

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

6, 7 and 8 December 2016

(Extract from book 19)

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

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HANSARD¹⁵⁰



1866–2016

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(to 9 November 2016)

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

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The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

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(from 10 November 2016)

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Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

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

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

Legislative Council standing committees

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

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

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

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Leader of the Greens:

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

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁴ Appointed 12 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

CONTENTS

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2016

<i>Latrobe Valley employment</i>	6689
<i>Northern Victoria Region roads</i>	6690
<i>Northern Victoria Region floods</i>	6690
<i>Health funding</i>	6690
<i>Bolton Street, Eltham</i>	6691
<i>Greater Bendigo disability services</i>	6691
<i>Veterans oral history program</i>	6692
<i>Great Ocean Road tourism</i>	6692
<i>Lakeside Pakenham community safety</i>	6692
<i>Nillumbik police numbers</i>	6693
<i>Koala numbers</i>	6693
<i>Greater Shepparton police numbers</i>	6694
<i>Eastern Victoria Region roads</i>	6695
<i>Regional and rural roads</i>	6696
<i>Royal Melbourne Hospital stroke unit</i>	6696
<i>Wyndham police numbers</i>	6696
<i>Silo Art Trail</i>	6697
<i>Aboriginal justice agreement</i>	6697
<i>Carlton heritage property</i>	6698
<i>Geelong–Melbourne rail service</i>	6698
<i>Quad bike safety</i>	6698
<i>Gisborne Cemetery Trust</i>	6700
<i>School retention programs</i>	6700
<i>Nicholson Street, Coburg</i>	6701
<i>Hazelwood power station</i>	6701

WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2016

<i>Department of Education and Training complaint</i>	6703
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THURSDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2016

<i>Wattle Day</i>	6705
<i>Wyndham roads</i>	6705
<i>Renewable energy</i>	6706
<i>Illegal waste disposal</i>	6707

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Tuesday, 6 December 2016

Latrobe Valley employment

Raised with: Premier
Raised by: Mr Bourman
Raised on: 11 October 2016

REPLY:

I would like to thank the Member for raising this important issue on behalf of your constituents in Eastern Victoria.

Following Engie's announcement to close the Hazelwood power plant and mine, I visited Morwell with the Minister for Employment, the Minister for Energy, the Treasurer, the Minister for Regional Development and Ms Shing, your fellow Member for Eastern Victoria. We went to assure the people of the Latrobe Valley that our government will not abandon them as our predecessors did, we will be with them every step of the way.

While in Morwell we announced the Government's \$266 million package to help the workers, affected businesses and broader community respond to the closure of Hazelwood, including:

- \$22 million for affected workers and businesses.
- \$20 million to establish the Latrobe Valley Authority — located on the ground in Morwell it will help ensure that decisions are made by people in the Valley not in Melbourne.
- \$50 million to establish an Economic Growth Zone to create local jobs and grow local businesses.
- the \$174 million Community Infrastructure and Investment Fund for new local projects, which could include road and rail upgrades, school upgrades and health facilities.

Unlike the Coalition, we understand that government has a role to play in helping workers and affected communities respond these kind of changes.

The \$22 million package of support for workers and affected businesses will see the government establish:

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

Since our Government was elected, more than 33 000 regional jobs have been created — contrasting with the mere 5500 jobs created in four years under the former Coalition Government. We will never abandon the Valley and do whatever it takes to deliver new jobs

What our Government has said all along on this issue, is that our focus is on the communities in the Valley. We want to see a strong and vibrant Latrobe Valley— where there are good opportunities for education, employment and other opportunities. And that's what we will deliver.

I understand Minister Noonan will offer you a briefing on this matter shortly, however in the meantime if you or your constituents require more information about the Authority and the immediate worker support, please go to www.lva.vic.gov.au, visit their office at 131 Princes Drive, Morwell or call 1800 136 762.

Northern Victoria Region roads

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 12 October 2016

REPLY:

Regional roads across Northern Victoria will receive a boost, with the Victorian Government investing more than \$40 million in improvements and over 250 kilometres of road will be resealed across the region.

I recently visited Shepparton to see firsthand the works that are taking place across Northern Victoria. Sites right across the network will receive major repairs and maintenance works, to make them smoother and resistant to further damage. These improvements will support regional producers to get products to market or to the factory, support tourism, and will provide for local residents as they travel to work, school, and recreational pursuits.

