

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS**

**22 June to 27 July 2018**

**(Extract from book 10)**

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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
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Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries . . . . .	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
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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 Mulino, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, #Dr Ratnam, #Ms Symes, Ms Truong and Mr Young.

**Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues** — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, Ms Fitzherbert, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Dr Ratnam, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing, 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*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Gepp. (*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

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**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

**President:**

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**Deputy President:**

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

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The Hon. G. JENNINGS

**Deputy Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

**Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

**Leader of The 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, Mr 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
Elasmar, 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.*

**25 June to 27 July 2018****Western Victoria Region**

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

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government values the role of community health services in providing essential services to their local communities.

In June 2016 Bellarine Community Health informed the Department of Health and Human Services that it had identified fraudulent activity involving misappropriation of monies from their dental clinic.

The department commissioned a forensic audit to examine this matter in detail.

The Secretary of the department imposed eight conditions of registration on Bellarine Community Health to address the findings of the forensic audit.

The department is assessing Bellarine Community Health's compliance with the conditions of registration, and working closely with the organisation to ensure it has robust financial and management systems in place.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Health  
**Asked on:** 30 November 2017

**ANSWER:**

My department is currently undertaking an analysis of the best options for providing radiotherapy to Shepparton residents as close to home as possible and all options are being considered.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Symes  
**Directed to:** Minister for Health  
**Asked on:** 7 February 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing the burden of skin cancer, and is delivering \$15 million for skin cancer prevention initiatives and programs.

The Community Shade Grants Program, providing grants for shade development in public spaces, saw tremendous interest in the third and final application round with 873 submissions received, demonstrating the strong need for shade in our community.

I am delighted to advise that the Heathcote Children's Services Association have been successful in their application for a community shade grant and the children will be able to benefit from the additional protection before the heat of summer.

Organisations, including the Heathcote Children's Services Association will already be aware of the outcome of their application.

**Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 1 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The safety of students and school communities is of paramount concern for the Andrews Labor Government. I am proud that the Labor Government funded flashing 40km/hr speed signs for Kallista Primary School in the recent budget, responding to local community wishes and ahead of belated Liberal Party comments on these matters. As the member for Monbulk I will, as always, continue to advocate for the needs of constituents.

Please note that the allocation of flashing 40km/hr speed signs is within the remit of the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, not the education portfolio. Given the lack of interest in investing in education or road safety under the previous Liberal Government, such confusion and unfamiliarity from yourself and the Member for Kew is unsurprising.

Nevertheless, on behalf of the school and school community I have already personally raised the road safety issues in respect to Sassafras Primary School and Kallista Primary School with the respondent Minister. Furthermore, as parking beyond school boundaries and traffic management are local government responsibilities I will raise these matters with council in my capacity as Member for Monbulk.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

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

**ANSWER:**

The upgrade of the Mills Street tram stop will improve safety for passengers who use the stop, in particular school students.

I am advised that a community information session was recently held with Public Transport Victoria, the local council and local residents to provide details of the tram stop upgrade to discuss the design of the tram stop and answer questions from residents regarding car parking and flooding.

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 1 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The recently announced upgrade of Sunbury Road is part of the Andrews Labor Government's Suburban Roads Upgrade package. The northern component of this package includes:

- Widening Sunbury Road in Sunbury from two lanes to four between Powlett Street and Bulla-Diggers Rest Road;
- Duplicating Craigieburn Road in Craigieburn from two to four lanes between Mickleham Road and the Hume Highway;
- Duplicating Bridge Inn Road in Doreen from two lanes to four between Plenty Road and Yan Yean Road;
- Duplicating Yan Yean Road in Yarrambat from two to four lanes between Kurrak Road and Bridge Inn Road;

- Duplicating Epping Road in Epping from two to four lanes between Craigieburn Road East and Memorial Avenue;
- Upgrading three intersections at Main Road, Porter Street and Foote Street on Fitzsimons Lane in Templestowe, as well as installing traffic lights at Leane Drive in Eltham; and
- Duplicating Childs Road in Mill Park from two to four lanes between Beaumont Crescent and Prince of Wales Avenue, with a new bridge over Darebin Creek.

The Sunbury Road widening project will also include an upgrade of the intersection of Lancefield Road and Francis Boulevard and the installation of new safety barriers and a shared cycling and pedestrian path.

Investigations to finalise the land corridor needed for a new future major road link to bypass the Bulla township are continuing.

### Western Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 8 May 2018

#### ANSWER:

Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road between Lara and Maddingley has seen 13 serious crashes in a five-year period ending December 2016. Tragically, six people have lost their lives and a further 32 have sustained serious injuries as a result of these crashes. More notably, five of the six fatalities occurred when a vehicle crossed the road centreline. The main crash types on the road are head-on and run-off road crashes.

As a result, this rural road segment has been identified as one of 20 high-risk roads in the Towards Zero 2016-2020 Victoria's Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan.

The Towards Zero Top 20 Program targets the reduction in head-on and run-off road deaths and serious injuries by improving safety on Victoria's 20 highest risk roads through the implementation of centreline flexible safety barrier, wide centre line treatment (painted median), left hand side flexible safety barrier and other supporting treatments.

In your question, you refer to the centre barriers installed on Geelong Bacchus Marsh Road. There are plans to implement centreline barriers along this road and works are due to commence later this year, so I am unsure of where the Member is referring.

Barriers have been installed in other roads across the region, including sections of the Midland Highway between Bannockburn and Meredith, and the Princes Freeway between Geelong and Melbourne.

In regards to your concern of there being inadequate pavement width to accommodate traffic, pavement and shoulder widening will be completed along stretches of roadway where the centreline barriers are to be installed on Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road. Pavement and shoulder widening will occur either side of the proposed centre barrier to comprise of a 3.5-metre traffic lane, three-metre shoulder with roadside barriers being offset four metres from the traffic lane.

Wire rope safety barriers, also known as flexible safety barriers, are road barriers made up of four tensioned wire ropes supported by steel posts. They are described as flexible because they stretch and absorb the force of the crash. The barriers use a dual-mechanism to slow down and divert excessive force away from the people inside the vehicles. The ropes deflect and absorb the energy and the posts collapse, slowing down and redirecting the vehicle away from the hazard, with little rebound. Research has proven that wire rope safety barriers are the most forgiving system, with people more likely to survive than other available road barriers. In regards to safety barriers being implemented along the centre of the road, this is done to greatly reduce the chance of a head-on collision from occurring, which is shown to be the most prominent fatal crash type along this section of roadway.

In regards to the possible duplication of Geelong-Bacchus Marsh Road, traffic volumes along this section do not warrant a duplication of the roadway. However, as a part of the program, VicRoads is installing several overtaking lanes to account for the increase in traffic along this route.

Towards Zero is a permanent safety measure, with centre line barrier proven to reduce death and serious injuries by 85 percent.

### **Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Crozier  
**Directed to:** Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing  
**Asked on:** 8 May 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

The double standards of the Honourable Member and her political party on this matter is remarkable. They have sought to frustrate the Public Housing Renewal Program and its aim of renewing outdated, poor quality housing, committed to throw rough sleepers on the path to recovery out of their supportive housing and sell the public land their homes sit on, whilst failing to account for the \$330 million cuts the former Liberal Government inflicted onto the social housing sector.

The Member was a part of the Legislative Council Inquiry into the Public Housing Renewal Program — which in its recommendations only found some minor criticism around process and consultation. That report outlines the minimum number of new public homes to be built and how new stock will be better aligned to meet demand from the waiting list, over 80% of which is for one and two bedroom units.

I therefore refer the Member to the report she authored on this matter.

### **Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Dunn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 9 May 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government recently announced funding for Rosanna Road under the 2018-19 Victorian State Budget to reduce congestion and improve safety.

Once built, North East Link will also take 9000 vehicles off Rosanna Road and result in a 75 per cent reduction in truck volumes based on extensive traffic modelling by the North East Link Authority.

VicRoads advises me that Rosanna Road has always been designated as an Over-Dimensional (OD) route.

In the 2016 review of OD routes, Rosanna Road was reaffirmed as an OD route based on a number of key considerations such as;

- height clearance and weight capacity of this route;
- its ability to provide a direct arterial road connection to minimise overall impact to the community; and avoidance of steep grades for safety and efficiency.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 9 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government will continue to give Victoria Police the resources, powers and technology that they need to keep Victorians safe.

We are delivering the biggest ever investment in law and order in our state's history, including the funding, recruiting and deploying of an extra 3135 new police.

New police officers are being deployed to areas of greatest need, using the Staffing Allocation Model (SAM). The SAM has been developed by Victoria Police, in consultation with the Police Association of Victoria, and endorsed by the Victorian Government. The SAM ensures deployment of police resources is determined by evidence and policing experts. It also safeguards the operational independence of Victoria Police.

Many Victorian communities, including Ballarat, can look forward to seeing an increased police presence in their area with the roll out of additional police across the State.

Commencing in May, Victoria Police began to deploy a total of 825 additional police officers during 2018-19. As part of this deployment, an additional 14 police have commenced deployment across the Ballarat Division, including 10 family violence specialist officers.

This is on top of the additional 24 Police Custody Officers deployed to Ballarat who have been fundamental in releasing more police officers for high visibility police patrols and community engagement.

The Government's record investment in police and community safety is making a real difference, driving down crime by 9.5 per cent across the state as documented by the independent Crime Statistics Agency (CSA).

I am pleased to advise that, as indicated in the most recent CSA release, there has been a 5.7 percent reduction in the rate of offences within the Ballarat LGA. This is testament to the relentless efforts of local police to keep the community of Ballarat safe.

**Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Dr Ratnam  
**Directed to:** Minister for Planning  
**Asked on:** 9 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

On 16 April 2018, I approved Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C281, which amends planning controls for the former Commonwealth Games Village at Parkville. Stages 9, 10 and 11 are increasing in height, with stage 11 reaching the new maximum allowable height of 17 residential stories. The original masterplan always envisaged tall built form in an apartment precinct along the freeway edge. The amendment went through a public exhibition process, including notification to over 1200 properties, and key agencies. The panel formed the view that the proposed increased maximum height of 19 storeys was acceptable.

