

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**25 and 26 October 2016**

**(Extract from book 16)**

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

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# HANSARD<sup>150</sup>



1866–2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry**

(from 20 June 2016)

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

### Legislative Council committees

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

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

### Legislative Council standing committees

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

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

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

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

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

### Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

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The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:**

Mr K. EIDEH

**Acting Presidents:**

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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 Greens:**

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina <sup>2</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>1</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew <sup>4</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin <sup>3</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
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Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Appointed 12 October 2016

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

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





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## WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

**Tuesday, 25 October 2016**

**Geelong region employment**

**Raised with:** Minister for Industry and Employment  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 26 May 2016

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government continues to invest in and facilitate employment and economic development opportunities in the Geelong and Bellarine region guided by our policies, “Back to Work” and “The Plan for Jobs and Growth — A Focus on Geelong”.

Employment in Geelong is currently 141 000 workers, representing an increase of 24 100 new jobs since November 2014. (Source: ABS data from cat 6291.0.55.001-Labour Force, Australia, Detailed-Electronic Delivery, July 2016).

Initiatives to promote jobs growth include identifying and facilitating investment in priority sectors in the region, such as advanced manufacturing, tourism, healthcare and education, and development of employment programs that will assist unemployed and disadvantaged Victorians.

To date, outcomes from these initiatives include:

- funding seven projects under Round 3 of the Geelong Region Innovation and Investment Fund (GRIIF) in November 2015, leveraging over \$36 million of investment and creating 122 new, full time equivalent jobs. Cotton On, which has received assistance under the GRIIF, is creating 300 new jobs at its global head office in Geelong;
- commitments under the \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund, including \$3 million towards a Geelong Manufacturing Hub (ManuFutures) at Deakin University; \$3 million for development of the Leopold Hub; \$1.5 million towards the development of a new industrial precinct at Avalon Airport with Cotton On’s new distribution centre as the anchor tenant; and \$30 million for the upgrade of the Geelong Performing Arts Centre (with an additional \$7 million provided in the 2016-17 State Budget to deliver the infrastructure as well as cover business disruption and operational costs);
- an investment of \$1 million towards the development of plans for a Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre, with the completed business case to be considered as part of the 2017–18 Victorian Budget. Previous work suggests that establishment of a convention centre would contribute an estimated \$350 million to the regional economy during construction and \$50 million to the region once operational, including 600 jobs during construction and 270 ongoing jobs in the region;
- \$7.5 million allocation for the Local Industry Fund for Transition — Geelong, which is currently accepting applications. This is in addition to the previous GRIIF programs;
- an investment of \$1 million to support the initial start-up and ramp-up phases of the ten year G21 Region Opportunities for Work (GROW) project, which will tackle unemployment in key locations within the G21 region (Corio, Norlane, Whittington and Colac). The project is expected to create up to 500 job outcomes in the G21 region within the first five years;
- facilitating and providing support for significant investment and new jobs creation in the past 18 months, including the relocation of the WorkCover Authority which will see 550 positions move to Geelong, commencing in late 2016 and the National Disability Insurance Agency headquarters (over 300 jobs); and

- investment in the \$39 million Jobs Victoria Employment Network (JVEN) that will provide additional resources in communities across Victoria to assist more than 4000 unemployed people into work. The program will support job growth and assist disadvantaged jobseekers to access new job opportunities across the state including in Geelong.

In addition, the Victorian Budget 2016–2017 will deliver new jobs and investment outcomes. The Budget includes:

- \$325 million in jobs initiatives for infrastructure and services, which includes \$5.5 million to providing planning for key projects to revitalise the centre of Geelong;
- investment in public transport and roads, with more V/Line rolling stock ordered to further support Geelong and Warrnambool services and to address overcrowding issues;
- \$35.6 million to upgrade ten schools across Geelong and provision for a new Tech School; and
- A payroll tax cut for approximately 36 000 businesses across Victoria, with the payroll tax-free threshold lifted to \$650 000 over the next four years.

### **Goulburn Valley Health mental health services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Mental Health  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 30 August 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Victorian Government is committed to delivering world-class child and adolescent mental health services for vulnerable young people in need. Mental health services need sufficient funding, evidence-based models of care, up-to-date infrastructure and, most importantly, appropriately skilled and supported workforces.

