full list of schools selected to participate in the program is available at:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pagesidoctors-secondary-schools.aspx>.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 17 August 2016

ANSWER:

We want to work with the community, local government and industry to get the best possible outcomes for Melbourne's west. The project team is working collaboratively with the users of Donald McLean Reserve through the Recreation Working Group to understand their concerns, and minimise any impacts both during and post construction.

Any impacts will be assessed in detail as part of the project's Environment Effects Statement (EES), which includes 17 studies on topics such as human health, noise and vibration, air quality and social impacts.

The Western Distributor's Reference Design keeps the proposed Hyde Street connection ramps as close as possible to the existing West Gate Freeway in order to minimise any impact to Donald McLean Reserve and the community members who use it.

In response to community feedback, the majority of the Hyde Street Ramp is level to or lower than the West Gate Freeway. At one point the Hyde Street ramps are required to be higher than the West Gate Freeway, allowing for safe clearance over the Williamstown Road ramps.

The Reference Design is the next step in developing the project after the Concept design. The design will continue to develop through the competitive tender process and in response to outcomes of the EES planning process. We have placed strict design requirements to ensure community facilities are protected and can continue to be enjoyed.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Symes
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 17 August 2016

ANSWER:

Firstly, I would like to commend you on your commitment to the local school community. I am always pleased to hear of people working closely with their schools to identify and meet future needs, and I applaud your advocacy on behalf of constituents in northern Victoria.

While the Andrews Labor Government allocated \$1.8 billion in both the 2015-16 and 2016-17 State Budget to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state, it remains true that it will take some time for all schools to be brought up to a standard commensurate with our ambitions for the 'Education State'. Our ongoing challenge is to responsibly balance and prioritise the needs of 1500 government schools, all in varying condition.

I am aware that Beveridge Primary School has been facing challenges associated with increasing population growth and enrolment numbers. I understand that school representatives recently met with the Department of Education and Training to discuss enrolment capacity, and that a new relocatable building will be onsite for the first day of school in 2017. I have asked the Department to continue working closely with the school to determine a longer-term response to matters arising from potential further enrolment growth.

I can assure you that the capital needs of all schools, including Beveridge Primary, will be considered when determining future priorities for the capital works program. The Government will continue to use all available data, including condition assessments and pre-existing project plans, when allocating funding in future State Budgets.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Eideh
Directed to: Minister for Veterans
Asked on: 17 August 2016

ANSWER:

I am pleased to advise you that the following primary schools in the Western Metropolitan Region have booked the new free roadshow titled "Messenger Dogs — Tales of WWI":

Altona: Seabrook Primary School

Sunbury: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School, Sunbury Heights Primary School and Sunbury Primary School (TBC)

Werribee: Iramoo Primary School, Manorvale Primary School and Westgrove Primary School

Sydenham: Parkwood Green Primary School

Since expressions of interest opened on 19 July 2016, I am delighted to advise you that a significant number of primary schools have requested roadshow performances.

The roadshow is a key initiative of the Victorian Government Anzac Centenary program and the secondary school and community version of the performance has already reached over 35 000 people during the two years of touring throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria.

The primary school version provides a unique and non-confrontational way for prep to grade six students to learn about World War One through the eyes of Messenger Dogs. Their tales in the performance are of courage, determination, endurance and mateship on the frontline working alongside the Australian Imperial Force. Responsible for carrying messages from the frontline back to headquarters, their stories sometimes went unrecognised — but to those who served over a hundred years ago, and even those who serve today, dogs play an important role in war and not just as loyal companions.

An online “Messenger Dogs — Tales of WWI” educational resource kit has been produced for primary school teachers to download to speak further to the students about the topic. The kit also provides curriculum advice for the appropriate primary school year level and a range of activities for students.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to honouring those who served during World War One and educating young Victorians to ensure their legacy survives for future generations.

I thank you for your question and encourage you to continue to promote the “Messenger Dogs — Tales of WWI” roadshow within your region to primary schools. Expressions of interest to host the roadshow can be submitted via an online form at www.anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au. For more information about the roadshow visit www.anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au

If you’re interested in attending one of these roadshows in your region, please do not hesitate to contact the Adviser to the Minister for Veterans, anthony.cianflone@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 17 August 2016

ANSWER:

The matters raised fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Water. The member will need to redirect his question to the Hon Lisa Neville MP.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 17 August 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government greatly appreciates the work of our Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) volunteers, including those volunteers of the Broadmeadows VICSES Unit, who dedicate their time and skills to keep the community safe.

The Hume City Council has decided to sell the current site occupied by the Broadmeadows VICSES Unit, requiring it to relocate. VICSES, the Council and the Broadmeadows VICSES Unit are continuing discussions to find an appropriate location for this unit within the community.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 17 August 2016

ANSWER:

Viral hepatitis is an important public health issue, with over 60 000 people living with hepatitis C and over 55 000 living with hepatitis B. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to eradicating the burden of disease from viral hepatitis with the Victorian hepatitis B and C strategies recently launched by the Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Mary-Anne Thomas, in Footscray on World Hepatitis Day.

These strategies set bold targets for reducing transmission, 'increasing testing and treatment and eliminating the stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with viral hepatitis. Targets exceed those set by the World Health Organization and the national hepatitis B and C strategies.

To achieve these targets, the Government is reconfiguring its General Practitioner education program for hepatitis B and C to increase screening and treatment in primary care in areas of high prevalence, including the Western metropolitan region.

The Government has invested in the development of clinical pathways for hepatitis C across Victorian primary care networks. Between March and May 2016, more than 5100 prescriptions have been issued to Victorians, more than in the previous three years combined.