I reduced the maximum height allowable to 17 storeys to ensure the development better responds to its wider site context and the concerns of the local community. The revised development will also facilitate an estimated 23 additional social housing units. When complete, 20 per cent of the overall 1600 dwellings will be dedicated to social housing. The revised scheme also reduced overall overshadowing of the wetlands. Before any further consents are granted for the land, a revised Master Plan will need to be submitted to me for approval.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 9 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The 2018–19 State Budget provides \$16.3 million to commence the development of the next generation of trams for Melbourne’s tram network. This will include investigating improved ways to provide access at tram stops.

**Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Patten  
**Directed to:** Minister for Emergency Services  
**Asked on:** 10 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of our firefighters, who contribute to the wellbeing and safety of the Victorian community.

The Victorian Government is committed to providing presumptive rights for firefighters. Taken in totality, the Victorian Government’s proposed scheme would be the most accessible in the country.

I encourage your constituent to work with WorkSafe Victoria to identify what compensation schemes may be available and best suited to him. Further information on these compensation schemes are available at [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au).

**Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr O’Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 10 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government will continue to give Victoria Police the resources, powers and technology that they need to keep Victorians safe.

We are delivering the biggest ever investment in law and order in our state’s history, including the funding, recruiting and deploying of an extra 3135 new police.

New police officers are being deployed to areas of greatest need, using the Staffing Allocation Model (SAM). The SAM has been developed by Victoria Police, in consultation with the Police Association of Victoria, and endorsed by the Victorian Government. The SAM ensures deployment of police resources is determined by evidence and policing experts. It also safeguards the operational independence of Victoria Police.

Victoria Police are active in the Pakenham area, with various localised operations focusing on public safety. There are uniformed police patrols and planned community engagement events in community areas locations of interest, including shopping precincts and railways stations.

Local uniformed police, the Criminal Investigations Unit, Transit police members and members from the Operations Response Unit are all working collaboratively to ensure there is a strong visible police presence in public areas within Cardinia and surrounding areas. This is not only to act as a deterrent to offending and anti-social behaviour but to ensure offending behaviour is quickly detected and prosecuted.

Victoria Police have been consistent in their view that the presence and visibility of police out in the community is the best deterrent of crime and offers the greatest community reassurance. This high visibility policing model has been reaffirmed in the recently released Community Safety Statement.

Communities in the Cardinia LGA can look forward to seeing an increased police presence in their area with the roll out of an additional 46 police, including 14 family violence specialist officers across the Division encompassing Cardinia in 2018-19.

The additional resources being deployed to the Police Division responsible for Pakenham will further assist local police to operate high visibility patrols and community engagement.

In addition, the recently established Cardinia Community Safety Network is actively exploring other innovative ways that police and community members can work together to prevent and deter crime.

Furthermore, the independent Crime Statistics Agency data for the year ending 31 March 2018 shows a reduction in the crime rate of 20.6 per cent in the Cardinia Shire LGA. The offence rate for 2017 for Cardinia was the lowest since 2011 and is testament to the relentless efforts of local police.

### **Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 10 May 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

Unlike the former Coalition Government, the Andrews Labor Government has funded key road upgrades across the northern suburbs to reduce congestion and travel times, improve safety and connect communities.

The 2018-19 State Budget included more than \$1 billion to widen and improve safety on roads throughout Melbourne's north, including:

- duplicating Craigieburn Road, between Mickleham Road and the Hume Highway;
- widening Sunbury Road from two lanes to four between Powlett Street and Bulla-Diggers Rest Road in Sunbury;
- Duplicating Childs Road in Mill Park from Beaumont Crescent to Prince of Wales Avenue; and
- Duplicating Epping Road from two to four lanes between Craigieburn Road East and Memorial Avenue.

This is in addition to roads project currently under construction, which will provide safer journeys and less traffic congestion across Melbourne's northern suburbs. These include:

- \$139.4 million upgrade to Plenty Road, between McKimmies Road and Bush Boulevard;
- \$131.2 million duplication of Yan Yean Road (Stage 1) between Diamond Creek Road and Kurrak Road; and
- \$82.2 million upgrade to O'Herns Road, which includes duplication of the road between Epping Road and the Hume Freeway and a new freeway interchange, jointly funded by the Federal Government.

VicRoads is continuing to investigate further improvements on Melbourne's northern road network and is working closely with key stakeholders, including the Hume City Council, on various transport priorities. Any additional works will be considered for funding in a future program.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Planning  
**Asked on:** 22 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Greater Shepparton Solar Farms Planning Panel considered the four applications at a public hearing between 14 and 28 May 2018. As part of the hearing, the Panel heard from expert witness on the effect of the proposals, including any effects on adjoining land in terms of changes to ambient temperatures.

The Panel will examine all land use planning issues associated with these proposals, including the impact to adjoining land uses. The Panel will submit its report to me in late July 2018, after which I will decide the applications.

A strategic approach to the development of the solar industry is important, which is why I will also use the Panel's findings to inform the development of guidelines to help councils assess planning permit applications for future solar farms. I have asked the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to seek input from key stakeholders including the Municipal Association of Victoria, Victorian Farmers Federation and the energy sector. Draft guidelines will be available for public comment in the last quarter of 2018. The government's wind farm policy and planning guidelines, which are used to inform wind farm planning decisions, are a good example of a similar guide.

Agricultural enterprises in the Goulburn Valley make an important contribution to Victoria's economy and the concerns raised by the communities at Tatura, Lemnos, Congupna and Tallygaroopna are being taken seriously.

These proposals are not the first to present challenges in an agricultural setting. There are currently five solar farms in Victoria that have been approved, including the already operational 60 megawatt (MW) Gannawarra Solar Farm west of Kerang, the 110 MW Bannerton Solar Farm near Robinvale and three other solar farms in northern Victoria at Swan Hill, Karadoc and Yatpool. In addition to the five solar farms operating or under construction, another 19 have approved planning permits (as of May 2018) and at least 25 projects are at various stages of consideration or pre-application discussions with planning authorities.

In light of this, I will not delay making a decision on the four solar farm applications at Lemnos, Tatura East, Congupna and Tallygaroopna.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 22 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

I thank the member for his question in relation to this very important matter of community safety.

In relation to the specific case you have mentioned, I am advised by Victoria Police that initial enquiries have indicated the majority of such offences are being committed by the same group of youths. Charges being considered range from serious assault charges through to affray.

Recently two fifteen year old offenders have been charged with offences including affray and assaults and strict bail conditions have been imposed pending their appearance at a Children's Court.

Police have also attended a local Primary School and spoken with staff and children who may have been affected by incidents to provide reassurance around the policing response.



The Ballarat Safer Communities Tasking Unit has combined the two current investigations of a similar nature into one investigation along with trying to track down further victims. All available CCTV footage along with footage provided via social media is currently being reviewed to identify both victims and offenders. Further media releases may be required to encourage victims to come forward.

More broadly, the Ballarat Safer Communities Tasking Unit have been tasked specifically with providing a high visibility police presence in and around the Ballarat CBD with a particular focus on The Bridge Mall, Little Bridge Street Bus Interchange and the Coles / Woolworths Shopping Complex.

The Police Local Command will also continue to work with the partner agencies including the Ballarat City Council to develop safety strategies for the Little Bridge Street Bus Interchange and surrounds.

Community safety remains a key priority for the Andrews Labor Government and Victoria Police, with Victoria Police currently deploy an additional 825 additional police across the state. This boost in resources is funded as part of the Government's \$2 billion investment in police under the Community Safety Statement.

As part of this deployment an additional 14 police will be allocated to the Ballarat 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, driving down crime by 9.5 per cent as reported by the independent Crime Statistics Agency (CSA).

In the most recent release from the CSA, there has been a recorded reduction in overall crime within Ballarat Local Government Area (LGA) of 5.7 per cent. Notably, Assault and related Offences have decreased by 2.9 per cent within the Ballarat LGA.

### **Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Directed to:** Minister for Local Government  
**Asked on:** 22 May 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

I would like to thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan Region, Mr Ondarchie for his question regarding infrastructure improvements at All Nations Park in Northcote.

All Nations Park is a wonderful community asset, and I know that it is valued by the local community and visitors alike.

I understand that a section of All Nations Park is designated as a dog off-leash area. Darebin City Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021 acknowledges the challenges around supporting dog off-leash areas including the effective control of dogs in these areas and considerations around additional fencing.

Darebin City Council is responsible for the management of All Nations Park, including the funding of its infrastructure. I am advised that council has received a number of submissions recently regarding All Nations Park as part of the council's consultation on its 2018-19 budget.

Council will be considering all budget submissions as part of its budget process and encourage any members of the community who have an interest in this area to make their views known to their local councillors.

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 22 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The recently announced upgrade of Sunbury Road is part of the Andrews Labor Government's Suburban Roads Upgrade package. The northern component of this package includes:

- Widening Sunbury Road in Sunbury from two lanes to four between Powlett Street and Bulla-Diggers Rest Road;
- Duplicating Craigieburn Road in Craigieburn from two to four lanes between Mickleham Road and the Hume Highway;
- Duplicating Bridge Inn Road in Doreen from two lanes to four between Plenty Road and Yan Yean Road;
- Duplicating Yan Yean Road in Yarrambat from two to four lanes between Kurrak Road and Bridge Inn Road;
- Duplicating Epping Road in Epping from two to four lanes between Craigieburn Road East and Memorial Avenue;
- Upgrading three intersections at Main Road, Porter Street and Foote Street on Fitzsimons Lane in Templestowe, as well as installing traffic lights at Leane Drive in Eltham; and
- Duplicating Childs. Road in Mill Park from two to four lanes between Beaumont Crescent and Prince of Wales Avenue, with a new bridge over Darebin Creek.

The Sunbury Road widening project will also include an upgrade of the intersection of Lancefield Road and Francis Boulevard, the installation of new safety barriers and a shared cycling and pedestrian path.

Investigations to finalise the land corridor needed for a new future major road link to bypass the Bulla township are continuing.

**Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 22 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

I thank the member for his question. As I have advised your colleague in the other place, I have recently written directly to the Korumburra Business Association in relation to these concerns.

Victoria Police has had an alternative rostering model in practice for smaller police stations such as those in South Gippsland for a significant amount of time now. The model has provided an overall increase in service delivery with a number of benefits being highlighted in a recent review. Notably, the review highlighted an increased on-duty patrol time, a more timely response time to police calls, improvements in service delivery to the community, and an increased visible police presence as directly resulting from this alternative rostering model.

