

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

14 October to 27 October 2016

(Extract from book 16)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

HANSARD¹⁵⁰



1866–2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 20 June 2016)

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

Legislative Council committees

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

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

Legislative Council standing committees

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr 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, Mr Eideh, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

Joint committees

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

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

Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr 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:

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

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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
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Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
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Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
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Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁴ Appointed 12 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

14 October to 27 October 2016**Western Victoria Region**

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 17 August 2016

ANSWER:

I note that the Members for Wendouree and Buninyong called for a bus review during the administration of the former Liberal Government and that such a review is only occurring now due to the commitment of the Andrews Labor Government to improving public transport for all Victorians.

One of the main aims for the proposed bus network in Ballarat is to provide much-needed public transport options for growth areas including Lucas, Alfredton and Delacombe, and allow for future growth.

Two rounds of consultation occurred from June to August to which the community has provided feedback at the community consultation sessions. This feedback has been captured and adjustments have been made to the original proposal incorporating this feedback.

Public Transport Victoria will continue to review bus services in and around Lucas, Delacombe and Alfredton as more houses are built and more roads are completed which are able to take buses.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 30 August 2016

ANSWER:

It is critical that clinically appropriate procedures and techniques are applied to each individual case, whether a patient is, or is not affected by drugs or alcohol.

The Goulburn Valley Health redevelopment project will support a therapeutic and safe environment for all patients and families.

The redevelopment project will provide for an additional 18 treatment cubicles within the emergency department, which doubles the existing number of treatment bays in that facility. The detailed design parameters for the emergency department element of the \$168 million redevelopment project will be fully informed by user consultation and their functional requirements. The Goulburn Valley Alcohol and Drug Service is represented in the redevelopment project planning team.

I am proud to be working with the local member of Parliament, Suzanna Sheed MP, and the community on delivering this fantastic Andrews Labor Government project, a project that the former Liberal Government failed to deliver during its four years in office.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 30 August 2016

ANSWER:

I can assure you that the safety of all police officers is a priority for the Government and Victoria Police. Victoria Police constantly monitors and assesses its preparedness and response to a range of emergencies, and the safety of the employees is a high priority. This is an operational responsibility of the Chief Commissioner of Police.

Last year, Victoria Police implemented an operational safety policy to provide a consistent approach to the heightened risks posed to police by violent extremists. Police are encouraged to conduct risk assessments before and throughout their duties, and apply a consistent and common sense approach when responding to their operational responsibilities. This policy was developed after consultation with police officers and The Police Association.

Victoria Police has undertaken an assessment about security upgrade requirements and identified that the Pakenham Police Station, amongst others, required security screens. As of September 2016 all stations identified during the assessment, including Pakenham Police Station, now have security screens fitted.

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

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 31 August 2016

ANSWER:

I thank the member for asking a question about this issue.

I am advised that Nillumbik Shire Council have followed WorkSafe asbestos removal at the Eltham Leisure Centre and have consulted Eltham High School.

The timing of the work is a matter for council and I would expect them to local community to ensure the timing of the work reflects local needs.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 31 August 2016

ANSWER:

The Government has committed \$100 million to improving Victoria's bus network. These improvements include funding more services in regional cities. As part of the proposed upgrades to the Ballarat bus network, two routes (Route 10 and 26) are proposed to replace Route 15 to service Alfredton and Lucas, improving services for commuters.

Consultation on the proposed upgrades to the Ballarat bus network will be considered in determining the final network design.

Unfortunately, the previous Liberal Government failed to invest in upgrading bus services, slashing funding to bus routes.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Rich-Phillips
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 1 September 2016

ANSWER:

While the Government determines the level of funding required to resource Victoria Police, the Chief Commissioner is responsible for operational matters. As you would expect, the government works closely with the Chief Commissioner to ensure Victoria Police is appropriately resourced to tackle law and order issues facing the Victorian community.

I can assure you that Endeavour Hills residents receive a 24 hour police response from across the Casey Police Service Area (PSA). Victoria Police is constantly working to provide the best possible service to the community.

I am advised that an internal review was conducted at the Endeavour Hills Police Station by local management. The review found that the number of people who physically attended or telephoned the Endeavour Hills police station was low, particularly on weekends.