During my recent visit to the area, I met with the Greater Shepparton City Council, where we spoke of the importance of a safe and efficient road network, that supports the productivity of transport operators and their customers, and which facilitates healthy and vibrant communities by providing choice and ensuring modes of transport.

Northern Victoria Region floods

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Ms Symes
Raised on: 12 October 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government takes community and industry concerns about the security of energy supply seriously.

It is important that we comprehensively assess what we can learn from the October 2016 floods in northern Victoria. This is especially important given that flooding and other natural events will become more common and severe with the projected changes to climate. I am pleased to advise that the initial assessment step will be a debrief of the flood response led by the State Emergency Service. This is a normal step in responding to such events, and preparation for this to occur before year's end is now underway.

In considering the debrief results, I have asked my department to specifically assess the implications for the gas pipeline that services Albury and any required action to ensure controls for the pipeline's safety and reliability are effective over the longer term.

Health funding

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Hartland
Raised on: 12 October 2016

REPLY:

The Commonwealth Liberal Government's decision to cut allocated funding and cease ongoing funding for the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health has had a significant impact on Victoria's efforts to address chronic preventable disease. It ripped the core out of prevention funding targeted at our most disadvantaged communities.

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting a range of initiatives for all Victorians, as well as targeted initiatives for the most disadvantaged, to reduce rates of preventable chronic diseases in our communities. This includes:

- new legislation to display kilojoules in fast food restaurants and ban smoking in outdoor dining areas
- efforts to support healthy early childhood services, schools and workplaces, and increase access to healthy food and drink, and reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes
- tobacco control strategies, such as social marketing, smoking cessation services and programs to reduce smoking among high prevalence groups
- oral health promotion programs, such as water fluoridation, Healthy Families Healthy Smiles, and Smiles 4 Miles.

In addition, the Andrews Labor Government has established the Latrobe Valley Health Innovation Zone, the first of its kind in Australia. This place-based program of work and innovation aims to improve the lives of the Latrobe Valley community through local solutions for improving locally identified health priorities. We are working with the Latrobe Valley to break the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage and create a healthier and more productive environment for all in the region. In addition to addressing the community's social, economic and health concerns, this work will provide valuable evidence for future efforts across the state.

Bolton Street, Eltham

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Ms Wooldridge
Raised on: 13 October 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government has committed to improve the safety and congestion on Bolton Street, Eltham. We will continue to keep the community updated on the progress of the project.

Greater Bendigo disability services

Raised with: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 25 October 2016

REPLY:

In response to the Radius Board's sudden decision to appoint an administrator, the Victorian Government's priority was ensuring clients' continuity of supports.

The Commonwealth provides the administration and funding for the Supported Employment program. The Victorian Government provides the administration and funding for Disability Day Programs.

Following the Radius announcement, each of these state-funded clients and their families had been contacted directly by a departmental case manager and assured alternative services would be provided.

Each state-funded client has since been offered an alternative program to meet their immediate support needs. Longer term planning is also being completed for our state-funded clients.

The Victorian Government, through the Department of Health and Human Services and Regional Development Victoria, are also working closely together to progress new local employment opportunities for the former staff of Radius.

Veterans oral history program

Raised with: Minister for Veterans
Raised by: Mr Elasmr
Raised on: 25 October 2016

REPLY:

Thank you for your Adjournment Debate matter raised on 25 October 2016. In April I announced the Andrews Labor Government's commitment of \$1 million toward the development of a War Heritage and History Strategy, to ensure the stories and experiences of our veterans and our community are better protected going forward. A key initiative under the strategy is the Veterans Heritage Project, encompassing the war heritage oral history training program which you asked about in the matter raised on 25 October.

This program was open to all ex-service organisations, and participants have now been selected. However, another component of the Veterans Heritage Project, the student workplace learning program is currently open for applications. Students over 15 years of age have the opportunity to gain work experience in 2017 as a Curator or Oral Historian by working with veterans at ex-service organisations, with training and supervision from Museums Australia (Victoria). I encourage you to communicate this program to students in your communities.

Thank you again for raising this matter, and for your interest in the vital commemorative and educational activities Victoria is supporting to ensure our war history, and our veterans themselves, are never forgotten.