Victoria Police has in place a system of services for persons wishing to report a crime at an unmanned police station. In the instance of Korumburra Police Station, any emergency '000' call will be automatically connected to Wonthaggi Police Station where police will triage the call, and if urgent contact a vehicle to attend.

Alternatively, if the matter is not urgent police will complete a crime report and advise Korumburra Police Station to investigate the matter as soon as possible. Any messages for a particular police member are emailed to them directly so they can contact the caller on their next rostered shift. This system ensures that all reports made to Korumburra Police Station are responded to, with those reports that are urgent receiving an immediate police response.

Furthermore, the Government is investing \$210 million in the creation of a Police Assistance Line and online reporting portal. The Police Assistance Line and online reporting portal will further enhance the ability of Victoria Police to appropriately respond to community safety and public order issues. Importantly these services will provide greater convenience to the community as they can be utilised anywhere with a phone or internet connection.

I am also pleased to advise that an additional 12 police officer resources have been allocated to the Morwell Division, which services Korumburra. This is the second wave of resources to hit the beat since the Government's record \$2 billion investment in police resources as part of the 2017–18 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. As documented by the independent Crime Statistics Agency in their recent release of crime statistics for the year ending 31 March 2018, there has been a 7.4 percent reduction in crime in the La Trobe Local Government Area (LGA). In addition, the surrounding LGAs of Bass Coast and Baw Baw have also seen a reduction in crime of 9.7 percent and 3.8 percent respectively.

### **Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Davis  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 22 May 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government is spending around \$15 billion on projects that will improve services on the Cranbourne and Pakenham lines. These projects include the Metro Tunnel, the removal of 14 level crossings, the construction of five new train stations, building 65 new high capacity trains and a massive power and signalling upgrade along the entire corridor. The Government has also started the planning work to duplicate and extend the Cranbourne line. All of these projects will provide for more trains running more often along the Cranbourne and Pakenham lines. They will provide for a 42 per cent increase in the number of peak hour passengers on these lines.

While these projects cause disruption, the Government's elevated solution for the removal of level crossings minimised the train line closures required. A trench based solution was not only unfeasible it would have closed the Cranbourne and Pakenham train lines for nine months.

The former Liberal Government signed up to a plan that kept 10 of these 14 level crossings in place, including five between Caulfield and Dandenong which are among the most congested and dangerous in Victoria. Under the Andrews Labor Government, 10 of the 14 are already gone.

I acknowledge that the Member for Southern Metropolitan has written to the contractors for the Metro Tunnel project explaining that the Liberal Party intends to renegotiate the contract. This will delay improvements to the Cranbourne and Pakenham line by at least two years.

### **Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Dunn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Asked on:** 23 May 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is in ongoing discussions with Knox City Council to formalise the occupation of the site for Knox Community Gardens Society Incorporated. The formal licence agreement will be finalised following a master plan being prepared for the site.

The community garden has been on the site for over 10 years, and provides an opportunity for members of the community to grow their own fresh produce. I am advised that there is no proposal to remove this group from the site.

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 23 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government is listening to locals in the inner west and has made strong commitments to reduce impacts to Millers Road as a result of the West Gate Tunnel Project. This includes measures identified through the Environment Effects Statement (EES) process.

To limit the increase in truck volumes on Millers Road, the Government has changed the truck toll points on the West Gate Freeway. This will make a real difference, reducing the predicted increase in trucks by 3000 per day in 2031.

The Government has also committed to working with Millers Road residents on noise reduction measures to make their homes quieter. The updates could include options like double glazing, insulation, fencing and air conditioning, and would be done in consultation with owners of properties that front Millers Road between the West Gate Freeway and Geelong Road.

Air quality monitoring will be carried out at Millers Road in order to measure any changes once the West Gate Tunnel Project opens. An air quality mitigation strategy will be developed if there is a significant deterioration in air quality as a result of the project.

Recognising that Millers Road will continue to be one of Melbourne's major north-south arterial roads, community groups will also get a say as part of a Corridor Study Group that will look at changes to Millers Road and Williamstown Road, as recommended by the Minister for Planning.

The Terms of Reference for the Corridor Study Group were announced on 29 May 2018 and I am looking forward to hearing their ideas on further improving the movement of people and freight in this area.

Residents of Millers Road and surrounding streets will also benefit from the massive community packages being delivered through the West Gate Tunnel Project, including over 14 kilometres of new and upgraded cycling and walking paths, completing the missing link in the Federation Trail, over 9 kilometres of new and higher standard noise walls along the West Gate Freeway and almost 9 hectares of new open space, as well as landscaping and upgrades to existing parks and open space.

**Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Dr Ratnam  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 24 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

I can confirm that Yarra Trams will upgrade tram stop 19 on route 19 to an accessible tram stop. The works will commence after the last tram on Friday 19 July and finish before the first tram service early on Tuesday 24 July.

Additionally, a new accessible tram platform stop will be built on the corner of Grattan Street and Royal Parade as part of the Metro Tunnel Project.

Remaining tram stops are being progressively upgraded across the network to improve tram accessibility and to comply with Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT) legislation.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Mental Health  
**Asked on:** 24 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Government remains committed to addressing the impacts of alcohol and other drugs across the state. As has been previously announced, more than half of the residential rehab beds announced by this Government will be in regional Victoria, and, the selected Hume site is in the Rural City of Wangaratta.

The site will be announced following the exchange of contracts.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Crozier  
**Directed to:** Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing  
**Asked on:** 24 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Member's question is riddled with inaccuracies to the point of being nonsensical.

Unlike the Liberals who promise to sell off housing for those in need, the Andrews Labor Government is funding more and better social housing.

I stand by my government's proud commitment to fund a significant upgrade to the Little Grey St rooming house, bringing the housing up to 21st century standards, relocating all of the residents and bringing greater levels of safety and security to the surrounding community.

This commitment at Little Grey St is not a commitment the Liberal Party would ever make, yet takes credit for. We know from the Liberals' commitments in Brighton, their only policy in social housing is to turf out the homeless and flog it off to the highest bidder.

I encourage the Liberal Party to reconsider its appalling campaign to denigrate and abuse the poor and vulnerable for political gain while selling off their homes to their mates.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Directed to:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Asked on:** 24 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The importance of the Barwon Heads Football and Netball Club in providing social and economic benefit to the local Barwon Heads community is well recognised. The Barwon Coast Committee of Management has invested significant funding and other resources to upgrade the oval playing surface, the netball courts and surrounding administrative buildings in recent years. The committee will continue to maintain the facilities, including the clubrooms and playing surface, outside of the football/netball season, and open amenity blocks in the caravan park for the use of patrons during game days.

Barwon Coast Committee of Management maintains its financial viability annually by balancing the complexities of coastal management in this region. All funds generated from their caravan parks at Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove are re-invested into the reserves and coastline and there is a limited amount of funding. The Barwon Coast Committee of Management already maintains the Howard Hamer reserve outside of the football/netball season.

The Football and Netball club is encouraged to continue discussions with the City of Greater Geelong about access to funding through the Sport and Recreation Facilities grants program and to assist with its maintenance needs for the reserve. They can also work with the Committee on a 'Pick My Project' Victorian community grants application for any projects or ideas that they may have for the reserve.

### **Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Pennicuik  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 24 May 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

The VicRoads Traffic Noise Reduction Policy is still under review and is expected to be completed later this year.

### **Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 24 May 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

As the Member will be aware, Victoria Police FTE data is regularly published on the Victoria Police website. Police members are allocated to either a division within a region or a specific department or command. Specialist positions such as detectives are assigned at the divisional level. This ensures Victoria Police are able to easily move resources to where they are most required in the geographical area.

The latest FTE data from the Victoria Police website for June 2018 shows that the North West Metro Division 2, which covers the Wyndham area, has 492.16 FTE positions. This is an increase of 68.13 FTE positions, since November 2014. Of the total allocation, 128.29 FTE positions are allocated to general duties in the Wyndham Police Service Area. This is an increase of 40.26 FTE positions, since November 2014.

The Andrews Labor Government has invested in the biggest recruitment of new police in Victoria Police's history. As a result of this investment, the North West Metro Division 2 has already received an additional 41 general duties police officers, with an additional 42 police resources, include 9 family violence specialist officers, rolling out from May 2018.

I also recently opened the Wyndham Multi-Disciplinary Centre (MDC) which brings together police and a range of legal and counselling services to give victims of family violence, sexual assault and child abuse one point for the critical support they need — under one roof. This Centre was made possible by a \$10 million investment from the Andrews Labor Government.

We also built Wyndham North Police Station, we're building a new Wyndham Police Station and acquiring land for a future Point Cook Police Station.

The Government's record investment in police and community safety is making a real difference, driving down crime by 10.3 per cent in the Wyndham Local Government Area, in the year to 31 March 2018, as reported by the independent Crime Statistics Agency.

**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Wooldridge  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

All Victorians have a right to be safe and to feel safe. That's why we're continuing to work with Victoria Police to give them the funding, resources and support they need to keep the Victorian community, safe and well.

Since the Andrews Labor Government came to office there has been an 11 per cent increase of Full Time Equivalent police in the North West Metro region Division 5, which services residents of Eltham. The total FTE police positions for 2014 was 638.34 and compares to 709.71 as at June 2018.

The Government is delivering the biggest ever investment in law and order in our state's history, including the funding, recruiting and deploying of an extra 3135 new police.

Communities across the North West Metro region Division 5 can look forward to seeing an ongoing increased police presence in their area with the roll out of an additional 61 police, including 12 family violence specialist officers from May 2018.

This is the second wave of police resources to hit the beat since the deployment of an additional 45 police to the Division during 2017-18.

Furthermore, the deployment of Police Custody Officers (PCOs) is freeing up police to return to frontline duties. A total of 37.60 FTE PCOs have been deployed to the North West Metro region Division 5, delivering thousands of additional shifts to frontline policing.