The Department of Health and Human Services has engaged the Doherty Institute to establish robust follow up processes for all notified cases of hepatitis B and C and engaged key agencies to mobilise communities to test and treat for viral hepatitis.

The Government has also provided:

- \$2.2 million to increase hepatitis C treatment in Victoria's prisons
- \$1.8 million to expand the Needle and Syringe Program
- \$1.8 million for harm reduction initiatives
- funding to accelerate training of doctors, nurses and pharmacists
- funding to mobilise priority communities to test and treat for hepatitis B and C.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 17 August 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's \$50 million Safer Country Crossing Program is boosting safety at 52 priority roads and level crossings which carry high speed passenger trains or a high number of heavy vehicles.

All level crossings on the Victorian rail network are subject to regular risk assessment based on the Australian Level Crossing Assessment Model (ALCAM). This identifies risks at level crossings and provides the basis for prioritising crossings for upgrade. Pinnucks Road level crossing is not currently programmed for upgrade but is included in the annual review. Details are available on the PTV web site:

<http://ptv.vic.gov.au/projects/railway-crossings/railway-crossing-safety-initiatives-and-upgrades/>

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Elasmar
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 18 August 2016

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government believes investing in early intervention and family services is critical to tackling issues early on and reducing future demand for child protection and other support services down the track.

Our recently announced boost of \$5.65 million for Child FIRST and Integrated Family Services, which provide vital services to children and families, including support to those experiencing family violence, will further develop partnerships with family violence services and to prioritise family violence responses to Aboriginal children and their families.

This funding boost directly responds to a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Family Violence, which called for more funding to be provided to Integrated Family Services so they can respond to family violence.

In 2015-16 alone, Child FIRST and Integrated Family Services provided more than 35 000 cases of support to Victorian families. During that time, about 55 per cent of referrals to IFS had family violence recorded as a factor.

Last year the Victorian Auditor-General identified a significant increase in referrals to these early intervention services and found that the previous Coalition Government's lack of analysis and systemic planning meant that Child FIRST and IFS was failing to provide effective services for vulnerable children and families.

The Andrews Labor Government addressed this immediately in the 2015-16 Victorian Budget with a \$48 million boost to Child FIRST and IFS — part of the biggest boost ever to the child protection budget.

There are three Child and Family Services Alliances in the Northern Metropolitan Region that will receive a funding boost as a result of this recent announcement, including \$337 556 for the Hume Moreland Child and Family Services Alliance, \$375 496 for the North East Metropolitan Child and Family Services Alliance and \$320 654 for the Western Child and Family Services Alliance.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 18 August 2016

ANSWER:

As you would be aware, I visited South West Victoria on the 24 and 25 of August. During this visit I announced a \$44.4 million package of pavement restoration and resurfacing for arterial roads in South West Victoria. The Andrews Labor Government is fixing unsafe and deteriorating roads in Victoria's South West by investing more than \$44 million in road safety upgrades and resurfacing. More than 240 kilometres of road will be resurfaced including Foxhow Road, Portland-Casterton Road and Hamilton-Port Fairy Road.

As well as the Bellarine, Princes, Glenelg, Henty and Hamilton highways, many other roads are set for important resurfacing works across the next 12 months including Cobden-Warrnambool Road, Casterton-Apsley Road, Condah-Coleraine Road and Warrnambool-Caramut Road.

In addition, major road reconstructions totalling about 30 kilometres are also planned for the some of the key arterial roads as well as the Great Ocean Road, Friend in Hand Road, Darlington Road and Rokewood-Skipton Road.

The works will reduce the level of deterioration of road surfaces and will support local primary producers to get their products to the market or to the factory as well as support local residents as they travel to work and school. These road improvements will not only create smoother and safer roads for all motorists but it will also help to preserve the longevity of the roads.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 18 August 2016

ANSWER:

Initial community consultation sessions were held on 5 and 7 November 2015, with local residents from the Eltham and Montmorency areas. The input from the community was a key part of the business case.

The 2016 State Budget included a commitment of \$10.2 million to undertake the upgrade of Bolton Street. Soon after the funding was announced, two options from the business case were presented to the community in a community session held on 14 June 2016. This session was well attended.

VicRoads in coordination with the Banyule and Nillumbik councils is preparing the final design. The final design will take into consideration the community's recent feedback.

Preconstruction works have commenced. Construction is expected to begin in late 2017.

The Liberal party had 4 years to undertake work on Bolton Street and failed. Your commitment of funds in the final year of a 4 year term is simply a stunt.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 18 August 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Government is building the Western Distributor, which will take thousands of trucks off local streets every day by providing more efficient links to Melbourne's port and a vital alternative to the West Gate Bridge.

Residents in the inner west of Melbourne have long endured the impacts of trucks rumbling past their homes, and while local trucks making deliveries are essential for the community, as a result of the Western Distributor, residents are set to benefit from a significant reduction in trucks on their streets.

Improved freight links-such as the Hyde Street ramps proposed in the Reference Design-will remove an expected 6000 trucks a day off the West Gate Bridge, and up to 3000 trucks a day off Geelong Road.

Across the inner west, there will be an estimated 6000 fewer trucks on local roads. Air quality will improve for the community, with vehicle emissions significantly reduced.

Instead of using local streets, trucks carrying dangerous goods or over-height trucks that are banned from tunnels will have a more direct and reliable route to and from the port and fuel depots, with direct ramps to Hyde Street.

This will help strike a balance between the movement of freight, increasing the efficiency of freeway routes while improving the liveability for local residents.

The design for the Hyde Street ramps included in the Reference Design will be a key driver in taking trucks off local roads, and was the direct result of community feedback to minimise impacts on communities on both sides of the West Gate Freeway.