This is particularly the case in our regional child and adolescent mental health services which had their levels of resourcing and staffing so drastically reduced over the life of the previous Coalition government. The Victorian Government has commenced the task of undoing this damage whilst meeting growth or demand for services through our 10-year mental health plan.

The 2016-17 Victorian State Budget allocated Goulburn Valley Health with additional funding for child and adolescent mental health services, including:

- for the development of a Child and Youth Mental Health Service and Schools Early Action (CASEA) program,
- for the Perinatal Emotional Health Program,
- for expanding clinical mental health services for children aged 0 — 12 years old.

I am informed that Goulburn Valley Health is moving swiftly to recruit against a small number of vacant positions in the Child and Youth Mental Health Service and is undertaking a review of the service in order to align the growing needs of the community with service delivery. Extensive consultation with key stakeholders and staff is part of the review process. The Chief Psychiatrist is also working closely with Goulburn Valley Health to oversee the delivery of mental health services for children and young people in the area.

**Western Victoria Region bushfire preparedness**

**Raised with:** Minister for Emergency Services  
**Raised by:** Ms Tierney  
**Raised on:** 30 August 2016

**REPLY:**

The summer season in Victoria brings an increase in the risk of bushfire, heat related events and flood and storms.

Preparedness for the summer season commences at the conclusion of the previous summer with a range of debriefing and review activity designed to inform and improve the State's response to a range of emergencies for the following summer.

Preparedness activities are informed by the Southern Australian Seasonal Outlook 2016-17, produced by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre that was released at the end of August.

A range of multi-agency briefings and exercises at the State, Regional and local levels has commenced, involving personnel from a range of departments, agencies, Non-Government organisations and local councils. These activities will continue over September through to November.

The Victorian Government is committed to strengthening Victoria's emergency services response by investing in critical assets for the Country Fire Authority.

The 2016-17 Victorian Budget provided an additional \$164.4 million to the CFA so it can continue delivering critical services to the community. Funding has been provided for the expansion of Emergency Medical Response and for the development of new training capability sites.

Further, the Victorian Government has provided \$20 million for new and replacement appliances for the CFA, along with work wear and protective clothing for volunteers.

A new grants program has also been established for volunteer brigades and units across the state, for organisations such as CFA and Victoria SES. The grants can be used for new equipment, facility upgrades and maintenance, training and development and other needs that will improve the service to communities.

The 2015-16 Victorian Budget provided \$33.5 million for the purchase of new firefighting appliances. The CFA has purchased 80 appliances, including medium tankers, heavy tankers and medium pumpers. Of these, around one quarter are expected to be deployed to the western district of Victoria.

The new fleet will incorporate modern up-to-date firefighting technology, boosting the capability and safety of the volunteers who crew them.

At the end of June 2016, the CFA Fire Appliance Fleet total was 2335, including tankers, pumpers and specialist appliances.

Further, the government continues to meet its commitment to recruit 350 additional CFA career firefighters and 100 additional Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services firefighters. This program is on track and as at June 2016, 85 additional firefighters have been recruited and trained.

The summer aviation fleet of 47 aircraft is made up of helicopter and fixed wing aircraft and will be in place for the season. In addition, over 100 'call when needed' aircraft will be available. The fleet will include two Large Air tankers, capable of dropping over 12 000 litres of water or fire retardant, and four large Helitak, including the two familiar orange Aircranes.

To support the Victorian community's preparedness for the summer, 'Fire Action Week' is planned for the third week of October this year.

**Dr Stanley Cochrane Memorial Kindergarten**

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 30 August 2016

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian School Building Authority received a request from the Dr Stanley Cochrane Memorial Kindergarten for payment of its third and final project milestone instalment.

The Authority reviewed their request, and payment was made in line with the necessary Departmental processes.

**Public Transport Victoria CCTV footage**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Dunn  
**Raised on:** 31 August 2016

**REPLY:**

The fixed CCTV system operating across Melbourne's railway stations operates in line with the recommended National standards for CCTV, including the time allowed for the retention of footage (31 days). These standards are developed by Australian and New Zealand law enforcement bodies.

Any change in the time footage is retained would require significant additional, data storage capacity, which the current system does not allow for.