Great Ocean Road tourism

Raised with: Minister for Tourism and Major Events
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 25 October 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government recognises the impact of intermittent closures of the Great Ocean Road in the past two months on local tourism and other small businesses, particularly during the school holiday period.

The Government also recognises the importance of relief and recovery options that will assist the local economy to deal with this incident and become more resilient and prepared for similar events in the future.

The State Crisis and Resilience Council Flood Recovery Subcommittee has been established to ensure coordinated, effective support from State Government to local councils, including those along the Great Ocean Road.

Key priorities of the Flood Recovery Subcommittee will be to ensure coordinated secondary impact assessment and coordinated funding processes that meet the needs of impacted communities, including businesses.

Several Government Ministers have met with traders along the Great Ocean Road since recent floods and landslides. We look forward to continuing this dialogue.

Lakeside Pakenham community safety

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Mr O'Donohue
Raised on: 25 October 2016

REPLY:

The Victorian Government is cracking down on serious crime to keep our community safe. The Government has committed \$19.4 million in new funding for the Community Crime Prevention Program over the next two years.

The funding continues the Public Safety Infrastructure Fund, which provides grants of up to \$250 000 for local councils to improve safety and security infrastructure in public places, including funding for CCTV systems. I will be announcing the outcomes of the 2016-17 grants round shortly.

The Government allocates CCTV grants to Victorian Councils only. Councils are subject to the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 and are required to ensure that CCTV surveillance is used only for legitimate purposes, and that footage is secured against improper use and publication. Individual residents and small businesses are not subject to the privacy legislation and the protections it provides.

I encourage the Lakeside residents' group to meet with local police and council to discuss their community safety concerns and their proposal for CCTV in the Lakeside Estate.

Nillumbik police numbers

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Ms Wooldridge
Raised on: 26 October 2016

REPLY:

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

As noted by the Shadow Minister for Police on the 18 August 2016, "under the Victoria Police Act 2013 the Chief Commissioner has absolute discretion about the allocation of police resources."

There are more police officers in Victoria now than there were in November 2014 and more across the North West Metro region.

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

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

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

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

Koala numbers

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Ms Tierney
Raised on: 26 October 2016

REPLY:

Thank you for raising this adjournment debate matter on behalf of the local communities in and around Portland regarding koala management issues in the far south west of Victoria.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has briefed me on these issues. I am aware of reports of high koala populations in the Portland area and other locations within the Barwon South West Region, and their impact on Manna Gum trees due to over-browsing.

I am keen to visit the Portland area and meet with local communities via the Far South West Stakeholder Group, and to hear their concerns first hand. My office will organise a meeting at a suitable time in early 2017.

The key activities DELWP has been delivering includes the following:

- Working with the Stakeholder Group to assess any areas with koala overabundance in the Portland area to determine the extent of any impact.
- Inspection of a number of properties that are being reported to have high koala populations in the Portland area to determine the extent of the impacts of the koala population on habitat.
- Committing funding (\$50K) and working in partnership with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners and Parks Victoria to deliver a small project that will enhance the existing Mt Eccles National Park fertility control program.

The department also aims to monitor koala density and tree health on 18 private and public land sites in the far south west in the coming months.

DELWP will continue to engage with stakeholders to explore ways for a collaborative approach to address koala management issues in the far south west.

Greater Shepparton police numbers

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 26 October 2016

REPLY:

I refer to the matter you raised in the Legislative Council on 26 October 2016 regarding police resources in the Greater Shepparton policing district, particularly the townships of Tatura and Mooroopna.

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

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

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

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

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

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

I can assure you that the communities within the Greater Shepparton Police Service Area, including Tatura and Mooroopna continue to have a 24 hour police response. Local command are aware of a perception held by some residents of Tatura and Mooroopna there has been a decreased police service to the community.

The Chief Commissioner of Police assures me that the level of policing is continuously assessed by respective command officers to ensure community safety.

Tatura and Mooroopna are non 24 hour police stations, operating 8 hours per day, depending on rostering arrangements. One station will be open from 8am to 4pm, while the other will be open from 3pm to 11pm. This arrangement provides a better 16-hour coverage for both areas.

Calls for assistance at night are responded to by the Shepparton night shift. When the stations are unattended due to operational requirements, arrangements are in place to enable the police to return to the station to deal with calls for assistance.

