

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

11 December 2015 to 11 February 2016

(Extract from book 1)

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

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

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Mr Drum, Ms Hartland, Mr Herbert, Ms Mikakos, 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 Eideh, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Morris, Mr Ondarchie and Ms Tierney.

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

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

President: The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President: Ms G. TIERNEY

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

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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 Nationals:
The Hon. D. K. DRUM

Leader of the Greens:
Mr G. BARBER

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Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
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Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
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Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

² Appointed 15 April 2015

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
SFP — Shooters and Fishers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

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ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

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

11 December 2015 to 11 February 2016**Western Metropolitan Region**

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 4 August 2015

ANSWER:

In June 2015, the Andrews Labor Government announced changes to boarding rules at Sunbury and Pakenham in order to address crowding on V/Line services.

Following further loading analysis and feedback from local commuters, those rules have been updated with the aim to strike the right balance between addressing crowding issues and providing Pakenham and Sunbury passengers with access to more services, subject to capacity.

As of 1 January 2016, Pakenham and Sunbury passengers are not able to board the V/line services currently experiencing the highest level of overcrowding on the Bendigo and Gippsland lines on weekday afternoons. These services are

- the 4.16 pm and 5.37 pm departing Southern Cross Station, arriving at Pakenham at 5.25 pm and 6.51 pm respectively, and
- the 4.25 pm and 5.04 pm departing Southern Cross Station, arriving at Sunbury at 4.55 pm and 5.04 pm respectively.

We will continue to monitor passenger loadings on other services in peak times to ensure boarding rules continue to balance the needs of regional and metropolitan passengers.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 4 August 2015

ANSWER:

I refer to the matter you raised in the Adjournment Debate on 4 August 2015, regarding the Labor Government commitment to improving safety on Colac Ballarat Road at the Napoleons Primary School.

The Member for Buninyong, Mr Geoff Howard MP, has been liaising with the Napoleons Primary School, the Golden Plains Shire and VicRoads to identify the most effective and cost efficient way to improve safety at the school. As a direct result of this consultation, VicRoads will be installing electronic school speed limit signs and other improvements to make the vehicle access and pedestrian crossing location safer.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Shing
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 5 August 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government recently announced changes to boarding rules at Sunbury and Pakenham in order to address crowding on V/Line services.

As of 1 January 2016, Pakenham passengers are not able to board the V/line services currently experiencing the highest level of overcrowding on the Gippsland lines on weekday afternoons. These services are the 4.16 pm and 5.37 pm departing Southern Cross Station, arriving at Pakenham at 5.25 pm and 6.51 pm respectively.

We will continue to monitor passenger loadings on other services in peak times to ensure boarding rules continue to balance the needs of regional and metropolitan passengers.

As a result of recent V/Line network disruptions, the Victorian Government has announced a temporary, stable V/Line service plan to allow people to plan their travel with greater certainty while work to restore full services continues.

The interim plan sets out exactly which services will run as trains, and which will be replaced by coaches for the next five weeks.

Work to install track detection devices on metropolitan level crossings used by regional trains has begun, and is expected to be complete by mid-March.

These detectors will allow restrictions on V/Locity trains to be lifted, meaning more trains to and from Traralgon.

In addition, from Monday 15 February two extra Metro services will run between Pakenham and Flinders Street in the morning and evening peak, and connect to V/Line coach services to Gippsland.

These services will be Metro trains operated by Metro drivers and will provide more choice to Gippsland passengers.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Tierney
Directed to: Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Asked on: 19 August 2015

ANSWER:

There is a proven record of effective cultural heritage management where Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) are appointed. There are currently ten appointed RAPs, which cover approximately 60 per cent of the State. The Government is committed to appointing RAPs over more of Victoria.

The Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation has significant responsibilities under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 as a Registered Aboriginal Party, or RAP, and is integral to the administration of Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage management system.

Wathaurung is one of the busiest RAPs in Victoria, covering regional growth areas from outer western Melbourne through to Geelong, Ballarat and the Surf Coast. Since its appointment as a RAP, Wathaurung has approved 303 cultural heritage management plans, with a further 84 plans relating to its RAP area in preparation.

Last year, I met with staff and members of Wathaurung as part of my listening tour of RAPs and Traditional Owner organisations throughout Victoria. They shared with me their ideas for expanding the roles of RAPs into areas such as education and cultural awareness. I also met with RAPs from across the state at their June RAP Forum, where

we discussed expanding RAP roles and functions and RAP sustainability and capability. I also announced this Government's investment of \$20.9 million for the Victorian Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy, and our commitment to amending the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. These funds will strengthen the protection and management of Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage, support sustainable RAPs, and enable RAPs to take on new opportunities to expand their important work in strengthening Aboriginal culture.

The Victorian Government is also investing in the successful Right People for Country program, which assists Traditional Owner groups resolve disputes regarding boundaries and group composition, and prepares groups for the challenges and responsibilities of functioning as a RAP. I have also recently worked with the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council to improve the RAP application process. Additionally, the proposed amendments to the Act will create a more efficient RAP application process by providing the Council flexibility in its decision making and the ability to mediate dispute resolution.

Our significant investment in pursuing an ambitious reform agenda in this area will facilitate the appointment of more RAPs across a greater portion of Victoria, and will support RAPs in delivering their statutory responsibilities while undertaking new functions. This will ensure the voices of Traditional Owners remain at the centre of decision-making which is consistent with this Government's commitment to self-determination.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 2 September 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to investing in education and school infrastructure, as demonstrated through the allocation of \$730 million to school facilities in the 2015-16 State Budget. This is more than double the average annual investment in school infrastructure over the past four years.

The Department of Education and Training uses detailed demographic modelling to monitor demand for school provision and works with State and local planning authorities to ensure that enrolment growth is effectively managed. This includes regular consultation with local councils, the Metropolitan Planning Authority (MPA) and developers to accurately predict growth at a local level. This ensures that current and future demand for education services is assessed consistently across Victoria.

Thank you for raising your concerns about school provision in the Glen Eira area. I am conscious that there are excellent government and non-government schools in this area but that it is also an area of high population growth.

The funding provided through the State Budget represents a crucial first step in creating the Education State, and we will continue to invest in school facilities throughout this term of government.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Eideh
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 2 September 2015

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question regarding the Interface Growth Fund.

This significant \$50 million investment from the Andrews Labor Government is an initial investment towards meeting the critical infrastructure needs of communities in Melbourne's diverse and fast-growing outer suburbs. This funding will enable councils to begin a program of work to deliver the types of infrastructure communities need to deliver economic benefits, provide local jobs and improve access to services for growing communities.

I was delighted to announce the 26 successful projects from the initial Interface Growth Fund on 14 October 2015. The Western Metropolitan Region will receive \$4.15 million to help councils on Melbourne's fringe to improve, build and deliver community spaces that matter to local residents, while creating jobs and growth.

Wyndham City Council recently received funding to improve facilities at Chirnside Park in the heart of Werribee, home to the Werribee Tigers VA_ and Werribee Cricket Club the facilities will be upgraded to extend the use of the venue as a community hub enabling the delivery of diverse volunteer, sport and community education programs.

