

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

6 May to 26 May 2016

(Extract from book 8)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

HANSARD¹⁵⁰



1866–2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry (to 22 May 2016)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Employment	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Industry, and Minister for Energy and Resources	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 Emergency Services, and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. J. F. Garrett, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills	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 Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Police and Minister for Corrections	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 M. Kairouz, MP

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Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

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 — #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 Drum, 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, Ms McLeish and Ms Sheed.

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

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

President: The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President: Ms G. TIERNEY

Acting Presidents: Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmar, Mr Finn, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

Leader of the Government:
The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:
The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:
The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:
The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:
The Hon. D. K. DRUM

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	SFP	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	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Elasmar, 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 Jaelyn	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	SFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

² Appointed 15 April 2015

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
SFP — Shooters and Fishers Party; V1LJ — 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.

6 May to 26 May 2016**Western Victoria Region**

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 22 October 2015

ANSWER:

Funding of \$20 000 was provided from the Significant Sporting Events Program to support the running of the 2015 event, after Cycling Victoria submitted an application seeking this level of assistance.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 24 November 2015 (answered on 22 December 2015)

ANSWER:

At the last election Labor promised to increase inbound services on the Hurstbridge line in the morning peak. There was no commitment for an increase in services from the Liberal Party.

The Andrews Labor Government is working with PTV on the best options to deliver the extra services.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 9 February 2016

ANSWER:

The Commonwealth has publicly reneged on providing its full share of the funding for the final two years of the Agreement stripping \$1.1 billion from Victorian schools. The Andrews Labor Government is continuing negotiations with the Commonwealth Government to ensure it honours the Agreement in full.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 10 February 2016

ANSWER:

Animal welfare is a high priority for the Andrews Labor Government. The Animal Welfare Fund Grants program has offered \$1.6 million, over four years, in grants to not-for-profit agencies undertaking animal welfare projects within our community. The grants program was developed in recognition of the excellent companion animal welfare services being delivered across Victoria by many not-for-profit organisations.

The Lost Dogs Home has been funded for the development of a mobile desexing van and a discounted desexing program to the value of \$50 000.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 23 February 2016

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question. As you know from your role on the Gippsland Tech School working party, the Victorian Government's Tech School initiative will establish ten state of the art Tech Schools as learning centres of excellence, using leading edge technology, discovery and innovation to engage and inspire students across Victoria and connect them to their futures.

I thank you for your contribution in chairing meetings that, through extensive consultation with the Working Group, have contributed to the development of the vision for the Gippsland Tech School. This exciting innovative project is an important part of the Education State Initiative, and is being developed within the broader concept of establishing the Gippsland Enterprise and Innovation Precinct.

I am delighted that a strategic partnership between the Department of Education and Training, Regional Development Victoria, Federation University, Federation Training, Latrobe City Council, Agribusiness Gippsland and Regional Development Australia Gippsland has been formed to better prepare a regional workforce for the transition to a more diversified economy and also help address Latrobe Valley's low educational attainment rates.

Tech schools will operate differently from traditional technical schools and secondary colleges and will be aimed at innovative break-through thinking, shared learning environments and practical problem solving. The Tech Schools will equip the students of Gippsland with the skills required to compete in a global economy, strengthen links between education and industry and improve pathways to further education, training and employment for students.

I am excited to confirm that recent State Budget funding brings total Victorian Government investment to \$128 million to establish the ten Tech Schools which will support important local employment opportunities. I am also pleased to confirm that ongoing operating funding for the Tech School initiative has been made available as part of the State Government Budget process. This will provide important operating certainty for all stakeholders.

Tech Schools will open progressively over 2017 and 2018. I would like to congratulate Federation Training on being announced as the Host for the Gippsland Tech School on 26 April 2016.

I thank you again for your contribution to this initiative.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 25 February 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Government has committed an extra \$11.7m to Federation Training through the TAFE Back to Work Fund, TAFE Rescue Fund, Skills and Jobs Centre, TAFE boost and Community Service Fund.

Around half of the \$40.2 million TAFE Structural Adjustment Funding for Gippsland announced by the former government was spent on implementation costs of the merger of Advance TAFE and GippsTAFE, this included redundancies, site and course closures and the consolidation of data systems.

The remaining funding was earmarked to facilitate consolidation of Federation University and Federation Training's buildings and infrastructure. It should be noted that the funding did not include any additional funds for training activity. Nor was there any stipulation that the funds be expended in the Gippsland region.

Given that the merger with the University is not proceeding, the government is now considering how to best re-allocate this funding for the improvement of training and higher education provision.

We are closely monitoring the 2016 training take-up rates for the institute and will discuss with the new, appointed CEO (Jonathan Davies) and Board the best way to continue our already strong support for Federation Training.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 8 March 2016

ANSWER:

The Goulburn-Murray Water project has moved on significantly from the 2010 business case, as noted by the midterm review, and it concluded that the assumptions in the business case are no longer relevant. To improve the transparency and local input into this regionally and nationally important project, I have acted to appoint a Project Control Group to guide the reset to support its success.

I want to assure the member that it is a commitment of the Andrews Labor Government that reset project documentation will be released to the public.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Acting Minister for Police
Asked on: 9 March 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government, is delivering on our promise to give police the resources and the powers they need to fight crime and keep the Victorian community safe. The 2016–17 State Budget included an investment of \$661.3 million to give Victoria Police the necessary resources to respond to gang-related crime, gun crime, terrorist threats and family violence.

