

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**21, 22, 23 and 24 August 2018**

**(Extract from book 12)**

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## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable KEN LAY, AO, APM

## **The ministry**

(from 16 October 2017)

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

### Legislative Council committees

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

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

### Legislative Council standing committees

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

**Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning** — Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, #Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Melhem, Mr 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

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

**President:**

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:**

Mr N. ELASMAR

**Acting Presidents:**

Ms Dunn, Mr Gepp, 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	Ind	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	FPRP
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>6</sup>	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph <sup>7</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;  
AC until 3 August 2018

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

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

<sup>6</sup> Resigned 9 February 2018

<sup>7</sup> Resigned 6 April 2017

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

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

<sup>10</sup> ASP until 16 January 2018;  
RV until 14 August 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;  
FPRP — Fiona Patten's Reason Party; Greens — Australian Greens; Ind — Independent; LP — Liberal Party;  
Nats — The Nationals; RV — Reason Victoria; SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; VILJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs



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**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Tuesday, 21 August 2018**

**South Gippsland Hospital**

**Raised with:** Minister for Health  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 18 October 2017

**REPLY:**

I can confirm that South Gippsland Hospital's application was funded as part of Round 2 of the Andrews Labor Government's \$250 million Regional Health Infrastructure Fund.

**North-east link**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Dunn  
**Raised on:** 8 May 2018

**REPLY:**

Infrastructure Victoria initially estimated the cost of North East Link to be between \$5-\$10 billion in their 30-year strategy. This was a preliminary estimate range only and the subsequent detailed design and planning of the project has provided a more accurate indication of cost. The addition of the Eastern Freeway overhaul from Springvale Road contributed to this increase in cost.

The North East Link business case was released May 27 2018. As is standard practice, all commercial-in-confidence information was redacted prior to publication.

The benefit cost ratio for North East Link shows that for every \$1.00 invested in the project, It will return \$1.30 back to the economy.

Factors that contribute to the benefit cost ratio include a \$12.5 billion increase in gross state product for Victoria, \$427 million in economic value each year from better freight connectivity, \$250 million in economic value each year from better business connectivity and \$41 million in economic value each year from improved safety and amenity.

**Sturt Street, Ballarat**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Morris  
**Raised on:** 10 May 2018

**REPLY:**

I thank Mr Morris for raising this important project to enhance safety along one of Ballarat's most iconic and important corridors. This package of works, funded in the recent 2018-2019 State Budget, will address road safety risks for our community's most vulnerable users, particularly school students.

I am advised by VicRoads that detailed design for the works has commenced, and the Government looks forward to working with the community prior to construction.

**Bangerang Cultural Centre**

**Raised with:** Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 5 June 2018

**REPLY:**

I thank the honourable member for Northern Victoria for raising this matter.

The Commonwealth Government withdrew its funding for the Centre in 2015 and then proceeded to decline the Centre's funding application to the Indigenous Advancement Strategy in early 2018. I understand this is the cause of the Centre's operational struggles and I empathise with how this has impacted the local Aboriginal and greater Shepparton community.

It must be noted that the Department of Premier and Cabinet remains unable to financially support the Centre's ongoing operations at this time.

I am advised that the Centre met with Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, Commonwealth Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Hon Damian Drum MP, Member for Murray on 1 June 2018.

Following this meeting, support from the Commonwealth was offered in the form of assistance to the Centre in preparing an application to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for up to \$50 000 to develop a business plan.

The Centre can also access \$1 million held in trust by the Commonwealth Department of Communications and the Arts to purchase a property, as well as \$12 000 annually from the interest earned on these funds to support its operations. The Victorian Government is not party to this arrangement.

I note that Victoria has a policy of handing back control of Aboriginal community assets, rather than holding a caveat over the assets and restricting their use. I would be happy to assist the member by sharing this policy with her and the Commonwealth Government.

**Bangerang Cultural Centre**

**Raised with:** Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 24 July 2018

**REPLY:**

I thank the honourable member for Northern Victoria for raising this matter.