In addition, funding was provided for the Wyndham Community Connections project which will deliver a connected network of walking and cycling infrastructure that links important activity centres across the municipality. This project will ensure that residents of Wyndham have the infrastructure in place to make active transport choices and active life choices which will ultimately improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

As Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs I am particularly delighted to support the development of the Wyndham Aboriginal Community Centre. This \$1.5 million investment will deliver a fit-for-purpose culturally sensitive community centre providing spaces and integrated services for Aboriginal residents in the outer west. This centre will deliver the right services in the right setting ensuring that the Aboriginal community in the west remain connected with their culture and their communities.

I am sure the \$6.05 million investment in Melton Shire Council will also be of benefit to your constituents. This includes the revitalisation of the Melton Town Centre, "Pride of Melton" which will improve connections and enhance the public realm of Melton Town Centre to become a regional destination. The renewal of the Bridge Road Regional Play Space will deliver a regional playground space with a mix of traditional play and nature based play space, and the redevelopment of the Aged Services Centre will co-locate services and programs for community health, learning and wellbeing.

Continued investment, delivered with the support of the council and the community will ensure that the Government provides the right funding, at the right time, to the areas of most need, in a coordinated manner.

This is integral to ensuring that the community is assisted to deliver strong and tangible opportunities for those most in need and it will continue to invest in projects and opportunities that support jobs and sustainable growth.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 15 September 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government will partner with Transurban to build the \$5.5 billion Western Distributor Project, which includes the Monash Freeway Upgrade and upgrades to Webb Dock's access to CityLink.

The Western Distributor will deliver immediate travel time savings of up to 20 minutes a day, take 6000 trucks off the West Gate Bridge, and create 5600 new jobs.

The project will put an end to trucks rat-running through inner west streets to get to the Port of Melbourne with extended truck curfews on local roads once construction has been completed.

The Government's reference business case, which was released on 8 December, shows the project will deliver a benefit of \$1.30 for every dollar invested and an \$11 billion boost to Victoria's economy.

The project's final scope and design including the length and location of the tunnel entrances will be determined through a comprehensive planning process guided by consultation with the community, local government and industry. The consultation will build on the community engagement undertaken by Transurban to date.

The project will be funded by a combination of tolling on the West Gate Distributor, an extension of CityLink's concession and State and Commonwealth contributions.

Construction of the Western Distributor will start in 2018 and be completed in 2022.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 15 September 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of the Bayswater Country Fire Authority (CFA) Fire Brigade and its selfless contributions to the safety and wellbeing of the community.

Land for a new fire station for Bayswater has not been purchased. Negotiations for leasing land are under way.

The provision of a new fire station for Bayswater is listed within the 3-year CFA capital works program. The land will be leased, and the key project milestones for project development include the finalisation of the lease by the end of 2015. Town planning approval is expected to be completed by 2015-16 and construction to commence in 2016-17. The time frames for its implementation are based on the normal CFA project prioritisation and capital works funding processes.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Drum
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 16 September 2015

ANSWER:

As noted by the Member, the Macedon Ranges Shire Council was the recipient of a \$60 000 grant to support a feasibility study to determine the viability of establishing an international standard equestrian centre in the Macedon Ranges Shire. The study benchmarked and identified possible approaches to develop and manage such a facility.

Completion of the study delivered on a commitment by the Council to investigate the feasibility of an international standard equine facility within the Macedon Ranges Shire.

Regional Development Victoria officers are discussing with Macedon Ranges Shire Council its priorities for potential funding which I expect might include the next stage of the Macedon Ranges equine centre.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 6 October 2015

ANSWER:

Public Transport Victoria (PTV), in conjunction with VicTrack and Metro Trains Melbourne, has developed a design for a second entrance which is in the vicinity of the former entrance. The design for the entrance incorporates a pedestrian crossing over the rail line with automatic gates linked to train signals.

PTV continues to work closely with partners to deliver this important project. Works are expected to be completed by mid-2016.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 6 October 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government will partner with Transurban to build the \$5.5 billion Western Distributor Project, which includes the Monash Freeway Upgrade and upgrades to Webb Dock.

The Western Distributor Project will widen the West Gate Freeway from 8 to 12 lanes between the M80 and Williamstown Road; build a tunnel under Yarraville, providing a vital second river crossing over the Maribyrnong; and construct an elevated road along Footscray Road with direct links to the Port of Melbourne.

The Western Distributor project will deliver immediate travel time savings of up to 20 minutes a day, it will take 6000 trucks off the West Gate Bridge, and create 5600 new jobs. The project will end trucks rat running through the inner west suburban streets to reach the Port, and, it will provide an \$11 billion boost to the Victorian economy.

Construction of the Western Distributor will start in 2018, and by its completion in 2022, will mean less congestion, quicker commute times, safer roads, and more jobs for Victoria.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 8 October 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to investing in education and school infrastructure, and this has been demonstrated through the allocation of \$730 million to school facilities in the 2015-16 State Budget. The funding provided through the State budget represents a crucial first step in creating the Education State, and the Government is committed to investing in school infrastructure throughout this term of government.

As part of the Heidelberg Regeneration project, three schools in the Banyule area were closed in 2011. All three sites were declared surplus to educational requirements and subsequently sold to the City of Banyule.

The Department of Education and Training is currently conducting a review into school provision in the Banyule and Ivanhoe area.

The Department is inviting community members to engage with the review and share local information and perspectives.

The review seeks to assess the level of need generated from the Banyule community for primary and secondary school education.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 8 October 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government will partner with Transurban to build the \$5.5 billion Western Distributor Project, which includes the Monash Freeway Upgrade and upgrades to Webb Dock.

The Western Distributor Project will widen the West Gate Freeway from 8 to 12 lanes between the M80 and Williamstown Road; build a tunnel under Yarraville, providing a vital second river crossing over the Maribyrnong; and construct an elevated road along Footscray Road with direct links to the Port of Melbourne.

The Western Distributor project's final scope and design will be guided by a transparent and exhaustive Environment Effects Statement process, traffic modelling and in consultation with the community, local government and industry.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 20 October 2015

ANSWER:

As the local member, I have been in regular contact with community members and the local councillor about this issue and options to secure the pools future. I will continue as the Local Member to be an advocate on this issue.

The Drysdale-Clifton Springs cultural and community hub also falls within the responsibility of the Minister for Sport, but as the local member, I understand that the project is progressing.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Racing
Asked on: 20 October 2015

ANSWER:

The availability of quality racing broadcasts is of high importance to racing fans throughout the state. The issue of access to racing radio in the Western Region of Victoria, including Warrnambool, relates to coverage rather than reception.

The racing industry's radio broadcaster RSN Racing & Sports (RSN), operated by 3UZ Pty Ltd, is ultimately owned by Radio 3UZ Unit Trust, whose unitholders are the three metropolitan thoroughbred racing clubs, Country Racing Victoria, Harness Racing Victoria and Greyhound Racing Victoria.

RSN does not have a frequency in the Western Region, with residents required to tune in to RSN's Melbourne (927AM) or Ballarat (1314AM) frequencies. Warrnambool is well outside the licensed service areas of these stations and as a result coverage in this region is unreliable.

