

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

24 June to 18 August 2016

(Extract from book 11)

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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 Elasmarr, 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, #Ms Hartland, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing, Mr Somyurek, Ms Tierney and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Donohue, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, 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 Elasmarr 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**

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Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

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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	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ Resigned 27 May 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

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ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

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

24 June to 18 August 2016**Southern Metropolitan Region**

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 10 December 2015

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question relating to the use of the Crown land at Caulfield Racecourse for community sport and recreation.

Unfortunately, as this is regarding the Melbourne Racing Club, the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust and Crown land these matters do not fall within my portfolio. I therefore encourage the member to contact the Hon Martin Pakula, Minister for Racing and the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate change.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 8 March 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is investing billions of dollars in infrastructure, so that people spend less time stuck in traffic and more time with their families and friends.

The Western Distributor, the Monash Freeway Upgrade and CityLink Tulla Widening are all funded, and have either started or are out to market.

These are vital projects to benefit a growing city that will cut congestion on our busiest and most important roads, bringing travel time savings for the hundreds of thousands of people that rely on them.

The \$5.5 billion Western Distributor Project will give the west the vital second river crossing it needs, providing up to 20 minute travel time savings for people travelling from the west.

The Monash Freeway will also be widened as part of the Western Distributor Project to provide a network wide solution for streamlining the M1 corridor from Geelong in the west to Pakenham in the east.

On top of that, we are well underway with widening CityLink and the Tullamarine Freeway which will increase capacity by 30 percent and give people quicker and more reliable travel between the city and the airport.

Upgrading our major freeways is complemented by an \$11 billion investment in our rail system under the Melbourne Metro project that will allow another 39 000 people to travel the metropolitan rail network during peak hours.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 12 April 2016

ANSWER:

In developing the Business Case for Melbourne Metro, transport demand forecasting models were used to assess the network-wide impacts. This included the use of the Victorian Integrated Transport Model (VITM) and Zenith model, which are industry standard, four-step, strategic transport models used in Victoria to assess major transport policies and projects, both public transport and road projects. A wide range of transport data is used to develop and update these models. This includes the Victorian Integrated Survey of Travel and Activity (VISTA), which is a household survey that asks participants to outline their travel, where they go to and from and the transport mode that they use. Extensive data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics is also used, including results from the Census such as journey to work and car ownership. Data from Public Transport Victoria, public transport operators and VicRoads is also used, including data from the ticketing system, public transport origin and destination surveys that ask users where their ultimate destinations are how they will get there, and traffic data.

Transport agencies are aware that significant progress is being made from a technology perspective to capture better data, and are considering ways to utilise this data. However, agencies are cognisant of privacy issues associated with accessing such data and the need to comply with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic).

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 13 April 2016

ANSWER:

The Minister for Housing, Disability & Ageing has portfolio responsibility for these matters. I have referred the question to Minister Foley and requested that he respond to you directly.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 3 May 2016

ANSWER:

Under the national drought reforms introduced on 1 July 2014 and endorsed by the former Coalition government, the need to 'declare' drought no longer applies.

The Victorian Government now has a 'Drought Preparedness and Response Framework' to guide it in making informed and measured decisions about how best to support Victorian farmers, businesses and communities manage the impacts of drought. This is a bipartisan framework developed under the former Coalition Government and continued by the Andrews Labor Government.

The Victorian Government is providing a \$27 million Drought Response Package targeted at North West Victoria where drought conditions have been prolonged over a period of two to three failed seasons.

Support is also available Victoria wide such as the Rural Financial Counselling Service and farm extension services provided by Agriculture Victoria.

The Victorian Government is closely monitoring seasonal, social and economic conditions to assess whether additional targeted responses are required in new areas. Recent rainfall events have been promising and we all hope this is sustained through winter and spring to provide necessary relief to farmers and rural communities.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 3 May 2016

ANSWER:

As part of the Andrews Labor Government commitment to improving bus routes across Victoria, a new bus route will be introduced in Keysborough South which will provide the local community with more connections to Parkmore Shopping Centre and Noble Park Station.

Unlike the former Liberal Government that cut bus routes across Melbourne without adequate consultation, PTV consulted on the route alignment for this new service.

The route was the preferred option based on consultation and is designed to allow hundreds of people access to buses.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 3 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government continues its commitment to investing in education and school infrastructure, and this has been demonstrated through the allocation of more than \$1.1 billion in the 2016-17 State Budget. This represents the largest ever investment in Victorian school infrastructure.

The most ambitious school building project in history, provides for 23 new schools in growth areas throughout the State, with funding of \$102 million for land acquisition.

Labor has funded land acquisition for two schools in Point Cook; the proposed Sanctuary Lakes P-9 and the Point Cook Senior Secondary School.

Once opened, these new schools will help to meet the challenges of increasing enrolment pressures in the Point Cook area by providing new, state of the art education facilities which allow for an increase in the student capacity within the local community.

In addition, we have fast tracked the Public Private Partnership program and will deliver 15 new schools across the state in 2017 and 2018. This includes Point Cook South P9 which will open its doors to students next year.

To meet demand in the short term we have invested \$63.6 million in relocatable buildings across the State.

The Government is conscious that enrolment growth pressures are being felt in a number of communities, including in the Wyndham area, and will continue to work with the Council to monitor population projections, and ensure all Victorian students have access to high quality education as the population continues to grow.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 3 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government's direction for bushfire management is set out in Safer Together A new approach to reducing the risk of bushfire in Victoria. This new direction acknowledges that fuel management on public land is a key part of the many actions we take to keep our communities safe and resilient to the impacts of bushfire.

Safer Together recognises the need to work with communities to protect people and their homes and businesses. To achieve this, we draw on strong community and stakeholder partnerships as well as the latest science and information to target our action to reduce bushfire risk where it matters most.

Under this approach we will transition from a hectare-based performance target to a risk-reduction target to guide our fuel management program. This allows us to measure not only how much activity we do, but how effective it is in reducing the risk of bushfire. The risk reduction target will take effect from 1 July 2016.

All community members are encouraged to work with our land and fire agencies to better understand the risk of bushfire in their local area, and the actions that we can all take to reduce this risk. I will ensure that staff from my department make contact with the Baw Baw Shire Rate Ratepayers and Citizens Association to discuss the coming years fire operations planning, which is currently underway.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 3 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Education State is about giving every Victorian child the opportunity to succeed in life, regardless of background, place or circumstance. Part of this work is to promote inclusive practices in schools so they can better support all children and young people, including those with disabilities and special needs. The Special Needs Plan is part of this vision, including the Review of the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD).

I am advised that Departmental representatives have recently met and will continue to work with the Principal, Ms Geraldine Charles, to provide support and ensure adequate levels of resourcing to ensure the continuation of the valuable support Montague Continuing Education Centre provides for its students.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 4 May 2016

ANSWER:

The removal of 50 of Victoria's most dangerous and congested Level Crossings was an election commitment that Victorians voted for. The Andrews Government is committed to delivering on our election commitments and removing all 50 crossings, including all nine between Caulfield and Dandenong. The Liberal Party did not commit to removing 50 level crossings and did not commit to removing all nine between Caulfield and Dandenong and their opposition to this project is understood by all Victorians.

The removal of 50 of Victoria's most dangerous and congested Level Crossings will have benefits across Melbourne and the Government has announced that it is developing and will release a Business Case for the removal of all 50 level crossings.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 4 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to providing essential infrastructure to serve the needs of Melbourne's rapidly growing west.

The Western Distributor will provide a much-needed alternative to the West Gate Bridge with a second major river crossing, save 20 minutes in peak hour travel from Geelong and the west and remove thousands of trucks from local streets. It will also create 5600 new jobs and provide a \$11 billion boost to the Victorian economy.

The Government has demonstrated its commitment to open and transparent dialogue with the community, including local residents, through the release of a comprehensive business case and ongoing community consultation.

The Member should familiarise himself with the business case and note a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 1.3 for this vital project, as opposed to a BCR of 0.45 for the former government's failed project.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 24 May 2016

ANSWER:

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Andrews Labor Government. This has been demonstrated through the Government's 2016-17 State Budget allocation of \$1.1 billion to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state, ensuring that every community has access to a great local school, and every child gets the chance to succeed. The Victorian School Building Authority will be established to deliver this construction boom that will not just benefit students, but also create jobs for construction workers and local tradespeople.

