

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**5, 6 and 8 June 2018**

**(Extract from book 8)**

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

**By authority of the Victorian Government Printer**



## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable KEN LAY, AO, APM

## **The ministry**

(from 16 October 2017)

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

### Legislative Council committees

**Privileges Committee** — Mr Dalidakis, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Springle, Ms Symes and Ms Wooldridge.

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

### Legislative Council standing committees

**Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure** — Mr Bourman, #Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

**Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning** — Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, #Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Melhem, Mr 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*): Mr Gepp and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

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

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

### Heads of parliamentary departments

*Assembly* — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

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

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

**President:**

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:**

Mr K. EIDEH

**Acting Presidents:**

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

**Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

**Deputy Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

**Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

**Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

**Leader of the Greens:**

Dr S. RATNAM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John <sup>1</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina <sup>2</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>8</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel <sup>3</sup>	Western Metropolitan	AC	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew <sup>9</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona <sup>10</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	RV
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin <sup>4</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini <sup>11</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark <sup>5</sup>	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred <sup>7</sup>	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph <sup>6</sup>	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Truong, Ms Huong <sup>12</sup>	Western Metropolitan	Greens
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
			Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

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



# CONTENTS

---

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### TUESDAY, 5 JUNE 2018

12 335.	Public transport .....	2691
12 479.	Emergency services .....	2691
12 520.	Public transport .....	2691
12 624.	Roads and road safety .....	2692
12 638.	Roads and road safety .....	2692
12 663.	Public transport .....	2693
12 667.	Education .....	2693
12 673.	Roads and road safety .....	2693

### WEDNESDAY, 6 JUNE 2018

572.	Health .....	2695
868.	Ambulance services .....	2695
12 526.	Health .....	2696
12 565.	Health .....	2696
12 615.	Health .....	2696
12 616.	Health .....	2697
12 655.	Premier .....	2697
12 656.	Premier .....	2698
12 657.	Premier .....	2698
12 658.	Premier .....	2698
12 659.	Premier .....	2699
12 660.	Premier .....	2699
12 662.	Public transport .....	2699

### FRIDAY, 8 JUNE 2018

12 661.	Premier .....	2701
12 666.	Training and skills .....	2701
12 675.	Training and skills .....	2702





**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.*

*Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.*

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

*Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.*

**Tuesday, 5 June 2018**

**Public transport**

**12 335. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What has been the cost of establishing and operating the new 343 bus service from Greensborough to Hurstbridge.

**ANSWER:**

The new route 343 bus service was implemented on 19 June 2017 and forms part of the \$100 million better bus package.

[Question 12 335 reinstated by order of President on 8 May 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 27 March 2018, page 1428.]

**Emergency services**

**12 479. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment (for the Minister for Emergency Services) —

- (1) who will pay for the old Country Fire Authority building in Eltham to be transformed into a volunteer hub;
- (2) how long is this work expected to take; and
- (3) what is the projected cost.

**ANSWER:**

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

A further \$500 000 has been committed to upgrade the former Eltham Fire Station to house Eltham CFA volunteers and also operate as a community volunteer hub.

The former Eltham CFA station is expected to be operational by the end of 2018.

**Public transport**

**12 520. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the \$125 000 of funding for an innovative community transport service pilot in the Wimmera Region, announced on 7 March 2017 —

- (1) on what date did the pilot commence;
- (2) since it commenced, how many patients have been transported;
- (3) how many volunteers have participated as part of the pilot since it commenced;
- (4) with the first 12 months of the pilot funded by the Government, will the \$60 000 raised by the Centre for Participation, local council and health providers be adequate to cover the remaining 12 months;
- (5) on what date will there be sufficient evidence for the pilot to be evaluated; and
- (6) will that data be made public.

**ANSWER:**

The first service ran on Wednesday 1 November 2017. This is a door to door service between Kaniva and Horsham that will run once a week (Route 1).

It is too early to establish patronage numbers. The service did not run on two occasions due to extreme heat, and was in recess over the Christmas/New Year period.

The Centre for Participation (CfP) has recruited and trained eight volunteers to help run the door to door service between Kaniva and Horsham. The CfP is undertaking recruitment and training of several new volunteers for this service.

The Government has funded \$125 000 and the CfP has contributed \$60 000 towards the proposal.

An evaluation framework has been developed and implemented to review the service and determine its future.

[*Question 12 520 reinstated by order of President on 9 May 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 1 May 2018, page 1606.*]

**Roads and road safety**

**12 624. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the Bolton Street Upgrade, Eltham project —

- (1) how many people were employed between September and December 2017; and
- (2) how many have been employed between January and March 2018.

**ANSWER:**

We're putting local jobs first and ensuring that Victorian businesses get the opportunity to work on the biggest projects in the state.

