

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 22 November 2016

(Extract from book 18)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

HANSARD¹⁵⁰



1866–2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(to 9 November 2016)

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

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

Legislative Council committees

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

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

Legislative Council standing committees

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, Mr Morris and Mr Ondarchie.

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

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

President:

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

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

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁴ Appointed 12 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.

Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Tuesday, 22 November 2016

Local government

7479. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Local Government): In relation to rebates for municipal rates what was the total recipients of municipal rate rebates for the 2015-16 financial year.

ANSWER:

I am advised that municipal rates concessions fall within the responsibility of the Minister for Families and Children. Please direct the question to the Minister for her consideration.

Energy, environment and climate change

7488. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change):

- (1) of the 44.6 million visits to Victoria's piers, bays and waterways, what is the breakdown of visits for each pier, bay and waterway where data was recorded; and
- (2) if breakdown data totalling 44.6 million visits is unable to be provided, what mechanism and calculation did Parks Victoria apply to ascertain the figure made public.

ANSWER:

Parks Victoria reports on total visitation at the estate level and does not breakdown visits at the individual pier level.

Parks Victoria estimates visits to piers on Melbourne's bays as well as Victoria's national and state parks and Melbourne's metropolitan parks using a broad base telephone survey known as the Visitor Number Monitor. Visits to piers are included in the Visitor Number Monitor every four years in order to assess the total number of visits and trends in visitation.

Energy, environment and climate change

7490. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change):

- (1) in 2014–15, what was the breakdown in numbers of bookings for camping and accommodation within the parks estate for each park; and
- (2) in 2015–16, what was the breakdown in numbers of bookings for camping and accommodation within the parks estate for each park.

ANSWER:

The number of bookings for camping and accommodation within the Parks Victoria estate in 2014–15 and 2015–16 are as follows:

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

6414

COUNCIL

Tuesday, 22 November 2016

Operator	Bookings
Baw Baw National Park	190
Brisbane Ranges	1720
Broken-Boosey State Park	1
Buchan Caves	3127
Bunyip State Park	558
Cape Conran Coastal Park-basic	205
Cape Liptrap Coastal Park	2652
Cathedral Range State Park	5314
Cobboboonee National Park	218
Corringle Foreshore Reserve	954
Croajingolong National Park	2267
The Wilderness Coast Walk	705
Discovery Bay Coastal Park	433
Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing	591
French Island National Park	153
Gabo Island Lighthouse Reserve	51
Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park	3989
Glenelg River Canoe Trail	8960
Grampians National Park	9802
Grampians Peaks Trail	657
Great Ocean Walk	10 827
Great Otway National Park	14 987
Great South West Walk	5122

Operator	Bookings
Hattah-Kulkyne National Park	1059
Kinglake National Park	1561
Kurth Kiln Regional Park	1186
Lake Eildon National Park	6751
Lerderderg State Park	181
Little Desert National Park	934
Longridge-Yarra Valley Parklands	110
Lower Glenelg National Park	4635
Mornington Peninsula National Park	182
Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park	7780
Mount Buangor State Park	472
Mount Buffalo National Park	3418
Mount Eccles National Park	595
Mount Samaria State Park	126
Murray Sunset National Park-Shearer's Quarters	10
Plenty Gorge	46
The Lakes National Park	660
Upper Yarra Reservoir	2828
Wilson's Promontory National Park	83 539
Wyperfeld National Park	618
Total	190 174

Energy, environment and climate change

7513. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): Since 4 December 2014 how many Good Neighbour Program partnerships have been formed between Parks Victoria and private landholders.

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Parks Victoria's Good Neighbour Program delivers invasive plant and animal management projects on public land to address the impacts of weeds and pests on neighbouring private land.

Since 4 December 2014, 474 projects have been delivered, or are in progress, treating around 24 000 hectares of land. Approximately 2370 people have been consulted as part of this work to ensure local conversations influence where investment takes place. Local Parks Victoria and DELWP staff are always ready to listen as members of the community.

Energy, environment and climate change

7515. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): Since 4 December 2014:

- (1) what is the breakdown of each overseas visit undertaken by Parks Victoria; and
- (2) what was the financial expenditure for each visit.

ANSWER:

Flights required to perform responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report. Guidelines for the use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Travel Principles, which is available online.