Future upgrades of the system may consider the potential for longer term storage of footage.

**Police communications system**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Raised on:** 31 August 2016

**REPLY:**

Police help keep our community safe and they deserve our support. As you would expect, the Andrews Government works closely with the Chief Commissioner to ensure Victoria Police is appropriately resourced to tackle law and order issues facing the Victorian community. Ensuring the safety of police officer is a paramount consideration of this work.

The Andrews Government has committed to replace the analogue radio system currently used by police in regional areas. This initiative responds to long-term concerns that outdated radios let members of the public listen in on regional police operations, via a smartphone app or scanner, potentially compromising the safety of country police officers. The former government was content to do nothing on this issue and thereby risk the safety of police officers working in rural Victoria. The Andrews Government is determined to rectify this issue. The new digital system will include mobile (in-car), fixed station and portable handheld radios on an encrypted network.

The Andrews Government committed \$11.5 million in the 2015-16 State Budget towards this initiative. Further funding is being sourced from Victoria Police, primarily from the retirement of the legacy analogue radio service. The project is currently finalising procurement and it is therefore inappropriate for me to comment on the possible outcome of commercial negotiations.

Subject to successful completion of procurement, transitioning of Police from the old analogue network onto the new digital network will occur in 2017 with an anticipated completion date of March 2018.

This timetable is subject to successful completion of the procurement process in accordance with Victorian Government purchasing guidelines.

This means that regional police will have the same technology that is used by their colleagues in metropolitan Melbourne and Geelong.

### **Blackburn level crossing**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Mr Leane**

**Raised on: 31 August 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

I first want to thank the Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure for his hard work and leadership in this area.

As part of consultation for the Blackburn Road level crossing removal project, the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) meets regularly with a Stakeholder Liaison Group (SLA) consisting of stakeholder and community representatives associated with the Blackburn Road and Heatherdale Road sites.

Following a recent presentation of the proposed landscape planting at Blackburn, feedback on the planting was received from SLG members including the Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society, the Blackburn Village Residents Group, and Whitehorse Cyclists. Where possible their comments have been incorporated into the design, along with those from the City of Whitehorse.

In addition to the replacement planting to be provided in the project area for the level crossing removals at Blackburn Road and Heatherdale Road, LXRA is pursuing a proposal to provide additional offset planting in an area of Crown Land adjacent to the Eastern Freeway and Springvale Road in Nunawading. This land is also located in the City of Whitehorse.

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

The Andrews Labor Government is proud to lead these revegetation efforts to complement the overall program to remove these dangerous and congested level crossings — crossings the Liberal Party promised to remove but never delivered.

### **Sunbury Residents Association**

**Raised with: Minister for Local Government**

**Raised by: Mr Finn**

**Raised on: 31 August 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

I thank the member for his ongoing interest in the local governance of Sunbury. Whilst there are responses common to various letters on the issue he raises, each letter is an individual response to the person or group who wrote to me. I am not at liberty to provide letters to third parties without their specific agreement. I would therefore encourage the member to seek the agreement of the Sunbury Residents Association. Alternatively, if the Association will provide you with a copy of my reply I would be pleased.

### Rate capping policy

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government  
**Raised by:** Mr Davis  
**Raised on:** 31 August 2016

#### REPLY:

Under the Fair Go Rates system, a rate cap for 2016-17 was set at 2.5 per cent in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act). The cap is based upon the Consumer Price Index forecast by the Department of Treasury and Finance for the same period.

Councils have extensive powers and flexibility in the Act to set rates and distribute the rate burden across ratepayers in their municipality. The fundamental factor in determining the quantum and distribution of rates are decisions that every council makes as part of their Annual Budget.

There are also mechanisms in the Local Government Act 1989 to mitigate the impact of unequal rate burden allocations resulting from revaluations. It is up to individual councils to decide if they wish to apply these mechanisms. The use of rebates, for example, could be applied to offset unequal increases in rates arising from the recent revaluation process. Concessions are another mechanism a council could use.

As you would be aware, the government is undertaking a review of the Local Government Act. Rating and revenue issues are part of the broad scope of issues being considered.