An extra 300 frontline general duties police will be deployed across Victoria. The Chief Commissioner has indicated that deployment will focus on responding to local crime issues in growth corridors and other areas of greatest need, to be determined in consultation with The Police Association. A further 106 specialist police officers and 52 support personnel will be recruited and trained for specialist areas like the Public Order Response Team, Special Operations Group, forensics and fingerprint unit. This brings the total number of new police personnel funded by the Andrews Government since it came to office to 1156.

We are making a major investment in police equipment and technology to put Victoria Police at the forefront of providing smarter more responsive policing. For the first time, police will have mobile technology, including mobile tablets, enabling police to access and exchange up to date information while in the field. Combined with new body worn cameras, this investment will significantly enhance Victoria Police's frontline operations.

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.

An independent police force is best placed to determine where, when and how police are deployed. The Police Act 2013 gives the Chief Commissioner of Police the autonomy to make these crucial decisions. The Chief Commissioner has made it clear that the resources of Victoria Police will be deployed to where they are needed — on the frontline tackling important issues such as gang-crime, family violence and responding to emerging threats. The Chief Commissioner has also said police stations play an important role in policing and they will continue to do so. But officers in a car on the road can respond to incidents much quicker than if they are back at the station, and in policing, minutes can save lives.

I assure you that the Casey and Cardinia communities continue to receive a 24 hour police response from across the police service areas. If any person requires urgent police assistance, they should contact Victoria Police on the emergency number '000'. Calls made to '000' are processed and responded to by the closest appropriate police personnel.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Acting Minister for Police
Asked on: 10 March 2016

ANSWER:

I note your concerns regarding the protection of women seeking access to health services and the protection of staff at the East Melbourne Clinic.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment (Safe Access Zones) Act 2015 (the Act) received assent on 1 December 2015 and came into operation on 2 May 2016.

Operational enforcement of the Act is a matter for Victoria Police, and this commenced on 2 May 2016.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 10 March 2016

ANSWER:

The Government is investing in Victoria's water grid to provide water security to the region's rural communities. For example the recently announced \$80 million dollar South West Loddon Rural Water Supply Project, which will connect more than 260 farm businesses and 370 other rural properties to the grid, creating 134 jobs during and beyond construction.

We have also funded:

- The Coonoer Bridge pipeline extension, which will build around 8 km of stock and domestic pipeline off the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline.
- 5 extra standpipes are being installed at strategic sites in western Victoria to reduce the time and cost associated with having to cart water for stock and domestic use in drought-affected rural communities.
- \$30 million to connect Nyora, Loch, Korumburra and Poowong to Victoria's water grid for the first time ever, providing greater water security and quality drinking water in South Gippsland.
- \$11.4 million to upgrade the Werribee Irrigation District which has a farm gate value of more than \$187 million and will underpin 660 existing jobs as well as help to create 18 new on-farm positions.
- \$5 million to upgrade the Bacchus Marsh. Irrigation District modernising 43 km of irrigation infrastructure, underpinning 430 jobs in agriculture and related industries and lead to 42 new positions through boosting farm production.

We have turned on for the first time the Melbourne to Geelong pipeline, a crucial water security measure built by the previous Labor government, with water from the Melbourne system flowing into Barwon Water's Lovely Banks basins. The \$80 million pipeline project was one of the biggest in Barwon Water's 100-year history.

Through the Water for Victoria discussion paper we are continuing to investigate options for additional connections to better use the state water grid.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 23 March 2016

ANSWER:

The Game Management Authority and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is constantly monitoring wetlands for the presence of threatened or endangered birds. Closed wetlands that no longer have a significant number of threatened or endangered birds may be recommended for reopening to hunting.

Wetlands can only be reopened using the same process that closed them. For example, Round Lake was closed through a government gazette notice under s.86 of the Wildlife Act 1975. Once I was informed that there was no longer a significant presence of Blue-Billed Duck at the lake, the lake was reopened using the same process. This process can take up to two weeks given the need to provide notice through newspapers and the Government Gazette.

Lake Elizabeth was initially closed through a process made by the Secretary of DELWP. This process had immediate effect and was revoked once a notice under s.86 of the Wildlife Act 1975 came into effect.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 23 March 2016

ANSWER:

The 2016-17 Budget is delivering record spending on Victorian school infrastructure, allocating \$1.1 billion to build, upgrade and maintain schools across the state. This Budget delivers the largest ever investment in school infrastructure, providing Victorian schools with a record \$924 million to build and upgrade schools across the state and an additional \$200 million to better maintain existing school facilities.

Infrastructure is a priority for the Government and this is why we have announced a record breaking budget that includes a \$287 million package to acquire land and build or complete 23 new schools, in Melbourne's growth and established areas. This additional funding means that 42 new school projects are now in the pipeline which will come online in the next few years.

This budget includes:

- \$287 million to acquire land and build or complete 23 new schools, many in Melbourne's growth areas, where they are needed most.
- \$375 million to undertake and plan 147 school upgrades at existing schools, including funding for 60 projects in rural and regional Victoria and 20 specialist schools.
- \$92 million to establish 10 cutting-edge Tech Schools at TAFEs and universities across Victoria, including four in regional Victoria.

The Department of Education and Training is aware that there is residential development underway in the Keysborough South area and the population is expected to grow in the future. For this reason, as part of the 2016-17 State Budget, the government has allocated funding to acquire a site in Keysborough South for a proposed primary school.