The member is correct in stating that I visited the Shepparton region on 10 July 2018, where I met with representatives of the Bangerang Cultural Centre (Centre) to discuss how the Victorian Government may be able to provide support. These conversations with the Centre are ongoing.

The Commonwealth Government withdrew its funding for the Centre in 2015 and then proceeded to decline the Centre's funding application to the Indigenous Advancement Strategy in early 2018. I understand this is the cause of the Centre's operational struggles and I empathise with how this has impacted the local Aboriginal and greater Shepparton community.

It must be noted that the Department of Premier and Cabinet remains unable to financially support the Centre's ongoing operations at this time.

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### **Merri Creek**

**Raised with: Minister for Water**

**Raised by: Ms Dunn**

**Raised on: 24 July 2018**

#### **REPLY:**

Discolouration of Merri Creek observed by the community since May 2018 is due to clay particles suspended in the water, which make the water appear turbid.

Between May and July 2018, Melbourne Water and Hume City Council carried out site inspections in the catchment to understand the reason for the increased turbidity. They concluded there are several factors contributing to the high turbidity, including highly erosive soils in the upper reaches of Kalkallo Creek (a tributary of Merri Creek) combined with high rainfall events.

These findings have been shared with Merri Creek Management Committee and Environment Protection Authority Victoria.

Several new subdivision developments are under construction in the Kalkallo area. These developments must comply with the best practice environmental management objectives under the Victoria Planning Provisions. These objectives help determine the level of stormwater management necessary to meet the *State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria)*. Melbourne Water and Hume City Council are actively monitoring stormwater management at these developments.

Melbourne Water commissioned a geomorphological report and is taking the findings, and the erosive nature of the soils, into account when assessing stormwater management plans and site management plans for new developments in the Merri Creek catchment.

Further to this, the Andrews Labor Government is ensuring existing and future developments protect waterways.

On 27 April this year, the Minister for Planning established the Improving Stormwater Management Advisory Committee to provide independent expert advice to both the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Water on how to improve stormwater management and strengthen the links between planning and urban water management.

The Committee is tasked with advising which types of development, of those currently not subject to the State's urban runoff management objectives, should be required to manage their stormwater impacts and how this could be achieved.

Additionally, the Living Rivers Program, run by Melbourne Water, funded 55 new sustainable stormwater management projects in 2017/18, totalling \$3.3 million throughout the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years and leveraged \$3.85 million in council investment for sustainable stormwater management.

**Mac.Robertson Girls High School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Raised on:** 24 July 2018

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is reviewing select entry schooling to ensure girls and boys have equal access. The funding will review long-term select entry provision for girls across Victoria as well as look at options for creating more capacity at Mac.Robertson Girls' High School to address the disparity.

Melbourne High School has capacity for around 400 more students than Mac.Robertson Girls' High School, and addressing this imbalance by expanding the school will bring equality of access. However these are just two of a number of select entry schools across the State.

There are a range of options available to expand Mac.Robertson Girls' High School, including leasing or buying a new site, or re-imagining the current facilities on-site.

Mac.Robertson Girls' High School is currently in the planning phase of the project. During this phase, the Victorian School Building Authority works closely with the school and appoint an architect to assist with considering options.

In addition, a project board is also being established within the Department to develop a plan to achieve gender parity for select entry places across the state. The board will work with Mac.Robertson Girls' High School to discuss the next steps in the planning process for the school.

Our review will not look at expanding the current site adjacent to Albert Park to ensure the surrounding parkland is not affected.

**Peninsula Film Festival**

**Raised with:** Minister for Tourism and Major Events  
**Raised by:** Mr Mulino  
**Raised on:** 25 July 2018

**REPLY:**

The Peninsula Short Film Festival is a fantastic annual event on Victoria's regional events calendar. It brings thousands of people to the Rosebud foreshore to celebrate up and coming Australian filmmakers.

The 2018 festival received strong funding support from the Regional Events Fund (REF), administered through Visit Victoria. The \$20 million Regional Events fund has supported a number of other local events in the region, including Skating at Sorrento, the Lights by Dreamworks exhibition and Peninsula VineHop Festival.