The Fair Go Rates system is now putting downward pressure on rate increases in line with the government's election commitment. The government would welcome councils making further efforts to reduce the rate burden on ratepayers.

### Myki ticketing system

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Raised on:** 31 August 2016

#### REPLY:

The myki retail network has grown to over 800 myki retail outlets across metropolitan and regional Victoria.

In addition to the availability of sales and top up facilities at myki retail outlets, customers are supported through the option to buy and top up online at [www.ptv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au), by calling Public Transport Victoria (PTV) on 1800 800 007, via myki machines (located at train stations, some tram stops and some bus interchanges), at staffed train stations and on board buses.

Myki cards do expire after four years. If a myki card has expired or is due to expire soon, customers are eligible for a free replacement myki and full balance transfer. Myki cards can be replaced at manned stations, via PTV hubs or by calling the myki call centre on 1800 800 007. Myki cards cannot be replaced at retail outlets.

If a myki is registered, the expiry date of the myki can be found in the "Manage my card" section of a customer's online account. Registered customers will also be contacted by email in advance of their card expiring to advise how best to go about getting a replacement. Myki expiry dates can also be viewed on myki machines and myki checks.

A review of the Albert Park area in respect to public transport routes and the availability of sales and top up channels indicates that public transport users are adequately catered for in the area.

The Albert Park community is serviced by tram routes 1, 12 and 96 and by bus routes 236, 234 and 606. Myki top-up and balance checks are available on board buses.



Whilst there is no train station in Albert Park, myki facilities are available at the nearest train stations which are located at Prahran and Windsor.

Albert Park supports two retailers, both of which offer myki sales, top up facilities and a balance check. In the surrounding suburbs there are five other retailers (within 2.5km).

PTV continues to monitor the need for additional myki retail outlets. Should the need arise to engage another myki retail outlet in the Albert Park area, PTV will identify the preferred location taking into account local public transport access routes, patronage figures, population and demographics etc. as appropriate.

Following the identification of a preferred location, to ensure fairness PTV would undertake a suitability analysis on all prospective businesses within close proximity to the location identified, with a view to selecting the business that best caters to the needs of public transport customers. This analysis would take into account trading hours, accessibility, presentation, customer service approach and owner interest.

### **Northern Victoria Region constituent**

**Raised with: Minister for Mental Health**

**Raised by: Ms Lovell**

**Raised on: 13 September 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The Department of Health and Human Services has confirmed your constituent did receive funding to transition to the Mental Health Community Support Services system, with support provided by MIND Australia.

Mental Health Community Support Services (MHCSS) programs and corresponding funding in-scope for transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) include Individual Client Support Packages, Adult Residential Rehabilitation services and Supported Accommodation Services (excluding three services with a homelessness focus). These arrangements were initiated by the Baillieu/Napthine Governments.

The National Disability Insurance Agency has the criteria for these programs align with the eligibility for the NDIS and has therefore designated them as defined programs.

The NDIS has advised the commencement of phasing in the Loddon Area from 1 May 2017, with recipients of defined MHCSS programs scheduled to transition in September and October of 2017.

Due to the complex and personal nature of your constituents situation and limitations under privacy legislation, I am unable to provide specific information relating to the circumstances of the particular constituent.

The department will continue to fund services for eligible clients of defined MHCSS programs until they become NDIS participants or no longer require the service.

### **Police numbers**

**Raised with: Minister for Police**

**Raised by: Mr O'Donohue**

**Raised on: 13 September 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Government has made a strong commitment to address the issue of family violence in Victoria, recognising it as one of the most significant issues in our community and the biggest law and order challenge in Victoria today.

The Royal Commission into Family Violence was a watershed moment in Victoria. While members of the former Government were highly critical of the commitment to establish the Royal Commission, the experience of victims

who participated in the Royal Commission was a powerful one and helped inform the Royal Commission Report and recommendations.

The Andrews Government has committed to implement all 227 of the Royal Commission into Family Violence recommendations.

They will involve reforms to help police support survivors and victims including changes involving bail, the courts, as well as additional resources for Victoria Police.

This year, the Andrews Government announced a \$572 million state-wide funding boost over two years, responding to the Royal Commission recommendations that must be done now — including more housing and crisis refuges, more counsellors, more prevention programs and more support for children who are victims of family violence.