Subsequently, Victoria Police have decided to trial an initiative at Endeavour Hills Police Station to alter counter hours in order to deliver increased patrols in the area. The three month trial, which will commence in early November, will involve counter service hours from 9am until 5pm on weekends, to maximise the amount of time police are out on patrol and responding to crime.

Weekday counter services hours will remain unchanged during the trial and will be available Monday to Friday, from 7am to 11pm. At the end of the trial Victoria Police will seek feedback from the local community as part of the trial evaluation.

The nearby Narre Warren Station will continue to offer a 24-hour counter service. If anyone requires urgent police assistance, call Triple Zero (000). Phone calls to Endeavour Hills when the station is not providing a counter service will automatically divert to the Narre Warren Police Station.

The Chief Commissioner has made it clear that the police resources 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.

There are also a number of specialist units deployed daily into the Casey area, including Endeavour Hills. These specialist units include the Highway Patrol, the Operations Response Unit, the Crime Investigation Units and the Dog Squad. These police units provide targeted services to identified areas as needed. The Frontline Police Tactical Unit, based at Dandenong, is now dealing with street violence and crime and public disorder across Southern Metro Region Division 3. I am also advised that the Division will also trial an Operational Control Centre to improve the triage of requests for assistance, providing a quicker response for higher priority calls, improved communication and service response.

Victoria Police has established a range of taskforces to tackle property crime, including Operation Cosmas, a city-wide operation, which is focusing on aggravated burglary and other gang-related activity. Operation Cosmas alone has been responsible for over 180 arrests since May this year. Significant resources are being used to respond to and deal with the causes of this type of offending.

The Government has also introduced specific and targeted stand-alone offences for carjacking and home invasions. The laws reflect the seriousness of these crimes, and, as the community would expect, the penalties are significant.

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

My strong belief is that more police are needed on the frontline. That's why the Andrews Labor Government has funded additional sworn police in both of the state budgets brought down by this Government. Funding frontline police are the hallmarks of State Labor Government.

The most recent state budget has provided for an additional 406 sworn police to be recruited and deployed to areas of need, including the growth corridors of Melbourne. In addition, Police Custody Officers (PCOs) are being progressively rolled out across the state, freeing up sworn police officers for the frontline. PCOs. To date, 228 PCOs have been deployed to 22 police stations across Victoria.

Any member of the community who needs urgent police assistance should report the matter to Victoria Police through the emergency number '000'. Calls made to '000' are processed and responded to by the nearest available police personnel.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 1 September 2016

ANSWER:

Comprehensive reports and documents on the removal of all nine level crossings between Caulfield and Dandenong are available at www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au. These documents outline that the Government's project will be quieter, cause less disruptions, involve less pollution for nearby residents and more open space than the preferred approach of the Liberal Opposition. Work on the project has begun and the Government has continually refused the repeated requests from the Liberal Opposition to delay the removal of the most congested and dangerous level crossings in Victoria.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 13 September 2016

ANSWER:

On 12 September 2016, the Government announced that Evolution Rail has been selected as the preferred consortium to build Melbourne's 65 new high capacity metro trains. As part of this investment, a new train maintenance and stabling depot will be built with 87 per cent local content in Pakenham East near the Princess Freeway.

All maintenance activities on the 65 high capacity metro trains will be performed at the Pakenham East Depot for at least the next 30 years. The depot also includes stabling for up to 30 trains, as well as train simulators to train drivers on the new trains.

Establishing the depot in Pakenham East will create long-term employment opportunities for the community and result in over 100 long-term jobs during the 30-year maintenance phase. A further 500 jobs are expected to be created during the peak of the construction of the depot. Evolution Rail has also committed to employing apprentices, trainees and people from disadvantaged backgrounds on the project, including at the Pakenham East Depot as well as partnering with Toyota Australia to transition skilled auto workers into the rolling stock industry.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 13 September 2016

ANSWER:

Analysis of crime statistics data clearly indicates a statewide upwards trend in crime since the 2010-2011 reporting period.

The Andrews Labor Government is upfront about these challenges and is determined to turn these trends around. Responding to these issues requires preventative and proactive policing and crime prevention initiatives. The Chief Commissioner and I are working to make sure that the police have the powers and resources they need to see the crime rate start to turn around.