I was delighted to confirm that, as part of this funding, the Government has allocated \$5 million to upgrade and rebuild school buildings at Mornington Primary School, which will include rebuilding core learning spaces. I have asked the Department of Education and Training to work closely with the local community to help prepare for the upcoming project, and I very much look forward to hearing about the progress of these works as they get underway.

Of course as you outline, there is no question that the School will be receiving its full \$5 million allocation. I am surprised that the member for Mornington is unfamiliar with reading budget papers, but I am happy to reassure him that there is nothing to be concerned about in relation to the project at Mornington Primary School.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 24 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's \$400 million Monash Freeway upgrade will cut congestion, reduce travel times and give more than 200 000 motorists a safer and more reliable drive.

This important project is fully funded, and the contract to design and construct the project has been awarded to Fulton Hogan. Construction will commence in late September and work will be completed before the end of 2018.

The Victorian Government is getting on with the delivery of this project without delay.

The Government is currently discussing with the Federal Government, its proposal to provide funding for other potential projects in the south east of Melbourne. We will not delay the vital Monash Freeway upgrade while this occurs.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 24 May 2016

ANSWER:

The additional service is an extension of a Melbourne to Seymour train, that will complement the additional morning train that was added in October 2014, to form a total of four return services each weekday between Melbourne and Shepparton.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 24 May 2016

ANSWER:

A Convention Centre located on an appropriate site in central Geelong is a priority project of the G21 Regional Alliance. Previous research commissioned by the City of Greater Geelong in 2013 identified a number of possible sites (including the Deakin University owned site) and concluded that the gap in local convention/exhibition space is currently limiting the region's ability to capitalise on a growing national conference market.

The 2016–17 State Budget allocates \$5.5 million for delivery of the Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan. This builds on over \$170 million of additional funds already allocated for special projects in Geelong.

A convention centre in central Geelong brings an opportunity to capitalise on a growing national conference market. A market demand analysis and business case will be prepared for the preferred bayside site and discussions here commenced with the Deakin University as the land owner. The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources will be leading the business case whilst a master plan will be prepared for the Deakin site and surrounding land to guide the development of a convention centre in this location by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 24 May 2016

ANSWER:

I can assure you that the residents of Albert Park continue to receive a 24-hour police response across the Port Phillip Police Service Area. Policing across the area is managed in a flexible manner to ensure the best possible use of available police resources. The Local Area Command includes Albert Park and South Melbourne Police Stations.

Local police are supported by the Crime Investigation Unit, Highway Patrol, Transit Unit and Operations Response Unit. Additional resources will be provided by specialist areas including the Crime Department where investigations or targeted operations require additional resources.

The Andrews Labor Government recently 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 respond to gang-related crime, gun crime, terrorist threats and family violence. This reflects the government's commitment to work with the Chief Commissioner to ensure we provide the resources to police that will keep our community safe.

Victoria Police will soon have an extra 406 sworn police officers and 52 support personnel bringing the total number of new police personnel funded by the Andrews Government since it came to office to 1156.

The full deployment of 400 Police Custody Officers, funded in last year's budget will be fast tracked by six months to the end of 2017, further freeing up police officers to return to the frontline.

The decision of how and where resources are deployed is appropriately a matter for the Chief Commissioner. The Government will continue to consult with Victoria Police about overall police resourcing across the state.

I am assured by the Chief Commissioner 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.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 25 May 2016

ANSWER:

The median on Dandenong Road, near Hornby Street, was closed on 1 August 2015 due to prolonged safety concerns. Over the five-year period prior to 1 August 2015, 16 collisions occurred between trams and cars performing a U-turn at this median opening, making it a significant crash site on the road and tram network.

Yarra Trams requested a trial closure of the median due to strong safety concerns. VicRoads agreed to the closure and is monitoring the impact of traffic on the surrounding intersections and the local road network.

Yarra Trams advised local residents of the closure through a brochure sent to 3900 local residents as well as an advertisement in the local newspaper, social media and its website. There are some concerns by residents relating to additional travel time near the median since its closure.

A flyer was prepared and distributed by a group of local residents, asking the community to provide feedback to Yarra Trams regarding the closure. Yarra Trams received approximately 130 responses from the local community, which were mainly opposed to the closure due to the extra time it takes them to travel home.

VicRoads met with stakeholders including Yarra Trams, Public Transport Victoria, Stonnington City Council and Victoria Police, on 30 March 2016, to discuss residents concerns and to identify ways of improving motorists' experience when travelling through the local area. VicRoads agreed to work closely with Yarra Trams to further investigate the most practicable approach to improving motorists experience taking into account safety, congestion and community concerns.

Community consultation is an important aspect of this study.

An email was sent out on 12 May 2016 to local residents who have previously expressed concerns about the median closure, to inform them about the study and to give them an opportunity to express their thoughts on possible solutions without compromising safety. VicRoads has received 11 email responses with suggestions. VicRoads will continue to engage with residents and other stakeholders on solutions before proposing an approach.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 25 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is investing an additional \$144 million to end the crisis in our ambulance system left by the former Coalition Government, so Victorians can have confidence that in an emergency and they will get the care they need, quickly. The funding boost, provided in the Victorian Budget 2016-17, includes the \$60 million Response Rescue Fund to provide better, faster responses and make sure our ambulances are responding to the right patient, at the right time, with the right care.

Code 1 performance deteriorated under the previous Liberal Government. In 13/14, the final full year of the Liberal Government, just 73.7% of Code 1 cases were responded to within 15 minutes.

Since coming to Government in November 2014, the Andrews Labor Government has been undertaking important reforms to improve response times and rebuild community confidence in our ambulance services.

These reforms include ending hospital bypass, undertaking dispatch grid changes and releasing previously secret data about ambulance response times.

These reforms are beginning to turn around ambulance response times, following years of decline under the previous Liberal Government.

Response times in quarter 3 of 15/16 in the Latrobe LGA, where your constituent lives are over 2 minutes faster than they were in the same quarter in the final year of the Liberal Government.

The Andrews Labor Government is investing in ambulance services across rural and regional Victoria. Ambulance branches in Orbost, Traralgon, Sale, Bacchus Marsh, Echuca, Murchison, Wendouree, Port Fairy and Terang are being upgraded and rebuilt.

The \$60 million Response Time Rescue Fund is funding innovative trials in Nagambie, Wedderburn, Boort, Rainbow, Hopetoun, Jeparit and Patchewollock. The Fund will also support the Country First Responder initiative to provide community members with first aid and defibrillation training.

Funding has also been provided for state-of-the-art new powered stretchers into the entire fleet of Victoria's ambulances, allowing paramedics to be more responsive to patients whose weight exceeds 120kg.

In addition to this funding, the Government has committed \$5 million for the rollout of Emergency Medical Response program to Victorian Integrated Country Fire Authority stations, increasing the number of first responders to be activated at the time of a cardiac arrest call in rural Victoria.

These initiatives are just a sample of the ways in which we are improving ambulance services to rural and regional Victorians.

With respect to the individual case raised, I have requested further information from Ambulance Victoria regarding the case you have raised. The advice Ambulance Victoria provided is that this case was coded as a Code 3 dispatch, non-life threatening, non-urgent response. The expected response time for Code 3 cases is one hour. If the individual has concerns about the advice and care provided through Ambulance Victoria's Referral Service, I encourage your constituent to contact Ambulance Victoria or my office so that their concerns may be investigated.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 25 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Minister for Housing, Disability & Ageing has portfolio responsibility for these matters. I have referred the question to Minister Foley and requested that he respond to you directly.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 25 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Member for South Eastern Metropolitan region raises questions in relation to three exciting Andrews Government projects on the Frankston train corridor; the removal of eleven level crossings (three of which are already gone) the new Southland Station and the Frankston Station Precinct Redevelopment.

The previous Liberal Government did not remove any level crossings on the Frankston line, did not build Southland Station and did not upgrade Frankston station.

Early works to prepare for the construction of Southland Station, including signalling and cabling works, were recently completed. Construction of the station is expected to commence later this year and we are on track to complete the new Southland Station in late 2017.

The Government has committed \$63 million to transform the Frankston Station Precinct into a safe, modern and thriving place of activity and grow investment towards the long term vision of a revitalised city centre. Stage 1 works are now underway with VicRoads delivering streetscape upgrades to Young Street that will be followed by a series of projects including the redevelopment of the station.