The Government will continue to monitor demographic pressures in the area, including pressures relating to secondary schools as part of its planning processes to ensure adequate school infrastructure for all Victorians.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 23 March 2016

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question regarding the cost of outside tables and chairs for businesses in Bayside City Council.

A schedule of fees and charges applicable within a municipality is commonly included as part of the annual budget document. Bayside City Council's 2015–16 Annual Budget confirms that council fees for tables and chairs on footways are charged on a progressive basis depending on the number of tables and chairs. This scaled fee structure for outside tables and chairs in Bayside City Council has existed since 2011–12.

The setting of fees and charges, along with the level of compliance enforcement, are matters for each individual council to determine. Councillors are elected to represent their communities and make decisions on their behalf and this includes decisions around fees and charges that may be put in place to create and preserve local amenity. This may result in different fee structures and costs across different municipalities.

The Andrews Government established the Fair Go Rates System with effect from 2016-17, capping council rate rises at 2.5%. Bayside City Council's Strategic Resource Plan, which is part of the Annual Budget, forecasts income from fees and fines to increase marginally by 1.7% (from \$3.865m to \$3.929m) in the 2016-17 year.

I would also encourage citizens to raise any specific concerns over the fees and charges in their municipality with their local council.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Eideh
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 24 March 2016

ANSWER:

The Western Distributor is a major project for the West that will slash travel times, take trucks off local street and provide better access to the Port of Melbourne. As such, we truly believe communities must be involved in the road's planning through a comprehensive consultation program. I am pleased to advise that there are a number of different ways the community can have its say.

In January 2016, the Government announced that an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) will be prepared to rigorously assess the project's environmental, economic and social effects. The EES investigates existing conditions in the project area, then assesses potential impacts and suggests ways to avoid or minimise any impacts.

Consultation with the community, local government and industry is a critical part of the EES process. In addition to the seven community information sessions scheduled for April and May, the community can also participate online through the project website; and through the Community Liaison Group, which started meeting in April.

The feedback received through this wide range of consultation activities will inform the design, which together with the EES, will be placed on exhibition for public comment in early 2017.

We are working hard to achieve the best possible outcomes for communities in Melbourne's west by fully engaging with people in the west through the planning process.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 24 March 2016

ANSWER:

I have asked the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate this matter.

Western Metropolitan Region

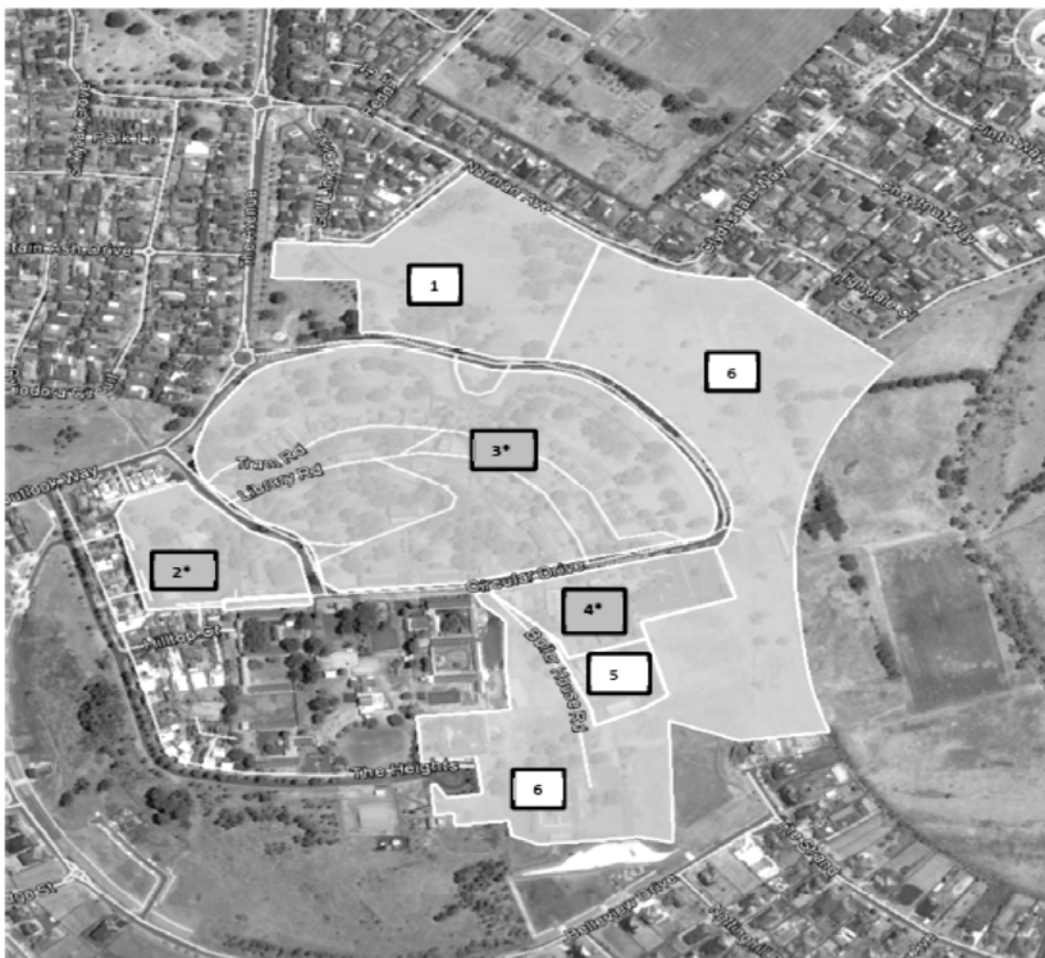
Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 24 March 2016

ANSWER:

Victoria University (VU) advised that they own the entire Sunbury site. In 1994, parcels 2, 3 and 4 (see attached) were transferred to the University by the Urban Land Authority. The University then purchased parcels 1 and 5 in 1996 for \$696 000 and parcel 6 in 2004 for \$1 540 000.