VicRoads advises me that 450 workers were employed for the Bolton Street Upgrade Project between September 2017 and March 2018, including a number of local suppliers.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 638. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the Easter celebration on Bolton Street, Eltham on 31 March 2018 —

- (1) what is VicRoads budget for this event; and
- (2) how many VicRoads staff will attend.

**ANSWER:**

After locals waited decades for the councils to do something about community concerns around traffic and safety in the area, the Andrews Labor Government has finished the Bolton Street upgrade.

VicRoads worked closely with local traders and the community while works were being finished.

All communications with the community and community events related to this important upgrade were undertaken within the project budget.

We know the road works were frustrating for the Bolton Street traders-but not as frustrating as another decade of gridlock.

**Public transport**

**12 663. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What were the patronage figures of the free rail replacement buses between Eltham and the city during the Hurstbridge rail line partial shutdown.

**ANSWER:**

Free replacement buses do not require passengers to touch on. As a result there is no reliable myki patronage data.

**Education**

**12 667. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How much money has been allocated to planning for future work at Research Primary School.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The latest Budget continues the Education State reforms with record investment in our schools. The State Budget is investing \$1.25 billion to expand and modernise Victorian schools, which will bring this Government's investment in school infrastructure over the past four years to \$3.8 billion, funding 70 new schools, more than 1300 school upgrades and ten Tech Schools.

This will ensure every Victorian family, wherever they live, has access to a great government school.

I am pleased to confirm that Research Primary School will share in \$17.2 million of planning funds that have been allocated in the 2018-19 State Budget. This funding will allow the school to begin planning its project, thereby ensuring that works can commence immediately when further funding is provided in a future State Budget.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 673. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What was the final detailed cost of the upgrade of Bolton Street, Eltham, and what were the specific costs for —

- (1) project development;
- (2) project management;
- (3) preconstruction and design;
- (4) construction;
- (5) service relocations;
- (6) program administration costs;
- (7) installation of traffic lights at Grand Boulevard;
- (8) installation of traffic lights on Main Road;
- (9) landscaping; and
- (10) other.

**ANSWER:**

After locals waited decades for the council to do something about traffic and safety in the area, the Andrews Labor Government has completed the Bolton Street upgrade.

The Bolton Street project was delivered within the allocated \$10.5 million to develop, scope, project-manage and execute construction delivery.

We know the roadworks were frustrating for the community and local traders but not as frustrating as another decade in gridlock.



QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.*

*Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.*

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

*Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.*

**Wednesday, 6 June 2018**

**Health**

**572. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — to ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): what is the Department of Health and Human Services estimation of the cost of the new AFL Grand final eve public holiday for Victorian Health Services.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government delivered a significant increase in funding to health services in the 2015/16 budget. This additional funding represents sufficient funding to meet the delivery of services as agreed in relevant Statements of Priorities. Individual health services are required to manage their budgets to meet the salary obligations and other entitlements of employees with respect to the delivery of these services.

*[Question 572 reinstated by order of President on 10 December 2015. Hansard reference to original answer: 25 November 2015, page 5265.]*

**Ambulance services**

**868. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (representing the Minister for Ambulance Services): In relation to Ambulance Victoria:

- (1) What was the cost incurred due to the 5 April 2015 Easter Sunday Public Holiday.
- (2) If an answer to (1) is unavailable, what was the value of any adjustment made to base wage funding costs to reflect the 5 April 2015 Easter Sunday Public Holiday.
- (3) If an answer to (2) is unavailable, did Ambulance Victoria use an unadjusted fund to implement the gazettal of the Easter Sunday public holiday in 2015, and if so, from which cost centre were the funds appropriated.
- (4) What is the cost to be incurred for the 2015 Grand Final Eve Public Holiday.
- (5) If an answer to (4) is unavailable, what is the projected or budgeted value of any adjustment made to base wage funding costs to reflect the 2015 Grand Final Eve Public Holiday.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Decisions in relation to staffing and thereby costs incurred on any particular day are operational decisions made by Ambulance Victoria.

*[Question 868, parts (1) and (4), reinstated by order of President on 10 December 2015. Hansard reference to original answer: 25 November 2015, page 5270.]*

**Health**

**12 526. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the \$3 million to treat and fight Motor Neurone Disease —

- (1) was this new funding, and if so from what budget item; and
- (2) if this was not new funding, to what was the funding previously allocated and why was it no longer needed for that project.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In April 2017, the Andrews Labor Government announced a \$3 million contribution to a \$5 million partnership between the Cure for MND Foundation, the Florey Institute, and the Government, to fast-track research into this devastating disease. Funding was allocated from unallocated funds in the department.