My strong belief is that more police are needed on the frontline. That is why the Andrews Labor Government has funded additional sworn police in both of the state budgets brought down by this Government. The most recent state budget has provided for an additional 406 sworn police to be recruited and deployed to areas of need, including the growth corridors of Melbourne. The Government has since announced a further \$26.2 million to expedite the deployment of the 406 new police. These additional police will now be sworn in by the end of June 2017, rather than June 2018, with the first of the new officers deployed in early 2017.

In addition, Police Custody Officers (PCOs) are being progressively rolled out across the state, freeing up sworn police officers for the frontline. PCOs. To date, 228 PCOs have been deployed to 22 police stations across Victoria. These PCOs are having a real impact on policing capability across the state and in the south-east corridor of Melbourne. PCOs have worked over 18 000 shifts across Victoria, freeing police from the work of looking after prisoners in police cells. That means more police on the frontline protecting the community.

The Government has also invested an additional \$19.4 million over the next two years in the Community Crime Prevention Program to help tackle the underlying causes of crime. Since 2011, 17 grants totalling more than \$560 000 have been allocated under this program to the City of Casey and community groups for local crime prevention initiatives, including funding for security infrastructure across a range of community spaces and assets.

There are a range of local policing operations underway across the City of Casey to tackle crime and keep residents safe. These include a response unit operating across the region focusing on theft and burglaries, and targeting hotspots and recidivist offenders. The dedicated Crime Scene Services unit also operates from the Narre Warren Police Station working at crime scenes and providing advice to victims on the prevention of further crime. Police from the Proactive Policing Unit are also consulting with commercial groups to target crime scenes and provide advice on crime prevention. The unit is working with the community to reduce youth recidivism with a focus on education, employment and sport.

I am also advised that since 21 August 2016, Victoria Police now has police officers on the street as part of the Frontline Tactical Unit to deal with street violence, street crime and public disorder across the Southern Metro Region Division 3. The unit is based at Dandenong and will be deployed to Casey as well. The Frontline Tactical Unit is being deployed in response to community concerns around crime, and its key focus is uniformed patrols of high-risk community locations.

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

In addition, a further 20 police officers are scheduled to be deployed to the Casey Police Service Area (PSA) from the middle of November 2016.

Victoria Police is committed to improving service delivery for the Endeavour Hills community. I am informed that following an internal review of the number of people visiting the Endeavour Hills Police Station for counter service, local police command determined that police resources could be better spent out on patrol in the

community. As a result, the Endeavour Hills Police Station is planning on trialling an initiative to increase patrols across the PSA. The Narre Warren Police Station continues to offer a 24-hour counter service.

In terms of some of the high-risk, high profile crime being committed by a small cohort of young offenders across Melbourne, Victoria Police has established a range of taskforces to tackle property crime, including Operation Cosmas, a city-wide operation, which is focusing on aggravated burglary and other gang-related activity. Operation Cosmas alone has been responsible for over 200 arrests since May this year. Significant resources are being used to respond to and deal with the causes of this type of offending.

The Chief Commissioner has made it clear that the police resources 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.

In relation to a new police station in the Clyde area, although the Chief Commissioner has not identified this, I will raise this with the Chief Commissioner in the context of our discussions about the future policing needs in growth areas such as the City of Casey.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 13 September 2016

ANSWER:

Preston Market is recognised by Darebin City Council as a key asset within the municipality that contributes to community identity, sense of place, tourism and civic spirit. While our metropolitan strategy Plan Melbourne does not explicitly refer to Preston Market, it does support our local councils in delivering a network of vibrant 20-minute neighbourhoods.

Council is the responsible authority for any application to use and develop land in the City of Darebin, including any planning permit application for the Preston Market site.

The Preston Market site is affected by the Priority Development Zone (PDZ) and a number of overlays relating to heritage, development contributions, environmental conditions and special building. The Schedule 1 to the PDZ sets in place a robust set of requirements for any proposed redevelopment of the market site and which council must consider when making any determination on a planning permit application.

As this is a local matter, it would be inappropriate for me to intervene at this time. Darebin City Council is best placed to make a determination on any application that involves the Preston Market site or to seek further protection if deemed appropriate.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 13 September 2016

ANSWER:

It is proposed that Domain station will be accessed from three entry points, located on the outer edge of the Shrine of Remembrance grounds, the Albert Road Reserve and a relocated Domain tram interchange in the middle of St Kilda Road. The latter will provide passengers a quick and convenient interchange between trains and trams. Access between street level and the station platforms will be provided via escalators, stairs and lifts.