With these additional resources Police continue to engage in a range of initiatives to keep the community safe. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- engagement with high risk youth and providing crime prevention advice to victims of crime. This includes liaising with DHHS partners and facilities in the Eltham area to ensure appropriate monitoring of suspects or active youth offenders;
- high visibility policing by conducting foot patrols around populated pedestrian areas and major shopping centres;
- regular targeted operations, including regular traffic operations and operations focussed on Theft From Motor Vehicle, Theft Of Motor Vehicle & residential burglary offences, targeting offenders & cross PSA offending;
- the establishment of the Nillumbik Eye Watch page, which ensures constant engagement, including presence at community events such as the local Blue Light Disco program, Eltham Jazz Festival and Eltham Food & Wine Festival; and
- liaison with emergency management partners including the Council and Plenty Gorge Management Committee regarding high risk bushfire areas.

These initiatives, along with the Government's record investment in police and community safety is making a real difference, driving down crime by 9.5 per cent as documented by the independent Crime Statistics Agency (CSA).

As recorded in the latest CSA statistics for the year ending 31 March 2018, the offence rate in Nillumbik and Banyule decreased by 21.6% and 2.7% respectively. Notably, the rate of Burglary and Break and Enter offences decreased by 11.4% in Nillumbik and 12% in Banyule.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Directed to:** Minister for Sport  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

This funding will support the State Sport Centres Trust operations and asset renewal program for the 2018-19 financial year. Operational funding will allow the State Sport Centres Trust to continue to support State sporting associations, peak sporting bodies and other non-for-profit organisations with subsidised rent and facility hire. The operational funding will also support and provide subsidy assistance to schools, events and local sporting organisations that access Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, State Netball and Hockey Centre and Lakeside Stadium.

These subsidised rates will enable these sporting associations to invest in their respective sports that will drive participation and improve community engagement. The local community will also continue to receive subsidised rates to access these premier sporting facilities.

Included in the capital funding support is the provision for disability access upgrades, female friendly change rooms, and additional access for women in sport. Given the ageing infrastructure of these facilities, many assets have reached the end of their life-cycle and need to be replaced. These asset renewal works will ensure the longevity of these assets for years to come.

It is anticipated that these funds will be expended in the 2018-19 financial year.

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Truong  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government is making every effort to ensure community members are informed and have a say on the West Gate Tunnel Project, including through Community Liaison Groups dedicated to the project's planning and construction phases as well as multiple other channels.

The previous Community Liaison Group was formed specifically for the project's planning phase. It met on 20 occasions from April 2016 to February 2018. Members provided valuable feedback and input on the project throughout its design phases, including the West Gate Freeway's noise objectives, open space upgrades and raising other localised matters.

The project's comprehensive community engagement during the planning phase also included over 90 information sessions and pop-up events, over 1600 doorknocks, and over 9000 conversations with community members that occurred face-to-face, on the phone and via email. These activities will continue during the construction phase.

On 8 February 2018, the planning phase group held a concluding meeting and members were asked to provide feedback for the construction phase. In response to this feedback, the project team will create two new Community Liaison Groups for the construction phase. By having dedicated groups representing the western and northern sections of the project area, the new Community Liaison Groups enable members to discuss construction activities specific to those areas.

In early 2018, early construction activities began and the project team held community events across the inner west so that any member of the community could speak directly to the project's builder. Locations included Yarraville, Spotswood, Brooklyn and Altona North.



In March 2018, before major works commenced, community members were invited to apply for the two new Community Liaison Groups. The first meeting was held on 12 June 2018.

The project team are available to speak to the community 24/7 by phone on 1800 105 105. Community members can also reach out to the project team by email, through the project's website and on social media.

I am grateful for the valuable local knowledge and input the previous Community Liaison Group's members provided throughout the planning process, and I am looking forward to hearing the feedback and ideas put forward by the new groups' members.

### **Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

In contrast to the former Coalition Government, who snubbed the northern suburbs for the duration of their term, the Andrews Labor Government has invested in key road upgrades in the northern suburbs, including the Plenty Road upgrade.

The 2018-19 Victorian Budget delivered the Northern Roads Upgrade, investing over \$1 billion into upgrades including Bridge Inn Road duplication, Sunbury Road and Craigieburn Road. This builds on existing investments into upgrades including Yan Yean Road, O'Herns Road and Plenty Road.

Works on the \$139.4 million Plenty Road Upgrade have been fast-tracked, with major construction works starting in March earlier this year. This important upgrade will help ease congestion during the morning and afternoon peak periods, and improve access to local jobs, schools, shops and parklands.

The first stage of the upgrade between McKimmies Road and Bush Boulevard will see an extra lane added in each direction to improve journeys, as well as on road cycling lanes to improve bicycle connections. We'll also be improving the safety of the road by installing new safety barriers. We're upgrading six major intersections as part of the first stage of the upgrade, this includes McKimmies Road, Childs Road, Centenary Drive and Bush Boulevard. New traffic lights will be installed at Mayfield Drive and Rivergum Drive to reduce delays and improve access for local residents.

Work on the first stage of the upgrade is expected to be completed by early 2019. Pre-construction activities are underway on the second stage of the upgrade between Bush Boulevard and Bridge Inn Road and this section is expected to be completed by mid-2020.

### **Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Local Government  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

Local councils are democratically elected bodies who are tasked with providing leadership for the good governance of their municipal districts.

Decisions in respect to council's gender equity policies are a matter for each council to determine in the best interest of their community and of course, taking into account community expectations.

Ultimately these are matters for council and accountability is to the communities they serve. It is also important for councils to ensure their decisions are transparent and clear to their local communities.

**Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Bath  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

There are numerous reviews undertaken by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) including reviews under section 169 and section 331 of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005, reviews of Freedom of Information requests and complaints. Each has its own legal and policy processes, and all decisions are considered in the context of the child's best interests. Generally all the documents are provided to internal review officers. Without knowing the identity of the child and the details of the case it is not possible to answer why particular documents in a particular matter have been withheld.

It is very disappointing that despite me inviting the member on previous occasions to provide me with actual details of specific cases by way of correspondence, she continually fails to do so.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

**ANSWER:**

I am advised by VicRoads that it is aware of the community's concerns regarding this intersection and is in the process of commencing community. VicRoads will continue to investigate possible upgrade options at this location, including traffic signals.

VicRoads receives many requests each year for the installation of traffic signals throughout Victoria. I am advised that all requests are prioritised based on the extent to which such a treatment would improve safety and/or congestion at the intersection. VicRoads considers a range of factors such as the need to cater for pedestrians, the historical safety record of the site, the impact that treating the intersection would have on the performance of the surrounding road network, and the implementation costs.

**Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Patten  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 5 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

Schools are able to purchase and use online tools and apps to meet their individual needs. Fundraising is an extra-curricular activity that some schools choose to undertake, rather than one of the primary functions of a school.

In fundraising apps, it is typical for information about each child to be publicly displayed so that family and friends can identify and donate money to the correct student profile. It is generally possible for families to decide what personal or identifying information to include in each profile, such as a partial or full name, or a photograph of the child, or alternatively no photo or a non-identifying avatar.

Any school using a fundraising app should ensure that families are informed of and understand options so that they can make an informed choice about what information they make available, if they wish to participate. Schools should also offer other fundraising options for those parents or families who do not wish to use an app.

The Department of Education and Training is not aware of any school mandating the use of a fundraising app.

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Melhem  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 5 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

Works on the EJ Whitten Bridge and its vicinity are progressing ahead of schedule and expected to be completed well before the end of 2018, the project's public commitment. Widening and strengthening of the EJ Whitten Bridge allows for the construction of two additional lanes in each direction, to a total of five though lanes in each direction and auxiliary lanes between interchanges to ease congestion at the notoriously congested Sunshine Avenue/McIntyre Road bottleneck. Once the Upgrade is complete, all current lane restrictions leading to Sunshine Avenue will be removed to link to the already upgraded section.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 5 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

There have been no cuts to police in Ballarat. There are more police across the Ballarat division now than there were in November 2014. As the member is aware, Victoria Police allocates resources at a divisional level to provide greater flexibility and ensure resources can be utilised within the division where they are needed the most.

Changes to the allocation to resources across the divisions have been as a result of Victoria Police assigning extra resources to the family violence unit to meet this serious challenge for the region. Family violence has increased by 18.8 per cent — and police resources have been allocated to tackle the scourge and harm that this serious crime causes in the community.

The division will however also receive an additional 14 police and family violence specialists over the next 12 months, under the Government's commitment to recruit and deploy 3135 new police. This compares to the previous government which did not fund one extra police officer across Victoria.

We have also deployed 24 new police custody officers to the Ballarat division who have so far delivered over 5000 shifts which enable general duties police to be out in the community.

Ballarat will also be home to a new Victoria Police forensic hub as part of the Labor Government's commitment to tackle the scourge of ice and other illicit drugs, as well as the new \$210 million Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting Portal, which will create around 250 new jobs in Ballarat.

In relation to the rate of drug offences in schools, I query the source of your assertion that Ballarat has the highest number of drug offences occurring in schools anywhere in Victoria. I note that data from the independent Crime Statistics Agency indicates that overall drug offences have in fact decreased by 9 per cent in the year to 31 March 2018. Police advise that less than one per cent of drug offences across the state are occurring on school grounds.

In relation to the Police in Schools Program, we have police in schools across Victoria every day, as well as working with young people who are disengaged from school.

In fact, we have 98 Youth Resource Officers and Proactive Policing Operatives attending schools proactively to engage with and provide information to students and staff on topics including cyber safety, personal safety, graffiti and drug and alcohol.

As part of our record investment, Victoria Police is also deploying 42 new Youth Specialist Officers across Victoria, including in Ballarat, who will work with the most serious young offenders to prevent them from falling into a life of crime.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 5 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

Works are progressing on the Andrews Labor Government's Drysdale Bypass Project. An early work agreement has been signed which paves the way for construction works to begin in September 2018.

Between now and September 2018, detailed archaeological salvage works will be undertaken and VicRoads will work with the Traditional Owners to manage any discoveries found during this works.

Extensive community consultation was undertaken in 2017, including an independent planning panel who heard from the community and experts on a range of matters, including the intersection treatments proposed by VicRoads. In line with the Independent Panel recommendations, the Planning Scheme Amendment was approved by the Minister for Planning in December 2017.

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

The West Gate Tunnel Project and associated 24/7 truck bans will remove over 9000 trucks from residential streets in the inner west.