The package begins to deliver 65 of the Royal Commission's most urgent recommendations and is the first step in the long-term process to fix our broken system and change attitudes towards women.

The justice system initiatives include increased funding for Community Legal Centres and Victoria Legal Aid, court reform, men's behaviour change programs and specialised family violence responses for culturally diverse groups in the corrections system.

In addition, the Government is working closely with victims and survivors, and the people and organisations that help them, to develop a comprehensive 10-year Victorian Family Violence Action Plan, which will be delivered later this year outlining reforms in line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Community safety is a top priority for the Andrews Government and Victoria Police, as everyone needs to feel safe in their communities. That is why the Government is recruiting, training and deploying more police out on the frontline.

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.

In addition, Police Custody Officers (PCOs) are being progressively rolled out across the state, freeing up sworn police officers for the frontline. To date, 228 PCOs have been deployed to 22 police stations across Victoria. These PCOs are having a real impact on policing capability across the state. PCOs have worked over 18 000 shifts across Victoria, freeing police from the work of looking after prisoners in police cells. That means more police on the frontline fighting crime and protecting the community. The former Government was very dismissive of the PCO initiative, however the reality is that Victoria Police, from the frontline to senior command has overwhelmingly endorsed and supported the PCO roll-out.

In line with the Royal Commission's recommendations, Victoria Police will begin a trial of body-worn cameras and be given mobile technology equipment for police officers to respond more quickly to family violence. These technology upgrades are long overdue. The failure of the former government to invest in this kind of technology is indicative of the neglect and disregard that the former government had for capability upgrades for Victoria Police. The reality is that the rollout of this new technology will provide Victoria Police with improved capability to deal with perpetrators of family violence and provide victims and survivors with the critical support they need.

**Western Victoria Region police numbers**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Mr Morris  
**Raised on:** 13 September 2016

**REPLY:**

The two incidents cited in the Adjournment Debate are very serious crimes. The violence and hate in inflicted on the victims is not acceptable.

There are some very disturbing trends in crime emerging and the community should not have to put up with cases of burglary, theft and more serious offending.

The Chief Commissioner and I are working to make sure that the police have the powers and resources to turn this around.

The Andrews Government is upfront about the challenge in turning around the state-wide upwards trend in crime that commenced from 2010-2011, and is determined to turn the trend around.

This means investing in Victoria Police and our justice system, ensuring the recruitment and deployment of hundreds of new police, developing crime fighting technology and the delivery of powers that police need to target perpetrators.

A key element of our plan to address these issues is the funding and delivery of additional sworn police. In the two budgets brought down by this government there have been 1156 new police personnel funded. The funding frontline police are the hallmarks of State Labor Governments.

The 2016-17 state budget provided for an additional 406 sworn police to be recruited and deployed to areas of need. The Government has since announced a further \$26.2 million to expedite the deployment of the 406 new police. These additional police will now be sworn in by the end of June 2017, rather than June 2018, with the first of the new officers deployed in early 2017.

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

These initiatives are having an impact with police making more arrests now than ever before.

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

Furthermore, the Andrews Labor Government has introduced and passed new laws containing specific and targeted stand-alone offences for carjacking and home invasions. These laws were developed in consultation with Victoria Police. The laws reflect the seriousness of these crimes, and, as the community would expect, the penalties are significant.

They include statutory minimum non-parole period of three years for aggravated carjacking. This means that a court will have to impose a non-parole period of three years unless special reasons apply. Home invasion will have a maximum penalty of 25 years and aggravated home invasion will attract a statutory minimum non-parole period of three years.

If any resident across the Ballarat Police Service Area and indeed across Western Victoria has any immediate concerns for their safety, or sees an offence in progress, they need to report the matter to Victoria Police through the emergency number '000'. Calls made to '000' are processed and responded to by the nearest available police personnel.

### **Clyde police station**

**Raised with: Minister for Police**  
**Raised by: Ms Bath**  
**Raised on: 13 September 2016**

#### **REPLY:**

Analysis of crime statistics data clearly indicates a statewide six year upwards trend in crime that commenced in 2011. The City of Casey has experienced a similar trend since 2013. The Andrews Labor Government is upfront about these challenges and is determined to turn these trends around. Responding to these issues requires preventative and proactive policing and crime prevention initiatives. The Chief Commissioner and I are working to make sure that the police have the powers and resources to turn this around.

