

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**22, 23 and 24 March 2016**

**(Extract from book 5)**

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

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# HANSARD<sup>150</sup>



1866–2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

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### 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** — #Ms Dunn, 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, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

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

### Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**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

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FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina <sup>2</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>1</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
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Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
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Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
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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
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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			

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

<sup>2</sup> 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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**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Tuesday, 22 March 2016**

**Hepatitis**

**Raised with: Minister for Health**

**Raised by: Mr Melhem**

**Raised on: 16 September 2015**

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Western Metropolitan Region for his interest in viral hepatitis and his continued advocacy for the health needs of the people of the community he represents.

On 28 August 2015 at the Melbourne Western Hepatitis Action Forum I announced that the Andrews Labor Government would develop a strategy, in partnership with affected communities and key agencies, to address viral hepatitis in Victoria.

Victoria's viral hepatitis strategy will be informed by the priorities of the national hepatitis B and C strategies, and extensive local consultations held with our community.

In October 2015 I took the opportunity to be informed directly by experts in research, workforce, health services, clinical practitioners and those with lived experience of viral hepatitis at a high-level Roundtable. At this Roundtable I heard directly how hepatitis B and C disproportionately affects people in Melbourne's west.

Viral hepatitis is a significant and complex health issue. I am pleased to inform you that work is well underway on the development of Victoria's first viral hepatitis strategy since 2009.

Key priorities of Victoria's strategy will be reducing stigma and discrimination associated with viral hepatitis and increasing prevention, testing, treatment and support.

After extensive advocacy by the state government, Hepatitis Victoria, affected communities and clinical experts, on 1 March 2016 new drugs became available on the PBS for the treatment of hepatitis C. These drugs offer radically improved treatment outcomes, have little to no side effects, and mean that we can begin thinking of a future where hepatitis C has been virtually eliminated.

I am pleased to announce that the Andrews Labor Government is ready to fully take advantage of these new drugs and is working with affected communities, Hepatitis Victoria, specialists, hospitals, Primary Health Networks, pharmacies and general practitioners to make sure people can access these new drugs where and when they need them.

**Goulburn Valley Health**

**Raised with: Minister for Health**

**Raised by: Ms Lovell**

**Raised on: 9 February 2016**

**REPLY:**

After \$1 billion in cuts by the former Liberal Government and four years of underinvestment in capital, hospitals right across Victoria are under immense pressure.

The previous Liberal Government let down the Goulburn Valley community by waiting four years in office and failing to invest in Goulburn Valley Health.

Goulburn Valley Health's ability to address emergency department performance has been impacted both by constraints in terms of its physical capacity and also by a significant increase in the complexity of patients presenting to the emergency department.

The Andrew's Labor Government is providing additional funding to Goulburn Valley Health to support it to improve performance. As a result of last year budget, Goulburn Valley Health has received \$161 million, an increase of over \$10 million compared to the previous year and funding through the \$200 million Beds Rescue Fund which has enabled them to open 8 extra beds to expand acute inpatient capacity.

The Department of Health and Human Services is also supporting the health services to implement strategies to improve patient flow including a new short stay observation unit and scheduling a nurse practitioner in the emergency department during peak periods.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to enhancing Goulburn Valley Health and its capacity to fulfil its role as regional health services for the Hume region.

The work resulting from the Government's \$1 million commitment to progress planning and development work for Goulburn Valley Health is well underway with recommendations from the recently released Service Plan incorporated into the subsequent masterplan.

A key focus of this planning has been the improvement of timely access to emergency care and enhanced patient experience through strengthening service capacity.

I am pleased to advise the Member for Northern Victoria that the Goulburn Valley Health Community Advisory Group has held a number of meetings, including an open community forum in December 2015. I look forward to continuing to report on the activities being undertaken by this group.

### **Ambulance services**

**Raised with: Minister for Ambulance Services**

**Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert**

**Raised on: 9 February 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

Since coming to Government in November 2014, the Andrews Labor Government has been undertaking important reforms to improve response times and rebuild community confidence in our ambulance services.