The Australian Media and Communications Authority (ACMA) is the federal Government regulator responsible for planning radio spectrum frequency usage and administering radio broadcast licences. In April 2015, RSN submitted formal Licence Area Plan (LAP) variation requests to ACMA for Warrnambool and Sale. RSN has been advised that it usually takes around 12 months for these variation requests to be determined.

Should RSN receive a favourable decision to its requests, ACMA will advertise the availability of the approved frequency and conduct an auction in accordance with federal legislation. The RSN Board (composed of five racing code representatives and two independent members) would need to consider potential funding options to participate in the auction process.

RSN and the racing codes have my full support when it comes to ensuring the best possible coverage of racing in Victoria. I will be happy to lend my support where required to ensure this happens.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 20 October 2015

ANSWER:

While some property impacts are unavoidable for a project on the scale of Melbourne Metro, land acquisition is not something the Government takes lightly. As such, there has been a lot of focus on minimising the number of properties required for the project.

The Melbourne Metro Rail Authority has identified the need to acquire a total of five residential properties in South Yarra.

The Melbourne Metro Rail Authority commenced engagement with these landowners and tenants on 19 October. Out of respect for the individuals involved and their privacy, we will not be identifying or commenting on the status of specific properties.

No commercial properties are required in South Yarra for the construction of Melbourne Metro.

In addition to property acquisition, a number of property owners in South Yarra have been notified that the new Melbourne Metro tunnels are likely to pass underground beneath their land. These people will be kept fully informed as the project progresses.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 20 October 2015

ANSWER:

As of 1 January 2016, Pakenham and Sunbury passengers are not able to board the V/line services currently experiencing the highest level of overcrowding on the Bendigo and Gippsland lines on weekday afternoons. These services are

- the 4.16 pm and 5.37 pm departing Southern Cross Station, arriving at Pakenham at 5.25 pm and 6.51 pm respectively, and the 4.25 pm and 5.04 pm departing Southern Cross Station, arriving at Sunbury at
- 4.55 pm and 5.04 pm respectively.

We will continue to monitor passenger loadings on other services in peak times to ensure boarding rules continue to balance the needs of regional and metropolitan passengers.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 21 October 2015

ANSWER:

During 2014/2015 sixty (60) commercial fisher inspections were conducted by Fisheries Officers on Port Phillip Bay, which includes Corio Bay. From 1 July to 26 October 2015, 23 commercial fisher inspections have been conducted on the bay. These numbers reflect an increase in commercial inspections from previous years.

A call to the 13FISH Offence reporting line regarding a commercial fisher was responded to in May 2015 by Fisheries Officers with a resultant prosecution soon to be heard in court.

All commercial vessels that are working in the area have been found to be correctly displaying registration numbers up to this point. This year Fisheries Officers are undertaking joint patrols with Maritime Safety Victoria Officers who can deal effectively with offences such as no lights being used or registration numbers not being displayed on commercial fishing vessels.

I encourage anyone who observes illegal fishing of any type to contact the offence reporting line 13 FISH (13 3474).

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 21 October 2015

ANSWER:

The former Coalition government significantly reduced Parks Victoria's funding between 2010 and 2014 and also increased camping fees with no commitment to reinvest these funds.

All camping fees contribute to the ongoing maintenance of camping facilities and for services in parks managed by Parks Victoria. Funding to upgrade parks and reserves is based on a statewide priorities schedule.

A new toilet block at Aire East Campground in Glenaire in the Great Otway National Park is scheduled for the 2015/2016 financial year.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Bourman
Directed to: Minister for Finance
Asked on: 10 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to purchasing Australian made paper and supporting this important local industry.

Last year, 99.3 percent of copy paper purchased by government departments and agencies under the State Purchase Contract was Australian made.

I encourage Australian Paper to allow Government access to the full range of Australian manufactured paper products through the State Purchase Contract so that government departments and agencies can continue to purchase Australian recycled paper.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 10 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to a well-resourced police force, with a strong commitment to community engagement and policing. In May 2010, the Labor Government committed funding for an additional 1966 police to the frontline.

Since coming to office in November 2014, the Andrews Government has funded almost 700 additional police personnel reflecting the Government's commitment to work with the Chief Commissioner to ensure we provide the resources to police that will keep our community safe. The commitment has seen additional resources for Victoria

Police with more police officers, Protective Services Officers, intelligence experts, forensic analysts, and new Police Custody Officers.

Our continued investment in policing has seen a record \$2.5 billion budget for Victoria Police in 2015/16 to continue their important work.

As you can appreciate, under Victorian law, I cannot direct the Chief Commissioner of Police about the allocation or deployment of police officers to or at particular locations in accordance with section 10 of the Victoria Police Act 2013.

The Chief Commissioner has notified me of his intention to change the operating hours for the counter service at Ashburton Police Station to Tuesday and Thursday between 9am and 5pm given the limited demand for counter services at the police station. The Ashburton community will continue to receive a 24 hour police response. There will be no change to the level of police serving the Ashburton community.

I have sought the Chief Commissioner's reassurance that the level of policing will be continuously monitored by the respective command officers, with a view to ensuring community safety and to also keep me informed of how the changed service is being implemented.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 10 November 2015

ANSWER:

Parks Victoria is still negotiating with the Department of Education and Training regarding the relocation of the Parks Victoria office and depot in Albert Park. Parks Victoria has identified a preferred site within the park, however, the location will be subject to final validation as part of the design process.

The proposal is for Parks Victoria to relocate from its current site by December 2016.

Funding will be provided through standard whole-of-government appropriations processes.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 11 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) is continuing to work closely with the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust on the implementation of recommendations made by the Auditor General last year.

DELWP is also working on recommendation 15 for longer term action to revoke the Crown grant and introduce new legislation for the future management of the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 11 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to delivering a \$63 million transformation of the Frankston Station precinct to deliver a safer, more modern place of business and activity and grow investment towards the long term vision of a revitalised Frankston city centre.

The government is working in close partnership with Frankston City Council, key stakeholders, and the community on this project. The Hon Paul Edbrooke, MP, Member for Frankston, chaired the Frankston Station Precinct Redevelopment Taskforce. Frankston City Council has endorsed the outcome of the Taskforce, the Frankston Station Precinct Redevelopment Master Plan.

The Metropolitan Planning Authority (MPA) is a strategic planning agency with its role specified in the Planning and Environment Act 1987. The MPA has worked closely with Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) to assist with development of the Master Plan, including the secondment of a senior MPA officer to support finalisation of the Master Plan.

It is not appropriate for the MPA to oversee detailed planning of an integrated public transport project with its associated operational and construction considerations, as MPA does not have the necessary capability, resources or authority. DEDJTR will continue to oversee the project in partnership with Council and other agencies, including MPA, as appropriate.

I will be writing to the Federal Member for Dunkley to advise him that DEDJTR will continue to oversee the project in partnership with Council and other agencies, including MPA, as appropriate.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 12 November 2015

ANSWER:

I appreciate your interest regarding police resources in the Belgrave area. The Government recognises that a well-resourced police force, with a strong commitment to community engagement and policing, is critical to keeping communities safe.