To build the tunnel, land underground has recently been acquired by the Victorian Government under the Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009. In most instances the land is deeper than 15 metres underground, so residential property owners will continue to be able to use their land as they do now, and it will not stop them from building a pool, cellar or basement.

Any property owner who believes they have been financially impacted by the underground land acquisition has two years to submit a compensation claim under the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986.

In addition, home owners can be assured that in the unlikely event that there is damage during tunnel boring, it will be fixed by the contractor. Studies done for the Environment Effects Statement showed that ground movement and damage to properties is unlikely due to the range of protection measures put in place during tunnelling.

Properties close to major works will be inspected before and after construction. Any damage resulting from the project must be fixed or compensation provided by the contractor.

The project team has spoken to home owners in the area directly above the tunnel and I encourage any of them with further questions to call the 24/7 contact line on 1800 105 105.

**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Leane  
**Directed to:** Minister for Health  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

The new carpark development will assist in reducing the parking pressure across the Maroondah Hospital precinct.

The construction tender has closed with responses currently being evaluated. Subject to tender selection process and ensuing permits, the commencement of construction activities is expected by October 2018.

**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Dunn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

The North East Link business case tackles the missing link in Victoria's road network. As part of the work done so far by the Authority more than a dozen options were considered; many were new ideas and some had been considered over the decades since this road was first talked about. What we know is that this project is needed to ease the congestion this part of Melbourne suffers with every day.

The entire transport network is considered when tackling a project as big and important as this one. Options such as a rail line and other transport improvements were considered. While Transport for Victoria seeks to encourage more freight movements by rail, trucks and light commercial vehicles will continue to be a more efficient option for the bulk of urban freight movements as they are better suited to shorter trips and door-to-door deliveries. It is unlikely that the proposed Port Rail Shuttle Network would attract many freight movements away from the North East Link, because the projects serve different freight movement patterns. The Port Rail Shuttle is focused on moving containers, by rail, between the Port of Melbourne and outer suburban terminals (in this case, Dandenong). The North East Link is focused on moving freight from the south east of Melbourne to the north and beyond (and vice versa).

The best option for the people of the north east and the people of Melbourne is a reliable road link with improvements to one of our busiest busways, including a modernisation of the existing Eastern Freeway.

**South Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Directed to:** Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region, Ms Peulich, for her question regarding plans for the development of Indian cultural precincts. The Victorian Government is committed to supporting Victoria's vibrant and growing Indian and South Asian communities to preserve and share their culture and traditions.

The community consultation process for the proposed precincts has been key in ensuring that a range of stakeholders across the regions have had the opportunity to contribute to discussions around the development of the precincts. The consultation process has involved many stakeholders and ensured that voices across the various regions have been heard.

The City of Greater Dandenong has made significant progress in planning and delivering an Indian Cultural Precinct that builds on the existing "Little India" precinct in Lonsdale St. A \$0.5 million Funding Agreement has been executed with the City of Greater Dandenong to enable the commencement of works for the precinct.

I hope to provide further updates around the Indian precincts and community centres or spaces for other regions in due course.

The Victorian Government remains committed to supporting culturally diverse communities to feel safe, accepted and have spaces that they can make their own. As part of the 2018–19 Victorian Budget this government announced a \$17.1 million injection of funds for multicultural infrastructure. A cornerstone initiative of this funding is the recently announced \$9.5 million Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund (MCIF) offering grants to culturally diverse communities across Victoria to support the building, upgrading and fitout of community infrastructure.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Purcell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

I have written to the Federal Member for Wannon, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, responding to his letter of April this year regarding the inclusion of the Princes Highway West on the Commonwealth Government's National Land Transport Network.

In my response to Mr Tehan, I reaffirmed the Victorian Government's position that it will advocate for the Princes Highway West to be included on the National Land Transport Network as part of the 2018 review of the network. To date, Victoria has agreed to the terms of reference for the 2018 network review and is now awaiting the Commonwealth to formally commence the review process.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

Victoria Police have confirmed that on 14 May 2018 they received a complaint from a member of the community regarding suspected illegal activity connected to the payphone at 3 Dalgety Street, St Kilda.

Despite Victoria Police contacting Telstra requesting consideration of removal of the payphone, I understand that Telstra have indicated that the payphone will not be removed as it complies with their siting guidelines. Victoria Police have confirmed that the placement of stickers within the payphone, indicating the payphone is under surveillance, will be used as an interim measure whilst further discussion takes place between Telstra and Victoria Police.

I am assured by the Office of the Chief Commissioner that Victoria Police have committed resources to focus on drug activity in the St Kilda Hill precinct. This includes patrols conducted by the Mounted Branch and Transit Police. The Victoria Police Transit Patrol has also been engaged and working in the transport hubs of St Kilda, including the light rail and transport hubs of Fitzroy Street and Acland Street.

Victoria Police has engaged with the Port Phillip Housing Association and St Kilda Housing Association to enhance safety at social housing venues within close proximity to the precinct.

Salvation Army and Sacred Heart Mission have been contacted with regards to homelessness and drug issues in the precinct.

Victoria Police has also engaged the Friends of St Kilda Hill and City of Port Phillip Council to further develop way to improve the safety of the area. Actions by the Council, Victoria Police and several agencies are being communicated back to community, via Friends of St Kilda Hill, on a fortnightly basis.

I can assure you that the Andrews Labor Government is committed to ensuring that police have sufficient resources and tools to tackle such crime in St Kilda.

The Government recognises the need for CCTV in St Kilda, and has provided \$246 250 funding through the Public Safety Infrastructure Fund to the City of Port Phillip for seven CCTV cameras in Fitzroy Street, between the Upper Esplanade and Grey Street St Kilda. A schedule for works have begun.

The Victorian Government has also invested a range of other crime prevention and safety programs to help prevent crime, improve safety and encourage communities to enjoy our public spaces in St Kilda. This includes around \$500 000 in CCTV and other measures on Little Grey Street and the St Kilda foreshore.

Furthermore, an additional 25 police are being deployed across the Prahran Division, which services St Kilda, during 2018-19. This boost in resources is funded as part of the Government's \$2 billion investment in police under the Community Safety Statement.

The Government's record investment in police and community safety is making a real difference, driving down crime by 8.6 per cent across the Port Phillip Local Government Area, as documented by independent Crime Statistics Agency data for the year ending 31 March 2018.

### **Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

On 30, 31 May and 1 June 2018, a road safety education campaign demonstrating a common crash scenario on a high-speed rural road was filmed under controlled conditions in Tatura.

The campaign was filmed and produced by production company, Revolver. Revolver has offices in both Victoria and New South Wales.

90% of the production crew employed for this shoot were from Victoria. Filming a car crash is quite complex and particular skills were required for this shoot.

The production crew stayed in the Shepparton area and used businesses in the local area during the filming period.

### **Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Directed to:** Minister for Sport  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

I refer to your constituency question matter regarding funding for the Reid Oval Redevelopment project.

Providing high quality sport and recreation infrastructure is a key aim of the government, and is integral to the health and well-being of all Victorians. In April I announced a government commitment of \$241 million for community sport, including \$60 million for the continuation of the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund and another \$15 million for the Female Friendly Facilities Fund. Through the 2017-18 Victorian State Budget I was pleased to provide \$100 000 towards the business case and project development of stages 2-4 of the Reid Oval development. I understand the business case is progressing and will be finalised shortly.

I encourage Warrnambool City Council to continue to liaise with my department on any funding opportunities available to make this project a reality.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Gepp  
**Directed to:** Minister for Sport  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

I refer to your constituency question matter regarding an application for Central Park Recreation Reserve netball court redevelopment in Shepparton to the Country Football and Netball Program. Firstly, I'd like to commend you on your commitment to advocating the importance of sport and recreation in your electorate.

Providing high quality sport and recreation infrastructure is a key aim of the government, and is integral to the health and well-being of all Victorians. In April I announced a government commitment of \$241 million for community sport, including \$60 million for the continuation of the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund and another \$15 million for the Female Friendly Facilities Fund.

I can confirm that an application for Central Park Recreation Reserve netball court redevelopment in Shepparton has been submitted to the 2018 round of the Country Football and Netball Program. Applications are currently under assessment and I anticipate making an announcement regarding the outcome in the coming weeks.

**Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Elasmarr  
**Directed to:** Minister for Tourism and Major Events  
**Asked on:** 7 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

Victoria's major events calendar is one of the most prestigious and successful major events calendars in the world. Major events generate economic benefits of around \$1.8 billion.

Collectively, major events work together over the course of a year to provide not only economic benefits but also constant positioning and profile for Victoria nationally and internationally. They drive tourism, employment growth, industry development, business linkages, investment decisions and community outcomes for the benefit of the state.

The Melbourne Esports Open is set to become Australia's biggest celebration of esports, with 10 000 people tipped to attend each day on top of a suite of top professional teams in action.

The Open will see a packed weekend schedule of top-level professional esports competition in arenas complete with giant video screens, full concert lighting and concert-level audio production.

The precinct will feature interactive gamer experiences and a huge showcase of the latest esports technology — great news for the 560 000 esports fanatics across Victoria. The Open will strengthen Victoria's credentials in the digital games industry and tap into one of the world's fastest growing and lucrative markets, with an audience of over 385 million people.

This year's event will be staged at Melbourne and Olympic Park, filling the likes of Rod Laver Arena, Margaret Court Arena and the Melbourne Park Function Centre. It's expected to generate up to \$25 million for the Victorian economy over five years, supporting jobs and boosting local businesses.

Event tourism visitors represent 20.6 per cent of all international overnight visitors to Victoria. In the year ending December 2017 (latest data available), the number of international event visitors travelling to Australia totalled 1.4 million and of this number, 43.9 per cent (or 596 000) visited Victoria.



Tourism is Victoria's second largest services export, exceeded only by education. It generates around 214 500 jobs and delivered \$24.8 billion to the economy in Gross State Product in 2016-17. The broader events industry provides around 4700 full time equivalent jobs.

### Eastern Victoria Region

**Question asked by:** Ms Bath  
**Directed to:** Premier  
**Asked on:** 7 June 2018

#### ANSWER:

As the member would be aware, the 2016 announcement by French energy company, Engie, to close the Hazelwood power plant and mine was gut wrenching news for Hazelwood workers, their families and Latrobe Valley communities.

