

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS**

**25 November to 8 December 2016**

**(Extract from book 19)**

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

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# HANSARD<sup>150</sup>



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 9 November 2016)

Premier .....	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services .....	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

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Minister for Planning . . . . .	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Ms M. Thomas, 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** — 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**

**President:**

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:**

Mr K. EIDEH

**Acting Presidents:**

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Mr Melhem, 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:**

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

**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 <sup>2</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>4</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	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

<sup>2</sup> Appointed 15 April 2015

<sup>3</sup> Resigned 27 May 2016

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>4</sup> 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.*

**25 November to 8 December 2016****Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 17 August 2016

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government has already invested more than four times the funding in school infrastructure across Brimbank in two years than the former Liberal Government did in four.

Due to changing demographics across Victoria, the Department of Education and Training routinely acquires land to establish new schools and disposes of land following school mergers and closures.

The Department undertakes thorough assessments on the need to retain closed school sites as part of the land sales process. This includes detailed demographic, enrolment and qualitative analysis to determine whether a site will be needed in the future.

Unlike the previous government who was more than happy to sell school sites, but failed to invest, the Andrews Labor Government is committed to investing in public infrastructure to deliver outcomes which strongly benefit all Victorians, including building the 'Education State' through our government school capital investment.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Health  
**Asked on:** 11 October 2016

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to working with Goulburn Valley Health to implement strategies that provides the highest possible level of services within its emergency department.

The 2016-17 Budget included a significant \$168.5 million investment to redevelop the Shepparton campus of Goulburn Valley Health. This long awaited investment follows years of neglect by the former Liberal Government, who failed to invest in the Goulburn Valley.

The redevelopment will double the size of the emergency department and enable the health service to treat more patients, leading to reduced waiting times. The Department of Health and Human Services and Goulburn Valley Health are moving quickly to complete the planning for the important redevelopment.

In the interim, Goulburn Valley is employing several approaches to improve emergency department performance including:

- Recruitment of more medical and nursing staff
- The reconfiguration of Emergency department space to provide better and safer amenity
- Implementation of a rapid assessment triage process where senior medical and nursing staff work to assess patients on presentation
- Introduction of a seven day per week fast track service with Nurse Practitioners

- Redesign of the Medical roster in the Emergency Department to provide improved hours of medical coverage
- Implementation of electronic bookings for inpatient beds
- Increased focus on use of telemedicine to support the Urgent Care Centres located at partner sites. This enables patients to receive safe and appropriate care at facilities closer to their home.

To support the increased service activity, and as part of the Labor Government's record \$16.5 billion investment in health in Victoria, Goulburn Valley Health has also received a significant increase in funding (\$9.9 million or 6.3% more than in 2015-2016) to operate the health service in 2016-17.

The Shepparton community will continue to be extensively involved in planning the redevelopment, with Independent Member for Shepparton, Suzanna Sheed, chairing the Community Advisory Group to ensure that, community needs are front and centre of the redevelopment project.

### Northern Metropolitan Region

**Question asked by:** Ms Patten  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 11 October 2016

#### ANSWER:

In October 2016 the Victorian Government delivered on its commitment to undertake a school provision review for the Docklands.

As a result of this review, the Victorian Government has made a commitment to build a new primary school in the Docklands. I have asked the Victorian School Building Authority to commence work immediately to identify and acquire a site. In addition, inner city enrolment boundaries will also be changed so Docklands families will be able to send their children to Ferrars Street Primary School and University High School.

### Western Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Emergency Services  
**Asked on:** 11 October 2016

#### ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government responded quickly to the recent flooding in southwest of Victoria.

The Andrews Government thanks all emergency services personnel and community members, including Victoria State Emergency Services volunteers who have selflessly – devoted their services to minimise the impact of these severe weather events on communities and businesses.

Each fire season, the Emergency Management Commissioner and fire agency chiefs determine the appropriate locations of Victoria's firefighting aircraft fleet based on the predicted season, the fire risk in particular areas, and to ensure the best support for the state strategically.

This summer, Ballarat and southwest Victoria will, for the first time, be protected by a water-bombing helicopter which can be dispatched to respond to fires at the same time as fire trucks. Unlike the air-crane, this helicopter is connected into the pre-determined dispatch system so that, instead of waiting for the fire trucks to arrive on the scene and then requesting air support, it arrives around the same time as the fire trucks. This allows for a faster attack on fires to ensure small fires remain small. The air-crane cannot respond as quickly.

Having aircraft which can respond through pre-determined dispatch was a key recommendation of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, the implementation of which enjoyed bipartisan support.

**Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Bath  
**Directed to:** Minister for Industry and Employment  
**Asked on:** 12 October 2016

**ANSWER:**

The announcement by French energy company, Engie, that it will close the Hazelwood power plant and mine is gut wrenching news for Hazelwood workers, their families and Latrobe Valley communities. The Andrews Labor Government will stand with these workers and their families — we will put them and the Latrobe Valley first.

As an immediate response to this decision, we are providing a \$22 million package of support for workers and businesses affected by the closure of Hazelwood, which includes:

- A Worker Transition Centre established in Morwell in partnership with the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council — a one-stop-shop for individual support.
- Education, counselling, financial advice and subsidised job-seeker training for workers in transition.
- Tailored support for businesses to help them identify new opportunities and develop a transition plan.
- An expansion of the Back to Work program to businesses that employ workers in the Latrobe Valley.

In the longer term, the Government is getting on with the job of helping the Latrobe Valley economy to diversify and grow.

A new Economic Growth Zone will be established in the Latrobe Valley, as part of a \$266 million package to create local jobs and grow local businesses.