These reforms include ending hospital bypass, undertaking dispatch grid changes and releasing previously secret data about ambulance response times.

The Andrews Labor Government appointed a new Ambulance Victoria Board, ably led by Ken Lay and ended the long-running industrial dispute with paramedics.

These reforms are beginning to turn around ambulance response times, following years of decline under the previous Liberal Government. In 13/14, under the previous Liberal Government, just 73.7% of statewide Code 1 cases were responded to within 15 minutes. Under this Government, these response times have improved to 75.7%.

There is still significant work to do to fix the ambulance crisis, left by the previous Liberal Government but that work is underway.

In December 2015, the Andrews Labor Government released the Ambulance Action Plan and fast-tracked the \$60 million Ambulance Response Time Rescue Fund. This funding will support initiatives to improve response

times including trials of more responsive models of care in the rural communities of Nagambie, Wedderburn, Rainbow, Hopetoun, Jeparit and Patchewollock.

The Ambulance Response Time Rescue Fund is in addition to the \$99 million invested in the 15/16 budget. These funds have been committed to build and upgrade 6 ambulance branches in rural and regional Victoria at Echuca, Orbost, Wendouree, Murchison, Traralgon and Sale. Funding has also been provided for state-of-the-art new powered stretchers into the entire fleet of Victoria's ambulances, allowing paramedics to be more responsive to patients whose weight exceeds 120kg.

In addition to this funding, the Government has committed \$5 million for the rollout of Emergency Medical Response program to a further 33 Victorian Integrated Country Fire Authority stations, increasing the number of first responders to be activated at the time of a cardiac arrest call in rural Victoria.

### **Bellarine Peninsula bus services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay

**Raised on:** 9 February 2016

**REPLY:**

A new bus network for Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula was introduced on 21 January 2016, and provides a network to address growth in the Greater Geelong area, and to balance the needs of commuters and locals who rely on public transport.

Public Transport Victoria has conducted further consultation workshops to engage with locals on the Bellarine to better understand travel needs. This included a workshop in Portarlington.

I have asked PTV to consider this feedback as part of the review of the Geelong network.

I thank the Member for Bellarine Lisa Neville for her advocacy on behalf of her local community about this issue and for working hard to identify improvements for bus services in the Bellarine.

### **South Morang railway station car park**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Mr Ondarchie

**Raised on:** 9 February 2016

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government has built a temporary crushed rock car park at South Morang station, with more than 450 additional car parking spaces.

This brings the total number of commuter car parking spaces at South Morang station to about 900 spaces, one of the largest station car parks in metropolitan Melbourne.

The Andrews Labor Government announced on the 28 February 2016 the Expression of Interest to design and construct the new rail line to Mernda. When this is completed in 2019 there will be two new stations with additional car parking to meet the needs of area.

**Sunbury Road duplication**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety

**Raised by:** Mr Finn

**Raised on:** 10 February 2016

**REPLY:**

VicRoads has completed detailed planning for a link between Melbourne Airport and the future Outer Metropolitan Ring transport corridor, which included a bypass of Bulla.

The study has identified suitable routes that will support future traffic volumes in the region, including Sunbury Road traffic. This in turn has identified land to be reserved for those future transport needs.

In line with safe system principles, VicRoads reduced the speed limit on Sunbury Road from 100km/h to 80km/h in February 2015 in response to the crash history, which included a fatal collision in July 2014.

**Ballarat basketball stadium**

**Raised with:** Minister for Regional Development

**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay

**Raised on:** 10 February 2016

**REPLY:**

The Ballarat Sports and Events Centre Project will redevelop the existing two court basketball facility to a six court facility delivering a national standard sports and events centre which responds to the needs of the region.

