

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

11 May to 25 May 2018

(Extract from book 7)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

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 |
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| Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports | The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP |
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| 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

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Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

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Leader of the Opposition:

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Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

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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 ¹ | 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 ⁸ | Eastern Victoria | Nats |
| Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ³ | 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 ⁹ | Northern Victoria | Nats |
| Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon | Eastern Metropolitan | LP | Patten, Ms Fiona ¹⁰ | Northern Metropolitan | RV |
| Davis, Mr David McLean | Southern Metropolitan | LP | Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret | Southern Metropolitan | Greens |
| Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ⁴ | 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 ¹¹ | Northern Metropolitan | Greens |
| Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret | Southern Metropolitan | LP | Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth | South Eastern Metropolitan | LP |
| Gepp, Mr Mark ⁵ | Northern Victoria | ALP | Shing, Ms Harriet | Eastern Victoria | ALP |
| Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred ⁷ | Western Metropolitan | Greens | Somyurek, Mr Adem | South Eastern Metropolitan | ALP |
| Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁶ | 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 ¹² | Western Metropolitan | Greens |
| Melhem, Mr Cesar | Western Metropolitan | ALP | Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling | Eastern Metropolitan | LP |
| | | | Young, Mr Daniel | Northern Victoria | SFFP |

¹ Resigned 28 September 2017

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ DLP until 26 June 2017

⁴ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁶ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁷ Resigned 9 February 2018

⁸ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁹ Appointed 12 October 2016

¹⁰ ASP until 16 January 2018

¹¹ Appointed 18 October 2017

¹² 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.

11 May to 25 May 2018**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Youth Affairs
Asked on: 22 June 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government Youth Policy: Building Stronger Youth Engagement in Victoria was launched in 2016 to strengthen how we engage and empower young people to influence policy, services and programs that affect them.

Since then young people across Victoria have had the opportunity to take part in discussions which are helping to shape future government decisions on issues important to young people.

We held 12 youth forums across Victoria to help identify key priority issues for young people such as education; employment, mental health and housing.

In 2017 we hosted the first ever Victorian Youth Summit, where over 400 young people attended to discuss priority issues such as education, employment, mental health and housing.

We have also established the Victorian Youth Congress, an advisory group of young people from a range of diverse backgrounds who are working with government to inform policy, program and service developments.

The second Victorian Youth Summit took place on 20 April 2018 during the first Victorian Youth Week which the Andrews Labor Government fully funded after the Federal Liberal Government scrapped all funding for a National Youth Week.

We fund a range of programs that empower young people and helps develop leadership, team-work, communication and technical skills. Programs like Advance, Engage!, Empower Youth and FReeZA are an important part of this work which occurs through local councils, schools and community organisations across Victoria.

I thank the member for his continued interest in empowering youth in his electorate.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 6 September 2017

ANSWER:

This was a tragic incident and one which should never have happened. Ballarat Health Services has taken full responsibility for it and are working through the issues with the family. Ballarat Health Services is continuing to offer the family support.

An Officer of Safer Care Victoria (SCV) has contacted Ballarat Health Services to discuss this matter.

SCV considered a full investigation into this matter however concluded that this was not necessary given that Ballarat Health Services has taken full responsibility for the incident, have been open and apologetic about the mistake, and are working to ensure that this kind of incident never happens again.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 21 November 2017

ANSWER:

As the fastest growing State in this country, it is critical that our planning and capital investments are addressing the needs of the most rapidly expanding communities, particularly in the outer urban growth areas of the north, west and south-east of Melbourne.

In the north, the Andrews Labor Government is investing \$162.7 million to upgrade the Northern Hospital, with an increase in operating theatres and additional beds that will allow an estimated 10 000 more patients to be treated each year. This is in addition to \$17.3 million to increase surgery capacity by more than 2500 procedures per year at the Broadmeadows Surgery Centre and the \$11.5 million that has been spent on capital improvements to Djerriwarrh Health Service in the last two years.

After hours home doctor visits are provided by the National Home Doctor Service who bulk bill to Sunbury. It's your colleagues in the Turnbull Government who have cut rebates to home doctors putting services like this in jeopardy.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 15 December 2017

ANSWER:

I am sorry to hear of Ms Robert's diagnosis of breast cancer diagnosis, and the travel she will require for her radiotherapy treatment. The Victorian Government understands that access to radiotherapy for patients from the Shepparton region can be challenging, and we are actively working to assess the best options for the development of a local radiotherapy service in Shepparton.