Companies wanting to start or expand their businesses in the Latrobe Valley will be eligible for financial incentives, including the reimbursement of fees and charges, as part of the \$50 million Economic Growth Zone. For example, under the changes, a business purchasing a \$500 000 property to move into the Latrobe Valley could receive up to a \$25 000 reimbursement of their stamp duty.

The Economic Growth Zone will cover the three Local Government Areas of Latrobe City Council, Wellington Shire and Baw Baw Shire. Eligibility for funding will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the newly established Latrobe Valley Authority.

In addition, the Red Tape Commissioner will investigate ways to reduce red tape in the Valley and break down regulatory barriers to growth, and a dedicated team of trade and investment specialists will be embedded within the Authority to open up export opportunities and attract new businesses.

To ensure projects in the Latrobe Valley are fast tracked, the Government will supply Latrobe City Council, Wellington Shire, and Baw Baw Shire with a planning ‘flying squad’ to get through the planning backlog.

The Andrews Labor Government will also establish the \$174 million Community Infrastructure and Investment Fund for new local projects, which could include road and rail upgrades, school upgrades and health facilities. This will help the community grow, and create more local jobs:

These announcements add to the existing \$10 million Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund to create jobs which are sustainable in the longer term by focussing on opportunities across high growth-sectors in which the Latrobe Valley has a comparative advantage, such as food and fibre.

They also build on our investments in projects that will yield long term economic growth for the region, such as \$10 million to develop the Gippsland Logistics Precinct, \$10 million for the Latrobe Creative Precinct, \$4 million for the upgrade of the West Gippsland Regional Arts Centre and \$1 million towards the Latrobe Valley University Training Clinic and Dental Prosthetics Laboratory from the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund. We are also

supporting Latrobe Valley communities through the 2016–17 State Budget with around \$220 million in new investments, including \$130 million to upgrade schools, hospitals and roads.

### **Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Bath  
**Directed to:** Minister for Health  
**Asked on:** 13 October 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government values the significant and important contribution that nurses make to ensuring improved outcomes in our health system, including those engaged by Bush Nursing Centres.

I welcome the Member for Eastern Victoria's support for increasing pay and conditions for Victorian nurses. It is a welcome departure from the attitude of the previous Liberal National Government who waged industrial war against our hardworking nurses and midwives.

I am pleased to advise that the Andrews Labor Government has committed additional funding to ensure that nurses engaged by Bush Nursing Centres receive the same quantum of wage increases recently achieved in other public hospitals and health services.

The release of supplementary funding will be contingent upon Bush Nursing Centres reaching a new enterprise agreement with the nursing workforce. Bush Nursing Centres have been notified of this outcome.

### **Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 13 October 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is planning and construction nine new school projects across Wyndham:

1. Point Cook South Prep — Year 9 School
2. Tarneit West P-6 Primary School
3. Point Cook Senior Secondary College School
4. Sanctuary Lakes South P6
5. Davis Creek Primary School
6. Truganina East P9
7. Tarneit P-9 College — Final Stage
8. Tarneit Senior College — Final Stage
9. Manor Lakes College — Final Stage

We have a lot of catching up to do as investment in new and upgraded Government Schools was stripped to record lows under the Liberals. School infrastructure funding fell under the former Liberal Government to a mere \$200 million a year.

Thankfully Labor's first two budgets are addressing the future education needs of our state through an unprecedented \$1.8 billion package to build new schools, upgrade and maintain existing schools, and buy land to meet future demand.

### **Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing  
**Asked on:** 13 October 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government, through the work of the Department of Health and Human Services, is at the forefront of adopting the principles behind Universal Design with the development of Design for Everyone: A Guide to Sport and Recreation Settings.

The Growing Suburbs Fund can be used by councils to improve accessibility and include universal design principles in all projects.

At present the Victorian Government is finalising the Victorian state disability plan 2017-2020, which is due to commence on 1 January 2017. The plan will work alongside existing initiatives to make Victoria a more accessible and inclusive state for all members of the community.

### **Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Tierney  
**Directed to:** Minister for Emergency Services  
**Asked on:** 25 October 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The recent storms and floods have damaged properties, roads and bridges in a significant number of Local Government Areas (LGAs) across Victoria.

There are a number of pathways through which community assets may be restored.

As at 21 November 2016, 50 LGAs were receiving assistance under the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) for personal hardship assistance, response and clean-up costs, and restoring essential public assets.

“Essential public assets” are defined under the NDRRA scheme as assets that the State considers are an integral and necessary part of its infrastructure associated with health, education, transport, justice or welfare. Assets such as roads, bridges and tunnels, footpaths, culverts and levees, local government offices including maternal and child health centres and pre-schools and storm water infrastructure are generally considered to come within this definition.

Councils have access to insurance for assets that they own such as sporting facilities, sporting clubs, playgrounds and clubrooms through their insurance brokers, Jardine Lloyd Thomas. Councils can choose which assets they insure and, therefore, coverage can vary across LGAs.

Walking trails are considered community assets under the NDRRA scheme and as such are not eligible for funding. If a walking trail is managed by a Committee of Management, responsibility for its restoration would fall to either the relevant council or to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Where a community has been severely affected by a natural disaster and needs additional assistance to aid with long term recovery, a community recovery package, under the NDRRA may be available. Restoration of facilities that are considered essential to a community's social fabric may be supported under this funding category.

The Government has established a dedicated Flood Recovery Sub-Committee of its peak emergency management advisory body, the State Crisis and Resilience Council, to oversee the coordination of impact assessment and progress of recovery assistance. This Committee is working with all affected councils to identify the assistance that is required and potential opportunities to extend assistance under the NDRAA, where the relevant criteria are met.