Three level crossings are already gone, at Ormond, Mackinnon and Bentleigh with planning and consultation to remove eight level crossings between Cheltenham and Frankston underway. The Level Crossing Removal Authority is currently developing design options for each location to take to community consultation for their feedback.

In relation to the request from the member regarding the potential of Sky rail on the Frankston line, I acknowledge her previous comments that "a bridge is not a Sky rail".

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 25 May 2016

ANSWER:

After \$1 billion in cuts to health by the former Liberal Government, the Andrews Labor Government is investing record funding in health services. The 2016–17 budget delivered an extra \$2.45 billion in health funding, including a massive \$1.63 billion boost for hospitals, ambulance and health programs on top of last year's \$2.1 billion.

Ballarat will receive a multimillion funding boost following the biggest ever increase in health funding in the 2016–17 Victoria Budget. Funding allocations for all Victorian hospitals are being finalised and will be released in July through the Policy and Funding Guidelines.

Ballarat Health Services also received \$1.95 million in May 2016 to immediately provide more services to local patients. This included funding for facilities to improve patient flow through the emergency department.

In addition, all regional and rural hospitals are invited to apply to receive funds through the \$200 million Regional Infrastructure Fund which will be allocated over the next 4 years.

The fund is the largest of its kind in Victorian history and will provide much needed upgrades for rural and regional hospitals to ensure Victorians, regardless of where they live, have access to quality health care when they need it.

The former Liberal Government gutted our hospitals and consistently underinvested in building projects. Through our investment in hospital services and the new Regional Health Infrastructure Fund, the Andrews Labor Government is turning our health system around and rebuilding our hospitals.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 26 May 2016

ANSWER:

During 2015–2016 VicRoads, South Western Victoria will deliver approximately \$96M of works to maintain, rehabilitate or improve assets on the arterial road network.

There are currently proposals for similar treatments for delivery in 2016–2017 which includes pavement maintenance and treatments such as sealing and asphalt works, pavement rehabilitation programs and pavement major patching.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 26 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government takes community concerns relating to hazardous waste seriously. Volumes of hazardous wastes have reduced over the past 10 years but it is not possible to eliminate it entirely. There are limited or no reuse, recycling and/or treatment options for many hazardous waste types.

The SUEZ landfill at Lyndhurst plays a significant statewide role in managing Victoria's highest hazard solid wastes and it meets the Environment Protection Authority Victoria's licence requirements for appropriate hazardous waste disposal to protect the surrounding environment and community.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 26 May 2016

ANSWER:

I did not mislead the house. In July 2015 the signed ministerial briefing (as released via FOI to the Larcombe family in October 2015), provided approval for Public Transport Victoria (PTV) to proceed with activities associated with further land acquisition investigations as part of initial development planning. As described in the July 2015 ministerial briefing, PTV engaged in discussions with the land owner resulting in further investigations of multiple sites as per suggestions made by the land owner. These investigations are still underway to ensure that every possible option has been thoroughly investigated.

The Waurn Ponds Maintenance and Stabling Facility is an important infrastructure project that will provide greater capacity to maintain, clean and stable V/Line's growing fleet of VLocity carriages and reduce pressure on existing facilities. The \$257 million project is an investment in better public transport for Geelong line passengers, including 21 new VLocity carriages and the stabling and maintenance facility. In order to build significant infrastructure projects such as this, land acquisition is sometimes required.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 26 May 2016

ANSWER:

While the scheduling of trains through Deer Park is heavily constrained by the single line sections on the Ballarat and Bendigo lines, there are a number of instances in the peak period where opposing trains are scheduled to cross in the vicinity of the station.

By increasing the stability of the timetable, we can increase the likelihood that trains will cross as planned and reduce the number of instances where late running extends the length of time for which the level crossing at Deer Park is activated.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 26 May 2016

ANSWER:

Thank you to Ms Crozier for her question.

In the case of Boroondara Planning Scheme Amendment C255, the circumstances which led to my intervention were unique.

The mandatory building height controls that applied to Boroondara's commercial corridors were not consistent with state policy objectives for activity centre planning or the recommendations of the independent Panel which considered how these areas should be planned.

The blanket application of mandatory height controls across these activity centres was inconsistent with Planning Practice Note 60 which states that ‘the application of discretionary height controls combined with clear design objectives is the preferred form of height and setback controls.’

Therefore, my decision to approve the amendment was made after considering key state planning policy, the recommendations of the 2014 Panel Report, the submissions received following a period of targeted consultation and the advice of my Department.

I expect all planning controls to be strategically justified and periodically reviewed to ensure a municipality is able to meet the housing needs of our growing population.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 7 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government fully appreciates the importance of the Shepparton Bypass Project to the broader Goulburn Valley region, and the wide reaching economic benefits that could be unlocked by its completion.

I have met personally with the Greater Shepparton City Council and the Committee for Greater Shepparton to discuss their interests in the Project and to establish an agreed focus on how best to bring the project to fruition.

Following this, stakeholder groups have begun advocating for funding to progress the Stage 1A and 1B components of the project. In support of this, the Victorian Government has recently provided funding to the council to allow it to update traffic modelling and to carry out an economic assessment of the benefits that would flow from the completion of Stage 1.

Actions such as this will ensure that the project is at a state of readiness for funding consideration by both the State and Federal Governments.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Asked on: 7 June 2016

ANSWER:

Victoria is the first state in Australia to implement a state-wide voluntary pre-commitment scheme for gaming machines. YourPlay is an important harm minimisation and consumer protection measure that is available to players on all gaming machines in Victoria.

It enables people who use it to make informed decisions about their gaming machine play and assists them to stay in control. Players can use YourPlay to set time and loss limits and to track their play on gaming machines across the state. Players who use YourPlay also have access to their playing activity information, at the venue or online, at any time.

Introduced on 1 December 2015, YourPlay aims to help gaming machine players achieve long-term behavioural change. The government is working with the gaming industry to embed YourPlay into the gambling environment and early data shows that the outlook is positive.

It needs to be understood, however, that YourPlay is not a silver bullet. It is just one additional tool that people can use to assist them to stay in control of their gambling. Encouraging gaming machine players to use YourPlay is going to take time and effort.

YourPlay is being independently evaluated to provide information about its effectiveness in assisting players to control their gambling.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 7 June 2016

ANSWER:

I thank Mr Melhem for his question and for his ongoing commitment to education opportunities in the west. Working in partnership with Learn Local Organisations and other community based organisations, the Reconnect Program will address disadvantage by undertaking outreach to engage eligible young people who are not in education, training or full time employment and who left school without Year 12 (aged 15-24), or who are long-term unemployed (aged 20-24). A learning plan will be developed with each young person, together with support services to help them start and stay in training. In addition, access to supervised workplace experience will be arranged, as well as support as students make the transition to employment or further training.

Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services will deliver services in Brimbank, Maribyrnong and Melton to an estimated 160 young people. In partnership with the Yarraville Community Centre, Djerriwarrh's program will take a flexible outreach approach with a triage intake model based on the "no wrong door approach". Motivational coaching and regular face-to-face meetings will encourage participants to engage with the program. Individual Transition Plans will be developed for every young person engaged with the program.

As well as assisting young disengaged people in the West, the Reconnect program will boost local community networks, Learn Local Organisations and support partnerships with TAFEs.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 7 June 2016

ANSWER:

The opportunity to protest is an integral part of our open and democratic way of life. Where groups with different views choose to express their opinions publicly in the same area at the same time, the role of police is to maintain public order and enforce the criminal law. However, it can be challenging for police when acting to separate opposing groups of participants.

Effective policing requires the careful exercise of judgement and the application of appropriate discretion, ensuring that police adapt their response to suit the circumstances of the day.

Following discussions with the Chief Commissioner of Police, the government has agreed to examine laws against the wearing of face coverings at protests. The government also agreed to consider laws which allow police to identify individuals whose intent is to commit violence, rather than to protest, and to provide police with the power to intervene to prevent individuals or groups with violent intent entering a designated area or areas.

The government will continue to work closely with Victoria Police to deliver the resources and powers they need to keep the community safe.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 7 June 2016

ANSWER:

VicRoads advises me that the location of concern has been identified as one of the candidate projects under the 2016-17 road rehabilitation program. Investigation works are being undertaken at a number of locations along this section of Koo Wee Rup–Longwarry Road, which involves sampling and testing the road surface and material underlying it. The investigation is being done to better understand the underlying problem, which will enable a design of the rehabilitation repair treatment of this section of Koo Wee Rup-Longwarry Road. Temporary partial road closures and localised speed restrictions are required for the duration of the investigation fieldwork, which is estimated to take about two weeks.