Energy, environment and climate change

7517. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What were the details of the 10 sponsorship requests to Parks Victoria that were considered during 2014–15, including the organisation requesting the sponsorship, the financial or in-kind contribution of Parks Victoria and the date granted.

ANSWER:

During the 2014–15 financial year, Parks Victoria considered 10 Sponsorship requests. The Parks Victoria Sponsorship Procedure (PRO-655) states that Parks Victoria will not sponsor fundraisers/donations that are unrelated to government priorities or Parks Victoria's objectives.

Energy, environment and climate change

7518. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What were the details of the 21 sponsorship requests to Parks Victoria that were deemed ineligible requests in 2014–15, including:

- (1) the organisation requesting the sponsorship;
- (2) the financial or in-kind contribution sought from Parks Victoria; and
- (3) the date rejected.

ANSWER:

During the 2014–15 financial year, Parks Victoria received 21 ineligible sponsorship requests. The Parks Victoria Sponsorship Procedure (PRO-655) states that Parks Victoria will not sponsor fundraisers/donations that are unrelated to government priorities or Parks Victoria’s objectives.

Energy, environment and climate change

7520. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): As of 13 September 2016 or the last audit condition report, what percentage of park assets are in very poor to average condition.

ANSWER:

Park assets support a parks system that connects people and parks and protect the environment. Some assets are critical to the functioning of a visitor site and without these assets there would be a significant reduction in park access or services. These are known as priority park assets.

As of 31 August 2016, more than 40 per cent of park assets were deemed to be in average condition, while just over 10 per cent were deemed to be in a lower condition.

Families and children

7610. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: What is the proportion of the child protection budget that is directed toward preventative care and placement prevention.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The specific budget for child protection is not apportioned in terms of preventative care and placement prevention.

By way of example, the Andrews Labor Government, as part of the 2015-16 State Budget outcomes, invested \$31.75 million to keep families together and reunite children in out-of-home care with their parents. This includes funding for the continuation of the Family-led Decision-Making program, an expansion of programs targeting placement prevention and reunification across the State, and funding to improve support for vulnerable Aboriginal children and families.

The Government also committed an additional \$48.1 million for Child FIRST and Family Services demand to provide early intervention services that target families before they reach crisis point. This funding was extended by \$5.6 million in the 2016-17 budget.

Additional one-off funding of \$2 million was announced in February 2016 for 2015-16 for individualised family preservation and reunification packages to address issues that may result in a child entering out-of-home care or to remove barriers preventing a child from a timely return to parental care. In August 2016, recurrent funding of \$2 million per annum was confirmed for this purpose.

Housing, disability and ageing

7642. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to public and community housing stock in the Eltham electorate:

- (1) can the Minister please provide the number of public housing and community housing units in the Eltham electorate as of June 30, 2016;
- (2) does the Government propose to increase this housing stock in the next year and if so, by how many.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As of 30 June 2016 there were 142 social housing units in the Local Government Area of Nillumbik.
- (2) The Government has a range of programs to increase social housing support across Victoria, including the \$152 million Family Violence Housing Blitz announced in the 2016–17 Budget and the \$120 million pipeline of housing projects announced in September 2016. The Government has also committed to releasing a broader Housing Strategy in coming months which will include further expenditure to increase housing in Victoria.

Police

7644. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): With crime across Nillumbik spiking by almost 50 percent in the last year, will any of the new police officers the Government plans to rapidly deploy by June 2017 be stationed at the Eltham police station and, if not, why not.

ANSWER:

Community safety is a top priority for the Andrews Government and Victoria Police, as everyone needs to feel safe in their communities.

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

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

The Government has since announced \$26.2 million to expedite the deployment of the 406 new police. These additional police will now be sworn in by the end of June 2017, rather than June 2018, with the first of the new officers deployed in early 2017.

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

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

Police

7686. MR O’DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7am on the following dates —

- (a) 05 September 2016;
- (b) 12 September 2016;
- (c) 19 September 2016; and
- (d) 26 September 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that there were 5 female prisoners in police cells at 7 am on 30 September 2016.

Police

7687. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police). How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7am on the following dates —

- (a) 05 September 2016;
- (b) 12 September 2016;
- (c) 19 September 2016; and
- (d) 26 September 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that there were 182 male prisoners in police cells at 7 am on 30 September 2016.