### **Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Patten  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 25 October 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government provides more than \$17 million per year to support a number of evidence-based harm reduction activities that are designed to reduce the harm to people who currently use alcohol and other drugs.

As part of this, the Victorian Government provides funding to Harm Reduction Victoria for the Dancewize program, which involves peer educators attending dance parties, festivals and nightclubs.

The Victorian Government is investing \$192.5 million in drug services to reduce the harm associated with alcohol and other drug use, including expanded access to treatment for people with issues relating to alcohol and other drug use. This includes allocations for enhanced mental health, drug and alcohol treatment facilities and services under the Victorian Government's \$57.6 million investment in Stage 2 of the Ice Action Plan.

In addition, as part of the Stage 2 package under the Ice Action Plan, the Victorian Government is investing \$30.2 million for the expansion of the Drug Court of Victoria. Drug courts provide an intensive therapeutic sentencing option for people who have drug or alcohol dependencies, often with associated mental health and other complex needs, and who commit serious drug related criminal offences.

These initiatives build on the Government's initial \$45.5 million investment in the Ice Action Plan, launched in 2015.

In terms of legislative requirements as they stand in Victoria, it is unlawful to use, possess, cultivate or traffic illicit drugs in any form, and therefore those handling illicit substances as part of any pill-testing service would be liable to prosecution under the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981. Police members have an obligation to investigate offences that may have been committed under that Act, and any alleged offences would be assessed on a case by case basis, in accordance with usual processes.

The Government does not have plans to begin drug testing at public venues. There is currently limited data on the effectiveness of pill testing in Australia. Whilst testing may be able to indicate the possible presence of a class of drug, it may be unable to provide clear identification of a particular drug, or information on drug purity, toxicity, or other components present in the sample.

A drug related overdose can occur for any number of reasons including the size, weight and general health of a person, as well as whether the person is used to taking a particular drug or if they have taken other drugs at the same time. Pill testing kits are not a guarantee against overdose.

The Victorian Government is firmly committed to tackling the harm caused by illicit drugs and will continue to work collaboratively with experts, the health sector, police, courts and communities to support families, provide treatment for drug users and close down drug manufacturers.



**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Purcell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Asked on:** 25 October 2016

**ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government is committed to continuously improving the management of rabbits through community-led action, regulatory and enforcement support, and embracing new tools and techniques when they become available.

The Victorian Government recognises that a new, naturally occurring strain of rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus, known as K5, offers a significant opportunity to reduce the impacts of rabbits in Victoria. Estimates show a conservative knockdown of the rabbit population somewhere between 10 and 40 per cent, dependent on the location and conditions. K5 is not a silver bullet, but it's the best option to address resistance to existing RHDV strains.

I support the release of this new strain of virus at the appropriate time and have asked my department to resolve any regulatory barriers in Victoria to facilitate the release.

I recognise that there are some factors that need to be worked through before the virus can be released and the Victorian Government is working to resolve these in collaboration with other jurisdictions. It is anticipated that the release will now occur in autumn 2017.

The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre invited community groups from across Australia to submit an expression of interest (EOI) to be involved in the project as a monitoring and release site for K5. Any land owner was also able to express interest in setting up a monitoring and release site. Expressions of interest closed on 31 May 2016.

South western Victoria has achieved a strong representation in the EOI process with a number of sites being successful for the release of K5 in autumn 2017.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Davis  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 25 October 2016

**ANSWER:**

I was surprised to from the Liberal Party on this issue given the Opposition has never supported a stand-alone secondary school in Beaumaris. In fact, the former Education Minister Martin Dixon stated "The stand-alone Beaumaris model was not feasible because current and projected enrolments were not high enough."

The Liberals were absolutely silent on the future of this Beaumaris school while in Government. Yet somehow have just found out it exists in the past month.

Every tree removed will be replaced by two new trees. In total, around 5000 new trees and plants will be instated as part of the redevelopment.

We made a commitment to deliver a brand new 7-12 secondary school for the Beaumaris community and that is exactly what we will do.

### Eastern Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Ms Bath  
**Directed to:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Asked on:** 26 October 2016

**ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government supports the stakeholder-led Forest Industry Taskforce process. The taskforce is working towards a consensus approach to issues facing the timber industry, such as job protection, economic activity and species conservation. The Forest Industry Taskforce has made significant progress reaching common ground on these issues.

The Victorian Government will not pre-empt the outcomes of the Forest Industry Taskforce, and will consider any reasonable recommendations and proposals it reaches. The Government's response to the final Forest Industry Taskforce recommendations will be informed by robust economic, social and environmental analysis and assessment.

### Western Metropolitan Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Eideh  
**Directed to:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Asked on:** 26 October 2016

**ANSWER:**

On 25 October 2016, an ongoing Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) investigation located construction and demolition waste, which EPA alleges was removed from the Corkman Irish Pub site in Carlton, at 93B Furlong Road, Cairnlea. The EPA's investigation was greatly supported by a community pollution report to the 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842) telephone service. This underscores the important role of community reporting to the work of the EPA.

Upon receipt of the pollution report, EPA officers visited the Cairnlea address and took samples of the waste, testing of which confirmed the presence of asbestos amongst the rubble.

EPA directed the site owner (the duty-holder) to take immediate action to mitigate any risk of airborne dust (which could include asbestos fibres) by wetting down the rubble. EPA also issued the owners of the Cairnlea site with a statutory notice under the Environment Protection Act 1970 (EP Act) that required all waste to be covered to reduce dust risk and air monitoring to address community concerns regarding airborne asbestos. These actions were to be completed by 4pm on 27 October 2016. As the duty-holder failed to complete these requirements by the required timeline, EPA issued two \$7773 infringement notices, totalling over \$15 000.

