

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS**

**4 May to 10 May 2018**

**(Extract from book 6)**

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## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable KEN LAY, AO, APM

## **The ministry**

(from 16 October 2017)

Premier . . . . .	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services . . . . .	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer and Minister for Resources . . . . .	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects . . . . .	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment . . . . .	The Hon. B. A. Carroll, MP
Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy, and Minister for Small Business . . . . .	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 Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence . . . . .	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State . . . . .	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and Minister for Local Government . . . . .	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water . . . . .	The Hon. L. M. Neville, 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 Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
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** — Mr Dalidakis, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Springle, Ms Symes 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, #Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

**Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning** — Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, #Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, #Dr Ratnam, Ms Shing, #Ms Symes, Ms Truong and Mr Young.

**Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues** — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, Ms Fitzherbert, Mr Morris, Mr Mulino, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Dr Ratnam, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Mr Somyurek, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

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

**Fire Services Bill Select Committee** — Ms Lovell, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Rich Phillips, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

### Joint committees

**Accountability and Oversight Committee** — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Noonan and Ms Thomson.

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

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

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

**Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Halfpenny, Mr Richardson and Mr Riordan.

**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): Ms Britnell, Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards and Ms McLeish.

**House Committee** — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, 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 Gepp and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Patten, 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* — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

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

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

**President:**

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:**

Mr K. EIDEH

**Acting Presidents:**

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmr, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Purcell, Mr Ramsay

**Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

**Deputy Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

**Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

**Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

**Leader of the Greens:**

Dr S. RATNAM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John <sup>1</sup>	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>8</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel <sup>3</sup>	Western Metropolitan	AC	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>9</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona <sup>10</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	RV
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin <sup>4</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	VILJ
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini <sup>11</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark <sup>5</sup>	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred <sup>7</sup>	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph <sup>6</sup>	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	Truong, Ms Huong <sup>12</sup>	Western Metropolitan	Greens
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
			Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 28 September 2017

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

<sup>3</sup> DLP until 26 June 2017

<sup>4</sup> Resigned 27 May 2016

<sup>5</sup> Appointed 7 June 2017

<sup>6</sup> Resigned 6 April 2017

<sup>7</sup> Resigned 9 February 2018

<sup>8</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>9</sup> Appointed 12 October 2016

<sup>10</sup> ASP until 16 January 2018

<sup>11</sup> Appointed 18 October 2017

<sup>12</sup> Appointed 21 February 2018

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

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



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**ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS**

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

**2 May to 10 May 2018****Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Shing  
**Directed to:** Minister for Industrial Relations  
**Asked on:** 20 February 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government is standing up for vulnerable workers through the introduction of the labour hire licensing scheme. The licensing of labour hire providers will bring transparency to the labour hire industry to help stop exploitation. Host employers will be required to only use licensed providers and will risk significant penalties for using an unlicensed provider. This will mean that any labour hire providers that were previously abusing workers in the Gippsland area will no longer have a market.

The key obligation on a host will simply be to use a provider that is licensed. Hosts will be able to check this by looking up the provider on a free, public website. All hosts currently using a reputable operator can expect to be able to continue to use that operator, provided that the operator registers with the scheme.

The labour hire licensing scheme will also create a level playing field for reputable licensed labour hire providers. The Victorian Inquiry into Labour Hire and Insecure Work found that reputable operators wanted action to stop dodgy dealers from under-cutting them when breaking the law.

There will be a comprehensive education and engagement campaign as part of the implementation of the labour hire licensing scheme. The campaign will have clear information about compliance matters and will ensure that primary producers and other hosts understand their role in the scheme and where they can go for help. There will also be an implementation period to allow labour hire service providers and host employers time to understand their rights and obligations in the lead up to the full implementation of the scheme.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Emergency Services  
**Asked on:** 6 March 2018

**ANSWER:**

In December 2017, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) launched its \$10 million Enhancing Volunteerism Grants Program (EVGP). These grants are part of an additional investment of \$60 million in the Victorian fire services and volunteers, which was announced by the Victorian Government in October 2017. The EVGP will fund locally-driven initiatives that strengthen volunteerism and build brigade sustainability.