Local police advise that the Tatura response zone has a very low crime level, and given the close proximity of the Shepparton Police Station, Victoria Police has no plans to upgrade the Mooroopna Police Station to a 24-hour station.

Following the community meetings held in Tatura and Mooroopna recently, the Office of the Chief Commissioner has advised me that operations have commenced to address the issue of hoon driving in Tatura. As a consequence, officers will be working varied shifts outside regular hours. Community members are encouraged to call the Hoon Hotline on 1800 333 000 to report a particular incident.

Furthermore, Victoria Police acknowledges that there is an issue with youth offenders in the area. Proactive initiatives have been put in place with Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative, Department of Health and Human Services and the City of Greater Shepparton to assist in engaging more proactively with youth in the area.

Eastern Victoria Region roads

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Ms Bath
Raised on: 26 October 2016

REPLY:

VicRoads advises that reconstruction and resurfacing works costing \$825 000, will be undertaken on the South Gippsland Highway near Korumburra South Road and Waratah Road this summer.

VicRoads has been advised by South Gippsland Shire Council, who are responsible for the management of Walkerville Road and Foleys Road, that Walkerville Road will be resurfaced this summer and that Foleys Road will be inspected and any hazards will be addressed in accordance with its Road Management Plan.

VicRoads has been advised by Wellington Shire Council who are responsible for the management of Rosedale-Flynns Creek Road and Cansick Street, that Rosedale-Flynns Creek Road will be widened and reconstructed over the next two years. This work will include the rail crossing. Cansick Street will be inspected and hazards will be addressed in accordance with its Road Management Plan.

VicRoads has been advised by Latrobe Shire Council who are responsible for the management of Keith Morgan Drive, that Keith Morgan Drive will be inspected and hazards will be addressed in accordance with its Road Management Plan.

Regional and rural roads

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 26 October 2016

REPLY:

The member will remember during the last term of government how roads are constructed. I have confirmed with VicRoads that the specifications and materials used to construct road pavements around Victoria are in line with Austroads standards.

Royal Melbourne Hospital stroke unit

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Raised on: 27 October 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to supporting Melbourne Health to continue to deliver high quality care to the community.

This is demonstrated by the additional \$40 million provided in funding to Melbourne Health as part of the 2016-17 Budget's extra \$2.4 billion investment in health.

This additional funding will support the Royal Melbourne Hospital stroke unit that delivers ground breaking clot retrieval, to provide more care and save lives.

The Labor Government has also committed \$3 million for planning and development at the Parkville biomedical precinct. The planning for the Parkville biomedical precinct includes planning that is being undertaken on the future capital requirements for Melbourne Health, including a Stroke Unit and operating theatres.

Wyndham police numbers

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Mr O'Donohue
Raised on: 27 October 2016

REPLY:

Community safety is a top priority for the Andrews Government and Victoria Police, as everyone needs to feel safe in their communities. The local community continues to receive a 24 hour police response from across the Wyndham Police Service Area (PSA).

As you noted on the 18 August 2016, "under the Victoria Police Act 2013 the Chief Commissioner has absolute discretion about the allocation of police resources."

I have responded directly to Mr Rivett about his concerns and referred his correspondence to the Office of the Chief Commissioner of Police as it raises an operational matter.

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

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

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

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

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

Silo Art Trail

Raised with: Minister for Tourism and Major Events
Raised by: Mr O'Sullivan
Raised on: 27 October 2016

REPLY:

The Silo Art Trail is a fantastic example of how the creative industries can support regional and rural economies by attracting visitors to the area, as well as the impact on the social and cultural wellbeing of communities that have been through some very challenging years.

Once complete, the Silo Art Trail will stretch 200km and will link six of Victoria's smallest towns to form Australia's largest outdoor gallery.

The Andrews Labor Government is very supportive of the Art Trail; Creative Victoria is providing a grant of \$200 000 towards the project.

In addition, I am advised that Regional Development Victoria is working closely with Yarriambiack Shire Council to consider opportunities for further funding.

The Silo Art Trail will provide a unique opportunity to raise the profile of the Wimmera-Mallee region and increase visitation to the towns along the trail. The project is in the early stages. As it is further developed there will be additional promotional opportunities through regional and state marketing activities.

Visit Victoria will work with the Trail's organisers to ensure it is appropriately featured on its website.