Given the duty-holder's failure to cover all waste at the site to the EPA's satisfaction, the EPA engaged its own specialist contractors to complete the task.

The duty-holder provided EPA with the air monitoring results on 27 October 2016 which confirmed no measurable asbestos in the air.

As a further precaution, the Department of Education conducted testing at Cairnlea Primary School. This testing also found no airborne asbestos. Results were provided to EPA on 27 October 2016.

Further to the above, the duty-holder was required under the EPA statutory notice to engage a suitably qualified asbestos consultant to assess the premises and produce an asbestos management plan that detailed both the on-site management and the safe removal of the asbestos, which they supplied to EPA on 4 November 2016. The asbestos was removed by Class A removalist AAH, overseen by a hygienist from Prenza, on 10 and 11 November 2016. EPA officers inspected the site on 11 November 2016 and confirmed that all waste associated with the Corkman Irish Pub demolition works had been removed from the premises and that no visible asbestos was remaining. This was subsequently verified in a "Site Inspection Letter" supplied by Prenza to EPA on 15 November 2016.

In addition to numerous media releases and interviews updating the public on EPA's actions, EPA officers (including the CEO) and City of Brimbank officers and councillors held a community 'drop-in' session at the Cairnlea Town Centre shopping centre on 27 October 2016. The team also visited 72 homes in the area to answer any questions of community concern and provide information handouts to retailers and interested residents. A second round of home visits was conducted on 10 November 2016. Call centres at both the City of Brimbank and EPA were also equipped with information to answer queries from members of the public throughout the period.

The fines issued in relation to Cairnlea are in addition to an earlier fine issued to the duty-holder at the former Corkman Irish Pub site in Carlton, bringing the total to over \$20 000. It is important to note that the fines are in addition to any further legal action EPA may take relating to breaches of the EP Act for illegal dumping.

EPA is continuing its investigation to hold those responsible to account before the courts. Anyone that dumps construction and demolition waste or permits its illegal disposal faces a fine of up to \$777 300 if prosecuted. In gathering evidence, EPA will be looking into a range of possible offences that have occurred under the EP Act,

### Western Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Ms Tierney  
**Directed to:** Minister for Veterans  
**Asked on:** 26 October 2016

#### ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is proud to support the Victorian veteran community through these grant programs. I am pleased to inform you that the Warrnambool RSL received a grant of \$80 000 and the Torquay Museum Without Walls Inc. and the Colac Legacy Club each received a \$2000 grant.

I thank you for your question and encourage you to continue to promote our grant programs within your electorate, including to your local RSL Sub Branches. The next round of the Victoria Remembers, Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour and Anzac Centenary Community grant programs opens on 28 November 2016. For more information visit [www.dpc.vic.gov.au/veterans](http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/veterans).

### Western Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 26 October 2016

#### ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has invested more in school infrastructure across Ballarat in two years than the former Liberal Government did in four.

Our government has invested over \$30 million for schools in the City of Ballarat, including \$1.5 million of non-government school funding for the new Siena Catholic Primary School in the Lucas Estate.

The allocation of funding for new schools is considered as part of the annual state budget process.

### Northern Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Young  
**Directed to:** Minister for Sport  
**Asked on:** 26 October 2016

#### ANSWER:

The Victorian Government recognises two categories of sport and recreation organisations: State Sporting Associations and State Sport and Recreation Bodies. I have been advised by the Department of Health and Human

Services that Field and Game Australia have submitted an application to be recognised as a State Sporting Association, but currently do not satisfy some of the criteria for recognition. However I am pleased to note they are recognised as a State Sport and Recreation Body, which broadens opportunities for funding through the Community Sport and Recreation Programs administered through the Department.

With regards to the Defibrillator for Sporting Club and Facilities Program, only affiliates of sports recognised by the Australian Sports Commission and Victorian State Sporting Associations have been eligible for the first two rounds of the program. The eligibility criteria are currently being reviewed, with consideration being given to widen the program to include State Sporting and Recreation Bodies in the next round of grants.

### **Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Elasmar  
**Directed to:** Acting Minister for Veterans  
**Asked on:** 27 October 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government is proud to support organisations such as Melbourne Legacy that provides valuable assistance to Victorian veterans and their families. I am pleased to advise that Melbourne Legacy has received grants totalling \$47 180 to ensure that it can continue to deliver valuable projects such as the Legacy Summer Camp.

I encourage you to continue to promote our grant programs within your electorate. The next round of the Victoria Remembers, Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour and Anzac Centenary Community grant programs opens on 28 November 2016. For more information visit [www.dpc.vic.gov.au/veterans](http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/veterans).

### **Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Hartland  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 27 October 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

There has been some confusion about the changes to truck operation and the West Gate Bridge (WGB). B-double trucks with loads of up to 68.5 tonnes are still permitted to use the WGB. This has not changed.

These permits expired on 1 November 2016 and will not be renewed. Combined, this is expected to only affect an estimated 20 trips per day. These trucks are still able to use the WGB operating at the normal 68.5 tonne load limit.

Companies are still able to apply for permits to run loads of over 68.5 tonnes over the WGB and these will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Any trucks above 68.5 tonnes will require a permit to use the inner west area.