My colleague, the Minister for Training and Skills, who has the responsibility for Higher Education, is finalising a response to your adjournment debate question on VU's Sunbury campus.

Victoria University Sunbury Campus – Land Title Details (Crown Grants in green)



Land title details (All freehold, three Crown Grants)^A.

1. Vol. 10465/Fol.392 — 4.318 hectares — VU Purchased^B — 1996
2. Vol. 10139/Fol.036 — 1.932 hectares — Crown Grant* — 1994
3. Vol. 10139/Fol.035 — 10.990 Hectares — Crown Grant* — 1994
4. Vol. 10139/Fol.037 — 1.656 hectares — Crown Grant* — 1994
5. Vol. 10265/Fol.554 — 0.6767 hectares— VU Purchased^B — 1996
6. Vol. 10447/Fol.249 — 13.38 hectares — VU Purchased^C — 2004

A. **Please note:** A Crown Grant title is not Crown Land, it is a freehold Torrens title. This terminology is used the first time that land is alienated in freehold by the Crown. In other words, when a parcel of unreserved Crown land is purchased, after paying the purchase price in full, the new owner would receive a freehold Crown Grant for this land that is administered under the Transfer of Land Act 1958. All freehold Crown Grants are limited to a depth of 15 metres under s 339 of the Land Act, due to an Order in Council from 1973, unless special dispensation is obtained to go deeper. All of the titles at the Sunbury Campus (i.e. not only the Crown Grant titles) currently include this depth limitation.

B. 1 & 5 were purchased for \$696 000 in 1996

C. 6 was purchased for \$1.540 mil plus 266 sqm off title 1 in 2004

Northern Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government undertook extensive consultation during 2015 to inform the development of the Regional Network Development Plan (RNDP).

More than 15 000 pieces of feedback were received from regional Victorians, with attendance at the Shepparton workshop amongst the highest.

The RNDP is currently being developed and once completed will identify short, medium and long term priorities to improve public transport in regional Victoria.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 12 April 2016

ANSWER:

Preliminary noise modelling shows that the proposed design will result in an overall decrease in noise compared to the current rail line. Modern construction techniques such as directly fixing the track to the structure means that noise is greatly reduced compared to many of the older rail bridges around Melbourne. Noise will also be reduced through removing the annoying and frequent loud noise from the activation of boom gates and through trains no longer sounding their horn as they pass through level crossings. The project will also comply with the Passenger Rail Infrastructure Noise Policy. When the design is finalised, noise and visual screens will be built along the elevated structure to ensure all residents receive the required levels of noise protection and to protect community

amenity. The Preliminary Noise Report for the Caulfield to Dandenong project, prepared by noise and vibration experts WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff, was released on 4 May 2016.

The report confirms the proposed design meets established noise criteria for both airborne noise emissions from rail movements, as well as ground borne noise caused by vibration of the elevated structures. The majority of houses and businesses near the project corridor will experience an overall reduction in noise as a result of the plan to elevate sections of the rail line.

Noise and vibration impacts will be reduced, compared to existing conditions through the use of specific measures such as:

- noise walls and privacy screens to mitigate noise transfer
- new high-quality, continuous smooth tracks;
- purpose-built resilient fastenings to attach the new tracks directly to the structure;
- rubber insulators under the track to dampen vibrations; and
- design of train stations to reduce noise spill.

The project plans to undertake further modelling to ensure the final design continues to comply with all relevant noise criteria and project requirements.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Bourman
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 12 April 2016

ANSWER:

Under the Environment Effects Act 1978, the Minister for Planning can determine whether a project is required to go through an Environment Effects Statement process. In this case, I understand that the proponent of the facility is yet to submit a planning application to the local council. If an application is made and is referred to the Minister for Planning, the Hon Richard Wynne MP, in accordance with the requirements of the Act, the Minister for Planning will determine whether an environment effects statement is required.

While the decision on whether to, require an environment effects statement rests outside my area of responsibility, the proponent is likely to also require a Works Approval from the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA). The EPA will consider the environmental impacts of the proposal and the community will have an opportunity to make submissions to the EPA about the proposal.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 12 April 2016

ANSWER:

Ten state-of-the-art Tech Schools will be established across Victoria as part of the Andrews Labor government's commitment to make Victoria the Education State. The 2016-17 Budget supports the Tech Schools initiative by including:

- \$92.0 million in infrastructure funding to design and construct the Tech Schools and;
- \$24.0 million in output funds over four years for Tech School operation costs, with ongoing funding of \$8.4 million per year provided.

The new investment, combined with the 2015-16 Budget funding of \$8.0 million in capital and \$4.0 million operating funding over four years for Knox Innovation Opportunity and Sustainability Centre (KIOSC), has now delivered on Government's threshold commitment in full.