The design of the rehabilitation repair treatment will be a long-term solution to provide a smoother and safer road for the locals and road users of Koo Wee Rup–Longwarry Road.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Symes
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 7 June 2016

ANSWER:

I refer to the constituency question raised by Ms Symes regarding future funding possibilities for facilities at Kings Park.

Firstly, I'd like to commend you for your commitment to advocating the importance of sport and recreation in your electorate, especially for women. Providing high quality sport and recreation infrastructure is a key aim of the government, and is integral to the health and well-being of all Victorians.

I understand Mitchell Shire Council have recently submitted a project proposal to the Victorian Government's 2017-18 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund — Female Friendly Facilities category for upgrades to change rooms and associated facilities. The project proposal includes two unisex change rooms, umpires space, first aid room and an accessible toilet. I anticipate informing Council if they have been successful in progressing to full application stage in mid July 2016.

In addition, I was pleased to announce the four-year extension of the Country Football and Netball Program through the 2016-17 State Budget. The program provides funding to assist country football and netball clubs, associations and umpiring organisations to develop facilities in rural, regional and outer metropolitan locations.

The opening of the 2016-17 funding round of the Country Football and Netball Program will be announced shortly and councils in your electorate will be notified of how to apply for funding.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 7 June 2016

ANSWER:

Constituency Questions are for Members to ask questions on constituency matters to the responsible Minister. Given the matter does not fall under my portfolio responsibilities, it would be inappropriate to discuss the hardworking local CFA brigades in this way.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 7 June 2016

ANSWER:

As you will be aware, the government has taken action to find a fair and balanced solution to a dispute that has gone on for over 1000 days.

The role of volunteer firefighters in this state is sacrosanct. At no stage has the government questioned it or jeopardised it. That is why the government has invested tens of millions of dollars in new trucks, stations, and training facilities for volunteer brigades across the state.

Throughout the process of finalising the enterprise bargaining agreement, the government has focused on ensuring that the Country Fire Authority (CFA) fire stations will continue to operate as they always have — with their own independence, their own special connections to the community, and their own unique knowledge of their local area.

Regarding your question about the United Firefighters Union flag outside the Hoppers Crossing fire station, the CFA advises that this flag has since been removed and replaced by the CFA flag.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Eideh
Directed to: Minister for Veterans
Asked on: 8 June 2016

ANSWER:

It was an honour to attend the opening ceremony of the RSL conference to mark 100 years since its establishment. The RSL is a truly remarkable organisation that has made, and continues to make, an immense contribution to the veteran community.

The Victorian Government is proud to support the RSL. In 2015-16 we announced an additional \$400 000 over four years to the RSL for veterans' welfare programs. The RSL Victorian Branch and various sub branches are also regular recipients of our grant programs to restore community war memorials and avenues of honour; to support commemoration and education programs and to mark the Anzac Centenary.

In July 2015, Keilor East RSL received a \$10 000 grant from the Anzac Centenary Community Grants Program, as the auspice body for the Boulevard Anzac Centenary Commemorative Committee, to install five Anzac story boards along the Maribyrnong River in recognition of the Essendon Rifles 58th Battalion.

On 3 June 2016, I announced a grant to Keilor East RSL for \$25 000 for a video project to record the war service of World War 2 bomber pilot, Mr Laurie Larmer, funded from the Victoria Remembers Grants Program.

The ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund provides practical support to the Victorian veteran community through the provision of funding for a range of welfare-related activities. In 2015-16, 21 grants, totalling \$287 786 were approved. This includes a \$70 000 grant to the RSL Victorian branch to provide assistance to regional welfare centres throughout Victoria.

I thank you for your question and encourage you to continue to promote our grant programs within your electorate, including to your local RSL sub branches. The Victoria Remembers; Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour; Anzac Centenary Community; and the Victorian Veterans Council ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund grants programs are all currently open for applications. For more information visit www.dpc.vic.gov.au/veterans

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Ports
Asked on: 8 June 2016

ANSWER:

Gippsland Ports has advised me that it is currently undertaking a review of its fees and charges for use of its local port facilities and services in consultation with all stakeholders. It should be noted that all local port managers are given powers under the Port Management Act 1995 to set charges for the use of port services and facilities. I have asked Gippsland Ports to keep me informed of the outcomes of the consultation with stakeholders and the proposed new fee structures to be implemented in 2016-17.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 8 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government supports everyone in Victoria to move more and live healthier lives. In addition to the Active Club Grants the Government is investing in a range of other initiatives for sporting clubs. These include:

- the \$100 million Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, which is upgrading sport and recreation facilities across the state for all Victorians (including \$1.12 million in the western metropolitan region during 2015-16)
- the Sporting Club Grants Program, which is helping grassroots sporting clubs to bolster operations and increase community participation (including \$163 183 in the western metropolitan region during 2015-16)
- the Healthy Food Connect Thrive initiative, which is supporting a number of sports clubs in the western suburbs to provide and promote healthier food choices and provide a model for action across Victoria.

The Andrews Labor Government is also supporting initiatives to get Victorians moving, such as:

- Ride2School, which provides information on how to build healthy active habits among children and young people
- The Achievement Program, which is supporting early years services, schools and workplaces to create places that promote and provide information about physical activity and other healthy behaviours for Victorian children and workers. In the Western Metropolitan Region alone over 220 early childhood services and schools and over 60 workplaces are committed to creating healthier places for local residents.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 8 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Department of Education and Training commenced consultation with the City of Darebin on the rezoning and sale of the former Ruthven Primary School in 2013. The State Government policy requires surplus education land to be appropriately zoned prior to sale.

The Department has undertaken to work with the City of Darebin to finalise this process, and the eventual sale will doubtless greatly benefit the local community.

In addition, the Department is currently in negotiation with the council about the potential purchase of the site for community open space.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Elasmar
Directed to: Minister for Veterans
Asked on: 8 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government supports a number of programs and initiatives to promote veterans welfare and to support commemoration and education programs throughout Victoria. Many of the beneficiaries of these programs have been in the Northern Metropolitan Region.

I was proud to open the Veterans Accommodation Project in Richmond in October 2015 which provide short to medium term accommodation for veterans in need. The Victorian Government provided \$1.35 million to Housing Choices Australia for the project, and the RSL is the lead ex-service organisation responsible for identifying veterans in need of the housing and providing the welfare support required to help them get back on their feet.

In recognition of the tremendous work being done by the RSL Victorian Branch for the veteran community, in 2015 the Government committed an additional \$400 000 over four years to the RSL for veterans' welfare programs.

The ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund provides practical support to the Victorian veteran community through the provision of funding for a range of welfare-related activities. In 2015-16, 21 grants, totalling \$287 786 were approved. This includes a \$70 000 grant to the RSL Victorian Branch to provide welfare related assistance to seven centres throughout Victoria, including the Inner Metropolitan Veteran Service Centre in Southbank.

Local RSLs were also the recipients of a number of Government grants to restore community war memorials and avenues of honour; to support commemoration and education programs and to mark the Anzac Centenary.

In 2014, the City of Darebin in collaboration with the Reservoir RSL, received \$10 000 for the relocation and restoration of the Reservoir RSL Cenotaph from the Restoring Community War Memorials Grants program.

I thank you for your question and encourage you to continue to promote our grant programs within your electorate, including to your local RSL sub branches. The Victoria Remembers; Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour; Anzac Centenary Community; and the Victorian Veterans Council ANZAC Day Proceeds Fund grant programs are all currently open for applications. For more information visit www.dpc.vic.gov.au/veterans

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 8 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is making Victoria the Education State. We recognise that to make this vision a reality for all children, extra support is sometimes needed to best advance their learning, development and wellbeing.

There are a range of supports and services in place to improve the lives of children with a disability or developmental delay, and their families. These include Early Childhood Intervention Services, Flexible Support Packages, Kindergarten Inclusion Support and the Preschool Field Officer Program.

Preschool Field Officers provide high quality support and professional services to Victorian government funded kindergartens to build their capacity to provide for the access and participation of children with additional needs in inclusive kindergarten programs.