The Reference Design would achieve this by placing the ramps as close as possible to the freeway, away from houses and reducing the impact on open space. This was the clear message we heard in consultation with the local community.

I can assure the community that the land that would be needed for the ramps under the Reference Design would be treated to a standard set by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) prior to construction.

Dealing with contaminated land is a common part of building major projects. Construction companies are well equipped and experienced in safely managing contaminated land and spoil and this will be carefully managed in accordance with EPA requirements as specified through the Environment Effects Statement process.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Rich-Phillips
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 18 August 2016

ANSWER:

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) undertook a program of consultation to seek feedback on the proposed new Keysborough bus route in November 2015. As is the process for the introduction of all new or improved bus services, the locations of bus stops are not communicated during the early planning stages of consultation because these are not decided until the route has been finalised.

Once the route has been finalised and approved, PTV works with the relevant local council and VicRoads to consider the suitability of sites to locate new bus stops.

While bus stop locations are carefully chosen for the benefit of the whole community and the effective operation of the bus network, PTV works to ensure there are timely and respectful communications to inform those who are impacted and help them understand the decision making process and what steps they can take to question it.

For Route 709, residents who were to have a bus stop on the nature strip outside their property received a letter notifying them of this six weeks prior to the new service commencing.

PTV subsequently visited and undertook face-to-face discussions with the residents who raised concerns about the placement of one of the bus stops. Plans were adapted as a result of this meeting to ensure that as many car parking spaces are retained as possible in the final bus stop layout on Keylana Drive for the immediately affected residents.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 18 August 2016

ANSWER:

I would first like to thank the Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure for his work in this area.

The removal of the level crossing at Blackburn Road in Blackburn will improve access for the community in this area, resulting in less traffic congestion and safer commuting for pedestrians, vehicles and cyclists. A walking and cycling track will also be constructed along the south side of the rail line between Blackburn Station and Springvale Road. This off road path will include grade separation at Blackburn Road, allowing users to cross beneath Blackburn Road.

In addition to this, new pedestrian bridges will be constructed across the rail line at both Cottage Street and Oliver Avenue. These bridges replace the existing at grade pedestrian crossing of the rail line, allowing users safer and unimpeded access across the rail line.

These works will improve the walking and cycling access to the school and most importantly, create a safer travel environment for the local community.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 18 August 2016

ANSWER:

I am pleased to advise that the Bi-partisan Working Group (BWG) report into the implementation of the Victorian Auditor-General's Report into the 'Management and Oversight of the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve' has been completed and was submitted to me for review on 18 August 2016.

This report was prepared by an independent group established by my predecessor, the Hon Lisa Neville MP. In its preparation, the BWG engaged with a range of stakeholders to ensure the thoughts of all representative bodies were reflected in the reports' content.

I welcome the BWG report and accept its recommendation to introduce site-specific legislation that establishes a land management body with specific responsibilities and accountabilities; for example a similar body to the Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust that manages the National Tennis Centre and AAMI Park.

This site-specific legislation will ensure that the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve is managed for its three purposes of racing, public recreation and public park into the future and ensure the Victorian Auditor General's Office recommendations into the 'Management and Oversight of the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve', are implemented.

I have asked each trustee to surrender the Crown Grant, which is acknowledged as an anachronistic land management method, and to resign as trustees. This action, should all trustees agree, will allow me to negotiate a short-term tenancy agreement until such time as the legislation is passed by Parliament.

I would like to thank Mr Ken Ryan AM, Chairperson along with my Cabinet colleague, Mr Steve Dimopoulos MP and Member for Caulfield Mr David Southwick MP for their time and input into the preparation of this important report.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 18 August 2016

ANSWER:

In response to the request from residents to meet with me, I arranged two senior managers from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to meet with seven residents and community members on site on 1st September to discuss their concerns regarding the proposed development of the South Melbourne Life Saving Club.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Tierney
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 18 August 2016

ANSWER:

I can advise that I am currently in discussions with the Federal Government to ensure Victoria receives the roads funding it deserves, especially in the South West Region. I will make an announcement in the coming weeks regarding the outcome of these discussions.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 18 August 2016

ANSWER:

The safety and security of the Victorian community is the highest priority of the Andrews Labor Government. The Government continues to work closely with the Chief Commissioner about what resources and powers Victoria Police need to address crime, particularly emerging crime trends.

We need to see more police out on the front line. This is why the Andrews Labor Government announced a \$596 million Public Safety Package as part of the 2016-17 State Budget, delivering on our promise to give police the necessary resources to increase frontline and specialist police to respond to gang-related crime, gun crime, terrorist threats and family violence.

This package includes an additional 406 police officers. The Government is working closely with Victoria Police to recruit and train these additional officers. The recruitment and deployment of 400 Police Custody Officers also means we can free up more police to work in their communities and keep Victorians safe.

The Cardinia community continues to receive a 24 hour police response. Cardinia is serviced in a flexible manner by police from the Pakenham, Lang Lang, Koo Wee Rup, Emerald and Bunyip Police Stations.

Police from the Proactive Policing Unit, located within Cardinia, are consulting with commercial groups to target crimes scenes and provide advice on crime prevention. The unit is also working with the community to reduce youth recidivism with a focus on education, employment and sport. A dedicated Crime Scene Services unit also operates from the Pakenham Police Station working at crime scenes and providing advice to victims on the prevention of further crime.

Since 21 August 2016, Victoria Police established the Frontline Tactical Unit to deal with street violence, street crime, and public disorder across the Southern Metro Region Division 3. The unit is based at Dandenong and will be deployed to Cardinia as required. The Frontline Tactical Unit is being deployed in response to community concerns around crime, and its key focus is uniformed patrols of high-risk community locations.