*[Question 12 526, part (2), reinstated by order of President on 27 March 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 March 2018, page 1003.]*

**Health**

**12 565. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the current round of allocations from the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund —

- (1) how many applications did the Government receive; and
- (2) of those applications, how many were successful.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In 2016 the Victorian Government established the \$200 million Regional Health Infrastructure Fund to improve health services and agencies in rural and regional Victoria. The funding is available to expand capacity, improve safety, quality and efficiency and deliver better care to patients no matter where they live. This compares to the previous government's \$56 million Rural Capital Support Fund.

Round 2 of the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund received 230 submissions from 81 agencies, with 79 projects receiving funding. All funded projects can be found at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/regional-health-infrastructure-fund>.

**Health**

**12 615. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to Ambulance Victoria, in the 2015-16 financial year —

- (1) how many full time equivalent on road staff were employed by Ambulance Victoria;
- (2) how many full time equivalent non-clinical staff were employed by Ambulance Victoria; and
- (3) how many full time equivalent total salaried personnel were employed by the agency.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) In 2015-16 Ambulance Victoria employed 3438.6 full time equivalent on road clinical staff.
- (2) In 2015-16 Ambulance Victoria employed 684.7 full time equivalent operational support, managerial, professional and administrative staff.
- (3) In 2015-16 Ambulance Victoria employed 4123.3 full time equivalent staff, excluding volunteers and casual Ambulance Community Officers.

**Health**

**12 616. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to Ambulance Victoria, in the 2016-17 financial year —

- (1) how many full time equivalent on road staff were employed by Ambulance Victoria;
- (2) how many full time equivalent non-clinical staff were employed by Ambulance Victoria; and
- (3) how many full time equivalent total salaried personnel were employed by the agency.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) In 2016-17 Ambulance Victoria employed 3813.4 full time equivalent on road clinical staff.
- (2) In 2016-17 Ambulance Victoria employed 717.6 full time equivalent operational support, managerial, professional and administrative staff.
- (3) In 2016-17 Ambulance Victoria employed 4531.0 full time equivalent staff, excluding volunteers and casual Ambulance Community Officers.

**Premier**

**12 655. MS BATH** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): In relation to the finance department of the Latrobe Valley Authority —

- (1) how many employees perform their duties directly from the office located within the Latrobe Valley;
- (2) how many employees perform their duties directly from Melbourne; and
- (3) what is the contractual term for these employees.

**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 committed \$20 million to fund the establishment of a dedicated Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA) to lead the Government's response and manage the transition and the future economic development of the Latrobe Valley. In 2017, the LVA's purview was expanded to support the workers of Carter Holt Harvey's Morwell Mill.

The LVA acts as a one stop shop for workers, where they can access support services and other assistance.

At 25 May 2018, the LVA had 33.9 full-time equivalent staff. It would be inappropriate to address the contractual terms of individual staff members. Funded by this Labor Government to support workers and families, the LVA is primarily run by a dedicated team located in the Latrobe Valley.

On 31 May this year, Minister Carroll announced that the \$17 million Gippsland Hi-Tech Precinct will have a local content requirement of 91 per cent and will maximise the use of local steel.

The precinct-which will position the Latrobe Valley as a leader in innovation-will be a centre for research, business incubation, new product development, start up support, and education and training.

It will support the growth of local industry and play an important role in supporting the expansion of the region's growth sectors-including health, food and fibre, advanced manufacturing and new energy.

The precinct forms part of the Latrobe Valley Transition Program, which also includes the Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund, which has already created 836 new jobs and is driving \$86.9 million of private investment.

This builds on the Labor Government's \$266 million support package for the Latrobe Valley, which is delivering economic growth and creating new jobs.

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.

**Premier**

**12 656. MS BATH** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): In relation to the worker transition scheme department of the Latrobe Valley Authority —

- (1) how many employees perform their duties directly from the office located within the Latrobe Valley;
- (2) how many employees perform their duties directly from Melbourne; and
- (3) what is the contractual term for these employees.

**ANSWER:**

I refer the member to my response to Question on Notice 12655.

**Premier**

**12 657. MS BATH** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): In relation to the grants department of the Latrobe Valley Authority —

- (1) how many employees perform their duties directly from the office located within the Latrobe Valley;
- (2) how many employees perform their duties directly from Melbourne; and
- (3) what is the contractual term for these employees.

**ANSWER:**

I refer the member to my response to Question on Notice 12655.

**Premier**

**12 658. MS BATH** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): In relation to the media and communications department of the Latrobe Valley Authority —

- (1) how many employees perform their duties directly from the office located within the Latrobe Valley;
- (2) how many employees perform their duties directly from Melbourne; and
- (3) what is the contractual term for these employees.