Four Tech Schools will be located in regional Victoria, with the remaining six spread throughout metropolitan Melbourne. Young people in the Western Metropolitan Region will benefit from the Wyndham Tech School to be located on the Werribee Campus of Victoria University.

Tech Schools will be designed to build critical STEM skills, prepare students for the world beyond the classroom and will aim to equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to connect them to their futures. Each Tech School will be individually shaped by a local partnership of schools, TAFE institutes, universities, local government, industry body representatives and community organisations to ensure that the Tech Schools programs will complement local education provision, link to local industry and strengthen student pathways into further education, training and employment.

The Andrews Labor government is committed to providing students with access to high quality education and training to support every Victorian to live the life they want. The Tech Schools initiative is a very important component of this commitment.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 12 April 2016

ANSWER:

I acknowledge the issues that you raised in relation to the waiting times at the Emergency Department at Goulburn Valley Health.

I can assure you that the staff at Goulburn Valley Health are committed to ensuring that all patients are treated in a safe and caring manner.

While I am always disappointed to hear about instances where people have waited too long for treatment, I am encouraged about some recent performance data for Goulburn Valley Health.

For the previous quarter, despite high demand, supported by the Hospital Beds Rescue Fund's additional eight new inpatient beds (with 18 per cent increase in hospital admissions), more than half of category 1, 2 and 3 patients in the emergency department were treated within 23 minutes long — an improvement of four minutes on the previous quarter.

I am also encouraged by the reduction in the elective surgery wait list and increases in the number of elective surgeries having been performed.

In 2016, Goulburn Valley Health will benefit from the record \$1.3 billion investment for health services over 4 years in the 2016 Budget.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 12 April 2016

ANSWER:

I have met with traders in Ormond, McKinnon and Bentleigh on an ongoing basis in my capacity as Member for Southern Metropolitan Region, and will of course continue to do so, and to listen to and relay their concerns in that capacity.

Portfolio responsibility for the level crossing removal project, however, lies with the Minister for Public Transport.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Eideh
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 13 April 2016

ANSWER:

I am pleased to confirm that Victoria University has been successful in obtaining \$2.4 million from the TAFE Rescue Fund Community Service funding round for the 2016 academic year.

The funding allocation allows vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in the Western Metropolitan Region to participate in training that they might have not had access to, often providing targeted support both while 'undertaking study and in transitioning from training to employment.

As a result, this improves young people's job prospects, industry's access to educated potential employees and positive outcomes for the western metropolitan region as a whole.

Victoria University's funding is directed to seven separate community service activities:

- Student Outreach Services;
- Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) Support;
- Transition to Work;
- Campus Facilities;
- Diploma of Paramedical Science (Ambulance);
- Advanced Engineering Courses; and
- Transport, Supply Chain and Logistics.

All of the above activities have positive benefits in some respect to vulnerable and disadvantaged students in the Western Metropolitan Region. For example, Student Outreach Services provides a range of supports to assist students (predominantly from low socio-economic backgrounds in the Western Metropolitan Region) in completing their courses. Services include counselling, welfare and enhanced student support services, and range from providing legal and financial advice to accommodation and disability services to ensure that students are supported to participate in all areas of TAFE life.

The above activities are a good example of the diversity within the Institute. Without this funding, some of these programs might have otherwise been defunded or discontinued.

TAFEs play an important role in supporting local communities and advancing Victoria as the Education State. Victoria University is part of this valuable contribution that TAFEs make to vulnerable and disadvantaged students.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 13 April 2016

ANSWER:

In Victoria, the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) determines which qualifications are available through an apprenticeship or traineeship pathway. I am advised that to date the Certificate III in Concreting has not been made available as an apprenticeship or traineeship. It is not true to say that Victoria is the only state or territory in Australia without an apprenticeship pathway for concreters. The Certificate III in Concreting is generally available as a traineeship interstate (with the exception of Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory where it is an apprenticeship and Tasmania where there is no distinction made between an apprenticeship and traineeship).

According to the National Centre for Vocational Education Research's Apprentices and Trainees collection (March 2015 estimates), as published on the Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships information Service website for general information purposes, there were less than 65 apprenticeship or traineeship commencements in this occupation nationally in 2014. Only two of these commencements were in states where the Certificate III in Concreting is an apprenticeship (rather than traineeship) pathway. This data would suggest that apprenticeships and traineeships in concreting have not been particularly successful interstate. I am also advised that making this qualification available as an apprenticeship or traineeship has not historically been supported by all of the Victorian construction industry. The VRQA is continuing to check with industry stakeholders to see if this position has changed.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Tierney
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 13 April 2016

ANSWER:

Consultation is occurring with other providers to explore alternate delivery options at the campus. Consideration is also being given to addressing the issues currently impacting the Warrnambool campus which include determining the higher education needs of the region and creating relevant pathways to assist entry into undergraduate courses. This includes exploring potential alliances with neighbouring institutions that may strengthen opportunities for students to progress from diploma courses to undergraduate degrees.

While the State Government has a limited role in the operation of universities, which are self-governing bodies and primarily the responsibility of the Commonwealth, I have been working with Deakin University and the Federal Government to find a solution that maximises access to higher education in the region. To date, this has included discussions with a number of key stakeholders including the Deakin University Vice-Chancellor, Federation University Vice-Chancellor, the Federal Member for Wannon and the Commonwealth Minister for Education and Training.