The project will stimulate local, regional and state basketball, netball, volleyball and badminton through increased participation in the sports and associated events. Four new sports courts, including a 1500 spectator seat show court and facilities for daytime community and school use will drive elite and local grassroots sport, skill development, social inclusion, health, wellbeing, and major events for both sport and the community. The project is currently progressing well.

The project is supported by the Andrews Labor Government (\$9 million election commitment) and the City of Ballarat which is contributing \$5 million. Mr Peter Eddy from Ballarat Basketball Inc. is currently working closely with the City of Ballarat preparing an application to the Federal Governments, National Stronger Regions Fund to enable the delivery of an additional two courts.

**Gippsland road safety**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety

**Raised by:** Ms Shing

**Raised on:** 10 February 2016

**REPLY:**

While Gippsland experienced its lowest road toll last year on record, with 20 people losing their lives, this is 20 too many.

The Government's 'Towards Zero' vision is for a future free of deaths and serious injuries on our roads.

VicRoads is making a number of infrastructure improvements in Gippsland to make roads safer which include:

- the installation of safety barrier along a number of roads with a combined total investment of \$11.71 million;
- Improvements to three intersections with a combined total investment of \$1.79 million; and
- The installation of roundabouts at three priority intersections with a combined total investment of \$9.44 million.

These road safety initiatives are scheduled to be completed throughout the 2016 and 2017 calendar years.

In Gippsland, approximately 25% of all fatal and serious injury crashes involve motorcyclists, compared to a State average of 16%. Since the inception of the TAC Motorcycle Safety Levy Program, more than \$10 million has been invested in infrastructure improvements on Gippsland roads to improve motorcycle safety.

VicRoads continues to develop further road safety projects for consideration under the TAC Safe System Road Infrastructure Program and TAC Motorcycle Safety Levy Program.

Community consultation regarding the Andrews' Labor Government 'Towards Zero' vision took place during June 2015 with over 3200 people contributing feedback, including six face to face sessions across Victoria in Melbourne, Werribee, Ballarat, Sale, Cranbourne and Benalla.

### **Level crossings**

**Raised with:** Premier

**Raised by:** Mr Davis

**Raised on:** 11 February 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Victorian Government recognises that the widespread use of online communications and social media in our society provides many opportunities for the criminal and improper use of this technology, ranging from harassment to serious criminal activity.

The Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network (ACORN) is a national police initiative of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments. ACORN provides a central resource for the public to securely report instances of cybercrime (including online identity theft and cyberbullying). The member should direct anyone that feels they have been a victim of cybercrime to ACORN at: [www.acorn.gov.au](http://www.acorn.gov.au). ACORN's website also provides the public with useful information about how to recognise and avoid common types of cybercrime.

Every report submitted to ACORN is treated seriously and may be referred to law enforcement agencies such as Victoria Police for further investigation. If a member of the public feels they are in immediate danger, or has alleged physical or threatening behaviour, the member should recommend they call 000 or contact their local police station.

### **Fish stocks**

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture

**Raised by:** Ms Symes

**Raised on:** 11 February 2016

#### **REPLY:**

Thank for you for your question in relation to fish stocks and recreational fishing in northern Victoria.

Under the state Government's Target One Million plan to get more people fishing more often, I am pleased to advise that fish stocks in northern Victorian lakes and rivers are in great shape. Recreational fishers are reporting excellent catches of native fish and or trout from Lake Eildon, Kangaroo lake, Lake Nillahcootie, Lake Buffalo and Hume Reservoir as well as, the Goulburn River and Broken River.

Fish stocking is an important strategy to rebuild fish stocks and improve recreational fishing. Under Target One Million, annual fish stocking is on track to be boosted from 3 to 5 million fish by 2017–18. This summer so far, more than 306 000 golden perch have been stocked in northern waters with a further nineteen waters to be stocked over the next few months. This will include, 138 000 fingerlings into Lake Eildon, 170 000 into the Goulburn River and 45 000 into the Broken River.