In May 2010, the Labor Government committed funding for an additional 1966 police to the frontline which has included an increase of 58 police in the Eastern Region Division 2, which covers the Yarra Ranges Police Service Area.

Since coming to office in November 2014, the Andrews Government has funded almost 700 additional police personnel reflecting the Government's commitment to work with the Chief Commissioner to ensure we provide the resources to police that will keep our community safe. Our continued investment in policing has seen a record \$2.5 billion budget for Victoria Police in 2015/16 to continue their important work.

The Government recently announced funding to nearly double Victoria Police's counter terrorism investigative capacity. This new investment will fund 88 counter terrorism specialists, including 40 dedicated sworn officers, as well as intelligence experts, forensic analysts, and equipment.

The Government is also investing \$148.6 million over four years to free up 400 police to undertake frontline duties protecting our community where they are needed. This will occur by recruiting, training and deploying 400 custody officers to initially supervise prisoners at around 22 police stations across Victoria.

Victoria Police takes the safety of its employees extremely seriously. The organisation has introduced an Operational Safety policy to enhance the safety and well-being of all employees. The Safety Policy was developed in consultation with police officers and The Police Association and focuses on operational safety equipment, single officer activities and the security of marked police vehicles.

Police are encouraged to conduct risk assessments before and throughout their duties and apply a consistent and common sense approach when responding to operational responsibilities.

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.

While the Government determines the level of funding required to resource Victoria Police, the Chief Commissioner is responsible for determining how such resources are allocated, based on operational need.

I note your concerns regarding temporary closures of reception facilities at the Belgrave Police Station. With the increase of the threat level against police facilities and employees, Victoria Police advises it is required to roster police members to work in pairs to maintain police reception duties. Where this is not possible, police reception facilities may be required to close temporarily to ensure the safety of police members.

Victoria Police advises that police continue to provide a 24-hour police response to the Belgrave community, including patrols across the area. In all cases where a person has immediate concerns about their safety or the safety of others, or an offence is in progress, the matter should be reported to Victoria Police through the emergency number '000'. Calls made to '000' are processed and responded to by the closest appropriate police personnel.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Premier
Asked on: 12 November 2015

ANSWER:

On Remembrance Day we honour the many thousands of Australian men and women who fought in our colours, in many dozens of conflicts since 1918. We remembered the men and women that have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country."

As the Member is aware, Parliament was suspended on 11 November until 2pm to give Members time to participate in their local services.

Regional members who were unable to attend services in their electorates were extended an invitation to the State Remembrance Day Service at the Shrine of Remembrance — along with all other Members of Parliament.

Parliament sitting on Remembrance Day is not without precedent. In fact, since 1919, Parliament sat on Remembrance Day a total of 32 times.

I am pleased to advise the Member that Parliament will not sit on Remembrance Day in 2016, 2017 or 2018.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 12 November 2015

ANSWER:

I appointed the Hon Frank Vincent AO QC and Mr John Watson as transition auditors to ensure that residents and ratepayers of Flume and Sunbury were fully informed about the previous Government's proposal to establish a new Sunbury Council.

The auditors carried out a comprehensive consultation process that saw them provide easily accessible information to the community, receive over 100 written submissions and meet directly with many community members in Sunbury and across the Hume municipality.

Having considered all of the evidence, the auditors concluded that, if a separate Sunbury council is established, the proposed split would come at a significant financial cost to local residents. The auditors also found that arrangements for separation contained in the Order in Council made by the previous Government were not equitable or appropriate to guarantee the continuing delivery of services in the transition to a new council and possibly beyond.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the work carried out by the auditors. This is a highly emotive issue in the community and they have both performed their role with diligence, integrity and distinction.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 12 November 2015

ANSWER:

As part of the Maroondah Education Plan, the Victorian Labor Party made an election commitment to provide \$4.5 million to Norwood Secondary College and Mullum Primary School for construction of a shared Performing Arts and Stadium facility. During the development of the scope of works it became apparent that in order to provide the greatest benefit for all the students, the two schools would need to conduct individual projects.

Norwood Secondary College seeks to construct a new indoor sporting facility and will invest \$3 563 000 in this project. Mullum Primary School will invest \$937 000 in a new performing arts facility. This will allow the schools to achieve the intent of the election commitment while delivering facilities that best align with the current strategic plans of both schools. I have agreed to this proposal.

Both schools are now progressing planning of their respective projects and have agreed to share their individual facilities.

I am confident that the proposed works will provide the greatest benefit to both secondary and primary school students.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 12 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to completing the duplication of Thompsons Road between EastLink in Carrum Downs and Berwick-Cranbourne Road in Clyde North, including the removal of the rail level crossing at Merinda Park station, Cranbourne, and an upgrading of the current intersection at the Western Port Highway.

VicRoads advises me that a wide range of pre-construction and site investigation works are currently being undertaken for this project, including detailed traffic modelling, which will help refine the scope of the project for further consideration of funding in subsequent state budgets.

The outputs from the traffic modelling currently underway will help inform the type of treatment required at the Western Port Highway and Thompsons Road intersection. Until the outputs from this traffic modelling have been properly considered, it is not yet possible to confirm the intersection treatment, including any bridging

arrangements. The timing of any bridging works on Thompsons Road, once construction contracts are awarded, would be subject to construction staging and programming requirements.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Energy and Resources
Asked on: 12 November 2015

ANSWER:

AusNet advised that as of 20 July 2015, all of its customers (including those whose smart meter is not being remotely read) have been able to access time of use tariffs. I would encourage your constituent to contact their electricity retailer, in the first instance, to help your constituent switch to their desired tariff. Alternatively, I would encourage your constituent to compare energy offers with the Victorian Government's newly launched comparison tool, Victoria Energy Compare, to find the best deal for them.

If your constituent is not satisfied with either AusNet or their retailer in resolving this issue, they may wish to contact the Energy and Water Ombudsman Victoria (EWOV), as they have the power to investigate and facilitate resolution of consumer complaints.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 12 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Government made a clear commitment prior to the 2014 election to introduce the Friday before the AFL Grand Final as a public holiday. I acknowledge that there is opposition to the public holiday, however the Government did not commit to the new public holiday for the purposes of economic stimulus. We govern for all Victorians, and made an election commitment to give Victorian families more quality time with friends, family and loved ones.

Furthermore, we made the conscious decision to not place any trading restrictions on any business, so those who chose to open were able to do so.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Asked on: 12 November 2015

ANSWER:

As the proponents, the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) is responsible for engaging with the local community on the level crossing removal at McKinnon Road.

I have been advised that the LXRA has so far engaged with the community and traders in a number of ways including information sessions, a community forum, pop-up sessions at railway stations, door-knocking of nearby residents and businesses, and regular bulletin and letterbox drops.

There is also a Stakeholder Liaison Group comprised of local businesses, community groups and residents that meets monthly to provide input into the project and share information with the community— including the final details of the design.

The project team at LXRA will continue to engage with residents and businesses during works on the level crossing removal and interested people are welcome to contact the project team via the dedicated telephone number or email.