I have also met with representatives of the Keep Deakin at Warrnambool Alliance, the Warrnambool City Council and Warrnambool Tertiary Education Community Committee to discuss the future of the Warrnambool campus.

Consultation is occurring with other tertiary education providers to explore alternate delivery options at the Warrnambool campus. As a sign of goodwill, Deakin University have offered financial support over a five year period to any potential provider interested in exploring these options. The Federal Government has also confirmed

they have committed to providing \$14 million over a five year period to ensure a university campus remains in Warrnambool. Discussions are ongoing to facilitate the continuance of current programs and courses.

The Victorian Government is committed to continued provision of tertiary education at the Warrnambool campus and the Minister for Training and Skills has offered any assistance required to tackle these issues and ensure sustainability of tertiary education in the region.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Tourism and Major Events
Asked on: 13 April 2016

ANSWER:

Federation Square provides event organisers with guidelines outlining their responsibilities with respect to noise. Federation Square also monitors events at its site and undertakes reviews and consultation as part of event renewal processes.

In relation to Piknic Electronik, Federation Square has actively monitored the 2016 event and considers that the event organiser has met its obligations. However, other evidence is always welcome and will be factored into the approach to managing this event and similar events.

At this stage, no application has been made to run the event in 2017. If an application is received, Federation Square will undertake a review and allow the public to contribute comments.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Drum
Directed to: Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Asked on: 13 April 2016

ANSWER:

Whilst I recognise the gravity and importance of the matter, as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, it is not within my powers to intervene in or compel, the processes and decisions of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council. However, I can point you towards the appropriate avenue to address your constituents' concerns. The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council are statutorily established as an administrative decision making body. Correspondingly, the Council are held accountable to their legislative duties by the Supreme Court through the process of judicial review and are also subject to freedom of information requests.

I am pleased that the recently passed Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Act 2016, will provide the Council with better tools to manage the complexities which arise in Registered Aboriginal Party applications. With a commencement date of 1 August 2016, the provisions carry real capacity for change.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 13 April 2016

ANSWER:

I acknowledge the challenges faced by schools in the Greater Shepparton area and the innovation shown by the four government secondary schools through the Better Together Alliance to provide their students with increased learning opportunities.

The Education State: Schools reform agenda is an integrated reform program underpinned by \$747 million in extra funds over four years. This includes increased Equity Funding to support schools in responding to disadvantage which impacts on the potential achievement and outcomes for their students.

The combined \$1.1m increased Equity Funding received by the four schools is for the purpose of addressing student disadvantage. I commend the decision by the schools to utilise part of this funding to support the Better Together Alliance and their commitment of \$25 000 each towards the appointment of an executive coordinator for the program. The Department's commitment of \$120 000 over three years has supported the schools in achieving this aim.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 13 April 2016

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Common Equity Housing Ltd (CEHL) is a registered housing association, which owns and manages the building occupied by Lakewood Community Managed Co-operative in Ringwood.

The issues raised are a matter for CEHL to arrange. At this stage I have received no request for additional support from CEHL to acquit its responsibilities in providing support to the residents.

I am advised CEHL has engaged extra staff and is approaching the relocation task in a supportive way to minimise any negative impact on residents.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 13 April 2016

ANSWER:

Johnson Swamp State Game Reserve was closed to hunting from the beginning of the 2016 duck season due to the presence of breeding Australasian Bitterns, a nationally endangered species. The closure was enacted as a temporary measure, and the wetland was due to reopen on 17 April 2016.

Following the initial closure of Johnson Swamp State Game Reserve, further monitoring of the wetland was undertaken by an independent ecological consultant, assisted by the Game Management Authority, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and volunteers from Field and Game Australia and BirdLife Australia. This monitoring program was undertaken to ensure that robust data is used for management decisions. The monitoring noted the presence of rare and threatened birds at the wetland.

The decision to close the wetland from 17 April 2016 was made under section 86 of the Wildlife Act 1975, for which the Minister for Environment Climate Change and Water and I share joint responsibility. The decision was based on information and data provided to us by our departments and generated in the monitoring of Johnson Swamp.

These decisions are not easy, and I acknowledge that the decision to continue with the closure of Johnson Swamp State Game Reserve has been disappointing to many hunters.

Wetlands such as Johnson Swamp will continue to be monitored throughout the season. Wetlands may continue to be opened or closed to hunting as circumstances or conditions change. This is part of the routine approach to providing sustainable hunting opportunities while ensuring that vulnerable or threatened species are not put at risk.

The continuing monitoring program has seen previously closed wetlands such as Round Lake and Heywood Lake reopen to hunting this duck season.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Elasmarr
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 14 April 2016

ANSWER:

Through the 2015-16 Multicultural Festivals and Events grants program, the Victorian Government has approved 294 grants, totalling \$1 213 950, to support groups in the Northern Metropolitan Region. These grants will support multicultural communities to celebrate and preserve their traditions in meaningful ways and to showcase the benefits of multiculturalism for all Victorians. Grants awarded include \$80 000 for the 2015 'Gusto Italiano' Carlton Italian Festa, \$100 000 per annum over four years for the Lonsdale Street Antipodes Festival, and \$100 000 for the 2016 Melbourne Chinese New Year Festival.

Applications have recently closed for the 2016-17 Multicultural Festivals and Events Program, and successful grant recipients will be notified in due course.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 14 April 2016

ANSWER:

VicRoads routinely inspects and repairs hazards and road defects in accordance with its Road Management Plan.