The early childhood enterprise bargaining agreements have now been approved by the Fair Work Commission. Increased funding rates for Preschool Field Officers have now been advised in recognition of the increased salaries for Preschool Field Officers under these agreements.

Before the election, Labor made a commitment to help the employer associations and the Australian Education Union resolve the dispute, after the previous Liberal Government stalled it for two years. We have delivered on that promise.

This year, the Government also introduced new learning resources to help ensure kinder is inclusive for all children. The Early Abilities Based Learning and Education Support (Early ABLES) assessment tool, enables early childhood educators to develop specific learning programs that build on the individual skills and abilities of children aged two to five with disabilities and developmental delays. Early ABLES is available for services with funded kindergarten programs and Early Education Programs within special development schools.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 8 June 2016

ANSWER:

As you would expect, the government works closely with the Chief Commissioner to ensure Victoria Police is appropriately resourced to tackle law enforcement issues facing the Victorian community.

I am pleased to advise you that the Ballarat West Police Station became operational on the 3rd of August 2016.

Community safety is a top priority for the Andrews Government and Victoria Police, as everyone needs to feel safe in their communities. One of the government's key priorities is the recruitment, training and deployment of more police out on the front line.

The Chief Commissioner continues to work closely with the Andrews Government about what resources and powers Victoria Police need to address crime, particularly emerging crime trends. That's why in the recent State Budget we funded an additional 406 police officers and 52 support personnel.

Of the 406 additional police officers, 300 will be general duties frontline police deployed across Victoria. The Chief Commissioner has stated that deployment of the 300 general duties police will focus on responding to local crime in growth corridors and other areas of greatest need, to be determined in consultation with The Police Association. The recruitment and deployment of 400 Police Custody Officers also means we can free up more police to work in their communities.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 8 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Bendigo Bus network which commenced earlier this year provides more direct and frequent routes around Bendigo.

This followed community consultation on the new network. Since the implementation of the new bus routes, I have requested that PTV work closely with local residents to address any concerns raised and identify opportunities to further improve the network.

Given the Member has not provided enough detail to allow me to follow up on this enquiry, I request that the Member contact my office with further details.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 8 June 2016

ANSWER:

Mr Ramsay, thank you for your question and ongoing support as we work to reactivate this prominent site.

As you are aware, the Glenormiston Expression of Interest (EOI) was open for 100 days and closed on March 16, 2016.

I asked that the EOI process be designed to attract a broad variety of potential organisations or consortiums, both international and domestic, to acquire the site, via purchase or lease. I made clear that while the successful proponent could represent any industry, the successful submission must include a model of education as part of the core business on the site.

The Evaluation Panel conducted the final stage of the two stage evaluation process and provided me with their recommendations for a preferred proponent. I was pleased with the quality of the proposal for the site and consider it to offer a great opportunity to see the long and proud tradition of providing education and training to return to Glenormiston.

As you note, I had initially expected to make an announcement in early June, however necessary negotiations needed to be undertaken with the preferred proponent.

On 12 July, I announced that the EOI process had been successful and Acknowledge Education chosen to re-establish Glenormiston as a centre for education and training.

Acknowledge Education is an established registered training organisation and its partners in the bid include Total Livestock Genetics, a Camperdown company working in animal genetics and reproductive technologies, and Volume Group, a global business with a commitment to acquiring and restoring heritage-value sites.

The consortium's proposal includes an educational hub at the site focusing on delivering courses in areas including agriculture, manufacturing, horticulture, conservation and land management, business, tourism, transport and logistics.

The Department of Education and Training is now working with Acknowledge Education to finalise plans for the sale.

I am also pleased to announce that the consortium's proposal includes a role for South West Institute of TAFE, and I look forward to seeing the important role South West TAFE will play in working in partnership with Acknowledge Education to deliver skills and training to the region.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Treasurer
Asked on: 9 June 2016

ANSWER:

Funding was allocated for the Research CFA Station as part of the 2016-17 Budget to the Department of Justice and Regulation who provides grants to the CFA.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Elasmarr
Directed to: Minister for Veterans
Asked on: 9 June 2016

ANSWER:

The extraordinary impact of the 5000 Poppies Project at the Chelsea Flower Show in London last month created a high level of understanding globally of how much the Anzac Centenary means to Victorians and Australians. The media immediately related to a project that started small to honour two fathers, both veterans, and grew to embrace the Centenary and all those who have served. The time spent by the Royal Family at the exhibit, not only by Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, but Their Royal Highnesses Prince William and Prince Harry, and other members of the Royal Family, is testament to how successful the positioning and the story of the exhibit has been. Both Prince William and Prince Harry, who have served in the British Armed Forces, understand well the significance of projects that show respect for veterans and remembrance of service.

I am certain that the northern suburbs have made as much of a contribution to Australia's armed forces over the years as any other region. In World War One, many men were trained at Broadmeadows.

The Victorian Government has supported a large number of projects in your region in recent years ranging from veterans welfare, to commemorative projects and restoration work for our precious wartime heritage. Some examples of projects we have funded include: \$70 000 for the RSL Victorian Branch to provide welfare-related assistance to seven centres throughout Victoria, including the Inner Metropolitan Veteran Service; numerous grants to community organisations based in the Northern Metropolitan region to support exhibitions, commemorations and education programs; and funding to restore the Cenotaphs in Preston and Reservoir. A full list of grant recipients can be found at www.dpc.vic.gov.au/veterans/veterans-grants.

I am pleased that our grant programs are well used across Victoria to assist communities in significant acts of remembrance; to educate recent arrivals and young people; and to maintain the special places and ways in which we keep the stories of those who have served alive.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 9 June 2016

ANSWER:

The new sporting pathway program delivered by Warrnambool College in partnership with Federation University is admirable and offers students an alternative to the established local program provided by Deakin University.

Strengthened links and partnerships like this between schools, VET and adult education are vital, particularly in regional Victoria. These arrangements help support students with training options and provide increased access and opportunity.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to providing the best educational opportunities for all Victorians and ensuring that every community has access to a great school. The Education and Training Reform Act 2006 enshrines the right of all children of compulsory school age to be enrolled at their designated neighbourhood Government school. This is usually the school that is closest to the student's permanent residence. If families choose to apply for enrolment at schools other than their designated neighbourhood school and those schools have additional capacity, then applications are accepted in a priority order, starting with those students within the designated neighbourhood boundary, and with criteria for siblings, consideration on curriculum grounds, and in exceptional circumstances, compassionate grounds.

There have been no recent changes to Designated Neighbourhood Boundaries (DNB) in Warrnambool and there is no Designated Neighbourhood Zone (DNZ) within those boundaries. Population demands mean that Warrnambool College has been experiencing enrolment pressures and has therefore needed to manage its enrolments process in accordance with policy and ensuring that every student living within their boundary is first allocated a place in accordance with the Act.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 9 June 2016

ANSWER:

EPA undertook an investigation on 12 and 13 May 2016 into reports of fish deaths observed along Darebin Creek between Bell St, BeWield and Darebin Parklands in Alphington. EPA collected samples of water, creek sediment and a dead eel for analysis. The organs of the eel were analysed and found levels of permethrin that are toxic to fish, and is the likely cause of death.

Permethrin is an insecticide that is widely used in households (fly sprays, dog shampoo, head lice control) and in commercial and agricultural applications (insect control, timber treatment). Although it is generally regarded as safe, it is highly toxic to aquatic life. Permethrin was not detected in the water or sediment samples, and no other chemicals of concern were detected, indicating that the pollution event was not ongoing.

Permethrin breaks down rapidly in the environment which means that EPA was unable to identify the source of permethrin pollution. Removal of the dead fish was conducted by Melbourne Water, who also undertakes regular monitoring of the creek.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 9 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government will do everything we can to minimise the impact of this massive project on trees, property and people. The former Liberal Government wasted four years ignoring the metro tunnel and we refuse to make the same mistake. The Government has fully funded the tunnel and works will start within weeks.

As is common when considering the potential impacts of major projects, the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority has taken a conservative approach to assessing how many trees may need to be removed in the Domain precinct in order to facilitate the construction of the new underground station.

As Mr Tattersall explained, the 223 trees identified in the EES as being potentially impacted in the Domain precinct is a 'worst case' scenario and every effort will be made to reduce this number.