The Victorian Labor Government took decisive action to stand with these workers and their families. The Labor Government established the Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA) and the Worker Transition Service (WTS) to support workers, businesses and the Latrobe Valley Community through transition. The WTS formed part of the Labor Government's \$266 million package for the Latrobe Valley, which included the establishment of the LVA and the \$50 million Economic Growth Zone to support business growth.

More than 1300 clients have registered with the WTS since it began operations in November 2016. Workers and their families have been supported to engage in training and prepare for work opportunities across a range of industries, particularly identified growth industries. The health and community services sector is identified as a significant growth industry in Gippsland and non-emergency patient transport is just one of the many job opportunities available to Latrobe Valley residents and WTS clients.

The LVA facilitated Federation Training to locally offer a Certificate III in Non-Emergency Patient Transport enabling local people to undertake training and take advantage of job opportunities now and into the future. The first cohort of graduates from the course comprised 14 people, with six of the 14 graduates being WTS clients. To date, the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) has employed four of the recent graduates, three of whom were WTS clients.

Prior to this tranche of employment, the LVA had assisted three WTS clients to gain employment with the RFDS, bringing the total number of WTS clients finding work with RFDS to six. Further employment opportunities in the health and community services industry is anticipated, with strong growth in the health sector requiring workers with a range of skills and experiences. Patient transport services will continue to provide opportunities for employment in the future, as the provision of new contracts for patient transport services by Ambulance Victoria occurs later this year.

Despite all this, you and your colleagues continue to create further uncertainty around the workers' futures. No one will ever forget that when the people in the valley needed you most you abandoned them.

The former Liberal Minister for Mental Health & Community Services was more interested in her preselection battle in Kew, as it took a month for her to bother visiting the Valley when it was on fire.

Unlike the Victorian Coalition, the Labor Government said we'd deliver for the Latrobe Valley and that's what we're doing — by creating jobs, supporting local businesses and driving economic growth.

**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Leane  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 7 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Head Start initiative will commence in 2019 and involve 100 government schools across Victoria delivering an additional 1700 apprenticeships and traineeships over the next four years. Three sites, Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo involving 28 schools have already been announced.

Site selection is taking into account a number of factors including identifying where there are existing vocational education cluster arrangements and whether schools in the area had strong vocational programs. Other criteria include assessment of local industry demand for school based apprentices and trainees as well as the availability of high quality training providers.

Assessment of additional sites and schools to participate in the roll out of the Head Start initiative is currently being finalised, with all final sites and schools to be announced in the coming weeks.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Directed to:** Minister for Sport  
**Asked on:** 7 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

I refer to your adjournment debate matter regarding funding for the Birregurra Recreation Reserve.

Providing high quality sport and recreation infrastructure is a key aim of the government, and is integral to the health and well-being of all Victorians. In April I announced a government commitment of \$241 million for community sport, including \$60 million for the continuation of the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund and another \$15 million for the Female Friendly Facilities Fund.

Through the 2016-17 Community Sport Infrastructure Fund I was pleased to provide \$100 000 towards the upgrade of the tennis and netball, courts at Birregurra Recreation Reserve.

I am advised that there is no current application for funding for the Birregurra Recreation Reserve.

As funding through the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund is provided through local governments, I encourage the Birregurra Recreation Reserve committee to continue to work with Colac Otway Shire Council on any project ideas.

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 7 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

Parking issues elsewhere within Sunbury is primarily a matter for the local council and questions should be directed to the City of Hume.

Under Minister Allan's portfolio responsibility, the Government is advancing plans to provide more car parking for commuters using Sunbury Station. The planning work will be complete by mid-2018, and will allow for the final design and development of a new car park to provide more than 300 new car parking spaces for commuters.

There are competing demands on the parking spaces near the busy station between commuters, shoppers and shop tenants. By providing extra car parking at Sunbury Station, there will be less pressure on parking in the area.

This follows the \$60 million 2018-19 Victorian State Budget allocation already announced, which will deliver over 2000 new car parks at busy metropolitan stations including Belgrave, Sandown Park, Craigieburn and Epping.

This 2018-19 State Budget investment builds on previous budgets and have resulted in more than 3000 new and upgraded car parks being delivered across metropolitan and regional stations over the past three years.

### **Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 7 June 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

As I noted in my response to the member's adjournment debate of 28 March 2018; Victoria Police has been consistent in their view that the presence and visibility of police out in the community is the best deterrent of crime and offers the greatest community reassurance.

In accordance with this policing model, Victoria Police does not see the support provided by Shepparton Police Station to other units as 'taking away' from front line policing, but rather improving the support provided to victims of family violence, contributing to targeted activities to reduce high volume crime and enforcing road rules throughout the Division.

Furthermore, the deployment of Police Custody Officers (PCOs) is freeing up police to return to frontline duties. A total of 17 PCOs have been deployed to the Shepparton Police Service Area, restoring fourteen shifts per week to frontline policing in Shepparton.

As part of the deployment of 825 additional resources across the state during 2018-19, I note that an additional 15 police have been allocated to the Goulburn Valley Division which services the Shepparton Police Service Area (PSA). This includes 2 Parental Leave Backfill positions allocated specifically to the Shepparton PSA, with the first member to be deployed within the coming weeks.

### **Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Davis  
**Directed to:** Minister for Planning  
**Asked on:** 7 June 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

I have approved plans for works within Woorayl Street Reserve in accordance with Amendment GC37 to facilitate the Caulfield Dandenong Rail Upgrade Project, including indicative landscaping surrounding the station. The approved final design retains Woorayl Street Reserve as public open space, by incorporating a series of small plazas, some existing vegetation and introduces new vegetation.

### **Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Wooldridge  
**Directed to:** Minister for Emergency Services  
**Asked on:** 8 June 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of the Eltham Country Fire Authority (CFA) Brigade, and its selfless contributions to the safety and wellbeing of the community.

CFA has advised that the necessary repairs to the retaining wall at the rear of the station are underway and are scheduled to be completed in August 2018. These works are being paid for by the builder, at no cost to CFA or the Victorian Government.

CFA has assured me that these issues have not affected the fire station building and that the Eltham CFA has remained fully operational and able to meet the service delivery requirements of Eltham and surrounding communities.

### **Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Dunn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 8 June 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

In 2009, VicRoads completed a strategic study of the Maroondah Corridor, the study concluded that VicRoads should no longer protect the Healesville Freeway Reserve between Springvale Road, Forest Hill and Boronia Road, Vermont (Reserve) for future service delivery requirements.

Under the previous Government there were proposals to sell off this important community open space. The previous Government reversed their decision to sell off the entire Reserve after strong community backlash, however, still intended to sell off approximately 20 hectares.

Under this Government, all open space within the Reserve will be protected as Crown Land for the enjoyment of future generations.

To deliver this, VicRoads has been working closely with Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, Whitehorse City Council, the Reserve Project Reference Group and community group Friends of Healesville Freeway Reserve to preserve all of the open space in the Reserve.

VicRoads has made considerable progress to date, including the surrender of 21.7ha of land to the Crown. VicRoads is working towards surrendering a further 13 ha this calendar year.

Four residential homes adjacent to the freeway reserve at Morack Rd and Moore Rd proposed for sale are not part of the open space within the Reserve. These properties are currently or were previously leased in the private market. The revenue from these sales will direct fund the surrender the Reserve to the Crown and implementation of the Establishment Plan.

### **South Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 8 June 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

Neither Narre Warren Police Station nor Endeavour Hills Police Station have reduced their operating hours.

Both Narre Warren and Endeavour Hills continue to receive a 24-hour divisional van response, with counter service hours as follows:

- Narre Warren — 24 hour counter service
- Endeavour Hills — 16 hour counter service (7am to 11pm).

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Asked on:** 8 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government recognises the important role that small-scale solar energy systems installed by households and businesses play in addressing electricity prices as well as climate change. The government is also committed to making the energy system fairer for Victorians. The government encourages customers considering small-scale renewable energy systems to investigate their energy profile and product options to ensure they get the most out of their system.

The National Electricity Rules state that if requested by a connection applicant, the Distribution Network Service Provider (in this instance, Powercor) must negotiate in good faith with the applicant to reach an agreement in respect of the access arrangements that they seek. The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) makes and amends the National Electricity Rules.

As such, Powercor is best placed to discuss alternative options available. I recommend that your constituent continue to negotiate this situation with Powercor. I also recommend that your constituent work closely with their preferred solar installer to discuss their options to obtain the maximum benefit from their installation, whilst ensuring that they comply with network capability limits in their area.

Electricity distribution companies must assess all applications on a case by case basis. Generally, their application information provides notes on concentrations of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems connected to a low voltage network.

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 8 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government has taken into account community feedback every step of the way with the West Gate Tunnel Project, with massive wins for safety, air quality and noise in the inner west.

The project has been shaped by communities, councils and industry over the two year planning period. It will stop over 9000 trucks doing rat runs in the inner west for good.

In direct response to community feedback, 24/7 truck bans will be enshrined in law, including on Francis Street, Somerville Road, Buckley Street, Moore Street, Blackshaws Road and Hudsons Road.

Other major changes have included moving the westbound tunnel exit and ventilation structure further away from houses. The height of the Wurundjeri Way extension has also been lowered, creating opportunities for future cycling and walking links to North Melbourne and Docklands.

Closed off industrial land will be transformed into spaces for communities to enjoy. Almost 9 hectares of new public open space and wetlands will be created, equivalent to nearly 4 MCGs.

In direct response to community requests and to address unique noise issues along the existing West Gate Freeway, the vast majority of homes and public open spaces along the freeway will experience a reduction in current levels of traffic noise. This is due to a better noise standard of 63 decibels that has been developed and more noise walls, including at parks and sports grounds where there is no current noise protection.

Over 14 kilometres of new and upgraded walking and cycling paths will be delivered, answering local calls to complete the missing links in the Federation and Kororoit Creek trails. For the first time, cyclists and pedestrians will be separate from cars and trucks for the entire journey from Werribee to the CBD.

The project's comprehensive community engagement during over two years of planning included a Community Liaison Group that met 20 times, over 90 information sessions and pop-up events, over 1600 doorknocks, and over 9000 conversations with community members that occurred face-to-face, on the phone and via email.