The Victorian Government has significantly invested in growing and expanding the range and quality of cancer services in regional Victoria. Over recent years this has included development of new regional cancer centres in Ballarat, Bendigo, Warrnambool and Albury Wodonga, as well as new models of care at sub-regional health services linked to major regional hospitals. Radiotherapy has been a feature of these new Regional Cancer Centres.

We are looking at all alternatives around the development of a radiotherapy service in Shepparton to ensure it best meets local needs, and can be developed to address that need in as short a time as safely possible. This includes options around development as part of the existing \$168.5 major redevelopment at Goulburn Valley Health, which will create an expanded emergency department, theatres, Intensive Care Unit, in-patient beds, special care nursery, imaging, dialysis, and a new kitchen. These building works are scheduled to commence in the coming months.

The Victorian Government will work closely with whoever provides radiotherapy services in Shepparton to ensure that treatment is affordable for all patients who require it.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 7 February 2018

ANSWER:

To optimise the benefits of the \$9.3 million investment, extensive community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken over several months to help shape initial options and ideas developed between VicRoads and the City of Ballarat, to improve safety, help address growing congestion and promote healthier active transport.

Due to some concerns that have been raised, VicRoads will investigate other options for improving safety on Sturt Street and an off-road bike path from Ballarat's growing west into the CBD, in consultation with traders and the local community. All aspects of the project are being designed to complement existing features such as trees and heritage, and promote further opportunities for integrated landscaping treatments.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 21 February 2018

ANSWER:

Melbourne's outer suburbs are some of the fastest growing areas in Australia. We are aware that the increased growth in the north is putting pressure on the road network, and these higher traffic volumes can lead to increased travel times.

As part of the record \$2.2 billion Suburban Roads Upgrade package, the Victorian Government recently announced funding for road projects in the northern suburbs, including Craigieburn Road, Epping Road, Childs Road, Sunbury Road, Fitzsimons Lane, Yan Yean Road and Bridge Inn Road which will reduce congestion and improve road safety.

VicRoads has done extensive consultation with several councils that represent the outer suburbs of Melbourne, including, the City of Whittlesea and Hume City Council, to identify strategically important roads that require some form of infrastructure upgrade.

The Outer Metropolitan Ring / E6 Transport Corridor is designated as a future transport connection. Following community consultation in 2010, provision was made to reserve land for the Outer Metropolitan Ring / E6 Transport Corridor in municipal planning schemes.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority will begin work to remove the dangerous level crossing at High Street, Reservoir later this year. Once started, the project will take between 18 months and two years to complete.

VicRoads will continue to work with relevant government and community organisations to ensure appropriate planning for Melbourne's long-term growth.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 7 March 2018

ANSWER:

I would like to assure the traders and constituents of Mulgrave that the Andrews Labor Government is delivering on our promise to give Victoria Police the resources and the powers they need to fight crime and keep the Victorian community safe.

Many Victorian communities, including those in Mulgrave, can look forward to seeing an increased police presence in their area with the roll out of 3135 additional frontline police across the state. Commencing in May, Victoria Police will deploy a total of 825 additional police officers during 2018-19.

As part of this deployment an additional 12 police have been allocated to the Monash Police Service Area, which services Mulgrave. This is in addition to the 26 specialist unit resources which will be shared across the broader division. This 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.

In the city of Monash, the relentless efforts of local police has seen a 12 per cent decrease in the crime rate, including drops in theft and burglary/break and enter offences. Local police will continue to work closely with the community to keep them safe. The additional police resources being rolled out over the next 12 months will assist these efforts.

I note the member's comments in relation to sentencing and her constituent's proposal for a review of the legal system. However, as the member would be aware sentencing is the portfolio responsibility of the Attorney-General.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Leane
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 8 March 2018

ANSWER:

The 2017-18 Victorian Budget provided an additional \$50 million over two years for the Growing Suburbs Fund, bringing the total Victorian Government investment in this program to \$150 million.