Compared to last year, golden perch stockings have significantly expanded in the Goulburn River (upstream of Goulburn Weir) from 65 700 to 200 000 fingerlings, Lake Nillahcootie from 10 000 to 50 000 and Lake Eildon from 70 430 to 164 000.

This stocking is highly complementary to some of the great habitat restoration works being done by Catchment Management Authorities. As these stocked fish grow, it will create exceptional recreational fishing opportunities and bring strong social and economic activity to regional Victoria.

### **Murray Basin rail project**

**Raised with: Minister for Regional Development**

**Raised by: Mr Ramsay**

**Raised on: 11 February 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The Coalition allocated just \$197 million in the forward estimates for the Murray Basin Rail Project.

In August 2015, the Andrews Labor Government committed to deliver standardisation and upgrades to all of the key rail lines servicing the Murray Basin.

On 17 August 2015, I was with the Minister for Public Transport and Premier Andrews when he announced the Government's commitment to deliver the full Project at a cost of \$416.2 million, plus an additional \$11.7 million for the Murrayville to Ouyen line.

Labor is getting on with it. Stage 1 works are nearly complete, with 28 000 sleepers already laid and with another 98 000 sleepers to be laid before the end of the year. Most importantly, these works are creating 270 jobs.

Stage 2 design and assessment works are already under way with works expected to commence in 2016–17.

The Murray Basin region is nationally significant. With Victoria being Australia's largest food and fibre exporting State, the majority of this produce is exported through the Ports of Portland, Geelong and Melbourne. Therefore, growing the capacity of the rail supply chains to move these products (and the emerging mineral sands sector), efficiently to international markets represents a significant economic opportunity for Australia and for Victoria.

The Business Case demonstrates that the full Project has the ability to positively affect: market access and trade, support export industries, increased production efficiencies, prioritising of efficient modes of transport, improved freight operator productivity, improved freight network standards and connections.

The Final Business Case was sent to the then Commonwealth Infrastructure Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Warren Truss in August 2014 seeking Commonwealth support for the project because a large part of the Project is associated with the National Land Transport Network, which is a Commonwealth infrastructure asset and for which the Commonwealth has responsibility.



Furthermore, the Project meets all of the Commonwealth's criteria for rail projects including; improving competition, standardising rail infrastructure across south east Australia, increasing competition and access to ports and supporting export producers to be internationally competitive.

The Andrews Labor Government is working hard to get regional Victoria back on track. Bipartisan support for the Commonwealth to support the Project, to the benefit of regional Victorians and all Australians, would be welcome.

### **Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula bus services**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Mr Ramsay**

**Raised on: 23 February 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government will improve bus networks across Victoria. The Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula bus network was introduced in June 21 to coincide with the start of Regional Rail Link. Since implementation, I have requested that PTV monitor and review the network.

A consultation session was held in Portarlington to hear from local residents about bus service on the Bellarine Peninsula. We also heard about the new bus network from locals in the community workshops for the Regional Network Development Plan in Geelong. This feedback will help inform what further improvements are needed to bus routes and timetables in the local area.

Unlike the former Liberal Government that cut bus routes across Victoria without proper consultation, the Andrews Labor Government is giving Victorians a real say in bus planning. We will continue to improve bus services to meet the needs of local communities.

### **Post-traumatic stress disorder**

**Raised with: Minister for Veterans**

**Raised by: Mr Bourman**

**Raised on: 23 February 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

Thank you for your Adjournment matter raised on 23rd February in relation to Veterans, Police, Emergency Services and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

While the Victorian Government funds a number of organisations to provide general welfare support to the veteran community in Victoria, support for those suffering Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, as a result of their military service, is the responsibility of the Federal Government's Department of Veterans' Affairs.

It would therefore not be possible to expand my current Ministerial responsibilities to provide support to police and emergency services workers suffering from PTSD.

I would also like to draw your attention to the recently released Veterans Sector Report, which was undertaken by the Victorian Veterans Council (VVC). The VVC provides me as Veterans Minister with advice on matters relating to our Veterans community, and this Sector Report provides us with an update on the issues impacting on Veterans. You can access a copy of the report at <http://dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/veterans/veterans-sector-study>.