Aboriginal justice agreement

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Ms Springle
Raised on: 27 October 2016

REPLY:

Your adjournment debate refers to a report prepared for the Aboriginal Justice Forum (AJF). This report, titled 'Koori Complaints Project', was a joint initiative of my department and Victoria Police's then Ethical Standards Department (now known as Professional Standards Command-PSC). The report was presented to the AJF in 2007 and released publically at the time. You are welcome to contact my office if you would like a copy of the report.

Carlton heritage property

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Mr Davis
Raised on: 27 October 2016

REPLY:

In conjunction with the City of Melbourne, I have sought an enforcement order from the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal to re-instate the Corkman Irish Pub in a manner sympathetic to the heritage character of the area and reflect the scale, design and layout of the building that was demolished.

A Practice Day for the enforcement proceedings was held on 2 December 2016, a Compulsory Conference is set for 17 March 2017 and the hearing itself is set down for two days, commencing 31 July 2017.

I have also introduced a new control into the Melbourne Planning Scheme, which requires any permit issued for the site to restore and reconstruct the buildings that stood on the site immediately prior to their demolition.

I acknowledge the support of both the Liberal and National parties in supporting any other relevant changes required, including potential legislative changes, to respond to this issue and to ensure that Victorians have confidence in the integrity of the planning and building system.

Geelong–Melbourne rail service

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 27 October 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to a program of investment to improve public transport services in regional Victoria, and released the Regional Network Development Plan (RNDP) in May 2016.

As part of the development of the RNDP, significant consultation was undertaken in regional Victoria to understand the needs of local communities. The RNDP sets out the short, medium and long term priorities for the regional public transport network, including more train services, better infrastructure to enable more services and greater reliability, more local transport solutions and a passenger first approach to service delivery.

The 2016-17 State Budget has already committed \$518 million to upgrade the Ballarat line and a further \$13 million in development funding to investigate potential upgrades to the Bendigo, Geelong and Seymour lines.

The Rail Futures report proposes a longer term initiative (between 2026 and 2040) to reduce the travel time between Melbourne and Geelong by increasing the speed and routing associated with these services. The focus for network development remains on the regional network priorities already outlined in the RNDP.

Quad bike safety

Raised with: Minister for Finance
Raised by: Ms Tierney
Raised on: 8 November 2016

REPLY:

Thank you for your interest in this important safety issue which affects farmers in your electorate, and across Victoria. Quad bikes are the biggest cause of death on Australian farms. Over half of quad bike rollovers involve crushing or asphyxiating the rider. To address the serious issue of quad bike injuries and fatalities, WorkSafe has adopted a new quad bike safety strategy which includes the following activities:

- Accepting the use of rollover protection devices as a means of controlling risk when using a quad bike;
- Introducing a rebate scheme to encourage quad bike users to consider and select a safer alternate vehicle or fit a suitably designed and tested operator protective device;
- Development of an online assessment tool to assist farmers and quad bike users to assess the risk of quad bike rollover which can be found at www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/farmsafety;
- Launch of a confronting safety campaign to highlight the risks of quad bike use — Quad bikes they can take your breath away;
- Promoting other safety measures for quad bike use including wearing of helmets, not carrying passengers on vehicles designed for one person, riders being appropriately trained, persons under 16 years not operating adult size quad bikes, appropriate maintenance in line with manufacturer’s instructions, and not exceeding cargo rack carrying capacities or vehicle load towing limits.

The \$6 million quad bike safety rebate scheme is part of the campaign to help reduce quad bike deaths in Victoria. The rebate assists farmers to purchase and fit rollover protection on quad bikes, or to purchase an appropriate alternative vehicle. WorkSafe has partnered with the Victorian Farmers Federation which is administering the rebate on behalf of the Government.

Rebates are available for rollover protection devices or alternative vehicles purchased on or after 1 September 2016. Rebate applications can be made online by email or post. The rebate is available to farmers who:

- Live and operate a business in Victoria;
- Have no more than 19 full-time employees;
- Own a quad bike for work purposes;
- Have farming as their main source of income.

Farmers who are owner-operators with no employees are also eligible to apply.

Your constituents can find information on eligibility for the rebate scheme, and other frequently asked questions by contacting the Victorian Farmers Federation on 1300 945 030 or by visiting:

- www.bequadsafe.com.au
- www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-and-prevention/your-industry/farming.