My strong belief is that more police are needed on the frontline. That's why the Andrews Labor Government has funded additional sworn police in both of the state budgets brought down by this Government. The most recent state budget has provided for an additional 406 sworn police to be recruited and deployed to areas of need, including the growth corridors of Melbourne.

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

The Government has also invested an additional \$19.4 million over the next two years in the Community Crime Prevention Program to help tackle the underlying causes of crime, including funding for the City of Casey and community groups for local crime prevention initiatives, including funding for security infrastructure across a range of community spaces and assets.

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

Since 21 August 2016, Victoria Police established the Frontline Tactical Unit to deal with street violence, street crime and public disorder across the Southern Metro Region Division 3. The unit is based at Dandenong and is being deployed to Casey as well. The Frontline Tactical Unit is being deployed in response to community concerns around crime, and its key focus is uniformed patrols of high-risk community locations. This unit has made substantial arrests since its inception.

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

Victoria Police are also deploying 20 additional constables to the Casey Police Service Area (PSA) in November.

In terms of some of the high-risk, high profile crime being committed by a small cohort of young offenders across Melbourne, Victoria Police has established a range of taskforces to tackle property crime, including Operation Cosmas, a city-wide operation, which is focusing on aggravated burglary and other gang-related activity. Operation

Cosmas alone has been responsible for over 180 arrests since May this year. Significant resources are being used to respond to and deal with the causes of this type of offending.

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

### **Kew Cottages site**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Mr Davis  
**Raised on:** 13 September 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Kew Residential Services project is being delivered through the Kew Residential Services Development Agreement between Kew Development Corporation Pty Ltd (KDC) which is a subsidiary of Walker Corporation, and the State of Victoria which is represented by Major Projects Victoria.

The project, which is substantially completed, has so far delivered:

- 261 private dwellings that are integrated with 20 state owned and operated group homes accommodating about 100 people with intellectual disabilities.
- More than seven hectares of very high quality public open space equivalent to 29 per cent of the total site area.

Planning and heritage permits have been issued for the subdivision. A number of conditions attach to the permits, including extensive conservation works to the Heritage Core buildings. Major Projects Victoria and KDC have undertaken preliminary works to the buildings and are in the process of obtaining competitive tenders for the completion of the main body of work.

KDC obtained planning approval, from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, to develop proposed Stage 8 that is intended to be a high quality boutique development of about 26 apartments. An application for a heritage permit for the development of Stage 8 was rejected by Heritage Victoria (HV), and KDC is currently in discussions with HV to ascertain the form of development that may be acceptable.

It is necessary that I, as the Responsible Authority for the site, retain that responsibility until project completion. This would allow the site's development to be consistently dealt with and desired outcomes, in keeping with the rest of the development, concluded to allow the timely completion of development.

The former Kew Residential Services site retains 29 per cent of the original 27 hectare site as public open space. As such, the development would be best described as a modest redevelopment of the site which offers substantially more public open space than the maximum five per cent envisaged by the Subdivision Act 1988. Any community concerns need to be balanced having regard to the Walker Development Plan — Kew which originally anticipated up to 14 five storey apartment buildings and up to 520 dwellings versus the current developer lead masterplan which has one five storey apartment building and 305 dwellings.

### **Shepparton BMX track**

**Raised with:** Minister for Sport  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 14 September 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I refer to the Adjournment Debate you have raised in the Legislative Assembly on 14 September 2016 regarding the application for funding for the regional BMX track upgrade in Shepparton.

Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities is a key aim of the Victorian Government, and is integral to the health and well-being of all Victorians.

In 2015, The Hon John Eren MP launched the State Government's \$100 million Community Sports Infrastructure Fund that will facilitate the upgrade and development of community sports facilities over four years.

The 2017-18 funding round has recently closed and I am advised by my department that Greater Shepparton City Council submitted a Full Application requesting \$100 000 to upgrade the regional BMX track in Shepparton. Sport and Recreation Victoria are currently in the process of assessing applications and Councils will be notified of the funding outcomes in the coming months.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust this information has been of assistance to you.