Works were recently undertaken on the Boolarra South-Mirboo North Road (Grand Ridge Road) to remove fallen trees and branches following a weather event on 18 March 2016.

Further maintenance of this section of road will be assessed and prioritised along with other maintenance needs to ensure the safety of all road users.

Safety upgrades to the Boolarra South-Mirboo North Road will be considered under the Safe System Road Infrastructure Program.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 14 April 2016

ANSWER:

I refer to my answer to your question from 9 February 2016. "The Albert Park Master Planning process has not been discontinued. However placing more focus on the proposed Domain Rail Station, the South Melbourne Primary School proposal, the Junction Oval redevelopment and a new proposal for redevelopment of the Powerhouse and Lord Somers Camp has meant Parks Victoria has spent considerable time reconsidering the scope and strategic intent of the master plan and the governance structure needed to support its successful delivery."

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Symes
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 14 April 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has recently approved the provision of capital funding of \$500 000 to Northeast Health Wangaratta to relocate Transitional Care Beds from its main Green Street campus to its residential aged care facility, known as Illoura.

The relocation of these beds and subsequent additional bed space at the acute site will increase the medical capacity and improve elective and emergency surgery outcomes at Northeast Health Wangaratta.

This funding will help doctors and nurses treat more patients, more quickly and close to where they live.

I am also happy to confirm that Northeast Health Wangaratta will share in an additional \$335 million that the Andrews Labor Government has allocated in this year's budget to tackle elective surgery waiting lists.

The \$335 million boost includes funding over four years for additional elective surgery and an immediate \$20 million capital works injection.

This funding boost will mean that nearly 200 000 Victorians, including many from the Wangaratta area, will get the surgery they need sooner in 2016-17.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Employment
Asked on: 14 April 2016

ANSWER:

I can confirm that I chaired a meeting of Geelong leaders and the Chief Executive Officer of Target and Kmart, Mr Guy Russo, on 20 April 2016.

At the meeting, Mr Russo confirmed that Target had made a decision to relocate its Geelong head office and national store support functions from Geelong to Melbourne's west over the next 12 to 18 months to a new site still to be identified.

Mr Russo indicated that Target hoped to retain many of its 900 skilled head office and national store support employees at the new site.

Whilst the Target decision is shocking and disappointing, the Government is now working with Target and local leaders to ensure that the interests of all workers are looked after.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 14 April 2016

ANSWER:

The availability of bus real-time information is currently available for all metropolitan buses and can be accessed through the Public Transport Victoria (PTV) mobile app and PTV website.

Ballarat buses are currently being equipped with the bus tracking system to enable real-time information.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 14 April 2016

ANSWER:

VicRoads is aware of the Strathfieldsaye community's concerns regarding the operation of the Strathfieldsaye Road/Tannery Lane/ Club Court intersection.

In its 2015-2016 State Budget, the Andrews Labor Government allocated \$150 000 to begin planning works for the upgrade of the intersection. VicRoads, in conjunction with the Greater City of Bendigo Council, has been developing treatment plans which include options such as a roundabout or a signalised intersection, to decide on the most appropriate treatment at this intersection, and to develop a long term strategy for the Strathfieldsaye Road network through the township.

It is important to select the most appropriate treatment for this intersection to cater for all road users and generate gaps in traffic flow along Strathfieldsaye Road that will assist traffic entering and exiting other adjacent local road intersections, and improve overall road safety for the local community. VicRoads is planning to share its progress and treatment options with the local community in the coming months.

The Victorian Government has provided \$4.5M funding for the works in the 2016-17 Budget and is on track to deliver improvements at the Strathfieldsaye Road/Tannery Lane/Club Court intersection to benefit the Strathfieldsaye community.

Eastern Victoria Region

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

ANSWER:

Dear Mr Mulino,

Thank you for your question about the implementation of the Yarra Ranges Tech School, which will be located on the Lilydale Lakeside campus of the Box Hill Institute of TAFE.

The Tech Schools initiative is part of the Victorian Government's commitment to creating the Education State by ensuring every Victorian has access to an excellent education. This exciting initiative has invested \$128 million to create 10 high-tech centres of learning that will use leading-edge technology, discovery and innovation to deliver the advanced education and training that Victorian school students need so they can flourish in the rapidly changing global economy. The Tech Schools will be uniquely positioned to equip students with knowledge and skills in the Victorian sectors expected to provide strong economic and employment growth: medical technology and pharmaceuticals, new energy technology, food and fibre processing, transport, defence and construction technology, professional services and international education.

I am advised that the Department is collaborating with Box Hill Institute of TAFE to progress detailed facility design and funding agreements and that Box Hill Institute of TAFE and DET are working with all partners to progress the development of Tech School Programs in line with local needs. The recent implementation day you attended is a great example of this.

The Tech Schools will open progressively over 2017-18. The planning for the Yarra Ranges Tech School is well progressed, and it is anticipated to be the first Tech School to become operational, opening to secondary students in early 2017.

I thank you for your contribution in chairing meetings that have contributed to the development of the vision for the Yarra Ranges Tech School through extensive community consultation.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Acting Minister for Police
Asked on: 3 May 2016

ANSWER:

The 2016-17 State Budget includes \$19.4 million of new funding to continue and expand the Community Crime Prevention Program (CCPP) over the next two years as part of a \$596 million Public Safety Package.