Further refinement of the project through detailed design will look at how tree removal can be reduced where possible. The project will look to protect, replace or offset as many trees as possible, and in some places, tree re-planting would start during construction.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 9 June 2016

ANSWER:

Investment in education and school infrastructure continues to be a priority for the Andrews Labor Government. This has been demonstrated through the Government's 2016-17 State Budget allocation of \$1.1 billion to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state, ensuring that every child has access to a great local school, and gets the chance to succeed.

I was pleased to announce that Wonthaggi Secondary College will share in \$12 million of planning funding that has been allocated to 35 schools across the State in the 2016-17 State Budget. This funding will allow the school to begin planning for its building, project, ensuring works can commence immediately when further funding is provided in a future State Budget.

The school, Wonthaggi amateur BBA and the council may like to consider a proposal for a joint use facility as part of the planning works.

In addition, I understand that Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) provides grants and funding to support a range of sporting activities. The Sporting Club Grants Program provides grants to assist in the purchase of equipment and sports uniforms and also to improve the capacity and accessibility of Victorian clubs and other community sport and recreation organisations. I encourage you to contact SRV for more information regarding this grant program.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 9 June 2016

ANSWER:

The rail bridge over the Avon River at Stratford does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities and should be redirected to the Hon Jacinta Allan MP, Minister for Public Transport.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Tierney
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 9 June 2016

ANSWER:

I thank Ms Tierney for her question and for her ongoing commitment to education opportunities in Victoria's western region. The Government is committed to investing in vocational education in Victoria and this has been demonstrated by the allocation of \$320 million to the TAFE sector (TAFE Rescue Fund).

In conjunction with funding for a new Tech school on the Gordon city campus, the State Government will contribute \$5 million towards the Gordon's campus rejuvenation project. The project is currently in its early

planning stages, with the design stage set to commence in early 2017. The Gordon TAFE is working towards a project completion date of mid-2018, when the rejuvenated campus will be open to students in time for the term two intake.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Treasurer
Asked on: 9 June 2016

ANSWER:

The 2016-17 State Budget provided \$5.5 million to support the revitalisation of Geelong through public realm improvements and planning for key projects in the centre of Geelong. This builds on significant recent investments in central Geelong including Stage 4 of the Simonds Stadium redevelopment and upgrades to the Geelong Performing Arts Centre.

The Victorian Government in late 2015 also created the Geelong Authority to advise the Minister for Planning on strategies to attract investment to central Geelong and on major planning applications to help create jobs and drive growth.

Planning for the revitalisation of Geelong, including any potential convention centre development, is ongoing and is being led by the Minister for Planning.

Questions relating to this matter in the future will be directed to the Minister for Planning.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

As public sector employees, school staff are expected to maintain impartiality and integrity, and avoid using their position to publicly support parties or candidates during election campaigns. They are also expected to avoid engaging in political activities during work time or use workplace facilities, resources or information for political activities. Following the commencement of the recent federal caretaker period, the Department of Education & Training issued guidance to school staff about these obligations. These instructions do not apply to the preparation or distribution of material that relates to education policy that is the subject of public debate approved by the Department or encouraged by the Government.

The Eltham High School newsletter included a principal's report back to the school community about a Department briefing on the Hon Steve Bracks' Government School Funding Review, and an update on how the school had used Gonski funding to date. As you will be aware, the Bracks Review recommended that the Commonwealth Government honour its Gonski funding agreement to 2018 and 2019, and warned that Victoria would need to rethink its funding model if this did not occur.

As regards the other matter raised by the constituent, the Department encourages partnering with the local community to share school facilities, and school councils are authorised to hire out school facilities for community events outside school hours. The climate change forum referred to by your constituent was such an event-this is no different to any other member of the local community hiring a space at the school. I am informed that the forum was not advertised through the school.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government recognises that access to high quality early years services is central to giving every Victorian child the best start in life.

Last year, we committed \$50 million over four years to the Children's Facilities Capital Program (CFCP) to develop modern and flexible early childhood centres across the state.

The 2016-17 Victorian State Budget builds on that significant investment, providing an additional \$10 million to the CFCP, earmarked for capital projects in Victoria's fastest-growing areas and an improved approach to planning for Victoria's future needs. These additional funds will target the 7 Metropolitan Planning Authority defined growth areas — Casey, Cardinia, Hume, Mitchell (in urban growth zone), Melton, Whittlesea and Wyndham.

I was pleased to recently announce the opening of the 2016-17 Children's Facilities Capital Program major grant round. Applications will close at 4pm on 12 August 2016.

Further details regarding eligibility and assessment criteria for grant categories can be accessed on the Department of Education and Training's website. If your constituents have any queries, or would like any further information, they may contact the Children's Facilities Capital Program team on (03) 9651 3399 or by email at: childrens.capital.program@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

I am pleased to report that all nine members of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) Board have been appointed.

The Board brings a mix of technical, financial and operational experience to lead CFA in best practice emergency management now and into the future. Four of the Board members were appointed from a panel nominated by the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, providing representation for CFA volunteers.

I am also pleased to report that, in line with the Andrews Labor Government's Women on Boards Policy, the new CFA board has five female members.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to addressing the issue of family violence in our society.

The Royal Commission into Family Violence has charted a clear path for future reform in family violence. Soon after its release, the Government announced \$572 million over two years to respond to 65 of the most urgent recommendations.

I was pleased to recently join with Domestic Violence Victoria and representatives from Victoria Police to announce a \$9 million state-wide rollout of Risk Assessment Management Panels (RAMPs) in 18 locations across Victoria, including flexible brokerage funding. A further \$150 000 will be provided for Domestic Violence Victoria to continue its statewide coordinating role across the RAMPs program in 2016-17.

RAMPs are formally convened meetings that bring together professionals from specialist women's family violence services, Victoria Police, Corrections Victoria, housing, mental health, alcohol and drug services, men's family violence services, Child FIRST and child protection.

These local experts share critical information about specific cases of women and their children at serious and imminent threat from family violence and develop coordinated action plans to protect them.

Women and children in the Mornington Peninsula Shire who are victims of family violence will have access to the Bayside Peninsula RAMP supported by Good Shepherd Australia. Local services will convene each month to provide this vital support and coordination.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

I am advised that Amendment C143 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme proposes to implement the recommendations of the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan 2014. Amendment C143 proposes changes to planning policies and controls in Greater Dandenong's portion of the South East Green Wedge and was publicly exhibited from 4 February 2016 to 7 March 2016. Some 70 submissions were received by Greater Dandenong City Council (council).

I understand that on 14 June 2016, council decided to refer the submissions to an independent planning Panel. Additionally, council decided to support further changes to the amendment, including amending the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge Management Plan 2014 to lower minimum lot sizes for subdivision and apply a minimum lot size of 0.2 hectares to the Keys Road Precinct. I understand that the motion to rescind this decision, considered at the 27 June 2016 council meeting did not pass.

Amendment C143 will now be considered by an independent planning Panel, which will report its findings and make any recommendations it deems fit to council.

I can confirm that I am committed to strengthening and maintaining Melbourne's green wedge areas. State planning policy highlights the importance of protecting Melbourne's green wedges from inappropriate development. The Planning and Environment Act 1987 requires that any change to the subdivision controls within the green wedge that would allow land to be subdivided into smaller lots must be ratified by Parliament.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

Native vegetation management is an important part of the Caulfield to Dandenong Level Crossing Removal Project. The project has made every effort to ensure that the design and construction minimises the impact on trees, vegetation and wildlife. Prior to any tree removal taking place, site surveys are carried out to identify the health of individual trees as well as the presence of any wildlife. This includes visual inspections of the corridor by wildlife experts.

The project will be offsetting impacts to native vegetation and ensuring that impacts to any threatened species present within the corridor are managed in accordance with the relevant legislation, including the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 and Wildlife Act 1975. The rail over solution allows the retention of a far greater number of trees than would have been possible with a rail under solution. The design, which includes over 11 MCGs of open space, will enable replanting of a significant number of larger trees upon completion ensuring ongoing habitat is available for native wildlife, an option that would not have been possible with a rail under solution.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

Planning approval for the removal of the nine level crossings between Caulfield and Dandenong has been granted. On June 22, 2016 the Legislative Council of the Victorian Parliament overwhelmingly rejected the attempt from the Member for South Metropolitan Region to disallow the approval for the removal of the most congested and dangerous level crossings in Melbourne.