The Division will also trial an Operational Control Centre to improve the triage of requests for assistance, providing a quicker response for higher priority calls, improved communication and service response.

The Chief Commissioner assures me that the allocation of police resources across Victoria is continuously monitored by the respective command officers to ensure the best possible policing service is delivered to the Victorian community.

It is very important that if anyone requires urgent police assistance that they contact Victoria Police on the emergency '000' number, as calls to '000' are recorded and responded to by the nearest available police personnel.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 30 August 2016

ANSWER:

I thank Ms Patten for this question, as she shares the same dedication to Victoria's diverse small business sector as I do. We both know the emergence of microbreweries is a fantastic sign of the entrepreneurial nature of Victorians — Victoria had the most new businesses in Australia last year, with 8000 starting up operations. It also reflects the growing diversity of the Victorian economy, which the Andrews Labor Government is working hard to increase and grow.

Ultimately, alcohol taxation is administered by the Federal Government. However, the Andrews Labor Government is dedicated to reducing red tape for small businesses which sees them spend their valuable resources, and time on unnecessary and burdensome regulation. The Victorian Government's Small Business Regulatory Review is currently engaging directly with small businesses to reduce the regulatory burden and costs on day to day business operations. The review will look at regulations across each level of government, including taxation arrangements, to identify opportunities for reform.

Further, Victorian microbreweries are strongly encouraged to utilise the range of the Victorian Government's small business programs available through Small Business Victoria.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 30 August 2016

ANSWER:

The Monash Freeway Upgrade forms an important part of the Western Distributor Project, a partnership between the Victorian Government and Transurban to provide a network-wide solution to reduce congestion, improve safety and reliability and streamline the M1 from Geelong to Pakenham.

The key benefits of the Monash Freeway Upgrade include:

- Reduced travel times of up to 10 minutes a day for motorists using the Monash Freeway
- Room for an extra 2000 vehicles per hour during peak travel periods
- Smoother travel and better reliability for over 200 000 motorists a day in the busiest sections
- An improved freeway management system that will allow traffic flows to be effectively managed with world leading technology
- Technology, including the extension of the current lane use management system from east of Warrigal Road to the South Gippsland Freeway Interchange, new and improved ramp signals and new freeway electronic signs will be installed to allow traffic incidents to be managed more safely and smoothly
- Strong links between key employment and education precincts along the M1 corridor
- Up to 400 construction jobs

A contract for the works has been awarded to Fulton Hogan Construction and construction will be underway from the end of September 2016. The Monash Freeway Upgrade will be completed before the end of 2018.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 30 August 2016

ANSWER:Capacity Building and Participation Program

- The 2016-17 Capacity Building and Participation Program opened on 15 March 2016 and closed on 28 April 2016.
- A total of 499 applications were received, requesting \$20 489 054 in funding.
- Following a comprehensive assessment process and ratification by the Victorian Multicultural Commission, 265 applications have been recommended to receive funding totalling \$5 926 796.
- The recommendation list includes:
 - 187 small grants totalling \$544 610;
 - 64 medium grants totalling \$2 632 186; and
 - 14 strategic partnership grants totalling \$2 750 000.

Community Harmony Program

- The 2016-17 Community Harmony Program opened on 15 March 2016 and closed on 28 April 2016.
- A total of 169 applications were received, requesting \$4 962 000 in funding.
- A total of 80 applications (22 large grants and 58 small grants) have been recommended.
- These projects will receive a total funding amount of \$1 468 561 in 2016-17 (\$2 832 805 over three years).

Festivals and Events

- I am pleased to advise that applicants under the Multicultural Festivals and Events Program for 2016-17 will be informed of their application outcome very shortly.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 30 August 2016

ANSWER:

The Government will not pause on the removal of nine of the most congested level crossings in Victoria. The Government will not “go back and wait with this project” while everyday hundreds of thousands of Victorians sit in their cars at level crossings. The Government’s design involves far less tree removal than an alternative trenched solution. The stations would have to be demolished as part of a trenched solution and the claim that proper heritage process have not been followed is incorrect. The former Planning Minister, Matthew Guy, approved the demolition of stations but it is acknowledged that his Government never actually set about removing them or the nearby level crossings.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Eideh
Directed to: Minister for Tourism and Major Events
Asked on: 31 August 2016

ANSWER:

On 25 July 2016, the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, John Eren MP, released the Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy, which is a response to a comprehensive review of the visitor economy commissioned by the Government in 2015. The Strategy, which I am very pleased to support, identifies nine priorities to help reach the goal of increasing visitor spending to \$36.5 billion per year by 2025 and employment in the sector to 320 700 jobs.

The establishment of Visit Victoria is a key plank underpinning the Strategy's implementation. The new entity brings together marketing, major events and business events attraction into a single, unified organisation with a focused goal of ensuring that Victoria remains the number one tourism and events destination in Australia. Visit Victoria received \$38 million over two years from in the 2016–17 State Budget to run marketing campaigns to support the Strategy's goal.

Major events keep Victoria's economy strong, attracting visitors from all over Australia and the world. The Government substantially boosted Victoria's major events funding, by providing an additional \$80 million dollars over four years for the Major Events Fund as part of the 2015-16 State Budget. The 2016-17 State Budget provides \$20 million for a new Regional Events Fund and an additional \$9 million for the Business Events Fund.

The government is committed to improving infrastructure around key tourist attractions, as well as infrastructure that facilitates visitors' and locals' movement around the state. The 2016-17 State Budget provides \$101 million for a Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund. It also provides more than \$1.9 billion dollars of new investment to grow our metropolitan public transport services, and more than \$1.3 billion for better regional public transport, as well as significant investment in Victoria's roads.