I thank you again for raising this matter with me and look forward to continue working with you, and all my parliamentary colleagues to assist, commemorate, recognise and support our Veterans communities.

**Gippsland rail services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue

**Raised on:** 23 February 2016

**REPLY:**

The government in 2015 undertook an extensive consultation process to inform the Regional Network Development Plan (RNDP). The Gippsland region was the first region to be consulted with workshops held in Warragul, Traralgon, Sale, Bairnsdale, Leongatha and Wonthaggi, attended by hundreds of locals. The workshops were complemented by an online engagement portal and traditional survey forms.

Over 15 000 pieces of feedback were collected across the state. Each piece of feedback is being analysed to inform the RNDP. A Conversation Summary and the statewide Conversation Report from the RNDP is available on the Public Transport Victoria website.

The RNDP will be finalised during 2016 and will provide the first short, medium and long term plan for public transport in regional Victoria. The RNDP will inform the government's budget deliberations on both service delivery and infrastructure.

**Country football and netball program**

**Raised with:** Minister for Sport

**Raised by:** Mr Drum

**Raised on:** 24 February 2016

**REPLY:**

The Labor Government is proud to have started the Country Football and Netball Program 10 years ago and we have continued this program.

The 2015-2016 Country Football and Netball Program opened for applications in September 2015 and applications closed on 11 February 2016.

As you are aware, this program is a partnership with Netball Victoria and AFL Victoria. Over the coming months the Government will be working with our partners on the next steps for this program.

In addition to this program, the Government will continue to support football and netball clubs right across Victoria through the \$100 million Community Sports Infrastructure Fund which includes but is not limited to providing funding for Major Facilities, Minor Facilities and Female Friendly Facilities. The Government has also made a commitment to the development of 64 Netball courts through the \$9.6 million Inner City Netball Program.

**Police numbers**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police

**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue

**Raised on:** 25 February 2016

**REPLY:**

The Andrews 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 which includes an increase of 33 police in the Eastern Region Division 6, which includes the East Gippsland Police Service Area (PSA).

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 is investing \$148.6 million over four years to free up police to undertake frontline duties protecting our community where they are needed. This will occur by recruiting, training and deploying custody officers to initially supervise prisoners at around 22 police stations across Victoria. The first of the new Custody Officers are already managing prisoners in police cells at Dandenong, Heidelberg, Sunshine, Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong police stations.

Victoria Police indicates that the policing model used in Lakes Entrance, within the East Gippsland PSA, during the December and January summer holiday season was consistent with the policing of the area in previous years and in line with the local operational needs.

During the summer holiday season, additional staff from Bairnsdale were used to conduct extra patrols in Lakes Entrance. Officers from the Proactive Police Unit were also allocated to Lakes Entrance. Victoria Police further advises that a brawler van and four police members from the Operations Response Unit were moved from Melbourne to Lakes Entrance for New Year's Eve.

Over the forthcoming Easter weekend, Victoria Police is planning to provide extra bike patrols and conduct an Automated Number Plate Recognition Operation (ANPR) in Lakes Entrance. The ANPR operation in Lakes Entrance will be supported by the Highway Patrol and police officers from Bruthen and Buchan. Police numbers will also be boosted in Omeo, Orbost and the Bairnsdale Highway Patrol during the Easter holiday period.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Wednesday, 23 March 2016**

**Coronial recommendations**

**Raised with:** Attorney-General

**Raised by:** Ms Pennicuik

**Raised on:** 24 February 2016

**REPLY:**

The Coroners Act 2008 establishes a modern and effective regime that reduces the number of preventable deaths in Victoria. The coroners' role in contributing to the reduction of preventable deaths is expressly recognised in both the preamble and the objectives provisions of the Coroners Act.