Grant applications for the EVGP are being assessed by the CFA. The assessment criteria used by the CFA is available via the CFA website at <https://cfa.smartygrants.com.au/EVGP1>.

**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Leane  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 6 March 2018

**ANSWER:**

I thank the member for Eastern Metropolitan Region for his question. I was very proud to stand alongside the Chief Commissioner on 5 March 2018 as he announced the allocation of 825 new police funded by the Andrews Labour Government

From May, many Victorian communities can look forward to seeing an increased police presence in their area with the roll out of additional frontline police across the State.

As part of this deployment, I am pleased to advise the member that an additional 44 frontline police have been allocated to the Banyule, Knox, Maroondah, Manningham, Monash, and Whitehorse Police Service Areas which service suburbs across the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

In addition 73 specialist unit resources, including 28 family violence specialists, will be shared across the broader divisions within the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

This boost in resources is funded as part of the Government's \$2 billion investment in police under the Community Safety Statement 2017. It is the second wave of police resources to hit the beat since the deployment of additional frontline police funded under the 2016-17 State Budget.

The Government's record investment in police and community safety is making a real difference, with the continuing decline in the overall crime rate in Victoria since June 2017.

**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Dunn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Water  
**Asked on:** 8 March 2018

**ANSWER:**

Yarra Valley Water has undertaken a rigorous and in-depth community engagement process to identify a proposed location for the Doncaster Hill recycled water treatment plant. An independent panel was established to hear and report community views and recommend the most suitable site.

More than 55 000 residents (those living within a 2km radius of potential sites for the recycled water plant) were contacted via three separate letters and the process was advertised in local papers and social media. Ten community engagement sessions were run by the panel with approximately 800 people attending and 700 making separate submissions. Three petitions were also submitted to the panel.

The consultation focused on the five most practical sites across Manningham and Whitehorse, based on the location of major sewer pipes within a reasonable distance from the new developments. Melbourne's water and sewerage network crosses municipal boundaries (16 councils for Yarra Valley Water) and implementing alternative water supplies requires cooperation from all stakeholders.

Yarra Valley Water believes the panel fulfilled its brief, demonstrated strong independence from local municipal interests, and acted in good faith on behalf of the broader community. The recommendations identified during the consultation process are now being considered and Yarra Valley Water will continue to work with stakeholders and the community as the project continues.

I support Yarra Valley Water seeking to productively use recycled water from the proposed treatment plant to benefit the area — and ease the burden on Melbourne's drinking water supply.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Mental Health  
**Asked on:** 27 March 2018

**ANSWER:**

I absolutely reject the Ms Lovell's assertions about what this Government has delivered for Victorians struggling with alcohol and other drug addiction.

This is a Government of action when it comes to alcohol and drugs. We do not shy away from the reality of the problem, unlike those opposite, whose recommissioning left the sector in disarray, with fewer people receiving treatment and support, despite growth in demand.

The Government has invested \$184 million in the Ice Action Plan, and \$87 million for the Drug Rehabilitation Plan.

Thanks to the Drug Rehabilitation Plan, there are now 100 additional residential rehabilitation beds in the system, to support those with the most need. This is a stark contrast to those opposite, who only opened two new residential rehabilitation beds in their last term of government. There were 208 beds in the system in late 2014 when this Government was elected. Once our commitments are fully rolled out, there will be 428 across Victoria.

Not only are we doubling the number of beds, we are making sure people get the quality service they deserve by providing extra funding to the Victorian Health Complaints Commissioner, to investigate facilities, and working with other jurisdictions to develop a National Quality Framework for Alcohol and Drug Services.

In regard to funding announced in the 2017-18 budget to purchase three new sites for residential rehabilitation facilities. Officers from the Department of Health and Human Services Building Authority and the Drug Policy and Reform Unit have been working to identify and secure sites in Barwon, Hume and Gippsland respectively.