WorkSafe has advised that as at mid-November 2016, over 440 rebate applications have been received with over 374 rebates already having been paid to farmers. To date, three out of five rebates have been for rollover protection, with the remainder for the purchase of an alternate vehicle.

WorkSafe also undertakes a range of other activities to promote workplace safety on Victorian farms. This work is to combat the sobering statistic that almost 30 per cent of all workplace deaths in Victoria occur on farms, despite the fact that agriculture employs just three per cent of Victorian workers.

WorkSafe has employed a number of measures to reduce accidents on farms including an awareness campaign about safety issues in the sector, the new quad bike strategy I highlighted above, promotional work at field days, on-farm inspections, and sponsorship of Country Netball and Country Football events where WorkSafe connects with regional communities about health and safety.

Thank you again for your interest in this important issue, and the work you are undertaking to promote workplace safety on Victorian farms.

Gisborne Cemetery Trust

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 9 November 2016

REPLY:

The Department of Health and Human Services advises that the cemetery at Gisborne has approximately 20 years or more of remaining capacity. Apart from Gisborne, there are nine other public cemeteries in the Macedon Ranges Shire area. Combined, these nine public cemeteries have an estimated capacity to provide for over 30 000 burials, which equates to approximately 80–100 years of burial capacity for the shire. The travel time from Gisborne to any one of these other cemeteries is, on average, 30 minutes.

The Government recently released the Victoria in Future 2016 report (the report) on the projected population and household growth to 2051. While the Macedon Ranges Shire is not identified as one of the regional areas expected to undergo significant growth over this time, the Government is committed to ensuring that all Victorians have access to the services they require, including cemetery services.

To that end, the Government has recently requested the Department of Health and Human Services develop a state wide strategic plan for cemetery services, which will include the identification of land requirements for future and existing cemeteries; and the development of an evaluation framework against which land acquisition proposals will be considered. Key stakeholders, including councils, will be consulted in relation to this project.

The ultimate decision about the disposal of the education land at Gisborne resides with Minister of Education and Training not the Minister for Health. However, as the member may be aware, under the Victorian Government Landholding Policy and Guidelines 2015, land declared surplus to government requirements is to be sold at a price equal to the current market value of the land, as determined by the Valuer General. If the land is valued at \$750 000 or more, the sale also needs to receive approval from the Victorian Government Land Monitor.

The Department of Treasury and Finance manages surplus land sales and undertakes an assurance process regarding the status of surplus land prior to a sale, to ensure that all rights and restrictions are accurately recorded in the title documentation. As the surplus land under discussion adjoins the Gisborne cemetery, if an unmarked grave was to be found in it, consideration could be given to either realigning the boundary to include the grave as part of the cemetery, or to having the grave location recorded on the title as a material condition affecting the use of that portion of the land.

School retention programs

Raised with: Minister for Education
Raised by: Mr Purcell
Raised on: 9 November 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria the Education State and to improve outcomes for every student, in every classroom, in every community. That is why we have set ambitious but achievable targets, including the goal of halving the number of young people who leave school early.

That is why the Victorian Government has delivered the biggest-ever increase in needs-based funding to ensure that government schools have the resources they need to give all students the best chance to succeed.

In addition to providing additional funding for schools to keep young people in education, the Andrews Labor Government has also funded a number of initiatives to support young people who have disengaged from school, including:

- The Navigator Pilot Program, which provides case management support for disengaged young people (12 to 17 years) to connect and engage in learning.
- Reconnect, which provides funding to Registered Training Organisations to enable them to support young people (15 to 24 years) who left school early or who are long-term unemployed to enter further education, training or employment.
- Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs), which broker local partnerships to ensure that young people who have disengaged from education are identified and provided local support and pathways to re-engage and remain in education.

Nicholson Street, Coburg

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Ms Patten
Raised on: 9 November 2016

REPLY:

I am sorry to hear about the recent tragic incident that occurred on Nicholson Street. I understand that this is a major concern for members of the local community.

VicRoads advises me that one of its officers attended a meeting on 9 November 2016 at the East Coburg Community Centre in which approximately 30 people attended to discuss safety concerns with local residents. The main issues raised were the speed limit and pedestrian facilities near the Mosque and IGA supermarket. As a result, VicRoads is committed to conducting a speed limit review, pedestrian survey count, street lighting assessment and review of the signal phasing at the intersection of Nicholson Street and Moreland Road as part of the overall safety evaluation at this location.