### **Heatherdale railway station**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 14 September 2016

#### **REPLY:**

I would first like to thank the Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure for his great work on this issue.

The Stakeholder Liaison Group comprises local community groups, residents, traders, and council and meets regularly to provide input into the project and share information within the community. I am pleased to advise that as part of their ongoing involvement, the Level Crossing Removal Authority provided an opportunity for members to attend a site visit to see the new Heatherdale Station and the work around Heatherdale Road on 22 September 2016.

Members also attended a visit to the Blackburn Road site to see how works were progressing in late September 2016.

### **Cranbourne railway station**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Rich-Phillips  
**Raised on:** 15 September 2016

#### **REPLY:**

The Government believes a balance needs to be struck between providing additional car parking and providing alternative options for passengers to access stations. This is why we are doing both.

As part of the State Government's \$100 million Better Bus Networks program, better coordinated and more frequent bus connections with train services continue to be rolled out across the network. It has been announced that a new bus network for Cranbourne, which was developed in consultation with the local community, will be launched from 13 November 2016. This network will better connect residents to shopping centres and schools, and make it easier for passengers to catch the train from Cranbourne, Berwick, Lynbrook, Hallam and Dandenong stations. Many stations also have a drop-off zone and secure Parkiteer bicycle cages to encourage cyclists.

In the 2016-17 State budget, the Government committed \$20 million to provide 1500 additional car parking spaces at stations across Victoria, using government land under a project to be managed by VicTrack.

**Taxi and hire car industry**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Patten  
**Raised on:** 15 September 2016

**REPLY:**

On 23 August 2016, the Victorian Government announced a suite of comprehensive reforms to the commercial passenger vehicle industry as the previous reforms did not address the emergence of ridesharing in Victoria. The comprehensive and fair transformation of taxi and hire car services responds to new technology that is changing the way people travel.

The government acknowledged that these changes will potentially have a range of financial and other impacts on some licence holders, and is committed to supporting those affected during this time by providing a \$378 million Industry Transition Assistance package as well as a \$50 million Hardship Fund. Taxi and hire car licence holders may apply for both of these forms of support.

This constitutes a support package larger and more accessible than anything that has come before. Licence holders will be eligible for assistance payments for a maximum of two licences through the Industry Transition Assistance package. In addition, the \$50 million Hardship Fund will target support to taxi and hire car licence holders facing significant financial hardship. This fund is not designed to take a one-size-fits-all approach. It recognises the different circumstances facing licence holders, such the type of licence they own, income, assets and levels of debt.

The formal application process for the hardship assistance will commence in November 2016. The government has engaged WEstjustice to assist licence holders who may require help with the application process. In the meantime, taxi and hire car licence holders can access a dedicated, Hardship Fund Support Line for referrals for assistance in applying to the hardship fund, contacts for financial advice and where appropriate, wellbeing support.

**Shepparton bypass**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 15 September 2016

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Northern Victoria for raising the issue of traffic delays occasioned by incidents occurring on the Peter Ross-Edwards Causeway between Shepparton and Mooroopna.

The member would be aware that planning work is currently being carried out in Shepparton for the commencement of stage 1 of the Goulburn Valley Highway Shepparton Bypass project.

Stage 1 of the Bypass project will provide a second crossing of the Goulburn River and floodplain, and will resolve the lack of alternatives for through traffic when there is an incident on the causeway. This project is important to the local community and to arterial traffic, and the Andrews Government is pursuing funding to enable works to commence as soon as funding becomes available.

**Warrnambool Racing Club**

**Raised with:** Minister for Racing  
**Raised by:** Mr Purcell  
**Raised on:** 15 September 2016

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to keeping racing strong in Victoria and invests in infrastructure at tracks and racing clubs across the State through the Victorian Racing Industry Fund.

Decisions on the future training facilities at the Warrnambool Racing Club are ultimately a matter for the club in consultation with Racing Victoria and Country Racing Victoria. The Government provided \$35 000 in funding in April this year to build an equine swimming pool to improve facilities for trainers and I would consider any further applications for funding support through the Victorian Racing Industry Fund.