Once again, I trust this clears up your confusion on this issue and gives you a greater understanding of the challenges facing Victoria's supply chain.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Health  
**Asked on:** 27 October 2016

**ANSWER:**

I refer the Member for Northern Victoria to the Andrews Labor Government's record investment of over \$500 million in ambulance services announced on 27 November. This investment includes:

- Employing 450 new paramedics over the next three years
- Establishing six new 'super response centres' supported by more than 200 paramedics to meet growing demand in Melbourne's suburbs including the west, the outer north-west, the north, the north-east, outer east and south-east
- Building new or upgrading 15 branches across the state, on top the 20 upgrade projects already underway
- Deploying 225 new paramedics in 22 branches across the state, assessed as highest priority and in need of further resources to meet local demand
- Purchasing new ambulance vehicles and equipment to support the additional paramedic teams
- Creating 12 new services in rural and remote towns with a local paramedic and vehicle, based on a successful model trialled at Wedderburn and Warracknabeal
- Treating more patients in emergency departments sooner with a \$50 million boost to hire more clinicians and open more beds

The Member for Yan Yean, Danielle Green announced on 29 November that this investment including \$1.7 million in funding to build Mernda's first ever ambulance station.

In addition to this funding for a new branch, the Andrews Labor Government has also dedicated funding for a new 24 hour team with 14 full time equivalent paramedics and a new ambulance vehicle.

This local investment is in addition to a commitment to build an additional station and provide an additional 24 hour team in nearby Epping, and a 'super response centre' to meet growing demand in Melbourne's outer north.

The former Liberal National Government failed the communities of Melbourne's north and left our ambulance services in crisis.

In the September quarter of 2014, the last full quarter of the former Liberal National Government, just 62.81% of Code 1 responses met the 15 minute benchmark in the City of Whittlesea.

In the September quarter of 2016, under the leadership of the Andrews Labor Government, 69.9% of Code 1 responses met the 15 minute benchmark in the City of Whittlesea.

Code 1 responses are almost 7% faster today, than they were in the last year of the Liberal National Government.

There is still more to do and this latest investment will continue to improve local ambulance response times in the City of Whittlesea.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 27 October 2016

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government has announced 10 new services on the Ballarat line as part of its January 2017 regional timetable change. These services are part of the Government's 170 additional services funded in the 2016-17 State Budget.

The timetable change coincides with the opening of the new Caroline Springs Station, delivering train services to this booming community in Melbourne's west for the first time.

During the peak, Caroline Springs will be serviced by trains to and from Bacchus Marsh. This will mean no extra passengers on the busiest Ballarat services, ensuring more space for local passengers.

The Labor Government is also reducing crowding on Ballarat trains by adding new carriages.

We have ordered 48 new V/Locity carriages, the first six of which hit the network in November and were all added to Ballarat services.

The former Liberal and National Government didn't order a single new regional carriage in their first two years in office.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Davis  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 8 November 2016

**ANSWER:**

Community safety is a top priority for the Andrews Government and Victoria Police, as everyone needs to feel safe in their communities. I am continuing to work closely with the Chief Commissioner about what resources and powers Victoria Police need to address crime, particularly emerging crime trends.

Like you, I am upset and angry about the impact of violent crimes like carjackings and home invasions on families in our community. While the occurrence of these type of offences remains small, the impact and trauma they have on victims of crime and their families is profound and long lasting. These kind of offences shock all of us. As Police Minister, I am determined to do everything possible to crack down on this kind of offending.

The Andrews Labor Government has introduced specific and targeted stand-alone offences for carjacking and home invasions after consultation with Victoria Police. These new laws reflect the seriousness of these crimes, and, as the community would expect, the penalties are significant. We want to send a strong message to those who carry out these offences that they will be brought to justice in the strongest of terms. This sort of behaviour is unacceptable.

A statutory minimum non-parole period of three years now applies to aggravated carjacking: This means that a court will impose a non-parole period of three years unless special reasons apply. Home invasion now has a maximum penalty of 25 years and aggravated home invasion has a statutory minimum non-parole period of three years.

And it doesn't stop at the new laws. Victoria Police has escalated its response to the increase in aggravated burglaries and carjackings across Victoria, as well as other gang-related crime, drawing investigators from across the Crime Command. Operation Cosmas, a city-wide operation, has been established, focusing on aggravated

burglary and other gang-related activity. Operation Cosmas alone has been responsible for more than 210 arrests since May this year.

The investigators within each region were allocated additional resources to the operation which aims to prevent, deter and investigate aggravated burglaries and carjackings. Patrols are being conducted, both day and night, at high risk locations to prevent offences taking place.

One of the government's key priorities is the recruitment, training and deployment of more police out on the front line.

The 2016–17 State Budget provided a \$596 million Public Safety Package which includes funding for an additional 406 police officers and 52 support personnel. Of these new police, 300 will be frontline general duties officers deployed across Victoria. This brings the total number of new police personnel funded by the Labor Government since it came to office to 1156.

The Government has since announced \$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.

This Government is also redeploying police back onto the beat by introducing Police Custody Officers (PCOs) into police cells to undertake custodial duties.

We are now seeing police being deployed back to frontline duties, as more PCOs come online, where they can focus on public order, high risk areas and provide a highly visible presence out in the community. The Southern Metropolitan Region alone has welcomed 51 Police Custody Officers who are assisting police in managing people in custody.

Victoria Police continues to work on a new deployment model for police which will examine an area's crime trends and socio-economic factors to best inform resourcing decisions. The deployment model is yet to be finalised, but Victoria Police advises that the deployment of the recently announced expedited 406 police will cover growth corridors and other areas of high need.

The Government will continue to work with the Chief Commissioner to tackle the complex law and order challenges we see today, to give Victoria Police the resources they need to keep our community safe now, and into the future.