Melbourne's Western Metropolitan region is well positioned to take advantage of its proximity to Melbourne and will benefit from increased visitation to events held around Melbourne. The strategy's emphasis on infrastructure improvements and access to and around Victoria will further benefit the region.

Visit Victoria is actively promoting some of the regions best known tourism attractions like the Werribee Mansion, Werribee Open Range Zoo, Scienceworks, and the Spring Racing Carnival at Flemington Racecourse. Visit Victoria's new website also has neighbourhood guides for the popular western suburbs of Williamstown, Yarraville, Werribee and Footscray, and promotes events and activities in these areas.

Melbourne Airport at Tullamarine is a significant generator of economic activity in and around Melbourne's west. The airport's curfew-free status is a competitive advantage for Victoria and the Government will ensure this is maintained. We will continue to increase air service connections and will work with Melbourne Airport to support the implementation of its 20 year Master Plan, cementing its position as an economic hotspot in the region.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 31 August 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government committed \$10.5 million to upgrade Bolton Street, Eltham to improve traffic flow, safety and accessibility. Community consultation has occurred and a design has been prepared with community feedback. Pre-construction activities have commenced and construction is expected to begin in late 2017.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 31 August 2016

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is leading a collaborative community consultation process to engage the local and broader community.

The community engagement strategy includes interviewing residents at 'Pop up' 'lemonade stand' type stalls at local shopping centres, other community facilities, and on the site of the reservation itself; distributing flyers and reply paid cards through commercial and community outlets; and through electronic networks. A special effort has been made to distribute reply paid cards directly to residences within 400m of the reserve, since this park, while akin to a regional park in overall size, will also function as a local park for those residents in the immediate vicinity. The major face-to-face activity is—a 'Drop in' session at Vermont Secondary College on Sunday 25 September. To complement these activities an online survey has been developed for the DELWP online portal.

This community engagement strategy has been developed with the direct input of a Project Reference Group established by DELWP comprising representatives from all key stakeholders for the project.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 31 August 2016

ANSWER:

The former Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Frankston line. In contrast the Andrews Government is getting rid of eleven, with three already gone and planning and consultation underway on the next eight.

The Government has announced that plans for a mixed use commercial and residential development at Ormond Station at North road will be put on public exhibition later this year for full public consultation. There are no plans for any developments at McKinnon Road or Centre Road.

The Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has advocated for an increase in taxes and levies for local residents who benefit from public transport improvements such as the three new stations at Ormond, Bentleigh and McKinnon but the Andrews Government has rejected this approach.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Mental Health
Asked on: 1 September 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian suicide prevention strategy 2016-25 includes new investment from the 2016-17 state budget of \$27 million. This is the first step towards delivering a systemic approach that supports all involved in suicide prevention to collaborate and focus their efforts on interventions that have the greatest impact. The six place-based trials are one part of this approach. Alongside the place-based trials, six health services will be supported to test assertive outreach models that will better support people and their families in the vulnerable period following a suicide attempt. These trials will inform how we can best work together to reduce suicides across the State in every community.

There are also additional supports being delivered through the \$1.5 million assistance package to support dairy farmers, their families and the community. Funding of \$1 million over two years has also been allocated to expand the Healthy Equal Youth project to support the mental health and wellbeing of same-sex attracted and sex and gender diverse young people in regional areas, with a new place-based project located at Brophy Family Services in Warrnambool.

Work such as the Great South Coast suicide prevention strategy to address and respond to the issue of suicide in the area is to be commended. We will all need to work together to make a real difference for Victorians and to achieve our stretch-target for the state of a 50 per cent reduction in the suicide rate over the next 10 years.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 1 September 2016

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Yan Yean and the Member for Eltham for their strong advocacy driving the development of options for the new bus route 343 between Greensborough and Diamond Creek.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) is working with Public Transport Victoria (PTV) to develop a proposal that will provide more public transport options for the community in the Greensborough–Diamond Creek area.

When a draft proposal has been finalised there will be a chance for the community to be consulted. Only once we have considered community feedback will the route and a commencement date be finalised.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Elasmarr
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 1 September 2016

ANSWER:

Capacity Building and Participation Program

- The 2016-17 Capacity Building and Participation Program opened on 15 March 2016 and closed on 28 April 2016.
- A total of 499 applications were received, requesting \$20 489 054 in funding.
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- A total of 80 applications (22 large grants and 58 small grants) have been recommended.
- These projects will receive a total funding amount of \$1 468 561 in 2016-17 (\$2 832 805 over three years).

Festivals and Events

- I am pleased to advise that applicants under the Multicultural Festivals and Events Program for 2016-17 will be informed of their application outcome very shortly.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Resources
Asked on: 1 September 2016

ANSWER:

In addition to a permanent ban on onshore unconventional gas, the Andrews Government will legislate to enact a moratorium on onshore conventional gas until 2020.

This will allow the government to undertake the most extensive scientific, technical and environmental studies in Australia on the risks, benefits and impacts of onshore conventional gas.

The Government is currently developing a detailed program of work, which includes scientific and environmental studies, resource planning, regulatory development and community engagement.

The Geological Survey of Victoria currently considers that the onshore Gippsland Basin is unlikely to be prospective for commercial discoveries of conventional gas. Some further analysis will also be undertaken to confirm this understanding.

This work will be overseen by a panel, headed by the Victorian Government Lead Scientist Dr Amanda Caples, and will include farmers, industry, business and community representatives.