Commuters stuck at these level crossings everyday understand that one of the many benefits of the elevated design is that the level crossings are removed as quickly as possible without months and months of gridlock which would have resulted from a trenched solution. A less understood benefit of the elevated design is that far more mature trees can be saved in comparison with a trenched solution. Detailed information on the management of vegetation removal and replanting and the tree retention benefits of the elevated design is available at:

<http://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/media-library/publications/caulfield-to-dandenong-publications/fact-sheets/trees-and-vegetation>

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

I refer to matters raised by Ms Shing (Eastern Victoria) in relation to the piloting and potential further roll-out of the Victorian Government domestic asbestos removal kit that was trialled with councils in 2014 and 2015.

In 2013, WorkSafe Victoria led the development and implementation of a project to pilot domestic asbestos removal kits with the view to considering the implementation of a wider project. The project was a joint initiative between WorkSafe Victoria, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Environment Protection Authority and local government. The project was supported by the Municipal Association of Victoria, and extensive consultation occurred with councils and key stakeholders.

The aims of the project were to reduce the risk to workers cleaning up illegally dumped asbestos waste and to employees at domestic waste disposal facilities. The project also aimed to assist householders to follow the harm minimisation advice contained in the national enHealth guide *Asbestos — A guide for householders and the general public*.

The kit provided householders with advice from the enHealth guide, personal protective and other equipment recommended in the enHealth guide to reduce exposure to asbestos, and a voucher towards the cost of appropriately disposing of asbestos waste at an Environment Protection Authority licensed landfill.

WorkSafe Victoria funded the cost of the kits and the Environment Protection Authority provided a grant to councils that was disbursed by the Municipal Association of Victoria. The Department of Health and Human Services provided advice about the health risks associated with asbestos exposure, met costs associated with the

storage and transport of the kits, and provided advice in relation to the subsequent evaluation of the pilot of the kit. The responsibility for product and professional liability was covered through the Victorian Managed Insurance Fund.

Although the project engaged 18 councils to provide 1000 domestic asbestos removal kits, only eight (or 44 per cent) of the councils participated and only 398 (or 40 per cent) of the kits had been distributed by the time of the evaluation in 2015.

The agencies have been working together to identify and report on the barriers to the take up of the kit.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Andrews Labor Government. This has been demonstrated through the Government's 2016-17 State Budget allocation of \$1.1 billion to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state, thereby ensuring that every community has access to a great local school and every child the chance to succeed.

Budget constraints, however, do not allow for the immediate funding of all building projects, and our challenge is to balance and prioritise the needs of over 1500 government schools, all in varying condition.

The Government will continue to use all available data, including school condition assessments, project plans and proposals, when allocating resources in future State Budgets. I can assure you that the infrastructure needs of Bairnsdale Secondary College will be considered when determining future priorities for our capital works program.

I would also like to thank Bairnsdale Secondary College for extending an invitation to visit, and I look forward to visiting the school as soon as my schedule permits.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Metro Tunnel Environment Effects Statement (EES) identifies a number of potential changes to the road network as a result of the project's construction and operation.

In the Domain precinct, the EES Transport Impact Assessment assessed a three-lane configuration for St Kilda Road post construction, with the parking lanes treated as clearways in peak periods. Segregated bicycle lanes would also be provided for the entire length of the Domain station precinct, increasing safety for cyclists along this busy route.

Overall, this road layout would ensure that future operating conditions would be similar to the existing conditions.

The final configuration of St Kilda Road, both in the vicinity of Domain station and either side towards the CBD and St Kilda, will ultimately be determined by VicRoads in consultation with relevant stakeholders including the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority, councils and Public Transport Victoria.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Bourman
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 21 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Government recognises the significant interest in the hunting of deer within Victoria, and the Game Management Authority and Parks Victoria work closely together to ensure recreational hunting occurs appropriately and safely on public land. Parks Victoria also works with the Australian Deer Association and the Sporting Shooters Association of Victoria in a range of programs aimed at controlling deer numbers within the parks and reserves system.

In 2014, following consultation, Parks Victoria released a draft management plan covering the Greater Alpine National Parks for public comment. The draft plan included a number of proposals including one for some camping areas to be 'firearms free'.

The proposal for 'firearms free' camping areas addresses several concerns raised during community consultation from park visitors who want to avoid firearms. Giving visitors options to reduce real or perceived conflicts of use is a long standing management tool.

Roughly equal numbers of submissions were received on the draft plan from those opposing the no-firearms camping areas and those supporting it. Park management plans usually include measures to balance different recreational uses and values of park visitors.

The draft Greater Alpine National Parks management plan is currently being finalised and is likely to be released later this year.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 22 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Level Crossing Removal Project does not fall under my portfolio responsibilities. I encourage the member to redirect this question to the responsible Minister.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 22 June 2016

ANSWER:

Dr Carling-Jenkins, thank you for your question. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria the Education State with ambitious Education State targets and curriculum to better prepare students for their futures.

The \$128 million Tech Schools initiative is an important part of the Government's vision for the Education State. The ten Tech Schools will open progressively over 2017 and 2018.

Wyndham has been selected as one of ten Local Government Areas to host a Tech School, with Victoria University confirmed to host the facility at its Werribee campus. The local partnership for Wyndham Tech School includes

secondary schools, TAFE institutes, universities, local government and industry-body representatives who will ensure the Tech School is shaped by local knowledge, insight and needs.

\$100 million has been provided for capital investment across the ten Tech Schools, with \$28 million over four years for operations. \$8.4 million per annum has been provided ongoing, ensuring financial sustainability for all ten Tech Schools. Planning of Wyndham Tech School is currently underway, and capital and operational budgets will be allocated primarily in proportion to number of students enrolled in the eighteen local partner schools.

I am pleased to advise that discussions between the Department of Education and Training and Victoria University are progressing well and we expect to announce the appointment of architects soon. The Wyndham Tech School will be a new build facility planned to open by mid-2018. Wyndham Tech School will focus on building secondary students' interpersonal, problem-solving and creative skills. This means their employability skills will be enhanced enabling them to move smoothly between industries and even occupations.

The Wyndham Tech School Steering Group has identified the need for the Tech School to be available for use by the broader community outside school hours. Potential community uses under consideration include community STEM programs/courses and out of school activities for students including younger students. The location of the Tech School at the Werribee campus of Victoria University will encourage the young people of Wyndham to view tertiary education and work in STEM fields as part of their own futures.

I thank you for this question and share your enthusiasm for a good outcome for the Wyndham community.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Eideh
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 22 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria's supported playgroups more inclusive for families from diverse cultural backgrounds.

We recently announced \$200 000 for eligible service providers to apply for a one-off grant to engage bicultural workers to support the participation of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) families.

This funding has been fully allocated to successful service providers and will be expended over the 2016-17 financial year.

I'm pleased to advise that of the 15 successful service providers, six are located in local government areas in the Western Metropolitan electorate, including the City of Brimbank, City of Hobsons Bay, City of Hume, City of Maribyrnong, City of Melton, and the City of Wyndham.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Dalla-Riva
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 22 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Department of Health and Human Services is committed to doing all it can to enforce the conditions of its tenancy agreements with public housing tenants. Tenants have an obligation to use their properties in a way that does not cause nuisance or interference to the peace, comfort or privacy of a neighbouring properties in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 (RTA).

I have written directly to Banyule City Council regarding these matters and understand that Council officers have advised my department they are satisfied with the outcomes of the department's actions.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 22 June 2016

ANSWER:

The previous Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing in Melbourne's north and went to the 2014 election promising to keep the level crossing at High Street Reservoir in place. In contrast the Andrews Government is getting rid of this congested death trap as part of commitment to remove 50 of Victoria's worst level crossings.

Consultation and detailed planning is underway for the removal of this crossing with work due to commence in 2018. While the detailed engineering and consultation is taking place, no design solution for the removal of this crossing has been determined.

Further information on the removal of the High Street level crossing in Reservoir can be found at <http://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/crossings/high-street-reservoir>.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 22 June 2016

ANSWER:

Deputy Premier, the Hon James Merlino MP and VicRoads officers met with the constituent on 24 June 2016.

VicRoads will install new static speed limit signs along Monbulk Road, near Kallista Primary School to increase awareness of the existing school speed zone.