### **Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Melhem  
**Directed to:** Minister for Suburban Development  
**Asked on:** 8 November 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for his questions and his unwavering interest in the communities of the western suburbs of Melbourne.

The Andrews Labor Government has established partnerships across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria to enable communities to have a greater say about the issues that matter to them and ensure they are heard by government.

The government recognises that communities are better placed to identify and shape responses to their own needs and that is why the Metropolitan Partnerships are being created. The government wants to listen to the priorities of local communities and is creating a direct connection to Cabinet to focus attention on the needs of each region. It also wants to better co-ordinate government activity in each region by marshalling existing communities of interest and resources to deliver better outcomes.

There will be six Metropolitan Partnerships covering inner metro, inner south-east, western, northern, eastern and southern regions.

Each partnership will include community and business members as well as representatives from local government, State Government and Commonwealth Government. The chair and deputy chair will be selected from the community and business members.

The partnerships will facilitate stronger collaboration between communities, industry, businesses and government to identify and address the most important challenges and opportunities in each region. The partnerships will work towards making our suburbs healthier, more resilient and thriving places to live and work.

Business and community representatives were able to apply to become part of their region's partnership through a public recruitment process. Applications opened on 13 October 2016 and closed 27 November 2016. Applications are currently being assessed, ensuring that each partnership reflects the diversity of Melbourne. These non-government members will be jointly appointed by myself and the Special Minister for State in early 2017.

Each partnership will hold an annual assembly which community members within the partnership region will have the opportunity to attend, along with other key industry, business and elected member stakeholders. They will also have an opportunity to engage online through each partnership's website, which will be launched in the lead up to the annual assemblies in July and August 2017.

I look forward to working with all partnerships to deliver better outcomes for their communities and hope to be in a position to announce successful members in March 2017.

### **Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Hartland  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 8 November 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

VicRoads is working closely with Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) to improve safety at the Napier Street Bridge. Works will begin shortly on a project to realign the protection beams on both approaches to the bridge. The realignment of the protection beams at right angles to the existing road geometry will reduce the likelihood of container trucks shedding their loads onto the pedestrian and bicycle paths adjacent to the road. The works are scheduled to be completed in early 2017.

### **Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Mulino  
**Directed to:** Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade  
**Asked on:** 8 November 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government appreciates the contribution small businesses make to local communities through economic growth, job creation and social cohesion. The large number of active businesses in the Cardinia region is no exception.

To support small businesses to develop and grow, the Government offers a variety of programs, including the Small Business Bus. The bus offers free mentoring and information to new and established businesses, and to individuals looking to set up their own business. Two dedicated vehicles travel around Victoria each year, including several outer metropolitan and regional locations.

The mentors on board the bus are specialists in areas including marketing, human resources and organisational development, finance, strategy and business planning. Their skills have been drawn from running their own small



business or from senior levels of corporate management. The mentors assist clients to develop their business ideas and address any issues affecting their business.

The Small Business Bus will start its 2017 tour in early February, with a visit that month to Lang Lang in Cardinia Shire on Tuesday the 14th. Bookings and further information about this and the other February visits will be available early in the new year. Details for the rest of 2017 are available online a month in advance.

I would encourage all small business operators in the Cardinia area to visit the Business Victoria website, [business.vic.gov.au](http://business.vic.gov.au), or call 13 22 15 in early January 2017 to find out more and book a session.

### **South Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Directed to:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Asked on:** 8 November 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

Referrals under the Victorian Environment Effects Act 1978 are made by the Minister for Planning and/ or the proponent of a project. Further details of this process can be found at:  
<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/planning/environmental-assessment/environment-effects-Referrals>.

### **South Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Rich-Phillips  
**Directed to:** Minister for Emergency Services  
**Asked on:** 9 November 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

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

Regarding the provision of a new VICSES facility for Cranbourne, Emergency Management Victoria will be assessing the state of emergency management facilities across the sector in order to determine investment requirements. This will inform investment decisions in emergency services facilities over coming years.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

### **Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Water  
**Asked on:** 9 November 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

Goulburn Valley Water has confirmed there is no threat to Pyalong's water supply. The Pyalong township is supplied with water from the Mollison Creek — Goulburn Valley Water Weir, which is further upstream. Pyalong Weir is not used to supply the Pyalong township with water.

Pyalong Weir is used by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for water monitoring. Until the water recedes it will not be possible to access the site to assess what damage has been caused to the weir. There is no concern that the damage to the weir will cause any safety or environmental issues.

DELWP will continue to monitor the site and work with water corporations and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority to ensure there is no impact to the surrounding community or environment.

**Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Planning  
**Asked on:** 9 November 2016

**ANSWER:**

At its meeting of 28 June 2016, council resolved to undertake further community consultation for Amendment C141 to the Knox Planning Scheme until 12 September 2016. This was to allow the community to revise any original submissions or to make a new submission to the amendment. Council has more information about its consultation for Amendment C141 on its website.

Council then resolved to refer the amendment and submissions made to it, to an independent Planning Panel for review. Amendment C141 and related submissions were considered by the Panel between 15 November 2016 and 18 November 2016, over a total of 3 hearing days. The Panel is due to release its report on 17 January 2017. As council referred submissions to a Planning Panel, all submitters had the opportunity to make a presentation to the Panel.

Once council has considered the Planning Panel recommendations, R will decide whether to adopt the amendment as exhibited, or with changes, or to abandon the amendment. If adopted, council will submit the amendment to me for approval.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Crozier  
**Directed to:** Attorney-General  
**Asked on:** 9 November 2016

**ANSWER:**

On 4 November 2016, the Commonwealth Government announced that it will establish a national redress scheme for victims of institutional child sexual abuse. The scheme will offer a financial payment of up to \$150 000, options to receive psychological counselling and a direct personal response from the responsible institution—should the survivor request one.