A stakeholder and community engagement program will accompany the work program to build confidence and understanding and relay the findings of the science.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 1 September 2016

ANSWER:

It is important that passengers pay the correct fare when travelling.

The deployment of Transit Police and Protective Services Officers is the responsibility of Victoria Police.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Major Projects
Asked on: 1 September 2016

ANSWER:

Major Projects Victoria (MPV) received a request from Kew Development Corporation Pty Ltd (KDC) to extend the project term of the Kew Residential Services Development Agreement.

On the basis of independent legal advice obtained by MPV, KDC was granted an extension of the project term by 18 months to 27 April 2018.

MPV's agreement to the extension was sent by letter to KDC on 22 June 2016.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 1 September 2016

ANSWER:

The Latrobe Valley is a region that Victoria would be nothing without. It has a skilled labour force and access to significant natural resources. But the Latrobe Valley has been under pressure. The Liberal-Nationals' TAFE cuts hurt students, and job cuts have hurt families.

Labor came to government with a plan to get the Valley back on track: rebuilding health services, relieving the pressure on families, building the industries of the future, and preserving the resilience of this proud community.

Crucial regional Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs), such as Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN, have had their funding secured, to ensure disengaged kids are supported.

The previous government cut funds for new school buildings by half. In contrast, the Andrews Labor Government is upgrading local schools, building a brand new Tech School, and rebuilding our TAFE system.

We're also driving new job opportunities. Labor established the \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund, the Future Industries Fund, and committed an extra \$40 million towards the Latrobe Valley Economic Development Program.

The Labor Government is helping grow, diversify and improve the resilience of the Valley's economy.

We are also focusing on improving the delivery of employment services across the state through two initiatives: Jobs Victoria and Skills and Jobs Centres.

Jobs Victoria provides targeted support services for people looking for work and employers looking for workers. It consolidates all Victorian employment services into one system. Jobs Victoria has two main programs to directly assist disadvantaged jobseekers and long term unemployed Victorians — the Jobs Victoria Employment Network and the Youth Employment Scheme. More information is available at www.jobs.vic.gov.au.

Skills and Jobs Centres are the first point-of-call for students looking to start training, workers needing to re-skill, unemployed workers needing support for retraining and work placement and for employers.

We are fixing the mess that the Liberal-Nationals Coalition created. Because young people in the Valley should be able to get the training they need, to get the job they want.

There's always more work to do, and only Labor is getting on with it.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 1 September 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria the Education State. The Education State is about giving every Victorian the opportunity to succeed in life, regardless of background, place or circumstance. It is well known that the first years of life are crucial to lifelong learning, wellbeing and success, and the Education

State is focused on strengthening early childhood services for children and families. The Let's Count program is an important step in helping us to reach our vision for early childhood services for children and families.

The Let's Count program will be rolled out to approximately 500 educators in funded kindergarten services across Victoria over the next three years. The government is investing over half a million dollars to ensure more than 14 000 pre-schoolers and 5500 families benefit from the program.

The Department has offered places to 77 services in 2016; of these, nine services are located in the Western Metropolitan region.

On 1 September 2016, educators from Albion Kindergarten, Dorothy Carlton Preschool, Kealba Kindergarten, Kings Park Kindergarten, St Albans East Kindergarten, St Albans North Kindergarten, St Albans West Kindergarten, East Sunshine Kindergarten and Little Champs Braybrook attended Let's Count professional learning in Sunshine.

Let's Count will be delivered to funded kindergarten programs in a further 20 priority postcode areas over 2017 and 2018.

Services in the Western Metropolitan region that have not participated in Let's Count in 2016 will be able to submit an Expression of Interest to participate in 2017 and 2018, as will other services across the State.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 13 September 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is working with the RSPCA to reduce levels of animal cruelty across Victoria, including in the south east metropolitan suburbs.

Recently, I have also released a draft plan detailing actions to improve the welfare of animals in Victoria. The Government is currently seeking feedback from the community and industry bodies, including the RSPCA, on key priorities. More information about the proposed reforms can be found on the website: animalwelfarevic.economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 13 September 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to a carefully planned and considered road safety strategy, Towards Zero 2016-2020, with the goal of reducing road deaths to below 200 by 2020 and serious injuries by 15 per cent over the long term. The \$1 billion investment aims to save lives across the state as part of Victoria's Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan.

Reducing road trauma from drink driving and/or drug driving through a focus on vehicle technology, education, and a zero tolerance enforcement regime is a key priority.

Victoria Police regularly conducts statewide and local operations that target irresponsible road users. Road safety enforcement conducted in Victoria finely balances routine patrols, booze buses and special operations targeting high-risk areas, or times of high risk, with a highly visible police presence.

Police conduct their operations to target both dangerous driving behaviours and other road safety risks, or specific groups of high risk road users. Regional police conduct operations and patrols that focus on issues identified at the local level as well as statewide operations.

The Victoria Police Road Policing Command has identified the roads with the highest safety risk across Victoria, in collaboration with the Transport Accident Commission (TAC). Victoria Police has also examined the previous five years of accident data to determine peak road trauma locations and times. This information is being utilised to allocate extra policing shifts accordingly, which will roll out in sectors across Victoria from October 2016 onwards.

The Campaspe area will see an additional police presence as part of the enhanced enforcement with an additional 1000 shifts between now and the end of this year.

Victorians can expect to see more marked police cars patrolling the state's roads and highways, targeting speed and drink driving, especially on rural roads, where the majority of the deaths have occurred.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 13 September 2016

ANSWER:

Banyule City Council provided VicRoads with pedestrian and traffic counts for the intersection of Rosanna Road and Banyule Road, Rosanna, however they did not meet the requirements for VicRoads funding for a school crossing supervisor.