This includes funding to continue the Public Safety Infrastructure Fund (PSIF), which provides grants of up to \$250 000 to local councils to implement urban design initiatives and technology, such as CCTV and lighting, to improve community safety, security and confidence in public places. Applications for the 2016-17 round of grants are open until 2 September 2016.

The Public Safety Infrastructure Fund is a highly competitive grants program, and the Department of Justice and Regulation considers each application on its merits using a robust, multi-stage assessment process. An expert panel, including a representative from Victoria Police, considers the applications to determine the final funding recommendations to be made.

A 2015-16 PSIF application from the City of Greater Geelong, which included a proposal to install CCTV in Drysdale and Ocean Grove, was assessed as unsuitable for funding. The department has advised me that it has provided the City of Greater Geelong with detailed feedback on the reasons for this assessment to assist it with future applications.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 3 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government condemns all forms of violence and Victoria Police will continue to investigate and act to bring to justice those who break the law.

In addition to increasing police responses, the engagement of Victoria's youth is especially important to secure the future of our State. This is why a focus on youth crime prevention strategies and early intervention is a priority for the Government, recognising that a collaborative, holistic response, working across portfolios is required to effect change.

Specific 2016-17 Budget commitments include:

- a \$596 million Public Safety Package to ensure that police have the necessary resources to keep the community safe. This includes funding for 300 new front line police.
- \$38.3 million over five years to support refugee and asylum seekers through the multicultural affairs, health and education portfolios.
- \$53 million allocated to the Jobs Victoria Employment Network to assist disadvantaged Victorian job seekers, including those with multicultural, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds.
- \$39.7 million over four years allocated to the English as an Additional Language Program, and Community Language Schools.

Victorian Government departments and agencies will also continue to work closely with community leaders and representatives from Victoria's culturally diverse communities to identify the underlying issues of social disengagement and to ensure communities are an integral part of responses.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 4 May 2016

ANSWER:

I will absolutely be going to Lalor and I will coordinate my visit with the Member for Thomastown as the relevant local representative.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 4 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to making Victoria the Education State. Central to this is ensuring that sufficient services and facilities are available to meet the needs of growing communities.

The 2016-17 State Budget demonstrates that we are fulfilling that promise, with an unprecedented investment of \$1.1 billion in school infrastructure. These funds will be used to plan, build and buy land for 23 new schools and upgrade 147 schools across the state, including 20 specialist schools.

In the City of Ballarat, the Budget includes a commitment of \$3 million to upgrade and modernise facilities at Ballarat Secondary College (Wendouree Campus), and \$2.1 million to upgrade and modernise Mount Clear College.

The Department of Education and Training uses demographic modelling to identify demand for school provision and works with State and local planning authorities to identify and plan future sites.

Developing a new school is a significant investment and involves a number of stages to ensure that public money is invested in the right place at the right time. These stages include demographic assessment, a site suitability assessment, followed by land acquisition, design and finally construction.

There is a site identified for a proposed government primary school in the Lucas estate within the growth suburb of Alfredton in Ballarat, in addition to a number of other proposed primary school sites in Ballarat's growth areas.

The Department will continue to work with the City of Ballarat and other relevant stakeholders, to monitor and plan for government education provision in the area to ensure all Victorian students have access to high quality education as the population continues to grow.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Bourman
Directed to: Minister for Tourism and Major Events
Asked on: 5 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Regional Events Fund will support:

- the attraction of new events for regional Victoria that will drive additional visitation and support the State and regional brand;
- innovative strategies for growth for existing events that have the capacity to significantly increase the tourism benefits to the region and the State; and
- tourism marketing strategies for small to medium events that are of local or regional significance.

The purpose of the Regional Events Fund is to grow the Visitor Economy for regional Victoria. This will be best achieved by supporting a range of new and existing events.

The Regional Events Fund will provide opportunities for events, such as the Walhalla Vinter Ljusfest to continue to seek support for tourism marketing strategies, as they have been able to do through Tourism Victoria's Country Victoria Events Program in the past.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 5 May 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making medicinal cannabis products legally available to eligible patients in exceptional circumstances.

The framework that Victoria is implementing comes from the recommendations of the Victorian Law Reform Commission in its Report on Medicinal Cannabis. Indeed, the Victorian Law Reform Commission turned its mind to the issues your constituent has raised and recommended that medicinal cannabis products supplied under any Victorian scheme should:

- (a) not include products that can be smoked
- (b) include a variety of delivery systems, such as tinctures, oils, capsules, sprays and vaporisable liquids
- (c) provide for variation in cannabinoid content
- (d) be kept under review in view of developments in technology and medical knowledge about the medicinal use of cannabis and specific cannabinoids.

As per the announcement on 19 April 2016, the horticultural trial by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources has begun at a secure facility. The Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Jaala Pulford MP, has responsibility for the cultivation trial and cultivation and extraction for supply to the first patient group. The cultivation trial will provide critical information about how medicinal cannabis products should best be produced and what their composition should be. This will include information about the types of seeds, the growing conditions and the concentrations of those cannabinoids present.

The Independent Medical Advisory Committee will be imminently established and one of its roles will be to provide advice on specific products which will be supplied in the Victorian access scheme.

The Andrews Labor Government is working as quickly as possible to implement the medicinal cannabis scheme in Victoria. We are currently on track for the first group of patients — children with severe intractable epilepsy — to be supplied quality-controlled medicinal cannabis products in early 2017.