Works on the retaining walls for the lowered railway line and relocation of services have started at McKinnon Road. While these works have started, detailed designs for the railway station buildings are continuing to be finalised.

Approvals to date allow a single storey retail premises at the newly built railway stations at McKinnon and Bentleigh. Any proposals for additional retail or residential development will be considered as part of a separate planning approval process.

I have established a standing advisory committee to consider development opportunities created by the level crossing removals. The standing advisory committee has been established to provide a consistent and transparent process for considering such development opportunities. The public will be able to comment as part of a four week exhibition period, to be followed by public hearings.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 24 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Member is wrong to assert that there is any reluctance on the part of this government to repair buildings. This government is extremely keen to ensure necessary repairs occur as quickly as possible. It's why we invested an additional \$180 million in new and upgraded housing in our first budget. Repairs to properties are carried out on a timeframe according to greatest need as this government believes every Victorian has a right to safe, secure and affordable accommodation.

The Olympia Housing Initiative is a ten-year program to improve housing in the suburbs of Heidelberg West, Heidelberg Heights and Bellfield. The initiative is in year five of the program. The Olympic Village is situated in this initiative.

The department, as part of the Olympia Housing Initiative, has constructed, or is in the process of constructing, 17 new builds with a further 20 planned for construction by June 2016. The number of properties within the boundary of the Olympic Village requiring upgrade will be determined in the later years of the program.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 24 November 2015

ANSWER:

The previous government failed Victorian students by halving the investment in school infrastructure. When the capital budget is cut by more than half, it has a devastating impact on schools all around the state.

Unprecedented student enrolment growth has put significant pressure on the Department's relocatable asset base, and this sometimes requires moving buildings that schools would otherwise prefer to keep. To address the increasing demand for relocatable classrooms, the Andrews Labor Government's 2015-16 State Budget included \$35 million for 120 new relocatable classrooms. This is part of a record \$730 million investment to improve school infrastructure and open new schools in Victoria.

To ensure classes were not disrupted during term 4 at Murchison Primary School, I asked the Department to arrange for the removal to occur after the school year had finished. The school does not need to pay for the removal

and the grounds will be reinstated following the removal. The Department will further assist with the relocation of the solar panels.

The Department is working closely with the school to minimise any disruption caused by the move and to ensure that the remaining facilities are appropriate for teaching and learning.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 24 November 2015

ANSWER:

People living near the bush on the outskirts of Melbourne are targeted with 'Leave and Live' messaging advising them that the safest action to take is to leave the area early on high fire risk days. This message is promoted through print advertising in urban fringe newspapers, targeted digital advertising, and a television commercial featuring the Emergency Management Commissioner.

Summer Fire Campaign research indicates that Victorian's living in high fire risk areas near the bush, have a good understanding of their fire risk and the safest action to take if a fire starts. The Summer Fire Campaign has continued to focus on educating people living near the bush on the importance of checking Fire Danger Ratings daily to understand their risk, and to access fire warnings

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 24 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Hon Frank Vincent AO QC and Mr John Watson were appointed to comprehensively examine all the implications of separating Sunbury from Hume City Council in consultation with the local community. The report produced by the Transition Auditors clearly demonstrated that the separation of Sunbury from Flume City Council at this stage would come at too high a cost to those affected. After careful consideration of the Auditors' report, the Government has accepted all of their recommendations.

Engagement with the Sunbury Residents Association has been ongoing throughout this process.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 24 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Albert Park Master Planning process has not been discontinued. However placing more focus on the proposed Domain Rail Station, the South Melbourne Primary School proposal, the Junction Oval redevelopment and a new proposal for redevelopment of the Powerhouse and Lord Somers Camp has meant Parks Victoria has spent considerable time reconsidering the scope and strategic intent of the master plan and the governance structure needed to support its successful delivery. A draft of the master plan has not been prepared or amended.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 24 November 2015

ANSWER:

The planning process for the Melbourne Metro Rail Project (MMRP) is underway and is considering the issues raised in the constituent questions. Detailed information will be made available to the public through this process. For further information please see www.mmrailproject.vic.gov.au.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 25 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Department of Education and Training has a comprehensive asbestos management program in place to ensure Victorian government schools are safe for all students and staff.

All schools must develop and maintain Asbestos Management Plans, which identify where asbestos is located and how it can be effectively managed. The Department also provides ongoing comprehensive training to key school staff to ensure that Asbestos Management Plans are implemented effectively. A 24-hour advice and response hotline allows schools to access expert advice and arrange site inspections, assessments and removal works, as required.

In relation to the oval at Footscray Primary School, I am advised that WorkSafe Victoria attended the school on 26 November 2015 to inspect the site and their report indicated no asbestos was identified on the oval however it was on the school grounds. No issues were raised regarding the Department of Education and Training's and Footscray Primary School's management of the situation.

Each time an asbestos related incident has occurred at the school, the Department's contractors have attended the school, completed an investigation and undertaken all necessary clean up works. An expert hygienist has also provided the school with follow up clearance certificates and air quality monitoring reports. I note that advice tendered to the Department is that asbestos containing materials previously found are in a stable form and present no increased health risk.

The Department has been working closely with the school Principal to maintain the highest level of student safety and I am pleased to advise that the Department will begin remedial work on the oval over the 2015-16 summer holidays. The soil will be removed, geo-fabric will be laydown and new grass will be grown. The Department will continue to assist the school throughout Term 1 to ensure that the grass takes root and is ready for use in Term 2, 2016.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 25 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has brought the removal of level crossing at North Road, Ormond forward with major construction occurring 6 months earlier. The earlier removal of this congested and dangerous level crossing will benefit everybody including road users, public transport users, local businesses and residents.

The Level Crossings Removal Authority (LXRA) has undertaken extensive consultation with traders and local residents in relation to the earlier removal of the level crossing and all other aspects of the project.

This ongoing engagement includes the representation from each traders association/shopping strip on the North-McKinnon-Centre Level Crossing Removal Project Stakeholder Liaison Group, which meets monthly.

If you wish to find more about how the Andrews Labor Government is getting on with the removal of 50 of Victoria's worst level crossings, including North-McKinnon-Centre Level Crossing Removal Project more information is available at www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Treasurer
Asked on: 25 November 2015

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the Western Metropolitan Region for his question and concerns in this regard.

The Victorian economy grew by 2.5 per cent in 2014-15, the strongest of the non-mining states, and above Australian real GDP growth of 2.2 per cent. This was a stronger outcome than both 2012-13 and 2013-14 under the former Coalition Government, in which the Victorian economy grew by only 1.0 per cent. Victorian state final demand grew by a strong 4.2 per cent over the year to the September quarter 2015, the highest of any state and the strongest growth rate in five years.

In 2014-15, Victorian employment rose by 2.1 per cent, above the national average (1.2 per cent), highest of the mainland states, and the strongest outcome since 2010-11. Between November 2014 and December 2015, employment in Victoria increased by 79 000 persons.