In the meantime, VicRoads will install pedestrian warning signs on the northern approach to this location to make it more conspicuous to motorists. VicRoads expects these signs to be installed by the end of December 2016. The review of speed limits on Nicholson Street will also be completed by the end of December 2016.

Hazelwood power station

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Ms Bath
Raised on: 22 November 2016

REPLY:

Hazelwood mine and power station are privately owned, and their closure is a commercial decision made by its private operators, Engie and Mitsui & Co, announced on 3 November 2016.

To support the people of the Latrobe Valley, the Andrews Labor Government is dedicating \$20 million to establish a Latrobe Valley Authority to lead the Government's response and manage the transition and the future economic development of the Latrobe Valley.

In the immediate term, an additional \$22 million package of support will be available for Hazelwood workers and affected businesses. This includes:

- establishing a Worker Transition Centre in Morwell, in partnership with the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council;
- providing education, counselling, financial advice and subsidised job-seeker training for workers in transition;
- tailoring support for businesses to help them identify new opportunities and develop a transition plan; and

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

6702

COUNCIL

Tuesday, 6 December 2016

– expanding the Back to Work program for businesses that employ workers in the Latrobe Valley.

The Government will also allocate \$50 million to establish a special Economic Growth Zone in the Latrobe Valley, in which companies starting or expanding their businesses in the Valley will be eligible for financial incentives.

Additionally, we will also establish a \$174 million Community Infrastructure and Investment Fund for new local projects which could include road and rail upgrades, school, upgrades and health facilities.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Wednesday, 7 December 2016

Department of Education and Training complaint

Raised with: Minister for Education
Raised by: Mrs Peulich
Raised on: 15 September 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to providing all school aged children and young people with the opportunity to engage in their learning in a safe and secure environment. The Government takes concerns related to the safety of students seriously. Schools are required to be compliant with the Child Safe Standards under Ministerial Order 870 and all teachers must comply with the Victorian Teaching Code of Conduct as part of their registration.

The Department of Education and Training has responsibility to manage complaints in accordance with its complaint policy. Formal procedures exist for handling misconduct or unsatisfactory performance of employees and the Department takes seriously any risk to the safety of students through the conduct of its employees.

The complainants have been informed that their concerns are being properly considered and will be managed in accordance with the appropriate processes.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Thursday, 8 December 2016

Wattle Day

Raised with: Special Minister of State
Raised by: Ms Patten
Raised on: 31 August 2016

REPLY:

The Victorian Government acknowledges the significance of National Wattle Day, and the efforts of the volunteer-led Wattle Day Association in promoting and organising events across the country.

The Government also appreciates the efforts of community groups, councils and businesses who continue to organise community events that bring Victorians together.

The Government considers that National Wattle Day is a grassroots celebration which is best organised and celebrated by communities in their own way.

Wyndham roads

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Mr Melhem
Raised on: 25 October 2016

REPLY:

The Government recognises that Wyndham residents encounter traffic congestion on the road network and is working closely with key stakeholders, including the Wyndham City Council, on delivering various transport priorities.

On 8 November 2016, the Victorian Government announced the \$1.8 billion western package of the Outer Suburban Arterial Roads (OSARs) Program. This includes eight high priority road upgrades that are either within or benefit residents of the City of Wyndham. These upgrades will be delivered within five years, with the maintenance and rehabilitation continuing for a further 20 years.

The upgrades will involve a combination of duplication and widening works to western arterial roads including:

- Dunnings Road and Palmers Road from Point Cook Road to the Princes Freeway in Point Cook;
- Palmers Road from the Princes Freeway to the Western Freeway in Truganina;
- Derrimut Road from Sayers Road to Dohertys Road in Tarneit;
- Leakes Road from Fitzgerald Road to Derrimut Road in Truganina;
- Dohertys Road from Fitzgerald Road to Grieve Parade in Laverton North;
- Dohertys Road from Foundation Road to Palmers Road in Truganina;
- Princes Freeway/Forsyth Road interchange in Hoppers Crossing; and
- Duncans Road interchange in Werribee/Werribee South.