Discussions are ongoing to resolve the issue of access to the beaches at Warrnambool and Port Fairy for horse training. The Government has been coordinating stakeholder meetings regarding beach access for horses in Warrnambool and Moynes. Those meetings are being coordinated by a senior official in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and are ongoing. I also understand that the appointment of a consultant to undertake a Cultural Heritage Management assessment at Levy's Beach is imminent.

I look forward to a resolution that satisfies environmental and cultural heritage considerations and meets the needs of trainers, land managers and other beachgoers.

### **Chinese community safety**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Raised on:** 15 September 2016

#### **REPLY:**

Victoria is one of the most culturally diverse regions of Australia. The contribution of migrants from all over the world, including the Chinese community, has brought many social, cultural and economic benefits to Victoria. We all have a great deal to gain by working together to build a strong and cohesive Victorian community.

Analysis of recently published crime statistics data clearly indicates a statewide upwards trend in crime that commenced in 2011. The Andrews Labor Government is upfront about this challenge and is determined to turn the trend around. There are very disturbing crimes emerging and the community shouldn't have to put up with cases of burglary, theft and more serious offending. That's why the Andrews Labor Government is delivering what we promised we would: hundreds more police, crime fighting technology and the powers police need to target the perpetrators.

Responding to these issues requires preventative and proactive policing and crime prevention initiatives. The Chief Commissioner and I are working to make sure that the police have the powers and resources to turn this around.

My strong belief is that more police are needed on the frontline. That's why the Andrews Labor Government has funded additional sworn police in both of the state budgets brought down by this Government. Funding frontline police are the hallmarks of State Labor Government. The most recent state budget has provided for an additional 406 sworn police to be recruited and deployed to areas of need, including the growth corridors of Melbourne.

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

We know a smarter, more modern police force is the best way to crack down on crime, with police making arrests for violent crime every day.

In terms of some of the high-risk, high profile crime being committed by a small cohort of young offenders across Melbourne, Victoria Police has established a range of taskforces to tackle property crime, including Operation Cosmas, a city-wide operation, which is focusing on aggravated burglary and other gang-related activity. Operation Cosmas alone has been responsible for over 180 arrests since May this year. Significant resources are being used to respond to and deal with the causes of this type of offending.



Furthermore, the Andrews Labor Government has introduced into Parliament specific and targeted stand-alone offences for carjacking and home invasions after consultation with Victoria Police. The laws reflect the seriousness of these crimes, and, as the community would expect, the penalties are significant.

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

If anyone has any immediate concerns for their safety, or sees an offence in progress, they need to report the matter to Victoria Police through the emergency number '000'. Calls made to '000' are processed and responded to by the nearest available police personnel.

### **Truck curfews**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 15 September 2016

#### **REPLY:**

VicRoads has collected data using camera technology to identify truck movements along Beach Road between Bay Street and Glen Huntly Road. The first set of data was collected between October and November 2015 and the second set between February and March 2016. VicRoads is undertaking additional truck counts in the coming months. In addition, VicRoads is taking this opportunity to collect data over a slightly broader length of the Beach Road corridor to obtain a greater understanding of truck movements and truck curfew compliance through the neighbouring municipality of Bayside.

When assessment of the data is completed, VicRoads, in consultation with key stakeholders including local residents, councils and the transport industry, will use this data to assess if changes to the existing curfew is needed.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Wednesday, 26 October 2016**

**BPW Automotive**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Mr Morris  
**Raised on:** 14 September 2016

**REPLY:**

Golden Plains Shire Council (council) is the responsible authority under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 for the administration of the Golden Plains Planning Scheme. Council is responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the scheme including taking necessary enforcement action where a breach of the planning scheme occurs. Council has requested that the business cease operating from the site.

I understand that council has identified that BPW Automotive at its current location in the Golden Plains Shire contravenes the Golden Plains Planning Scheme as the use is prohibited under the zoning of the land. A planning permit cannot be issued to allow the business to continue to operate from this site.

Council has advised that currently there is no strategically identified need for industrial land in this location and therefore no justification for a site specific planning scheme amendment to facilitate the ongoing operation of the business at the current site.

I encourage the proprietor of BPW Automotive to accept the Golden Plains Shire Council's offer of assistance to identify an alternative, suitably zoned site within the shire to which the business could relocate and continue operating.