Community members and other parties made 504 submissions on the Environment Effects Statement, draft Planning Scheme Amendment and Works Approval application, and had the opportunity to be heard by a planning panel.

I am looking forward to an ongoing and open conversation with the community as the project is built. The community will continue to be involved, including through two new Community Liaison Groups and holding community events so that any member of the community can speak to the project's builder.

The project team are available to speak to the community 24/7 by phone on 1800 105 105, and can also be reached by email, through the project website and on social media.

### **Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Directed to:** Minister for Planning  
**Asked on:** 8 June 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

The Moolap Coastal Strategic Framework Plan is currently being prepared and is expected to be approved and released shortly.

Consultation on the draft plan raised a number of issues that required further consideration. This included the separation distances (buffers) between existing heavy industry and proposed residential land use in the east of the study area.

The final plan will establish the long-term vision for the area, and provide land use direction and implementation actions to benefit the Geelong economy, environment and community.

### **Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 19 June 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government has invested \$356 million to upgrade the Shepparton line, the biggest upgrade to the Shepparton line in a generation, and it's being delivered by a Labor Government.

This investment includes new stabling, signalling and track upgrades, level crossing upgrades and platform extensions at Shepparton, Mooropna, Murchison East and Nagambie stations. It will deliver VLocity trains to Shepparton and pave the way for nine return passenger services a day.

While this work is underway, 29 extra weekly coaches between Shepparton and Seymour have been introduced to give passengers greater travel choice. In addition, the Andrews Labor Government added nine services between Melbourne and Shepparton in 2017, with more to come next year.

Contrast this with the announcement of only \$77 million for the Shepparton line by the Liberal/National Opposition, which won't deliver the public transport improvements the Shepparton community is calling for.

**Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 19 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that the Darebin City Council manages Gilbert Road and Regent Street. The council implemented 50km/h speed limits on Gilbert Road and Regent Street after an investigation of the effect these changes may have on the operation of Spring Street.

The council introduced these changes in consultation with VicRoads, Victoria Police and Yarra Trams to improve the safety of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists.

Spring Street in Reservoir is an arterial road managed by VicRoads. VicRoads has compared recent traffic volumes on Spring Street with data collected one year ago, prior to the speed limit change on Gilbert Road and Regent Street. The traffic volumes along Spring Street before and after the speed limit changes were determined to be similar (about 24 000 vehicles per day) and do not reflect a shift of traffic from Gilbert Road or Regent Street onto Spring Street.

The current speed limit of 60km/h on Spring Street is also considered appropriate.

The issue of unsafe behaviour including speeding along Spring Street and nearby residential streets is an enforcement matter for Victoria Police. Accordingly, VicRoads has forwarded your concerns to Victoria Police requesting it to provide appropriate enforcement at this location.

The City of Darebin has also been advised of concerns with driver behaviour on local roads abutting Spring Street.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Directed to:** Minister for Finance  
**Asked on:** 19 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

I have received correspondence from Mr Merrett on a number of occasions, and have responded on his matter through your office on 31 Jan 2018 and 20 June 2018.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Davis  
**Directed to:** Minister for Planning  
**Asked on:** 19 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

In March 2017 the Andrews Labor Government cleaned up the residential zones, locking in clearer, mandatory height controls and creating new protections for suburban backyards, which will end the days of fence-to-fence development.

This is contrast to the residential zones rolled out by my predecessor, which were, in the words of an independent planning panel: “unfair...driven by politics” causing “widespread angst and confusion”.

The member’s question refers to zoning changes made in May 2017. I am not aware of the changes he refers to in May 2017, perhaps he can clarify his question.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 19 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

To bolster the police response across the state the Andrews Labor Government is funding an additional 3135 frontline police over the next five years, on top of attrition. This is the biggest boost to frontline police in Victoria's history and is crucial to dealing with the growing demand on police services.

The first of these additional resources were deployed to Melbourne's growth corridors during 2017–2018, utilising the Staff Allocation Model (SAM). The SAM takes the politics out of the distribution of police resources, with Victoria Police identifying the areas that have the greatest need.

It ends the historic 'boom and bust' cycle of investment in police resources that has seen police numbers decided by political priorities, rather than what is required to keep the community safe.

Victoria Police has commenced the second wave of deployment of additional resources across the state. As part of this deployment, from May 2018 to April 2019, an additional 25 police will be deployed to the Prahran Division which services the Port Phillip Police Service Area (PSA). This includes 6 police specifically allocated to Port Phillip PSA, as well as 13 specialist resources which will be shared across the division.

As a result of the Government's record investment, the Police Academy is now running at full capacity to prepare new recruits for deployment across the state, both in the immediate future as well as the longer term.

While there is still work to do, the independent Crime Statistics Agency data for the year ending 31 March 2018 indicates that the Government's record investment in police and community safety is making a real difference, driving down crime by 8.6 per cent across Port Phillip.

**Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Shing  
**Directed to:** Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence  
**Asked on:** 19 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

In 2017-18, the Government has invested over \$6.5 million in increasing the capacity of the specialist family violence sector in Gippsland. This funding supports victim survivors to escape and recover from family violence and provide timely and aims to reduce violence by providing appropriate responses to perpetrators attempting to address their violence behaviour. This includes:

- Over \$1.4 million in flexible support packages to provide tailored responses to victim survivors escaping and/or recovering from family violence;
- over \$2 million per annum across nine agencies in ongoing funding for case management services for victim survivors of family violence;
- approximately \$200 000 to ensure that victim survivors experiencing a family violence crisis have access to a face-to-face response after hours;
- over \$350 000 for therapeutic counselling responses for women and children recovering from family violence;
- over \$400 000 to increase the capacity of child protection and mental health and alcohol and other drug practitioners to identify and respond to family violence;
- over \$300 000 culturally appropriate family violence services for Aboriginal communities;



- over \$950 000 for a range of men's family violence services, including men's behaviour change programs and perpetrator case management.

In addition, in 2018 the Government is establishing the first five Support and Safety Hubs — including a Hub in the Inner Gippsland Area.

Of the \$1.9 billion allocated in the 2017-18 Budget to end family violence, \$448 million (\$381.7 million output, \$66.3 million asset) over four years was allocated to establishing and operating the Hubs, to ensure the Hubs can support victims of family violence in the medium and long term.

### **Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Wooldridge  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 20 June 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government has completed the Hurstbridge Rail Line Stage 1 project with the removal of two dangerous and congested level crossings and the duplication of the track through Heidelberg. The Government has also been progressing with the investigation and planning into the Hurstbridge Rail Line Upgrade Stage 2, for future duplication of the rail line beyond Greensborough. While well progressed, the outcomes of this work are not yet concluded. As part of this process the Government is considering the potential for an upgrade at Greensborough station. We have already announced that there will be no net loss of car parking at Greensborough train station.

Labor is also delivering approximately 250 new or upgraded car parks along the Hurstbridge line. Watsonia Station has already received 101 spaces and Hurstbridge and Montmorency Stations will receive new or upgraded car parks in the near future.

### **Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Melhem  
**Directed to:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Asked on:** 20 June 2018

#### **ANSWER:**

Major road builder Downer has successfully trialled an asphalt mix containing recycled plastic bags, printer cartridges and glass in road surfacing in Craigieburn. Downer estimates that up to 15 per cent of asphalt could contain soft plastics and that up to 10 million tonnes of recyclable waste could be diverted from landfill every year using their new approach.

The project is supported by the Andrews Labor Government's Resource Recovery Market Development Program, which was recently boosted to \$4.5 million under the Recycling Industry Strategic Plan and associated funding. Downer received \$67 000 from the fund, which is managed by Sustainability Victoria and supports researchers and industry in finding new ways to use recovered resources. Sustainability Victoria also provided Close the Loop with \$40 000 from the Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund, for equipment to develop the plastic additive used in the asphalt mix.

The Andrews Labor Government's total investment in waste and resource recovery initiatives is now more than \$100 million over four years. In comparison, the former Coalition Government allocated less than \$15 million in new funding from the Sustainability Fund in their entire four years in government.

Staff at Sustainability Victoria are happy to provide more information about the Resource Recovery Market Development Program and the road surface project to interested councils. They can be contacted through their website at [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au) or on 1300 363 744.

**South Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Springle  
**Directed to:** Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation  
**Asked on:** 20 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government, through Consumer Affairs Victoria, funds the state-wide Financial Counselling Program, providing critical support to vulnerable and disadvantaged Victorians, including those affected by family violence. In total, the Financial Counselling Program will receive more than \$10 million in funding in 2018-19. This is in addition to the Victorian Government's ongoing financial commitment to specialist gambling financial counsellors and rural financial counsellors. In the first three quarters of 2017-18, the Financial Counselling Program has supported more than 25 000 Victorians, including almost 2000 victims of family violence.

The Financial Counselling Program provides local access to services, through 75 full time equivalent financial counselling positions in place-based community agencies across the state. Further to this, Consumer Affairs Victoria also funds the Victorian component of the National Debt Helpline to provide support to clients over the phone, as well as specialist advice to the place-based financial counsellors.

In the Southern Melbourne area, financial counselling services are available from:

- Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand at Level 1, 11 Chesterville Road, Cheltenham on Thursdays and Fridays;
- South East Community Links at 5 Osborne Ave, Springvale from Monday to Friday;
- South East Community Links at 186 Foster St Each, Dandenong from Monday to Thursday.

In February 2018, Consumer Affairs Victoria commenced a data collection exercise with the financial counselling agencies focused on understanding demand pressures on services. This data will be used to inform future planning of the Financial Counselling Program.

**Southern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Davis  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 20 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

In relation to the specified incident, I am advised that Victoria Police were notified of a person with a sword walking up and down the last carriage of a city bound train approaching Moorabbin Station. The train stopped at the Patterson Railway Station and the person left the train holding the sword.

Police members spoke with this person who complied with instructions, placed the sword on the ground and was arrested.

In relation to the crime rate in Bentleigh, data from the independent Crime Statistics Agency for the year ending 31 March 2018 indicates that the offence rate in the Glen Eira Local Government Area has in fact decreased by 12.5 percent.

In relation to police resources, I note that an additional 29 police are currently being deployed across the Moorabbin Division, which services Bentleigh. These additional resources include 4 police specifically allocated to Glen Eira Police Service Area, as well as 17 specialist divisional resources.