The Western Metropolitan electoral district is broadly aligned with two ABS labour force regions: Melbourne — North West; and Melbourne — West. Comparing the average of the three months to November 2014 with the three months to November 2015, aggregate employment in these regions rose by 4 100 persons (+0.8 per cent). The unemployment rate has fallen from a recent peak of 8.1 per cent (three months to February 2015) to be 7.5 per cent over the three months to November 2015.

Among the Andrews Government's recent initiatives are the Back to Work Scheme and the Future Industries Fund. This Government is driving investment in new jobs, new industries and encouraging skills training.

The Back to Work Scheme provides financial assistance to businesses that employ young, retrenched and long-term unemployed workers, along with other disadvantaged groups.

The Government is complementing these measures with targeted training initiatives for disadvantaged groups, including expanded eligibility for subsidised training, and tuition fee relief provided at TAFEs. Further, the new Reconnect program will help address the drop in early school leavers taking up training by engaging them in foundation training and supporting them into further education and the workforce.

This is in addition to the TAFE Back to Work Fund, helping TAFEs partner further with employers and industry to deliver training that leads to jobs and economic growth.

These are significant improvements that reflect our strong focus on jobs and growth. The Government won't stand idle and is getting on with it.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 25 November 2015

ANSWER:

As you may be aware, it was the intention of the previous Government to sell the site at open market. I have put a halt to this sale. The Andrews' Government has responded to the community, who have made it clear they want the site to continue to be used to support education and training in the area. The site has a long and proud history in the area and I intend to exhaust all avenues to secure its reestablishment.

On Thursday 3 December, I announced the launch an Expression of Interest (EOI) process. The EOI process has been developed to attract a broad variety of potential organisations or consortiums, both international and domestic, to use the site. The successful proponent can represent any industry, and while it is not necessary that they have education as their primary business, the successful submission will include an innovative way to establish a model of education as part of the core business on the site.

The EOI opened on Monday 7th December and will be open for 100 days, in an effort to attract a variety of interested parties. The EOI is available on the 'Tenders VIC' Victorian Government Tender's System. Potentially interested parties will have access to data and reports concerning the site to support them in developing a viable business case.

I strongly encourage any company or industry who has submitted deputations to your office to submit a business case for consideration before the EOI process closes.

Should there be no satisfactory submissions before the EOI process closes, the Andrews' Government will have little option to sell the property.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 25 November 2015

ANSWER:

VicRoads has recently undertaken a preliminary biodiversity and significant features assessment for Bolton Street. This assessment recorded the presence of Sugar Gliders and suggests that functional habitat connectivity persists across and along Bolton Street.

A detailed environmental impact assessment will be part of the functional and detailed design stages for Bolton Street. VicRoads will adopt suitable measures to minimise the impacts on fauna connectivity.

The suggestion regarding construction of rope bridges is noted and will be considered during the detailed design phase.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Drum
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 25 November 2015

ANSWER:

The \$2.4 million grant for the Bendigo Tennis Project is still fully committed under the Strategic Sporting Infrastructure Program. I understand the project is in the early planning stages and the key stakeholders are in the process of developing the project in order to maximise outcomes and benefits to the local community.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Rich-Phillips
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 26 November 2015

ANSWER:

I refer to the matter raised during Legislative Council on 26 November 2015 regarding application outcomes for 2016 VET Funding Contracts.

The Andrews Government made a pre-election commitment to crack down on low quality providers and to ensure all Victorians are able to access quality training to develop the skills they need for the jobs they want.

That is why on 20 February 2015, I announced an urgent review of quality assurance in Victoria's VET system. Many Victorian training providers are doing the right thing, but too many students still aren't getting the skills they need to get a job.

On 29 June 2015, I released the Government's response to the Review. I accepted all recommendations and announced a \$9 million audit of contracted training providers. The Blitz is the first step towards ensuring Victoria's \$1.2 billion training system restores industry and student confidence and provides high-quality qualifications.

This review called for a new, crucial and more active role for Victoria in managing the quality of government funded training across the state. That's why we are focusing on prioritising quality in determining who can deliver government funded training.

One of the recommendations was to implement tougher market entry requirements that will mean only providers with a proven track-record of quality delivery will be able to access Government funding, whereas the doors were left open to unscrupulous operators under the former Government.

As such, all applications for a 2016 VET funding contract will be subject to rigorous evaluation criteria. This requires independent performance reviews, financial assessments and where relevant a review of performance submitted to the Department against previous contracts and a range of other criteria as advised to other RTOs when they applied.

The Department commenced notifying RTOs about the outcome of their applications on Friday 4 December 2015. 206 RTOs were advised of their contract outcome prior to Christmas 2015. To date, 228 RTOs of the 254 applications have been advised of the outcome. A small number of applications require additional investigation, due diligence and further information to be submitted by RTOs.

While I am aware of the impact of these outstanding applications on RTOs' operations, it is crucial that the Government ensures only quality providers can access funding in order to restore confidence in our system after years of neglect under the former Government.

My Department is working to ensure that RTOs who are successful are notified as quickly as possible.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 26 November 2015

ANSWER:

Winton Wetlands has been reserved and set aside for public purposes including restoration of wetlands, recreation and tourism, with a particular focus on nature conservation. Regulations were established in September 2010 to allow the Winton Wetlands Committee of Management to manage the reserve for the purposes for which it was established. The regulations provide for the care, protection and management of the reserve, and for the

preservation of good order and safety of those using the reserve. The current regulations are considered to be both relevant and flexible enough to allow areas of the reserve to be restricted or set aside for particular activities.

The committee has already done this through allowing for individual activities such as dog walking, fishing and kite flying in approved areas of the reserve. Setting aside areas for duck hunting has been considered; however, the committee has advised that this activity is deemed inconsistent with the purpose of the reservation and vision for the reserve. Hunting would present difficulties for the committee in adequately ensuring the safety of users of the reserve. The committee regularly reviews the regulations governing Winton Wetlands to ensure alignment with future needs of the reserve.

Your concerns have been passed on to the committee.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade
Asked on: 26 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to growing Victoria's economy. The Government recognises that innovation is critical to growth and that start-up ventures are a key driver for economic development and transition. That is why the Victorian Government recently unveiled the new start-up body - LaunchVic.

LaunchVic will provide the right environment for entrepreneurs to develop, incubate and grow early-stage innovative businesses. It will invest in start-up infrastructure (such as accelerators and incubators), improve access to capital for local start-ups, advocate on Commonwealth legislation and regulation, as well as engage in start-up events, campaigns, competitions and mentoring programs. Importantly, it will work in partnership with Victoria's start-up communities to support start-up networks and build up clusters of innovation activity where there is demand.

The western suburbs already has some great innovation infrastructure, such as Victoria University, the Western Business Accelerator & Centre for Excellence in Melton and the Dream Factory in Footscray that help start-up ventures in technology and design and other business development support. There is a good opportunity to further develop innovation and start-up activity in the western suburbs area and to engage with LaunchVic to improve start-up development support.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 26 November 2015

ANSWER:

Planning is underway between the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments as well as the National Disability Insurance Agency to ensure that people with a disability across Victoria have a smooth transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, commencing in July 2016.