Public authorities and entities are required to respond to coronial recommendations within three months of receiving the recommendations of the coroner. The requirement for the Coroners Court to publish each response on the Internet is unique to Victoria. In this regard, the BMC Public Health study recognised that England and Wales are the only international jurisdictions with mandatory response regimes that resemble Victoria's, although, unlike Victoria, responses in those regimes are not published. The requirement to respond within three months of receiving the recommendations creates transparency and also places pressure on the authority to assess and respond promptly to the recommendations of the coroner.

The Coroners Prevention Unit (CPU) is well established within the Victorian coronial process and has a central goal to increase the uptake and implementation of coronial recommendations. It has an important role in supporting coroners to fulfil their prevention mandate, by assisting coroners to identify opportunities for, and strengthen, public health and safety through the formulation of evidence-based and feasible recommendations. In conjunction with leading public health experts, the CPU also undertakes projects to evaluate the impact of implemented coronial recommendations on preventable deaths in particular areas. This generates a better understanding of preventable deaths in Victoria and enables more effective future intervention opportunities.

Victoria also has oversight mechanisms in relation to public authorities and entities, with broad measures to ensure transparency and accountability of decision-making. The Ombudsman has extensive powers to enquire into or investigate any administrative action taken by, or in, an authority.

For these reasons, I consider that the existing coronial legislative framework in Victoria, in terms of the mandatory response regime, and the oversight mechanisms available in relation to public authorities and entities, provides a comprehensive accountability mechanism to ensure coronial recommendations are appropriately considered.

**Jubilee Park, Ringwood**

**Raised with:** Minister for Sport

**Raised by:** Mr Leane

**Raised on:** 24 February 2016

**REPLY:**

I'd like to commend you for your commitment to advocating the importance of sport and recreation in your electorate. Providing high quality sport and recreation infrastructure is a key aim of the government, and is integral to the health and well-being of all Victorians.

My office will contact Maroondah City Council to pursue further discussions as required.

### **Bannockburn Civic Heart project**

**Raised with:** Minister for Sport

**Raised by:** Mr Morris

**Raised on:** 25 February 2016

**REPLY:**

I can confirm an application was received through the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund requesting the maximum grant amount of \$650 000 from the Major Facilities category.

This project has been assessed by the Department of Health and Human Services with a decision anticipated in the coming months.

I encourage continue to liaise with staff from the department regarding this application.

### **Diamond Creek Men's Shed**

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children

**Raised by:** Mr Ondarchie

**Raised on:** 25 February 2016

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is a proud supporter of men's sheds. We recognise the important role they play in bringing Victorian communities together. They play an especially important role in communities that are drought, fire or flood affected-providing a place for people to reconnect, assist each other, work on projects and rebuild the community.

As places that encourage mateship and growing support networks, they promote positive mental health and social inclusion in Victorian communities.

Under the funding guidelines in place under the previous Coalition Government, the Diamond Creek Men's Shed would have been considered ineligible for funding until 2018.

On 19 January 2016, I was delighted to announce a new round of funding of \$1 million to support the construction of new men's sheds and the refurbishment of existing sheds across Victoria. Grants of up to \$60 000 are available for building new sheds, while grants of up to \$30 000 are available for refurbishing existing sheds.

Based on the strong representation of the local Member for Yan Yean, Danielle Green and the local Member for Eltham, Vicki Ward, as part of this new grants round, we have modified the criteria so that groups like the Diamond Creek Men's Shed, who have received funding in the preceding five years, are now eligible to apply for further funding where they can demonstrate they have experienced capacity issues as a result of rapid growth in membership or the need to address health and safety issues affecting the shed or they need to improve disability access to the shed.

In this grant round, priority will be given to men's shed projects from vulnerable communities, including those affected by fire or drought.

The Department of Health and Human Services has advised the Diamond Creek Men's Shed group of the new funding round and the new guidelines. At an information session held by the Department in February, representatives of the Diamond Creek Men's Shed attended and discussed the grant criteria and processes with staff to ensure that they are well-equipped to submit an application for funding.