The appointment of a children's crossing supervisor is not dependant on a Government subsidy and a Council may appoint a supervisor at any time, on a voluntary or paid basis, provided the person is properly trained and equipped.

At Council's meeting held on 25 July 2016, Banyule City Council resolved to fund a crossing supervisor at the intersection of Rosanna Road and Banyule Road and one was employed in late August 2016.

VicRoads is currently working with Government and community stakeholders on a statewide review of the School Crossing program. The review is expected to be completed in late 2016.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Tierney
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 13 September 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government responded quickly to the recent flooding in South-Western Victoria and will ensure that disaster assistance is available to the affected communities.

On Monday 12 September 2016, I visited Coleraine and Casterton and had the opportunity to inspect the damage, meet those affected and thank the emergency services personnel and community members, who selflessly devoted their services to minimise impact on their communities and businesses.

The Victorian Government has made Emergency Relief Assistance available to assist those affected by the Coleraine and Casterton floods. It provides a one off payment of up to \$520 per adult and \$260 per child (up to a maximum of \$1300 per household) and is available to help meet immediate needs, including emergency food, shelter, clothing and personal items.

Further, as I have jointly announced with the Commonwealth Minister for Justice, the Honourable Michael Keenan MP, Emergency Re-establishment Assistance is now available for people affected by the floods in the Southern Grampians Shire to support their recovery.

These grants, of up to \$32,500, are available to eligible flood-affected Southern Grampians Shire residents to help with clean-up, repairs and/or rebuilding their primary place of residence. This assistance also covers emergency accommodation and replacement of some damaged contents.

Information about financial assistance and recovery services is available from the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line, 1300 799 232. The Shire Councils can also assist with information at the Coleraine and Casterton relief centres.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Eideh
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 13 September 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government recognises the continuing importance of supporting foster carers and Foster Care Week is a wonderful annual celebration of the generosity and compassion of so many foster carers across our State.

Since coming to office, the Government has invested in a foster care attraction, recruitment and retention strategy. The Fostering Connections campaign, which saw all our foster care agencies come together with a centralized marketing campaign, has seen a 173% increase in people wanting to become a foster carer, compared to the same period last year.

As you note, we have also invested significantly to improve the financial support available for carers and the children they care for.

I was very pleased to recently announce \$19.2 million in new funding to better support Victoria's foster, kinship and permanent carers. This funding is designed to give carers access to more training, assistance and financial support to help meet the additional needs of children in their care.

This includes \$8.73 million for flexible support for foster and kinship carers to help cover extraordinary expenses, including child care, transport costs, the therapeutic needs of a child, such as counselling, education, or health expenses and an additional \$2.12 million for a combined foster and kinship carer training strategy.

During Foster Care Week, I also launched a new handbook for foster carers, which includes a new foster carer charter, a framework and step by step guide for managing issues and complaints to support all foster carers across the state.

In addition to these new supports, Carer Advisory Groups have been established in each of the Department's four Divisions, including in the West, and are meeting quarterly. The West Division Carer Advisory Group includes foster and kinship carers from across the Division and representatives from the Department of Health and Human Service including Child Protection and local foster care agencies.

The group provides an opportunity to hear from those caring for vulnerable children and young people about issues relating to carer support, training and retention. The group also provides a localised setting to work on identified issues and opportunities to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people and for continual improvement in the delivery of out of home care in the West Division.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 14 September 2016

ANSWER:

I refer to constituency question regarding the Port Fairy Bowls Club, raised in the Legislative Assembly by the Member for Western Victoria on 14 September 2016.

As the Acting Minister for Sport I will be responding on behalf of Minister Eren.

Participating in sport and recreation plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of our community. This is why providing high quality sport and recreation facilities is a key aim of the Victorian Government.

Community infrastructure programs provide funding to high quality, accessible community sport and recreation facilities across Victoria. Successful projects funded through these programs need to show that they will encourage more people to participate in sport and recreation, demonstrate comprehensive strategic planning, readiness to proceed and matching funding.

Please be aware that projects on private land are eligible, but will be subject to the establishment of a legally binding agreement between the club and the local council to ensure ongoing public access.

Applications for the program are made through local government authorities as they are partners in delivering new and improved facilities and are integral in project development. We encourage clubs, like the Port Fairy Bowls Club, to work in partnership with the local council so that the best outcome for any future project is achieved.

Thank you for the invitation to attend the Port Fairy Bowls Club facility. My office will be in contact with you regarding the possibility of a visit.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 14 September 2016

ANSWER:

There are five former School sites in the City of Brimbank that have recently been submitted for rezoning via the Fast Track Government Land Service.

The Minister for Planning has referred these sites to the Government Land Standing Advisory Committee (GLSAC) for advice regarding future planning provisions. Details concerning those amendments are available on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website:
<http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/planning/about-planning/planning-services-directory/fast-track-government-land-service/fast-track-government-land-service-previously-referred-sites>.

Following consideration by the Minister for Planning, the future development of these properties must accord with the adopted planning controls.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 14 September 2016

ANSWER:

I asked Public Transport Victoria (PTV) to review the site.

PTV advised the bus stop location has been assessed as at low risk of causing any accidents or injuries. The concerns raised are common to many bus stops. Relocating the stop will not resolve these concerns, only move them to another location.

The potential visibility issue has been considered, with the location confirmed by Greater Geelong City Council, the bus operator and PTV as an appropriate location for a bus to stop.

I am satisfied PTV has completed its due diligence in assessing the safety of the location of this bus stop.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 14 September 2016

ANSWER:

I refer to constituency question regarding the Traralgon Tennis Association, raised in the Legislative Assembly by the Member for Eastern Victoria on 14 September 2016.