I can confirm that Nillumbik Shire Council has received \$16.2 million from the Growing Suburbs Fund over the last three years. Of this, the council was successful in obtaining funding of:

- \$6.353 million from the 2015-16 from the Growing Suburbs Fund (then known as the Interface Growth Fund) for two projects — the Eltham Community & Reception Centre (\$2 553 000), which has been completed, and the Eltham Leisure Centre and Aquatic Redevelopment (\$3 800 000). Construction of this facility is ongoing, with completion expected in June 2018.
- \$2.1 million from the 2016-17 Growing Suburbs Fund for three projects — Civic Drive Precinct Community Facilities (\$500 000), which is currently under construction, and Edendale Community Environment Farm (\$950 000) and Research Park Pavilion (\$650 000), both of which are delayed.
- \$7.7 million from the 2017-19 Growing Suburbs Fund for five projects — the redevelopment of the Diamond Valley Sports and Fitness Centre (\$2.5 million), the Diamond Creek Netball Club Pavilion (\$2.8 million), a pavilion upgrade at Eltham Central Park (\$800 000), the construction of a pavilion at Marngrook Oval in

Diamond Creek (\$416 650) and the improvement of pedestrian connections in Diamond Creek (\$1.2 million). Construction of all of these projects is due to commence in September 2018.

With regard to the projects at Eltham High School and Bolton Street, Eltham, your questions would need to be referred to my colleagues, the Minister for Education, the Hon James Merlino MP and the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, the Hon Luke Donnellan MP respectively.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 27 March 2018

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to ensuring that all school cleaning staff are paid their legal wages and entitlements.

We refuse to sit on our hands while cleaning staff across our schools do not receive their legal wages and entitlements.

The Government announced school cleaning reforms in mid last year after multiple investigations found vulnerable staff were being underpaid and mistreated.

Our new cleaning model ensures high quality cleaning contractors, receive their legal wages and entitlements, and will provided a consistent standard of cleaning in schools.

Our cleaning model is addressing the systematic underpayment of cleaning staff that was occurring.

We are reforming cleaning arrangements by:

- Introducing an area-based cleaning model in metropolitan schools comprising eight separate areas, with all schools within a single area being cleaned by one contractor. The Department will take over the role of contract management, removing the administrative burden from schools; and
- Strengthening existing compliance and monitoring arrangements in regional and metropolitan schools.

The Government is aware that several existing school cleaning service contracts extend beyond a school's scheduled transition date to the new model. Prior to the commencement of the new model, these existing service contracts will be brought to an end in a manner consistent with the terms of each contract in order to ensure a smooth commencement of services for all schools.

The decision to reform school cleaning was not taken lightly but this government believes the changes are necessary to ensure high-quality and consistent cleaning in all Victorian government schools and to protect the wages and entitlements of the school cleaning industry.

Serious consideration has been given to the effect this reform will have on cleaning business owners and the school cleaning workforce. The Department carried out a consultation process with existing cleaning business owners to understand the extent to which they are affected by the implementation of the new model. A tailored program of practical support was developed to address their needs, and includes: private business mentoring sessions, targeted business development workshops, retraining and wellbeing support. All components of this program are free, and all mentoring and wellbeing support services are strictly confidential.

This program has been designed to support cleaning business owners who want to continue to run their own cleaning business and diversify their customer base, as well as members of the school cleaning industry who are seeking employment in the new school cleaning model or elsewhere.

In addition to the services that are available to school cleaning business owners as part of the program of practical support, the incoming service providers for metropolitan Melbourne will be required to recruit from the existing school cleaning workforce. This requirement is designed to ensure that school cleaners, people who tirelessly serve our school communities, are offered work in the new model. To assist in facilitating this process, the Department has recently launched a website to allow members of the school cleaning industry to register their interest for roles in the new model.

The new cleaning model will guarantee that every cleaner working in a Victorian government school receives their legal wages and entitlements. The cleaning needs of schools are wide and varied and all members of the school cleaning workforce deserve full remuneration for the work they perform for our school communities. The program of practical support and the requirement for the incoming school cleaning service providers to prioritise recruitment from the existing school cleaning workforce will assist everyone to transition to the new model: business owners, managers, supervisors and cleaners.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 28 March 2018

ANSWER:

Under the Local Government Act 1989, all councils in Victoria are required to adopt a councillor code of conduct and all councillors are required to make a declaration that they will abide by their council's councillor code of conduct.

I expect all councillors to adhere to the standards of behaviour that are set out in their councillor codes of conduct, including when consulting with their communities on matters of concern.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 29 March 2018

ANSWER:

The Government is serious about responding to community concerns around graffiti vandalism.