I am very pleased to advise that the festival has once again been successful in securing funding support from the REF for the February 2019 event.

The new \$2 million Regional Events and Innovation Fund announced in the State Budget 2018-19 will build on the REF to support unique destination initiatives like the Peninsula Short Film Festival.

**Neerim Road, Carnegie, car parking**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Davis  
**Raised on:** 25 July 2018

**REPLY:**

I am advised that this matter has been resolved to Mr Baker's satisfaction. The City of Glen Eira accepted that it was responsible for considering Mr Baker's request for Neerim Road on-road car park markings.

**Emil Madsen Reserve**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government  
**Raised by:** Mr Mulino  
**Raised on:** 26 July 2018

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Eastern Victoria for the matter he raised regarding Emil Madsen Reserve Sports Facilities in Mt Eliza, which has been supported through the Growing Suburbs Fund.

The Growing Suburbs Fund program has provided significant financial contributions from the Victorian Government towards meeting the critical infrastructure needs of communities in Melbourne's diverse and fast-growing outer suburbs. The fund is positioned to respond quickly to the pressures being experienced by interface communities by bringing forward local projects that will make a big difference in the day-to-day lives of outer suburban families.

Since 2015, the Victorian Government has allocated \$150 million to the Growing Suburbs Fund which has now supported 116 projects across Melbourne's ten interface councils. In the 2018-19 Budget, an additional \$50 million was allocated to the Growing Suburbs Fund, taking the Victorian Government's total investment to \$200 million.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has received a total of \$8.597 million through the Growing Suburbs Fund over the past three years to deliver 11 projects.

In 2016-17 Mornington Peninsula Shire Council received \$1.695 million from the Growing Suburbs Fund to support six projects. This included funding of \$1.011 million for the Emil Madsen Reserve Sporting Facilities project. The project will deliver greatly improved facilities for the local community.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council has advised that the Emil Madsen Reserve Sporting Facilities project is on track and due for completion in October 2018. The works completed include three new netball courts, a new AFL and cricket oval and associated irrigation, drainage and lighting.

The project is a significant investment in Mt Eliza and its surroundings and is expected to generate substantial social and economic benefits to the local communities.

I look forward to working closely with local councils to ensure the successful delivery of projects that have previously been funded under the Growing Suburbs Fund, including the Emil Madsen Reserve Sports Facilities, as well as projects to be delivered under the 2018-19 funding round.

**Melbourne-Lancefield Road**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 26 July 2018

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing the number of fatalities and people seriously injured along Melbourne-Lancefield Road between Sunbury and Lancefield.

As I am sure the Member would be aware of, VicRoads suspended works for the winter months as the wet weather isn't conducive to road building.

This suspension has also enabled ground conditions to be better understood and the road design to be altered to mitigate any further delays due to ground condition unpredictability. Work will recommence as soon as the ground conditions have had the opportunity to dry.

During this suspension period, the road surface is being regularly monitored and routine maintenance is being carried out as required. Traffic management is in place to ensure road user safety and the 80km/h speed limit at each worksite is allowing normal traffic flow. The community and other stakeholders were informed about the suspension period in June 2018 via a 'letterbox drop', email notification/website update, social media post and traffic alerts.

**Mildura South regional sporting precinct**

**Raised with:** Minister for Sport  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Sullivan  
**Raised on:** 26 July 2018

**REPLY:**

I refer to your adjournment debate matter regarding the Mildura South Regional Sport Precinct.

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.

The Andrews Government supports initiatives that encourage greater physical activity both within metropolitan and regional Victoria. The Better Indoor Stadiums Fund reflects our major commitment to health, wellbeing and community sport through the development of multisport indoor courts. The Fund assists in meeting community demand for indoor sport and recreation participation opportunities through projects like the Mildura South Regional Sport Precinct.

I understand a submission has been made to this Fund for this particular project and is currently under consideration.