The package will transform the outer-western road network by boosting capacity and improving road pavement conditions with intersection upgrades, almost 30 kilometres of lane duplication, and road maintenance.

In addition to those planned improvements, I am pleased to advise that the construction of the \$45 million full-diamond interchange on the Princes Freeway at Sneydes Road in Werribee is now complete. VicRoads expects that the new interchange will reduce traffic pressure on other nearby routes, such as Palmers Road, Forsyth Road and Point Cook Road.

Further to the projects you have highlighted, a number of transport improvements have also been delivered in the City of Wyndham or are currently underway. These include:

- \$1.9 million to widen the Princes Freeway off-ramp onto Forsyth Road in Hoppers Crossing to reduce the length of traffic queues on the ramp. Works are expected to be completed in late 2017;
- \$3.61 million contribution for improvement works on Palmers Road and Dunning Road, with the Wyndham City Council contributing a further \$3.1 million towards these improvements. The works provide an additional northbound bus and multi-occupant lane on Palmers Road, improving access to the Princes Freeway and the Williams Landing train station. Works are expected to be completed in early 2017; and
- Allocating nearly \$2 million to ease congestion for residents in Tarneit by upgrading the Leakes Road/Derrimut Road intersection and improve access to the Tarneit train station. Works are expected to commence in early 2017 and be completed in late 2017.

The 2016-17 Victorian Budget included \$10 million for the development of business cases including the Armstrong Road-Ison Road Arterial (rail overpass).

In addition to improving traffic flow and easing congestion, the Government is also committed to the removal of 50 of the most dangerous and congested level crossings on the metropolitan rail network over the next eight years. This includes the Aviation Road, Cherry Street and Werribee Street level crossings in Wyndham. The timing of these projects is yet to be determined.

Renewable energy

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Ms Bath
Raised on: 27 October 2016

REPLY:

Engie has made it crystal clear their decision has nothing to do with state or national policies.

While this is not our decision, as a Government, we will stand by the workers of the valley and support them through this transition.

This includes delivering a \$266 million package to create local jobs and grow local businesses, and the establishment of a dedicated Latrobe Valley Authority to lead the Government's response and manage the transition and the future economic development of the Latrobe Valley.

Illegal waste disposal

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Mrs Peulich
Raised on: 27 October 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government takes illegal dumping of waste very seriously. It is an issue that spans a range of wastes, from litter to dumped household goods, to more significant and systematic illegal dumping and land filling. These are being actively addressed by Government through partnerships between the Victorian Litter Action Alliance (VLAA) and its member bodies, which include the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA), Sustainability Victoria, VicRoads, Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Groups, local government, industry associations, and non-government and community organisations.

In August 2016, I launched the 10-year Victorian Waste Education Strategy to help deliver Victoria's 30-year Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan and provide a consistent and coordinated approach to waste and resource recovery education. It is an action plan to inform, engage and improve Victorians' behaviour towards waste, littering, illegal dumping and recycling.

One of the strategic directions of the Strategy is to reduce littering and illegal dumping of household and industrial wastes. Sustainability Victoria (SV) and the Victorian Litter Action Alliance will tailor local and regional solutions to reduce littering, SV and local government will focus regionally based programs to address the dumping of household waste, and EPA's Illegal Dumping Strikeforce program (2015-2018) will identify rogue operators found to be financially profiting from illegally dumping industrial or prescribed industrial waste.

EPA's litter program enables members of the public to report people who throw litter from a Victorian-registered motor vehicle. During the last financial year, EPA issued over \$6.5 million in fines to more than 15 000 people for littering from vehicles in Victoria.

I encourage your constituents to report littering via EPA's website, through its smartphone litter app or by calling 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842).

EPA's Illegal Dumping Strikeforce Program uses a multifaceted approach to reduce the large-scale dumping of industrial waste throughout Victoria. Key to the program is changing industry behaviour and improving knowledge of the legal requirements for transporting hazardous waste. In 2015-16, EPA issued 98 remedial notices to stop or clean up illegally dumped waste. EPA also served 17 penalty infringement notices for illegal dumping, which ensured that culpable receivers, transporters or dumpers of waste were held to account

If your constituents observe significant illegal dumping of waste, they should report it to EPA's Pollution Watch Line on 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842) or emailed to contact.epa.vic.gov.au.