This is a significant and complex reform and the Victorian Government is committed to keeping people with a disability, families and providers from all communities informed in relation to the arrangements for Scheme implementation.

I have recently hosted a number of community forums across Victoria about the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Victoria. The forums have provided opportunities for attendees, whether they are in the first or subsequent roll out sites, to ask questions about what the NDIS will mean for them.

While we are in the early stages of this transition, these forums have been well attended by a diverse range of potential participants, carers and families, service providers and interested community members. In acknowledging communities' significant interest, more community forums will be held in 2016, including in the Gippsland region.

Additionally, to enable transition to the NDIS, the Victorian Government is focused on supporting participants by facilitating the development of a high quality disability sector and maintaining a skilled and experienced workforce. In line with this commitment, on 1 December 2015, the government announced a \$10 million NDIS Transition Support Program to support participants, providers and staff to transition to the NDIS.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 26 November 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to investing in school facilities and has allocated \$730 million in the 2015-16 State Budget to build, upgrade and maintain schools across the state.

I have visited Portland Bay School and have seen first hand the difficulties the school is facing. I instructed the Department of Education and Training to undertake a feasibility study to identify suitable long-term solutions for the school, including options to rebuild or relocate. The feasibility study has already been shared with the school and the Department is working closely with all involved to ensure the best outcome is reached.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 26 November 2015

ANSWER:

Thank you for your advocacy for Deakin Warrnambool and for ensuring education opportunities for young people in South West Victoria.

All Victorian public universities are independent, self-governing institutions and are responsible for decisions regarding staffing and courses offered at particular campuses.

Earlier this year, Deakin University appointed Mr Grant Sutherland as Chief Executive Officer of the Warrnambool Campus with a remit to develop the Deakin Warrnambool 2020 Strategy to best meet the needs of its community.

A key element of Mr Sutherland's role is to provide leadership to increase university partnerships and opportunities with industry, community and professional bodies in order to enable the campus to continue to meet the needs of the south west region's community.

If you have not already spoken to Mr Sutherland, my office will be happy to assist in organising a suitable meeting or briefing.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 26 November 2015

ANSWER:

Victoria Police is working to recruit, train and deploy 1036 PSOs to 216 rail stations by June 2016, which I am advised is consistent with the target of the previous government. PSOs are currently deployed to 177 rail stations across the network.

Victoria Police advises there has been no delay to the rollout of PSOs.

To support the Government's Night Network trial of 24 hour public transport on weekends, the government has provided funding to Victoria Police for an additional 109 PSOs and 62 Transit Police.

During the trial, a typical night will see approximately 160 PSOs and 70 Transit Police working across the rail network. PSOs will be stationed at 78 of the network's premium rail stations, while Transit Police will patrol all train lines throughout the night on weekends.

I am advised that there are currently 1211 PSOs employed by Victoria Police, with an additional 114 PSOs currently in training.

Under Victorian law, I cannot direct the Chief Commissioner about the allocation or deployment of police officers or PSOs to or at particular locations in accordance with section 10 of the Victoria Police Act 2013.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 8 December 2015

ANSWER:

The review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professions (the National Scheme) received over 230 written submissions. I am advised that the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council is considering advice from the Independent Reviewer on the public release of submissions, following which submissions would be made available on the Council of Australian Governments Health Council website.

The decision to not respond to Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues 2014 was made by the former Minister for Health, the Hon David Davis.

The then Secretary of the Department of Health wrote to the Independent Reviewer of the National Scheme providing a copy of the Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee report and requested that its recommendations be incorporated within the national review process.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 8 December 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has funded \$13.7 million to establish the School Breakfast Clubs Program for 500 of the most disadvantaged government primary schools in Victoria over four years from 2016-2019. Core breakfast supplies have now been delivered to the first 175 schools commencing in Term 1 2016, including packages of traditional oats, wheat biscuits, canned fruit in natural juice, baked beans and UHT milk. This will

benefit school students attending a local school breakfast club, up to five days of every school week. Breakfast clubs are encouraged to remain open to all students, to avoid stigmatising those students for whom it will be most beneficial.

There are 39 primary schools in your electorate that are registered to participate from next year. The Department of Education and Training advises that an average of 15-20% of students enrolled in school will enjoy free meals to help start their day healthily, or a state average of 50 students in each school. This is an estimated 1950 students in the Western Metropolitan Region. More detailed figures will be available following the commencement of the program next year.

No additional monies are provided directly to schools as part of the program. Funding is provided to Foodbank to source and deliver food to over 500 new or existing local school breakfast clubs. Following the establishment of the program, the food offer will be expanded to include fresh food options.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Mulino
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 8 December 2015

ANSWER:

As part of the process of renewing the Western Port Ramsar Site Management Plan, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is seeking input from stakeholders in a number of ways. A Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) was one way of reaching community groups, local government and organisations with responsibilities for managing land in the area.

I believe the member is particularly interested in the case of the Westernport and Peninsula Protection Council (WPPC), a group who were unfortunately not included in the SAG. I have written to the secretary of WPPC, Ms Karri Giles, outlining how the group can continue to provide meaningful input and be involved in the process. My department has met with the group and will feed their perspectives into the drafting of the plan, prior to the plan's release for public comment.

There is then another opportunity for all groups and individuals to provide a formal submission on the draft plan during the period for public comment.

The Western Port Ramsar site is an important part of Victoria's natural heritage and I thank you for your interest. I would also like to commend Peter Avery, from Peninsula Speaks, who has kept my office well informed and brought to my attention the issues with the WPPC.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 8 December 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to addressing the historic gender imbalance on Government Boards by appointing 50% women to Government Boards. Historically, Health Boards appointments have been predominately male and unrepresentative of the community and service users.

I refute the Member's description of a gender quota as "admirable". Diversity in board composition is essential to good governance and community representation.

Directors of public health services boards are appointed for terms of up to three years, and can be re-appointed for subsequent terms. The re-appointment process is not automatic and consideration must also be given to the skills

mix and requirements of the board, and the need for regular board director turnover to bring new ideas to the board. It is possible a director will not be re-appointed upon the expiration of their term.

All members of the Goulbourn Valley community are encouraged to apply for a position on the Goulbourn Valley Health board when the process for 2016-17 appointments begin in the new year.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 8 December 2015

ANSWER:

Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities in Victoria is a key aim of the Victorian Government and funding to support this objective will be provided through a range of initiatives.

In the 2015-16 State Budget, the Government confirmed an allocation of \$100 million to the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund. This includes a Better Pools category that provides grants of up to \$3 million.

I encourage Latrobe City Council to continue to liaise with Sport and Recreation Victoria regarding the development of the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 8 December 2015

ANSWER:

This Government has and continues to support a bipartisan approach to this issue.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 9 December 2015

ANSWER:

I am unaware of any issue regarding a portable at Montmorency Primary School. However, I am informed the Department of Education and Training has been working with Montmorency South Primary School to alleviate concerns the school has in relation to relocatable placements on the site.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Tierney
Directed to: Minister for Industrial Relations
Asked on: 9 December 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government strongly supports Australian flagged vessels doing Australian work.