The Diamond Creek Men's shed group has been encouraged to discuss its application with the department's local area staff.

Final applications for this funding round will close on 27 May 2016.

### **Victoria University Sunbury site**

**Raised with: Minister for Planning**

**Raised by: Mr Finn**

**Raised on: 8 March 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

As you are aware, Victoria University is considering options for its site at Jacksons Hill, Sunbury.

The Jacksons Hill site is currently zoned Public Use Zone Schedule 2 (Education). The current zoning of the land prohibits the development of the site for residential purposes. For a residential subdivision to occur on the site, the land will need to be rezoned.

I understand a formal request has been received by Hume City Council to consider the rezoning of the land for residential purposes. Hume City Council is currently working with Victoria University to determine a suitable outcome for the site. As such a formal planning scheme amendment request has not yet been submitted to me for authorisation under section 8 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

At such time a request is submitted to me, I will consider all relevant matters associated with the amendment, including the use of the historic buildings on site, proposed residential density and infrastructure provisions to be provided. I will consider the request in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Ministerial Directions and Strategic Assessment Guidelines.





**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Thursday, 24 March 2016**

**South Gippsland water supply**

**Raised with: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water**

**Raised by: Ms Bath**

**Raised on: 23 February 2016**

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government recognises that sustainable water management is essential to supporting a healthy environment, prosperous economy and thriving communities.

That is why the 2015-16 Budget provided an additional \$45 million to strengthen Victoria's water resources so communities can grow.

This included funding for a range of initiatives to secure the water future of Victoria's four regions (Western, Northern, Gippsland and Central), and to help water users, water corporations and catchment management authorities manage and respond to threats to water availability.

Currently, the Victorian Government is looking at opportunities to capitalise on Victoria's water grid to further secure water for our regional communities.

South Gippsland Water has put a proposal forward that will be considered by Government as part of the budget process to connect towns in the northern part of South Gippsland to the water grid.

Water infrastructure projects are critical in helping prepare our communities for the challenges posed by climate change. We will continue to engage with communities to look for other ways to extend the water grid to improve water security through longer term solutions.

**Brooklyn industrial precinct**

**Raised with: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water**

**Raised by: Mr Melhem**

**Raised on: 24 February 2016**

**REPLY:**

I recognise the Brooklyn Industrial Precinct has been a cause of concern to the nearby community for over 10 years.

The fire that broke out at Jones road occurred at a premises that was compliant at time, as the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) had recently been on site.

The Metropolitan Fire Brigade hasn't determined the possible cause of the fire, but it has informed the EPA that it isn't being treated as suspicious. I recognise the heightened concern this fire would have caused.

There was a meeting of the Precinct Community Reference Group recently, which was attended by the CEO of EPA. It is my intention to be present at the next meeting, which is due to be held in July.

**Australian Volunteer Coast Guard**

**Raised with:** Minister for Emergency Services

**Raised by:** Ms Bath

**Raised on:** 24 February 2016

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government greatly appreciates the work of Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) volunteers who selflessly devote their time and skills to promote the safety and wellbeing of the community.

As you may be aware, the then Economic Development, Infrastructure and Outer Suburban Interface Services Committee (the Committee) conducted an inquiry into Marine Rescue Services in Victoria. The Committee's report was tabled on 3 September 2014 and made 43 comprehensive and detailed recommendations in relation to management of Marine Rescue Services across the State.

The government's response to the Inquiry, tabled in Parliament on 11 February 2016, sets out a plan for a more coordinated approach to building Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) capability in the State and to better support volunteers. The government's response is available at [www.emv.vic.gov.au/latest-news/victorian-marine-search-and-rescue-services/](http://www.emv.vic.gov.au/latest-news/victorian-marine-search-and-rescue-services/).

The proposed reforms will introduce new common standards and training in the marine search and rescue sector, critical for safe and consistent service delivery and better enabling marine search and rescue units to work together during operations. A marine search and rescue office will be established to provide a co-ordinated and collaborative approach to the development of strategy, policies and programs. It will also help build sector capability.