Station entrances are strategically placed to provide a free pedestrian walkway underneath busy St Kilda Road, improving safety for the many pedestrians that use the precinct.

For the safety of all station users, an emergency exit and access structure is proposed to be located on the southern side of Bowen Crescent.

The final design of the station and entry points will be determined following the Environmental Effects Statement process and the project's Public Private Partnership procurement process.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 14 September 2016

ANSWER:

Asbestos was discovered in approximately eight hectares of Taylors Creek in Brimbank Park in late 2015. The site was closed for public safety and the affected section of the park is having air monitoring conducted by an independent asbestos hygiene company on a weekly basis. So far, the monitoring has shown no airborne fibre readings. This means that the site presents a very low risk but remains closed as a precaution.

To ensure the safety of the public, Parks Victoria immediately fenced off the area, posted public notices, dropped off letters to local residences and provided alternative access along Green Gully Road.

Asbestos removal is a complex process that must be done in accordance with the appropriate regulations and safety requirements.

The area is of known cultural significance to the Wurundjeri people, with previously identified artefacts and remains identified in the area dating back to 30 000 years.

Parks Victoria applied for a permit with Aboriginal Victoria on 27 June 2016 to allow the organisation to conduct investigative works on the site. The approved permit was received on 14 September 2016. The works are due to commence in October 2016 and will include excavation of sections of the site to estimate the approximate quantity of soil to be removed. This will enable Parks Victoria to identify and implement appropriate actions to clean up the site.

Parks Victoria will continue to update local residents on the progress of the remediation.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Industry and Employment
Asked on: 14 September 2016

ANSWER:

Fishermans Bend is Australia's largest urban renewal area. When the project was declared in July 2012, the renewal area amounted to 250 hectares. In April 2015 the Victorian Government announced a recast of the project, which included the Employment Precinct which brings the total renewal area to approximately 490 hectares, inclusive of five precincts. Fishermans Bend will play an important role in Melbourne's growth and prosperity, supporting 80 000 residents and 60 000 jobs by 2050.

In May 2016, the Victorian Government sought feedback from the public through the release of the Recast Vision for Fishermans Bend. That public feedback informed the basis of the Fishermans Bend Vision (FBV), which will now be used to create a draft Fishermans Bend Framework. That framework will outline the strategic direction for transport and community infrastructure, public space and density as well as guidance on activity centres and sustainability strategies.

The FBV outlines new and improved connections that will link Fishermans Bend to the CBD and the Melbourne transport network through walking, cycling and public transport connectivity. Planning for Fishermans Bend will

be complemented by Plan Melbourne 2016, Better Apartments and learnings from the Central City Build Form Review.

The State recognises the strategic location of the General Motors Holden site being within 4 kilometres of the CBD and having the potential for a Precinct of Excellence that sees collaboration and cooperation between universities, government and industry to support new growth, generate high-value exports and create highly-skilled jobs.

The establishment of a Precinct of Excellence will attract investment, economic and export opportunities related to high value-add manufacturing, design technologies, defence related projects and engineering and supply chain related roles. The Precinct of Excellence will be at the heart of the projected 60 000 jobs that will be located in the Fishermans Bend Employment Precinct.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

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

In addition to plans for replacement planting and landscaping in the project areas for level crossing removals at Blackburn Road and Heatherdale Road, the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) is pursuing a proposal to provide additional offset planting in an area of Crown Land adjacent to the Eastern Freeway and Junction Road in Nunawading.

Currently, LXRA is developing a concept master plan for planting on this site, which is in the City of Whitehorse. LXRA is developing this proposal with input from local stakeholders, including the Blackburn Tree Preservation Society and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 14 September 2016

ANSWER:

The removal of the level crossing on Centre Road and the construction of a new modern station and transport interchange at Bentleigh will revitalise the shopping strip. Commuters, residents and local traders will benefit from better traffic flow and increased patronage due to improved station facilities and transport services.