This is a complex and detailed process with thorough due diligence requirements imposed upon government bodies wanting to acquire land. A Site Selection Panel was established to determine the key target areas within each region, based on needs analysis, and to determine the site selection criteria such as location, size, cost and zoning.

Over 100 potential sites have been identified and evaluated against the site selection criteria, and the department continues to work on the identification and purchase of sites across all three regions.

The Andrews Labor Government will continue to take real action to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drug addiction.

**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Dunn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 27 March 2018

**ANSWER:**

VicRoads has held many discussions with the community and stakeholders about the safety and operation of Rosanna Road.

Rosanna Road will get much needed upgrade to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety, part of the Andrews Labor Government's work to overhaul congestion hotspots throughout the north east.

The Victorian Budget 2018-19 will include a \$3.12 million works package to deliver short-term congestion relief ahead of the construction of the congestion busting North East Link.

There'll be new traffic lights at the intersection of Rosanna Road and St James Roads as well as new pedestrian lights at Yarra Street and Brown Street. As part of the upgrade, the existing pedestrian crossing on Rosanna Road, north of St James Road, will be removed. Electronic 40km/h signs will be installed on Rosanna Road between Darebin Street and Banksia Street to make the area safer for pedestrians accessing Heidelberg Primary School, Warringal Shopping Centre and the Burgundy Street shops.

This package is an addition to the \$850 000 in road improvements on Rosanna Road between Lower Plenty Road and Burgundy Street, which were completed last year.

The Labor Government has also announced that procurement for the \$16.5 billion link, connecting the M80 Ring Road to the Eastern Freeway, would begin within 100 days of re-election.

Planning and design work for the North East Link will be fast-tracked thanks to a \$110 million injection from this year's Budget.

Planning studies, including flora and fauna, cultural heritage plans, historical and heritage studies, finding places for new walking and cycling paths and managing fisheries will now be prepared.

When complete, North East Link will take up to 15 000 vehicles off Rosanna Road every day — giving this important local road back to local people.

### Western Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Asked on:** 29 March 2018

#### ANSWER:

As you are aware, the Government has committed \$25 million towards the \$44 million redevelopment of the Ballarat Station Precinct which comprises a multi-deck commuter carpark, hotel, convention centre and public plaza. In response to community feedback; an additional \$7 million was made available in 2017 for the construction of a bus interchange within the precinct and an additional level of commuter parking (bringing the total number of formal spaces to 405).

Through an extensive procurement process and the subsequent appointment of Pellicano as the developer, it was agreed that Pellicano would purchase the site on which the Hotel and Convention centre is located. Thus, in this Project there is no gifting of public land to a private developer. Mr Morris needs to familiarise himself with the facts.

Currently there are approximately 100 formal commuter carparking spaces at the precinct, with informal carparking on gravel surrounding the Goods Shed. The number of parks on site fluctuates depending on the parking patterns of commuters. This project will deliver 405 formal car spaces in a modern, brightly lit multi-deck complex complete with CCTV. The kind of parking Ballarat commuters deserve.

Eight designated disability access car spaces will be made available within the multi-deck carpark which is in addition to the five designated disability access compliant spaces already available to the south of the station. Again, Mr Morris is poorly advised.

As Mr Morris knows, contracts for this project have been entered into and construction has commenced. I have previously met with Save Our Station and am aware of their view but our government remains determined to deliver on each and every one of our election commitments we made to the people of Ballarat.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Corrections  
**Asked on:** 8 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The person who should be apologising to the people of Bacchus Marsh is Mr Morris.

Mr Morris knows full well that the Lara Prison Precinct Expansion project is a project situated in Lara on Bacchus Marsh Road.

Mr Morris was indeed present when the Government's plans to expand the precinct at Lara were discussed on a number of occasions in the Legislative Council.

The reference to Bacchus Marsh in the Budget Papers was clearly a typographical error.

Mr Morris knows this, yet he continues to promote this falsehood in the Bacchus Marsh community simply to score political points.

Unfortunately, Mr Morris has decided to continue this juvenile, shameful behaviour which does no benefit to the community of Bacchus Marsh and I would ask him to cease immediately.