The Commonwealth Government has also advised that state and territory governments, as well as institutions, can opt into the scheme.

Following the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in September last year, Victoria's preference has always been for a national scheme. However, the Victorian Government is also committed to implementing the recommendations from Betrayal of Trust, and it has been working to establish a Victorian redress scheme, in the event that a national scheme does not eventuate.

The announcement was the first time the Commonwealth Government has indicated that it's prepared to operate a national scheme, and I am urgently seeking more detail from Minister Porter about how a national scheme would operate, including how payments would be calculated and what funding the Commonwealth intends to contribute.

The Victorian Government is willing to cooperate with the Commonwealth to achieve a national scheme, but we first want to make sure that survivors of institutional child sexual abuse will get the support they need without having to go through a lengthy and traumatic process.

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Hartland  
**Directed to:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Asked on:** 9 November 2016

**ANSWER:**

On 25 October 2016, an ongoing Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) investigation located construction and demolition waste, which EPA alleges was removed from the Corkman Irish Pub site in Carlton, at 93B Furlong Road, Cairnlea. EPA's investigation was greatly supported by a community pollution report to the 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842) telephone service. This underscores the important role of community reporting to the work of EPA.

EPA officers required the site owner (duty-holder) of 93B Furlong Road, Cairnlea, to take immediate steps to mitigate the risk posed by asbestos. This included damping down, air monitoring and covering the waste. To ensure the removal was properly managed EPA also, via statutory notice, required the duty-holder to employ appropriately qualified professionals to manage the removal.

That EPA statutory notice required the duty-holder to engage a suitably qualified asbestos consultant to assess the premises and produce an asbestos management plan that detailed both the on-site management and the safe removal of the asbestos. The asbestos was removed by Class A removalist AAH, overseen by a hygienist from Prenza, on 10 and 11 November 2016.

EPA officers inspected the site on 11 November 2016 and confirmed that all waste associated with the Corkman Irish Pub demolition works had been removed from the premises and that no visible asbestos was remaining. This was subsequently verified in a "Site Inspection Letter" supplied by Prenza to EPA on 15 November 2016.

In addition to numerous media releases and interviews updating the public on EPA's actions, EPA officers (including the CEO) and City of Brimbank officers and councillors held a community 'drop-in' session at the Cairnlea Town Centre shopping centre on 27 October 2016. The team also visited 72 homes in the area to answer any questions of community concern and provide information handouts to retailers and interested residents. A second round of home visits was conducted on 10 November 2016. Call centres at both the City of Brimbank and EPA were also equipped with information to answer queries from members of the public throughout the period.

Fines issued in relation to Cairnlea are in addition to an earlier fine issued to the duty-holder at the former Corkman Irish Pub site in Carlton, bringing the total to over \$20 000. It is important to note that the fines are in addition to any further legal action EPA may take relating to breaches of the EP Act for illegal dumping.

EPA is continuing its investigation into those responsible to ensure they are held to account before the courts. Anyone that dumps construction and demolition waste or permits its illegal disposal faces a fine of up to \$777 300 if prosecuted. In gathering evidence, EPA will be looking into a range of possible offences that have occurred under the EP Act.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 9 November 2016

**ANSWER:**

The administration of local government elections, including the sorting of ballot papers during the 2016 Moorabool Shire Council election, is the responsibility of the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC). The VEC operates independently of the Government.

I understand that the VEC will prepare a report on the 2016 Local Government Election program towards mid-2017. The Government will then consider that report, including any recommendations it may make to improve the administration of local government elections.

In addition, I note that the Chief Municipal Inspector is responsible for providing independent oversight of breaches of the Local Government Act 1989 and has the ability to examine and investigate any matter relating to local council elections and electoral matters.

Given the functions of these bodies, it would not be appropriate for the Government to make its own enquiries in relation to the conduct of the recent election at Moorabool Shire Council.

### **Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Bath  
**Directed to:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Asked on:** 10 November 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

I would remind the Member for Eastern Victoria of my response to a similar query only a few weeks ago.

At this time, an Agreement remains in place between Latrobe City Council and the State for delivery of a Hazelwood Pondage foreshore redevelopment project. This project is premised upon the ongoing availability of the Pondage for water based recreational activities such as the Latrobe Valley Yacht Club's Sailability program.

Council currently has a lease with Engie until 11 May 2020. The Latrobe Valley Yacht Club have a sub-lease with Council until 11 May 2020. Neither lease has an extension option.

Subject to the resolution of a number of issues relating to the development and use of the Pondage and its foreshore, including a VCAT appeal which is still a few weeks away from a final decision, Regional Development Victoria will continue to engage with the Council to achieve outcomes that are in the best interests of the community.

### **Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Elasmarr  
**Directed to:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Asked on:** 10 November 2016

#### **ANSWER:**

The State Government's \$46 million Target One Million plan for recreational fishing, aims to get more people fishing more often and increase participation to one million by 2020.

In order to achieve this target we are implementing many programs as part of the target one million initiative.

Opportunities for your constituents are many and include-

1. The Family Fishing Lakes Program sees several lakes in Melbourne's north stocked with ready-to-catch rainbow trout prior to the second and third term school holidays each year. This includes Yarrambat Lake at Yarrambat, Roxburgh Park Lake in Roxburgh Park and Spavin Lake in Sunbury.
2. The Maribyrnong River has excellent access for recreational fishing around the Essendon and Avondale Heights area and is renowned for providing great fishing for black bream and several other estuarine species.
3. A number of fishing clubs in the north of Melbourne have benefitted from the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grants Program which provides grants of up to \$2000 for projects to increase membership and promote fishing.