I am disappointed that the Federal Government have chosen not to stand up for Australian workers by providing approval for a foreign flagged ship to operate on this route.

Recent action by Alcoa to remove the crew by use of security guards in the middle of the night is not indicative of how we believe industrial relations should be conducted in this state.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 9 December 2015

ANSWER:

On 8 December 2015, the Victorian Government released the business case for the Western Distributor project and announced it would partner with Transurban to deliver the project.

We said we would be transparent about this project with Victorians which is why we have met our commitment to release the business case and its reference design so that everyone can understand what the project involves. This Government is the first government in Australia to release its business case for a major road project ahead of a final decision on how it will proceed.

The Western Distributor project's final scope and design, including the length and location of the tunnel entrances, will be guided by a transparent and exhaustive Environment Effects Statement process, traffic modelling, and in consultation with the community, local government and industry.

Transurban will release its consultation reports in the coming months as part of the comprehensive consultation with the community.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 9 December 2015

ANSWER:

The Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation (the Atlas) examines the rate of hospital admissions from asthma and bronchiolitis. In addition to air quality, in terms of airborne allergens and particulate matter and cold weather extremes, the Atlas also identifies a number of reasons for variations in the rate of hospital admissions including differing access to primary and secondary care services for the timely management of acute exacerbations, parental education levels, low socioeconomic factors, smoking, and the severity of asthma and the improper use of medicines.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving the primary healthcare system, to increase access to health services for all Victorians, to prioritise access and to improve the health of the population. More specifically, the Government invests funding for service organisations, with a particular focus on primary health care services to deliver integrated chronic disease management.

Matters pertaining to curfews or road restrictions fall outside my portfolio responsibilities and ought be directed to other, responsible ministers.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 9 December 2015

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Hughesdale station will be completely rebuilt when the Poath Road level crossing is removed as part of the Level Crossing Removal Project: Caulfield to Dandenong. Construction on this project will begin in 2016 and the Level Crossing Removal Authority will soon begin the next stage of public consultation on proposed designs, following

the announcement of a preferred tenderer. The new station will fully comply with the necessary safety standards — more details will be available once the proposed designs are released.

Deployment of PSOs is a matter for Victoria Police.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Veterans
Asked on: 9 December 2015

ANSWER:

In 2015, a total of \$94 460 in State Government grant funding was approved for seven veteran related projects in the Western Metropolitan region.

These projects include the restoration of the Avenue of Honour Memorial column in Footscray, creation of an interactive memorial walk in the streets and lanes of Sunshine's Hampshire Road Precinct and support for community participation in the Brimbank poppy pageant. Further west, the Melton Specialist School has been funded to create an interactive educational program using the ideals of mateship, tolerance, inclusion, sacrifice and community called "We Can Be Heroes Too"; while in Laverton the funding is supporting the conservation of the Laverton Old School Honour Board. In Essendon, World War I heritage panels and story boards are being installed along the Maribyrnong River and the history of the Maribyrnong Ordnance Factory, where many locals worked during World War II, is being digitised for easy internet access.

Each project helps to ensure that the service and sacrifice of Victoria's veterans is remembered year round throughout the local community.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 9 December 2015

ANSWER:

The Department of Education and Training is moving relocatable classrooms because of unprecedented student enrolment growth across the State and an under investment in school infrastructure by the previous government. The Department of Education's Relocatable Transfer Program will accommodate almost 13 000 students next year.

To address this under investment and shortage in classroom space, the Andrews Labor Government's 2015-16 State Budget allocated \$35 million for 120 new relocatable classrooms. This is part of a record \$730 million investment to improve school infrastructure and open new schools in Victoria.

To ensure music and French classes at Malmsbury Primary School were not disrupted, I asked the Department to remove the relocatable after the school year had finished. I have also asked the Department to continue to work closely with the school principal to ensure that the remaining facilities are appropriate for teaching and learning and to assist with reinstating the music and French room in the permanent buildings.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 10 December 2015

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question in relation to the Andrews Labor Government's commitment to remove 50 of Victoria's worst level crossings.

Residents in Cardinia Shire who travel on the Pakenham line will benefit from the removal of 12 level crossings, more than any other train line.

Despite the decision of the Liberal Opposition to oppose the removal of 50 of Victoria's worst level crossings, the Andrews Labor Government is on track to remove the 50 crossings over two terms, including 20 within the first term.

More information of the removal of the 50 level crossings, including the 12 on the Pakenham line, is available at www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 10 December 2015

ANSWER:

To date, two sections of the Box Hill to Ringwood bike path have been completed and opened to the public. These are:

- The section in Mitcham, which opened in July 2014; and
- A section in Box Hill, which opened in May 2015.

Following VicRoads' comprehensive consultation process with stakeholders and the community, construction of the next sections of the bike path will commence in mid 2016. VicRoads expects to complete construction of the entire bike path by the mid 2017.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 10 December 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government understands that providing a first class education for our students starts with investing in school buildings and infrastructure. That is why \$730 million has been allocated to improving school facilities in the 2015-16 State Budget.

The Government will continue to use all available data when determining future priorities for funding, including condition assessments and pre-existing project plans. The needs of Mount Clear College will be given serious consideration, along with the needs of all schools, as part of this process.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 10 December 2015

ANSWER:

The Government is proud to have recently made a commitment of \$500 000 to the City of Wyndham towards an Indian Cultural Precinct or related community facility.

\$50 000 has been committed to undertake a feasibility study into the most appropriate location for an Indian Cultural Precinct or related community facility. Once the study has been completed, the City of Wyndham will collaborate with the local community to determine the most appropriate type of facility for the area.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water
Asked on: 10 December 2015

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) is working closely with the Racecourse Reserve Trust on the implementation of recommendations made by the Auditor General last year.

The Trust has now appointed an open space planning consultant to prepare a Strategic Land Management Plan, incorporating the three purposes of the Reserve - racing activities, public recreation and community use.

Community consultation will be an important part of the development of the plan, including the views of the Glen Eira Council.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 10 December 2015

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of Country Fire Authority (CFA) volunteers, who selflessly devote their time and skills to promote the safety and wellbeing of the community.

The Victorian Emergency Management Strategic Action Plan 2015-18 includes the development and implementation of a sector-wide emergency management Investment Plan. The Plan will identify shared procurement and co-location opportunities and future investment requirements across all asset types and capital infrastructure.

Emergency Management Victoria continues to work with the CFA on capital works priorities, and the viability of the old Raglan Parade fire station site in Warrnambool will be reviewed as part of this Plan.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 10 December 2015

ANSWER:

In answer to the above question —

The Shepparton region was consulted as part of the Regional Network Development Plan (RNDP) which will be released soon. The RNDP will set out priorities for regional public transport services, infrastructure and investment over the short, medium and long term and will take into account the different needs of individual communities.

There are no plans to extend the Shepparton line or reopen closed stations at Cobram and Numurkah. V/Line provides an extensive coach network that connects communities including Numurkah and Cobram to rail services to Shepparton, as well as to other communities within the region.

Through the RNDP, we heard travel by coaches could be improved through better information and improvements to coach terminals, and this is being considered in the formulation of the plan.