**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Dunn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 20 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Community Liaison Groups have been formed to act as a direct talking point between the North East Link Authority and the local communities. There are two independently chaired groups, one for the Northern section of the project area and one for the Southern/Eastern Freeway section.

Members were appointed through a formal application process by the North East Link Authority and include members from environmental and community groups as well as local businesses.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Police  
**Asked on:** 20 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

There have been no cuts to police in Ballarat. There are more police across the Ballarat division now than there were in November 2014. As the member is aware, Victoria Police allocates resources at a divisional level to provide greater flexibility and ensure resources can be utilised within the division where they are needed the most.

Changes to the allocation to resources across the divisions have been as a result of Victoria Police assigning extra resources to the family violence unit to meet this serious challenge for the region. Family violence has increased by 18.8 per cent — and police resources have been allocated to tackle the scourge and harm that this serious crime causes in the community.

The division will however also receive an additional 14 police and family violence specialists over the next 12 months, under the Government's commitment to recruit and deploy 3135 new police. This compares to the previous government which did not fund one extra police officer across Victoria.

We have also deployed 24 new police custody officers to the Ballarat division who have so far delivered over 5000 shifts which enable general duties police to be out in the community.

Ballarat will also be home to a new Victoria Police forensic hub as part of the Labor Government's commitment to tackle the scourge of ice and other illicit drugs, as well as the new \$210 million Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting Portal, which will create around 250 new jobs in Ballarat.

The Government's record investment in police and community safety is making a real difference, driving down crime by 5.7 per cent in Ballarat for the year ending 31 March 2018, as documented by the independent Crime Statistics Agency. The rate of motor vehicle thefts is also down 2.7 per cent, residential aggravated burglary is down 21.5 per cent and justice procedure offences is down 10.6 per cent.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 20 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

V/Line has commenced an external clean and polish program, to improve the appearance of the classic fleet.

The Andrews Labor Government has invested \$850 million in new regional rolling stock, providing 87 new VLocity carriages and associated infrastructure for the regional rail network. The Labor Government has funded new carriages from our very first budget, including the trains that the former Liberal National Government failed to order for two years, delaying the opening of the Regional Rail Link. The 2017–18 State Budget also provided \$12.5 million to ensure all older vehicles in V/Line's fleet are fit to provide safe, reliable and comfortable services while the new trains are in production and planning for the next generation of regional rolling stock continues.

We are delivering more services than ever before on the network and last year, an extra 28 train weekly services were added to the Bendigo line to give passengers more choice on when they want to travel.

**Western Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 20 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government wants local businesses to be involved in the West Gate Tunnel Project and the project team has been proactively engaging businesses in the west for over two years. There are multiple channels for businesses to find out information, provide goods and services to the project team and have their questions answered.

The project is being managed by the Western Distributor Authority on behalf of the Victorian Government, and the authority is headed by Peter Sammut, Chief Executive Officer.

Construction is a massive job and some disruptions are unavoidable. The project team is working with affected businesses to notify them of planned disruptions and to provide solutions or alternative arrangements. In response to business and community feedback about planned activities, the project's builder has been reviewing and changing its construction methodologies in some areas.

The project team has also been holding information sessions for local businesses to help them benefit from the project's strong local purchasing commitments, with 89 per cent of goods and services purchased from local businesses.

With construction underway, the project's workforce is being encouraged to shop locally and a trader directory is being put together.

We are building the project now because we know what will happen to businesses in the west if the West Gate Tunnel Project is not built — it will take longer to travel between the west and the city, reducing economic opportunities, making it harder for workers to commute and increasing the cost of moving goods.

Businesses can find out detailed information on the project website, receive email or social media updates, or reach out to the project team on the 24-hour contact line at 1800 105 105.

**South Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Rich-Phillips  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 21 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government is spending \$15 billion on projects to improve services on the Cranbourne line that will increase service capacity by 42 per cent and slash travel times by up to 50 minutes a day.

These projects include:

- the Metro Tunnel project
- the removal of 11 level crossings, with 10 already gone
- a massive power and signalling upgrade along the entire Cranbourne line
- 65 new high capacity trains
- starting the duplication of the Cranbourne line.

I acknowledge that the Member for South-Eastern and the Liberal Opposition have strongly opposed these projects. The member has voted in the Parliament to block the removal of level crossings and the Liberal Party even supported Supreme Court action seeking to stop the level crossing removals project on the Cranbourne/Pakenham line.

The greatest threat to improvements on the Cranbourne line is the commitment the Liberal Party has made to renegotiate the Metro Tunnel contract that will delay, by at least two years, the extra services and faster journey times the Metro Tunnel will provide for Cranbourne passengers.

The Member for South-Eastern and the Liberal Party have failed in their attempts to block improvements on the Cranbourne line and the Government will continue to deliver the projects that are essential to improve services for Cranbourne.

**Northern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Patten  
**Directed to:** Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing  
**Asked on:** 21 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

As photo identification requires a stringent proof of identity validation process, the Seniors Card is not suitable for that purpose.

The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation issues the Victorian Proof of Age Card, which is primarily to provide evidence that you are over the age of 18 to enter licensed premises, but may be accepted for other purposes. The card is recognised throughout Australia.

A Proof of Age Card application form can be mailed to your constituent by calling the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation on 1300 182 457 or through the website at [www.vcglr.vic.gov.au](http://www.vcglr.vic.gov.au). Forms are also available at any VicRoads-appointed photo point agency including participating Australia Post offices, participating VicRoads offices and selected pharmacies or chemists.

**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Leane  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 21 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan for his continued advocacy for better public transport services on behalf of his community.

It is very exciting to see the Andrews Labor Government's investment in public transport in Melbourne's northeast.

Passengers on the Hurstbridge line will get up to 50 extra services per week when the new metropolitan train timetable starts on Sunday 26 August 2018, thanks to the \$395 million Hurstbridge Line upgrade which will include new and extended services for Eltham, Macleod, Greensborough and Hurstbridge passengers to boost capacity and give more travel options.

**Eastern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Bath  
**Directed to:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Asked on:** 21 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) is responsible for operating the NEM and maintaining its overall supply-demand balance. AEMO has powers through the Reliability & Emergency Reserve Trader (RERT) arrangement to contract reserve capacity.

The average of the total cost per household can be found in AEMO's Summer 2017–18 Operations Review.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 21 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

Following a meeting with the Strathmerton community and the Moira Shire Council on 31 May 2018, VicRoads commenced a speed review for the Murray Valley Highway. To ensure the Strathmerton community's views are further incorporated into the review, VicRoads will host a road safety community information session in late July.

Along with community feedback, the speed review process will also consider road engineering, traffic volumes and pedestrian movements.

VicRoads will consider all the evidence in collaboration with Victoria Police and the Moira Shire Council, and an informed decision will be made on the safest speed for the Murray Valley Highway through Strathmerton.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Directed to:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Asked on:** 21 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

Valuable feedback on options has been received from stakeholders, businesses and the community. I am advised that Major Roads Project Authority (MRPA) is incorporating this feedback, with further analysis of the Armstrong Creek Precinct Structure Plans, to refine planning for this project.

The work MRPA is now undertaking will continue to see the next round of designs available to share with the local community and key stakeholders later this year.

**Eastern Metropolitan Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Leane  
**Directed to:** Minister for Education  
**Asked on:** 22 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for your continued advocacy on behalf of the people of Eastern Metropolitan Region, especially on matters relating to education.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria the Education State, which includes growing educational opportunities for all Victorians. We have invested more than \$3.8 billion to improve classrooms, upgrade facilities and build new schools across the state. This school building boom has delivered more than 1300 school upgrades and 70 new school projects across Victoria.

Unlike the former Liberal Government, which allocated nothing to Mullum Primary School, the Andrews Labor Government invested \$937 000 to Mullum Primary School for the upgrade and modernisation of its infrastructure, including the creation of a new performing arts centre and an undercover sports court.

I understand that the arts centre has experienced some drainage issues. So, I am delighted to confirm that an additional \$150 000 in funding has been allocated to address these issues. The Victorian School Building Authority will ensure the best outcome for Mullum Primary School is achieved through this funding.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Purcell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Asked on:** 22 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

On 1 May 2018, Saputo Dairy Australia completed the purchase of all the operating assets and liabilities of Murray Goulburn Cooperative. Saputo subsequently began the process to sell the Koroit processing plant. The ACCC has advised my department that it is not disclosing information on the sale due to the sensitivities of the nature of the divesture undertaking and its ramifications. My department will continue to monitor the situation.

**Northern Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 22 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government has invested \$356 million to upgrade the Shepparton line, the biggest upgrade to the Shepparton line in a generation, and it's being delivered by a Labor Government.

This investment includes new stabling, signalling and track upgrades, level crossing upgrades and platform extensions at Shepparton, Mooropna, Murchison East and Nagambie stations. It will deliver VLocity trains to Shepparton and pave the way for nine return passenger services a day.

While this work is underway, 29 extra weekly coaches between Shepparton and Seymour have been introduced to give passengers greater travel choice. In addition, the Andrews Labor Government added nine services between Melbourne and Shepparton in 2017, with more to come next year.

Contrast this with the announcement of only \$77 million for the Shepparton line by the Liberal/National Opposition, which won't deliver the public transport improvements the Shepparton community is calling for.

**Western Victoria Region**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Asked on:** 22 June 2018

**ANSWER:**

V/Line recently experienced a higher-than-usual number of staff unwell during June, which unfortunately led to service changes and a number of cancellations across the network.

There are more than 70 drivers currently in training, which will provide greater flexibility and will also enable V/Line to help meet the ongoing growing demand for services.

New drivers will continue to be deployed on to the network this year and into 2019.

Since 2015, the Andrews Labor Government has added nearly 600 new regional services across the network, including on the Ballarat Line. The Ballarat Line Upgrade is also part of the \$1.75 billion Regional Rail Revival package, a program that will upgrade every regional passenger line in Victoria. This includes the Ballarat Line Upgrade already underway, which will deliver much needed extra services in the peak and trains every 40 minutes in the off-peak, as well as paving the way for better services for Ararat.

This investment is in stark contrast to the former Liberal National Government, which cut V/Line funds and failed to order a single regional carriage in two years.