Furthermore, VicRoads will include the installation of electronic school speed signs for future funding consideration.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Mental Health
Asked on: 22 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is providing \$1.5 million for an assistance package that will support Gippsland dairy farmers and their communities, as well as those in the South West and Murray areas. Funding for mental health first aid training and expanded Lifeline services will provide communities with valuable information about mental health issues, including where to get help for themselves, their friends or family. Funding for extra counselling services over the next two years will ensure that farmers and their families can get the support they need, and grants to affected communities will ensure people are better supported to look out for each other. A boost for the Look Over the Farm Gate program, led by the Victorian Farmers Federation and the National Centre for Farmer Health, will include extra community wellbeing workshops and events.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 22 June 2016

ANSWER:

The previous Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Frankston line. The Andrews Labor Government is getting rid of 11, with three already gone.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) received a letter with a large number of questions from Mr Serge Kraskov on 3 May 2016 and sent a four-page response on 2 June 2016 answering many of his questions in detail.

The LXRA provided as much information as possible. As noted in the response to Mr Kraskov, the LXRA was not able to answer some of the questions related to the engineering and technical considerations of the project due to continuing investigations.

Representatives from the LXRA met with Mr Kraskov and other committee members of the No Sky Rail: Frankston line on 30 May 2016 and discussed many of the questions, again noting that with investigations underway not all questions can be answered.

The Victorian Government and the LXRA are committed to keeping communities informed and are consulting on this transformational project at each stage of the design and development process. Additional information on the level crossing removals on the Frankston line will be released shortly.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 22 June 2016

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

A Principal Practice Leader Education was appointed as part of the Andrews Labor Government's Special Needs Plan for Victorian Schools. While the Principal Practice Leader works exclusively with the Department of Education and Training and government schools, the position reports to the Senior Practitioner (Disability) in the Office of Professional Practice of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Part of the role is to work with a range of stakeholders to improve professional learning, policies and guidelines around restraint and seclusion. Children and young people and their families will be key contributors to the review of the Department guidance around managing children with behaviours of concern.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 23 June 2016

ANSWER:

As part of the Caulfield to Dandenong Level Crossing Removal Project, the stations at Carnegie, Murrumbeena, Hughesdale, Clayton and Noble Park will be transformed into new, safe and accessible stations. The new stations will include intermodal transport hubs with connections to buses and taxis, increased car parking, improved connections to the surrounding shopping precincts, a continuous shared bicycle and pedestrian path along the rail corridor and new open space for the local community.

The urban design for the project, including the five new stations, has been developed by a team of urban designers, engineers and technical specialists. The project team has worked with the Office of the Victorian Government Architect and local councils to develop urban design principles for the project, including identity, urban integration, amenity, vibrancy, safety and accessibility.

The Government is aware that the Carnegie and Murrumbeena station houses have significance to the local community and I can assure you that the design's impacts on heritage places have been considered in the design process. The feedback received during the community consultation phase has helped shape the station designs and will be used to further enhance the design and guide project decision making. The project team are currently working closely with council to explore options to acknowledge the local heritage value of the existing stations. This includes the possibility of relocating existing station buildings for community use, or incorporating elements of the station buildings into the new designs.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 23 June 2016

ANSWER:

The previous Liberal Government did not remove any level crossings in Melbourne's west and went to the last election with no commitment to remove level crossings at Puckle Street, Park Street and Buckley Street.

In contrast the Andrews Government has committed to removing 50 of Victoria's worst level crossings including Buckley Street in Essendon. The removal of the level crossing at Buckley Street is in the early planning stage and engineering assessments are underway. No design solutions have currently been developed for the removal of this crossing.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 23 June 2016

ANSWER:

Parks Victoria erected fences along the boundary of the reserve in 2005 to protect cultural and natural values from the impact of off-track vehicle use in the area. Sites recorded in the area include scarred trees and ancient burial sites of the Yorta Yorta people.

In November 2011, Parks Victoria consulted the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC) as the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP), in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, to re-establish vehicle access to the lagoon. YYNAC responded that re-establishing vehicle access to the area was of great concern due to the high cultural significance of the site.

Access for camping and hunting in the reserve is still available via walking.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Elasmarr
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 23 June 2016

ANSWER:

The four new multicultural community grants programs for 2016-17 have all closed and are currently going through the assessment process. Announcements about funding outcomes will be made at different times over the

coming months due to the high volume of applications under the four programs. All applicants will be informed of the outcomes and information about grant announcements will be made available at www.multicultural.vic.gov.au.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 23 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Government is currently developing details of the auction scheme that will be used to help deliver our renewable energy targets. This includes the project evaluation criteria, which may include the contribution that projects make to local economic development and job creation.

For example, the Ararat Wind Farm, where the Premier and I announced Victoria's renewable energy targets, is sourcing 35 wind towers from Victorian manufacturer Keppel Prince.

There are numerous goods and services that are required for wind farm construction and operation beyond wind towers and turbines. I again refer to the example of the Ararat wind farm, which has a \$4 million contract with the Victorian-based Wilson Transformer Company to supply two power transformers for its electrical substation.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 23 June 2016

ANSWER:

V/Line and the Office of the Chief Investigator Transport Safety (Victoria) are investigating this incident. Progress of the investigation is posted on the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) web site:

https://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/investigation_reports/2016/rair/ro-2016-007/

The Government is providing significant maintenance funding to ensure the ongoing safety of the Victorian regional rail network.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 23 June 2016

ANSWER:

I thank Ms Patten for her question and note her concerns regarding the timeframe for completing the removal of the High Street level crossing in Reservoir.

The timing of the removal of level crossings on the South Morang line, including the High Street and Bell Street level crossings, is determined by factors including the level crossing removal projects on the nearby Hurstbridge line and those on the wider metropolitan railway network.

The package of works recently released to the market for the Hurstbridge line will bring the total number of level crossings removed by the Victorian Government to 25 by the end of 2019, including two level crossings on the Hurstbridge line.

While these projects will deliver significant safety improvements for drivers and pedestrians and improve travel around Melbourne's north, they will also pose significant challenges during construction, particularly in terms of managing disruptions to the rail and road network.

The removal of the High Street level crossing will commence in 2018 and will be coordinated with the Bell Street level crossing removal in Preston to minimise disruptions to the community in the northern suburbs. This will also allow for works to progress on the Hurstbridge line without placing further strain on the road network in Melbourne's north.

High Street is one of the most complex level crossing sites that requires significant time for planning and development. This level crossing includes six boom gates and a network of five roads — High Street, Spring Street, Cheddar Road, Edwards Street and The Broadway— that converge to form one of Melbourne's most congested intersections.

Before construction starts, LXRA will continue consulting with major stakeholders including residents and businesses, VicRoads and Darebin City Council to determine the best way to remove the level crossing at High Street.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 23 June 2016

ANSWER:

The announcement of the partial duplication of the Altona Loop service was made by the Premier, the Hon Daniel Andrews MP, via social media on Wednesday 8 June 2016, and was subsequently reported by the Hobsons Bay Leader and the Star Weekly.

A video on the level crossing removal and partial duplication can be found on the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) website: www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/crossings/kororoit-creek-road.

In relation to the specific questions raised:

1. The Kororoit Creek Road level crossing removal will begin construction in 2017 and is expected to be completed by early 2019.
2. An extended rail closure of up to 90 days is anticipated for the Altona Loop, however the LXRA is currently working on ways to reduce this time to ensure the shortest possible disruption to commuters. Advance notice will be provided of the exact dates of the closure, currently expected during mid-2018. Replacement buses will ensure a similar level of service for commuters during the closure.
3. The partial duplication will enable trains to pass each other or to be stored within the Altona Loop and therefore off the Werribee line, improving reliability and reducing the probability of trains bypassing the Loop.
4. During the delivery of the level crossing removal and partial duplication of the Altona Loop, Transport for Victoria will investigate opportunities for further duplication of the Altona Loop.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 23 June 2016

ANSWER:

As you will be aware, the government has taken action to find a fair and balanced solution to a dispute that has gone on for over 1000 days.

The role of volunteer firefighters in this state is sacrosanct. At no stage has the government questioned it or jeopardised it. That is why the government has invested tens of millions in new trucks, stations, and training facilities for volunteer brigades across the state.

Throughout the process of finalising the enterprise bargaining agreement, the government has focused on ensuring that the Country Fire Authority (CFA) fire stations will continue to operate as they always have — with their own independence, their own special connections to the community, and their own unique knowledge of their local area.

Unfortunately, and as stated by you, there has been some misinformation and misunderstanding about the proposed enterprise agreement. Further information on the agreement is available at www.yourcfa.info.vic.gov.au.