The government is continuing to support our Graffiti Prevention Grants program, which now provides up to \$30 000 to councils to partner with community groups to deliver projects that prevent graffiti vandalism in local communities.

Since 2015, this Government has provided more than \$1.3 million to support 72 graffiti prevention initiatives across the State. This includes \$17 572 in the 2017-18 round of grants for a graffiti prevention project in the City of Greater Shepparton.

The Graffiti Prevention Grants is a highly effective program, with almost 90 per cent of survey respondents who delivered projects between 2012 and 2016 indicating that their graffiti prevention project was effective in preventing or reducing illegal graffiti. In addition, over 90 per cent of respondents who delivered a mural or street art project reported that the level of illegal graffiti decreased following project completion.

All projects with a public art or mural component must include a structured anti-graffiti education program for any young people directly participating in the project. We recognise that graffiti prevention requires a multidimensional approach and have strengthened the emphasis on this in this year's grant round. Applications for the 2018-19 round of Graffiti Prevention Grants are currently being assessed.

In addition, Victoria has among the toughest penalties for graffiti vandalism in Australia, with maximum fines of more than \$38 057 and up to two years' prison time for illegal graffiti.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 1 May 2018

ANSWER:

I am sorry to hear of your constituent's recent unsatisfactory experience when travelling to Shepparton by train and hope that the constituent brought the behaviour of fellow passengers to the attention of V/Line staff. There are penalties under the Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) (Conduct on Public Transport) Regulations 2015 for drinking liquor on any vehicle and for committing a nuisance or acting in a way that is likely to interfere with the comfort of another person.

The Andrews Labor Government is ensuring that the people of Shepparton will have the public transport services they deserve, with faster, more reliable and more frequent trains. The 2018-19 Victorian Budget provides \$313 million for Stage 2 of the Shepparton Line Upgrade, which will pave the way for nine services a day to and from Shepparton and will allow modern VLocity trains to travel to and from Shepparton for the first time. Stage 2 includes:

- new stabling at or north of Shepparton to house VLocity trains;
- platform extensions at Shepparton, Mooroopna, Murchison East and Nagambie stations;
- signalling and track upgrades to enable trains to travel at up to 130km/h; and
- upgrades to 54 level crossing between Seymour and Shepparton.

Work is already underway on the first stage of the project with \$43 million funded in the 2017-18 Budget. The stabling upgrade at Shepparton station as part of Stage 1 will enable a fifth daily return service between Shepparton and Melbourne in 2019. This stage also delivers 29 additional coach services per week between Seymour and Shepparton from May 2018, to spread services throughout the day ahead of the new train services for the line.

The \$356 million allocated by the Andrews Labor Government provides a stark contrast to the Liberal-National Coalition promise of just \$77 million, which falls short of the funding needed to provide the Shepparton community with the improvement in services it expects and deserves.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Attorney-General
Asked on: 9 May 2018

ANSWER:

I thank the member for her question. However the question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities and should be redirected to the Minister for Public Transport, the Hon Jacinta Allan.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 9 May 2018

ANSWER:

The former Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Glen Waverley line. In contrast, the level crossing at Burke Road in Glen Iris was the first crossing removed by the Andrews Labor Government, with another 18 across Melbourne also gone.

The Member for Southern Metropolitan region would be aware of the strong community support for recent elevated level crossings removals, including those at Noble Park, Clayton and Rosanna. Several councils across Melbourne are strongly advocating for elevated rail corridors for the removal of level crossings within their municipalities.

The removal of the level crossing at Toorak Road is in the early stages of planning and no decisions have been made in relation to the best design solution. The Level Crossing Removal Authority will consult with the City of Stonnington on all aspects of the removal of the crossing. The crossings at Glenferrie Road and Tooronga Road are not on the list of 50 crossings that the Government has committed to remove. Elevated rail has existed in this area of Melbourne for the last hundred years, with rail bridges nearby at Glenferrie Road and Auburn Road in Hawthorn.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Treasurer
Asked on: 10 May 2018

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Western Victoria for his constituency question in relation to the proposed interactive war memorial in Warrnambool. As this matter falls under the Minister for Veterans, the Hon John Eren MP's portfolio, I have referred this question to him for a response.