**ANSWER:**

I refer the member to my response to Question on Notice 12655.



**Premier**

**12 659. MS BATH** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): In relation to the governance department of the Latrobe Valley Authority —

- (1) how many employees perform their duties directly from the office located within the Latrobe Valley;
- (2) how many employees perform their duties directly from Melbourne; and
- (3) what is the contractual term for these employees.

**ANSWER:**

I refer the member to my response to Question on Notice 12655.

**Premier**

**12 660. MS BATH** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): In relation to the business development department of the Latrobe Valley Authority —

- (1) how many employees perform their duties directly from the office located within the Latrobe Valley;
- (2) how many employees perform their duties directly from Melbourne; and
- (3) what is the contractual term for these employees.

**ANSWER:**

I refer the member to my response to Question on Notice 12655.

**Public transport**

**12 662. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What was the cost of the free rail replacement buses between Eltham and the city during the period of the Hurstbridge rail partial shutdown.

**ANSWER:**

The total cost for the rail replacement bus services during the Hurstbridge line partial shutdown forms part of the overall project budget.



QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.*

*Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.*

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

*Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.*

**Friday, 8 June 2018**

**Premier**

**12 661. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Special Minister for State (for the Premier): In relation to a letter, signed by the Premier, and addressed to residents in Eltham who have opposed the plan to sell off council reserves —

- (1) how many copies of the letter were distributed;
- (2) what was the cost;
- (3) who provided the mailing list; and
- (4) who paid for production of the letter and its distribution.

**ANSWER:**

Last month, I joined the Minister for Suburban Development and the Member for Eltham to announce that the Victorian Budget 2018/19 would deliver a \$50 million boost to the Growing Suburbs Fund, at the Frank Street Reserve in Eltham.

In the months prior, the Member for Eltham had kept me aware of her local Council's plans to sell that priceless community space and 16 other sites across the Nillumbik Shire. Residents across her electorate expressed considerable opposition to the proposed sales, including a number who signed a petition addressed to the local Mayor that was also personally presented to me on 18 April 2018.

I was pleased to provide a response to those residents expressing my strong support for their campaign to save community reserves, which ultimately saw the Nillumbik Shire Council not proceed with the sale of 14 of those sites.

I thank the Member for Eltham for her tireless advocacy to protect and retain these open spaces for community use, and congratulate members of the local community on their successful grassroots campaign.

**Training and skills**

**12 666. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: What was the cost of the four page brochure titled 'Greensborough Precinct' and what suburbs was the brochure circulated to.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Four years after it closed because of funding cuts by the previous Liberal Government the Greensborough campus of Melbourne Polytechnic was successfully reopened, returning skills and training to the people of Greensborough and north-east Melbourne.

The Andrews Labor Government is proud of its \$10 million investment to reopen the Greensborough campus which is focusing on three main areas including health and community services, business and entrepreneurship and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Melbourne Polytechnic's Greensborough campus is becoming a vibrant, multi-purpose community and education precinct.

Labor is making sure that the people of Greensborough and surrounding suburbs get the skills they need for the jobs they want.

The co-location of partners on the site will create significant opportunities and benefits for the community and Melbourne Polytechnic, attracting potential students to the site and offering a variety of opportunities for cross-pollination and industry experience for students already enrolled at Greensborough.

TAFEs conduct and manage their own marketing and advertising activities in line with whole-of-government guidelines. These activities are designed to meet the business and student recruitment objectives of their institute.

TAFEs report publically on advertising expenditure for campaigns with a media spend of \$100 000 or greater. This information is available in TAFE annual reports.

### Training and skills

**12 675. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Melbourne Polytechnic, Greensborough campus, during Semester 2 of 2017 and Semester 1 of 2018, how many students were enrolled in —

- (1) business innovation and entrepreneurship;
- (2) health and education; and
- (3) foundation and preparatory studies.

### ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Four years after it closed because of funding cuts by the previous Liberal Government the Greensborough campus of Melbourne Polytechnic was successfully reopened, returning skills and training to the people of Greensborough and north-east Melbourne.

The Andrews Labor Government is proud of its \$10 million investment to reopen the Greensborough campus which is focusing on three main areas including health and community services, business and entrepreneurship and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Melbourne Polytechnic's Greensborough campus is becoming a vibrant, multi-purpose community and education precinct.

Labor is making sure that the people of Greensborough and surrounding suburbs get the skills they need for the jobs they want.

The co-location of partners on the site will create significant opportunities and benefits for the community and Melbourne Polytechnic, attracting potential students to the site and offering a variety of opportunities for cross-pollination and industry experience for students already enrolled at Greensborough.

TAFE Institutes are not required to report commercially sensitive training activity by campus.