These include Essendon Anglers Club, Calder Fly Fishing Association, Craigieburn Angling Club and Greensborough & District Angling Club.

4. In addition to local options people residing in the north of Melbourne also have wonderful fishing opportunities within a comfortable day trip. Examples include the lower Goulburn River and the Nagambie Lakes which provide excellent fishing for Murray cod and golden perch, whilst the upper section of the Goulburn River above Seymour provides first class for brown and rainbow trout.
5. Melbourne's bayside suburbs have plenty of family friendly locations which offer fishing for popular species such as garfish, King George whiting, snapper, flathead and squid.

All these fishing opportunities are benefitting from our Target One Million plan. It could be the removal of netting from the bay, increased fish stocking, the stronger fishing club grants or the improved access at many sites across the state. The government recognises the benefits to communities and families of getting outdoors and enjoying the amazing pastime of recreational fishing.

### Western Metropolitan Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Eideh  
**Directed to:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Asked on:** 10 November 2016

#### ANSWER:

For more than 150 years Melbourne Zoo has captured the hearts and minds of Victorians. While the zoo has stood the test of time, its aging infrastructure is in need of refurbishment and the new Leopard Ridge will deliver great outcomes for animals, staff and visitors.

Melbourne Zoo, alongside Werribee Open Range Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary, is a major economic contributor to the State of Victoria. According to a 2013 Ernst and Young report, combined the zoos contribute an estimated \$558.5 million and 3228 jobs to the Victorian economy through direct and indirect contribution.

Aside from the conservation work to save Victorian species from extinction, the zoo experience is good for cognitive development of young minds. It opens them to the power and beauty of the natural world and instils a love of animals that is so important for growing a compassionate society.

Melbourne Zoo sees over 1.6 million visitors each year including more than 150 000 school students from across the state including local schools from Mr Eideh's electorate of Western Metropolitan. The new Leopard Ridge is designed to accommodate up to 800 people at one time, a terrific improvement on the previous precinct which could only cater for 200 people due to narrow walkways and no breakout spaces.

In addition to increasing the overall capacity, Leopard Ridge will also improve the visitor experience at Melbourne Zoo. Visitors from all over Victoria, including from the Western Metropolitan region, will be able to enjoy walking through an elaborate system of pathways designed to replicate Melbourne's unique alleyways while they marvel at some of the world's most fascinating predators including new exhibits featuring Tasmanian Devils, Coatis, Snow Leopards and a Sumatran Tiger. The expected visitor experience time will also increase from its current time of 12-15 minutes to 40-60 minutes thanks to the inclusion of interactive play spaces for kids, multimedia interpretation, a series of breakout spaces and a café.

This new precinct will be a showpiece of Melbourne Zoo and modelling indicates that upon completion of Leopard Ridge, visitation is expected to grow by up to 20% in the first six months.

Leopard Ridge will be a modern addition to Melbourne Zoo and deliver a world-class experience for the people of Victoria.

### Southern Metropolitan Region

**Question asked by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 10 November 2016

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Details regarding the timing of the principal appointment and construction of the school can be found at: [www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au](http://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au)

We have a lot of catching up to do as investment in new and upgraded Government Schools was stripped to record lows under the Liberals. School infrastructure funding fell under the former Liberal Government to a mere \$200 million a year.

Thankfully, Labor's first two budgets are addressing the future education needs of our state through an unprecedented \$1.8 billion package to build new schools, upgrade and maintain existing schools, and buy land to meet future demand.

Labor has 9 new schools across the inner city in the pipeline. A stark contrast to the dark old days of Kennett where more than 15 schools were closed across the city.

Let me be absolutely clear here — Labor opens schools, the Liberals close them.

### Southern Metropolitan Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Davis  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 22 November 2016

**ANSWER:**

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

The Liberal party's continued opposition to the removal of level crossings is well understood by the community.

The member for Southern Metropolitan has used the cover of parliamentary privilege to make false and unsubstantiated allegations against an academic from RMIT. This is not the first time the member for Southern Metropolitan has launched personal attacks on academics who have produced reports he does not agree with.

The Government will continue to respect and support Victoria's academic institutions.

The Government has consistently stated that there will be no extended elevated rail corridor on the Frankston line. Every train line in Melbourne has rail bridges, including the Frankston line, and the Government will continue to consider rail bridges as a design option for the removal of level crossings.

### Western Metropolitan Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Eideh  
**Directed to:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Asked on:** 22 November 2016

**ANSWER:**

The site owner (duty-holder) of 938 Furlong Road, Cairnlea, was required under an EPA statutory notice to engage a suitably qualified asbestos consultant to assess the premises and produce an asbestos management plan that

detailed both the on-site management and the safe removal of the asbestos. The asbestos was removed by Class A removalist AAH, overseen by a hygienist from Prenza, on 10 and 11 November 2016.

EPA officers inspected the site on 11 November 2016 and confirmed that all waste associated with the Corkman Irish Pub demolition works had been removed from the premises and that no visible asbestos was remaining. This was subsequently verified in a "Site Inspection Letter" supplied by Prenza to EPA on 15 November 2016.

EPA is continuing its investigation to hold those responsible to account before the courts. Anyone that dumps construction and demolition waste or permits its illegal disposal faces a fine of up to \$777 300 if prosecuted. In gathering evidence, EPA will be looking into a range of possible offences that have occurred under the EP Act.