The framework now being developed by the Victorian Government is part of ensuring we have a robust and sustainable marine rescue service for future generations.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

**Country Fire Authority Romsey station**

**Raised with:** Minister for Emergency Services

**Raised by:** Ms Lovell

**Raised on:** 25 February 2016

**REPLY:**

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) has advised that there is sufficient communications equipment at the new four-bay fire station in Romsey. As a number of radios are allocated to the appliances of the Romsey Brigade, members are able to listen and communicate via those radios. Further, the Romsey fire station was built and designed for future growth, and relevant upgrades will be made as the need arises.

The CFA has acknowledged that the fire station is currently being used as a command base and if this arrangement continues into the future, equipment from the local command facility will be relocated to the new fire station.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

**Beaumaris Bay fossil site**

**Raised with:** Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

**Raised by:** Ms Pennicuik

**Raised on:** 25 February 2016

**REPLY:**

An Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is currently being prepared for the proposed construction of a safe boat harbour adjoining the existing Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron facility. This process is being overseen by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

A Technical Reference Group has been established to provide technical advice to the proponent as part of this process. It includes representation from DELWP, Museum Victoria, Parks Victoria and Bayside City Council, as well as a number of other government agencies and authorities.

The EES must investigate the potential effects of the proposed works on the significant scientific value, extent and condition of the fossil nodule beds. The EES must also assess the potential effects of the construction and operation of the project on marine water quality, landscape character, traffic movement and safety.

The EES, when complete, will be publicly exhibited for 30 business days during which time the public is invited to make written submissions on the EES documentation.

Following the completion of the EES process, the Minister for Planning will determine if the project:

- has an acceptable level of environmental effects; or
- has an unacceptable level of environmental effects; or
- would need major modifications and/or further investigation to establish that acceptable outcomes would be achieved.

The Minister for Planning's determination must be considered by decision-makers in assessing the project for any approvals including consent under the Coastal Management Act 1995.

Any application by the Club for the grant of a new lease will be assessed against the Victorian Government's Leasing Policy for Crown Land in Victoria, along with other relevant Government policies and strategies, including but not limited to, the Victorian Coastal Strategy, the Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast, and Victorian Environmental Assessment Council recommendations. The final recommendation of the Minister for Planning in relation to the EES would also be taken into account.

**Pornography awareness education**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education

**Raised by:** Dr Carling-Jenkins

**Raised on:** 9 March 2016

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

We all have a responsibility in society to help shape the health and wellbeing of our children and young people and schools play an important role in educating our children, not only in academic pursuits, but also in giving them the skills to be happy, healthy and resilient.

Current research shows that sexualised images and exposure to pornography shapes young people's notions of gender, sexual expectations, attitudes and behaviours. Teachers have access to a range of evidence-based resources and programs to help deliver respectful relationships education, introduced into the school curriculum from 2016. The respectful relationships content in the new Victorian Curriculum supports students to learn about gender equity, and how to develop healthy, respectful relationships with others from a young age. The Reality and Risk project, set up to work with schools, parents and the wider community, also provides a wide range of information and resources available to address the impact of pornography on young people.

In light of the compelling evidence on the impact of pornography on young people and relationships to which you refer, the Government released in December last year a Year 10 teaching unit, 'Gender, power and media'. The unit includes activities that encourage discussion and explore topics aimed at counteracting the unrealistic, sexist and sometimes violent images that young people may be observing in the media and in pornography. It builds on the Department of Education and Training's existing Building Respectful Relationships: Stepping Out Against Gender-based Violence curriculum materials for Year 8-9 students, which provide teaching and learning activities planned around key themes of gender, power, violence and respect for Years 8, 9, as well as advice around a whole-school approach to violence prevention. The newly released unit has a strong emphasis on building media and health literacy and explores earlier topics around sexualisation, media and gender in more depth.