As the Acting Minister for Sport I will be responding on behalf of Minister Eren.

Participating in sport and recreation plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of our community. This is why providing high quality sport and recreation facilities, such as the Traralgon Tennis Centre, is a key aim of the Victorian Government.

The Victorian Government has provided over \$950 000 to Latrobe City Council for the redevelopment of the Traralgon Tennis Centre to retain major events secured by the Traralgon Tennis Association, by becoming a regional tennis centre of excellence for Gippsland. The project includes resurfacing of 18 courts, development of a show court facility with associated lighting and spectator seating. This project incorporates the principles of universal design with clear way finding, shared pathway access, new sealed car parking and ramped access to the new show courts for both spectators and participants.

Community infrastructure programs provide funding to high quality, accessible community sport and recreation facilities across Victoria. Whilst these programs support projects that improve accessibility and connectivity, a direct link between the project scope and the objective of increasing participation must be demonstrated.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 14 September 2016

ANSWER:

The Government is getting on with removing all nine level crossings between Caulfield and Dandenong and eleven level crossings on the Frankston line, with three already gone. The Liberal Party did not remove these crossings when in Government and their opposition to these projects is clearly understood by the community. There was

extensive community consultation along the Caulfield to Dandenong corridor which included a newsletter distributed in September 2015, that clearly outlined that an elevated solution was being considered well before any decision were made.

It is noted that the Liberal Party are seeking to incorrectly advise people that the public consultation is not occurring.

All members of the public are invited to public consultation sessions in relation to the removals on the Frankston line. Details are available at www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au.

Any current placement of sleepers along the Frankston line is not related to the removal of level crossings.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 15 September 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of volunteer and career firefighters of the Eltham and Research Country Fire Authority (CFA) Brigades who selflessly devote their time and skills to promote the safety and wellbeing of the community.

I look forward to visiting these brigades and meeting our firefighters by the end of October. I was unable to do so earlier due to diary constraints.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Elasmr
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 15 September 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government recognises the continuing importance of supporting foster carers and Foster Care Week is a wonderful annual celebration of the generosity and compassion of so many foster carers across our State.

Since coming to office, the Government has invested in a foster care attraction, recruitment and retention strategy. The Fostering Connections campaign, which saw all our foster care agencies come together with a centralized marketing campaign, has seen a 173% increase in people wanting to become a foster carer, compared to the same period last year.

As you note, not only are foster carers incredibly valued in our community, so too are kinship carers and permanent carers.

I was very pleased to recently announce \$19.2 million in new funding to better support Victoria's foster, kinship and permanent carers. This funding is designed to give carers access to more training, assistance and financial support to help meet the additional needs of children in their care. Training to be provided will ensure carers are well equipped to support and care for children who have experienced trauma and may display complex and difficult behaviours.

This includes \$8.73 million for flexible support for foster and kinship carers to help cover extraordinary expenses, including child care, transport costs, the therapeutic needs of a child, such as counselling, education, or health expenses, an additional \$2.12 million for a combined foster and kinship carer training strategy and \$1.15 million to improve supports specifically for kinship carers including a new kinship care handbook.

It also included \$7.18 million for flexible funding for new and existing permanent carers and to establish a new helpline for permanent carers.

All of these improvements will be available to kinship carers in the Northern Metropolitan area to take full advantage of.

The Roadmap for Reform: Strong Families, Safe Children outlines the Andrews Labor Government's vision and directions for delivering better outcomes for vulnerable children and their families. This long-term reform strategy will include the very important role that families, networks and communities have in supporting children in kinship care.

I thank the member for advocating for the kinship carers in the Northern Metropolitan Region and highlighting the significant role they play in the out of home care system.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 15 September 2016

ANSWER:

Thank you for raising a question about the progress that is being made in supporting people to rebuild in fire impacted areas at Wye River and Separation Creek.

Streamlined planning controls were indeed introduced in April 2016 and are working well. The first new approval was issued in 28 days in June. In September there were some 14 planning permits issued and another 10 under consideration for approval. Construction is well underway in Karingal Drive and another property will soon have a house constructed in prefabricated sections installed on site.

The streamlined planning controls ensure that there is effective attention given to geotechnical, land stability and fire design requirements, whilst achieving a simplified process for development assessment and approval. In the current context of extreme rainfall that has contributed to landslips in the immediate area as well as along the Great Ocean Road, it is important that these issues are properly addressed.

I thank the member for Western Victoria for allowing us to report on the positive progress that is being made in supporting property owners to progress their rebuilding plans when those owners are ready to do so.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 15 September 2016

ANSWER:

I refer to constituency question regarding facilities for female athletes in the Greater Shepparton region, raised in the Legislative Assembly by the Member for Northern Victoria on 15 September 2016.

As the Acting Minister for Sport I will be responding on behalf of Minister Eren.

Participating in sport and recreation plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of all Victorians. This is why providing high quality sport and recreation facilities specifically to female participants is a key aim of the Victorian Government.

The Community Sports Infrastructure Fund includes a \$10 million commitment toward providing female friendly facilities across Victoria. Councils are eligible to submit two applications up to \$100 000 each to assist with the

development of new and the upgrade of current, outdated change facilities to improve access for female participants and officials.

The Regional Sports Assembly, Valley Sport, has outlined female participation in sport as one of their major priorities, and currently works with sporting clubs and organisations to enhance female participation which includes working towards the provision of infrastructure that supports female participation across the Greater Shepparton region.

Sport and Recreation Victoria is currently working with Greater Shepparton City Council around the development of sporting facilities across the municipality, and will continue to work with council to address issues around the provision of female friendly facilities where they are needed most.