The decision to move the bus stop from Nicholson Avenue to Bent Street was made to enhance connectivity with the new Bentleigh Station and improve safety. Having the two bus stops in alignment next to the pedestrian crossing in front of the station entrance will shorten the journey between train and bus.

The location of the bus stop was determined following consultation with Glen Eira City Council, VicRoads and Public Transport Victoria. In addition, the proposed location of the bus stops has been on display at community information sessions.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 15 September 2016

ANSWER:

A preferred proponent was selected on 8 September 2016 for the Hurstbridge Line north eastern package, which includes duplication of the Hurstbridge line between Heidelberg and Rosanna; and Grange Road, Alphington and Lower Plenty Road, Rosanna level crossing removals.

The preferred proponent will now work with the Level Crossing Removal Authority to complete a detailed investigation of options and develop a preferred design and price to allow Government to award a contract in early 2017. There will be onsite investigations underway over the coming months and construction will commence following the award of the contract in early 2017. Construction will be complete by 2019.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 15 September 2016

ANSWER:

As you know, Victoria's annual duck hunting season is allowed for under the Wildlife Act 1975, with the arrangements for the season, including the duration and daily limits, prescribed in the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012.

A decision on whether arrangements will be modified for the 2017 season will be made jointly by myself and the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, based on independent advice from the Game Management Authority.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 15 September 2016

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government's Better Bus Networks program has committed \$100 million to deliver improved bus services that better meet the travel needs of metropolitan and regional Victoria.

The proposed new bus network for the Latrobe Valley offers better coverage and connections to train stations, schools, TAFE and Federation University, health centres, shops and jobs. This includes route extensions to provide access to areas which the previous Liberal Government failed to provide services to.

These changes will accommodate many trips which are not currently possible by public transport. Consultation was carried out in August 2016, to gather feedback on the proposed network.

All feedback from the community is being considered in the finalisation of the network.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 15 September 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government will be introducing new site-specific legislation that will establish a body to manage the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve. It will also be responsible for implementing outstanding recommendations from the Victorian Auditor-General's Report into the 'Management and Oversight of the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve' including those specifically relating to improved public access:

- to implement a Strategic Land Management Plan (SLMP) that contains clear and measurable objectives that define future land use and development consistent with the purposes of the reserve; and
- to develop a comprehensive community engagement strategy to identify community needs and the community's views on potential future land use and development priorities.

The timeline for the introduction of new legislation into Parliament is mid-2017 and I look forward to increased community and Glen Eira Council involvement in shaping the management of the reserve so that it better meets the needs of the local community.

In the meantime, new prominent signage has been erected advising the community and visitors of access points to the Reserve and the times that access is permitted.

More formal use of the centre of the race track for community sports will form part of the SLMP development, which will involve community consultation including the City of Glen Eira.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 11 October 2016

ANSWER:

I thank the Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure's hard work and dedication as the Andrews Labor Government continues with our program to remove 50 of Victoria's most dangerous and congested level crossings, including the level crossings at Bayswater.

I, too, was surprised to hear that the current member for Bayswater has stood against the project to remove the dangerous and congested level crossing at Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road. The fact is the former Liberal government talked about removing the level crossings at Bayswater but they never started.

Work has begun on the level crossing removals at Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road, Bayswater and the project is due for completion in late 2017. In fact, as part of the works to remove the level crossings at Bayswater, a major construction blitz is set to get underway between 15 October and 23 December 2016.

At the end of these works, the level crossings at Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road will be gone for good and the new Bayswater Station will be open to customers.

This is despite the member for Bayswater organising a protest meeting against this project. We are getting on with removing these level crossings, even if she does not want them gone.

Southern Metropolitan Region

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

ANSWER:

The Andrews Government is getting on with delivering on our election commitment to remove all nine of the level crossings between Caulfield and Dandenong, the most congested and dangerous level crossings in Victoria.

The former Liberal Government did not remove any of these nine crossings, went to the election with a commitment to not remove all nine crossings and their continued opposition to the removal of these crossings is well understood by the community.

It is understood that the Liberal Opposition is supporting the attempts being made in the Supreme Court to halt the removal of these crossings. The Government has a responsibility to govern for all Victorians and will continue to refuse the requests from the Liberal Opposition to stop the removal of these congested death traps.

Detailed documentation on the removal of these level crossings are available at www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au.