### Casey Hospital

**Raised with:** Minister for Health  
**Raised by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Raised on:** 27 July 2018

#### REPLY:

During the last election, Labor promised \$106.3 million for a major expansion of Casey Hospital. Support for this project should have been committed earlier, as Casey is one of the fastest growing areas in Australia, and the third fastest growing municipality in Victoria, but investing in health infrastructure was not a priority of the former Liberal Government.

It became clear that Casey Hospital needed even more beds to meet the unprecedented growth in the area, a need which had been ignored by the previous government. This is why the Andrews Labor Government injected an extra \$28.6 into the redevelopment, taking the total investment to nearly \$135 million.

As a further boost, the project will deliver dedicated teaching and learning facilities for Monash University medical, nursing and allied health students.

This significant investment reflects the government's commitment to delivering health services to the growing population of the outer South East of Melbourne — ensuring the people of Casey can access high quality care, close to home.

Our record investments in health are in stark contrast to the previous government's \$1 billion cuts, when health services suffered as they considered reducing opening hours at their emergency departments, including reducing hours at Casey Hospital.

The expanded Casey Hospital will include 136 extra multiday inpatient beds, a new 12 bed intensive care unit, a new 12 bed day surgery unit, six new operating theatres and 333 additional car park facilities. This additional capacity will assist in alleviating pressure on the emergency department by ensuring patients can be admitted to beds at Casey Hospital as soon as possible.





**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Wednesday, 22 August 2018**

**Yarra Hills Secondary College**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 7 June 2018

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

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

The Andrews Labor Government has invested more than \$3.8 billion to improve classrooms, upgrade facilities and build new schools across Victoria. This school building boom has delivered more than 1300 school upgrades and 70 new school projects across the state.

I am pleased to announce that Yarra Hills Secondary College has been allocated \$36 800 for the supply and installation of shade sails. I have asked the Victorian School Building Authority to work with the school to ensure the successful delivery of this project.

In terms of learning spaces and core infrastructure, let me assure you that the needs of all government schools, including Yarra Hills Secondary College, will receive fair and equitable consideration when determining future priorities for both the capital works and maintenance programs.

I trust this information is of assistance.

**High Street, Reservoir, level crossing**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Raised on:** 24 July 2018

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan for his interest in the Andrews Labor Government program to remove 50 of Victoria's dangerous and congested level crossings.

It is curious that the Liberal Party is criticising this program as "very slow to deliver." In 2014, we made a commitment to remove 20 of these 50 level crossings by the end of 2018 and to date we have removed 26, more than half-way to our promised total.

The Andrews Labor Government is moving ahead with plans to remove the dangerous and congested Reservoir level crossing and rebuild Reservoir Station. Following extensive consultation and planning, a rail design solution will be announced in the coming months, with a contract to be awarded and construction to begin later this year.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) has kept the community informed throughout the planning phase of the project. Engagement activities commenced in mid-2016 with pop-ups at Reservoir train station and trader visits. LXRA also hosted a number of community drop-in sessions in October 2017, where the community was invited to meet the project team and provide feedback on the feasible design solutions being considered.

In 2017, the LXRA was transparent in advising the community that both a rail bridge and a rail trench solution was being considered for the removal of the level crossing. The benefit of a rail bridge design is that it includes more usable space to improve the road network, now or in the future, along with opportunities for new open space, pedestrian and cycling links under the structure. A rail trench design, however, would have less visual impact for homes and businesses next to the rail line.

The LXRA is taking the time to properly understand all the potential impacts and arrive at a design solution that's right for Reservoir.

Following the announcement of the final design, the community will have the opportunity to view concept images and provide feedback on negotiable elements of the precinct solution.

Victorians know that Labor gets rid of level crossings and Liberals don't. They didn't get rid of them in Government and they are trying to stop us from removing them now they are in Opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition is clearly on the record saying that if he was elected then the crossings we have identified for removal in the next term of Government are in jeopardy. They have even committed to reopening some of the 50 we are removing.

### **Level Crossing Removal Authority design principles**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 26 July 2018

#### **REPLY:**

The Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) has developed various initiatives to increase Aboriginal participation on its projects in design, employment and training.

LXRA hosted an Aboriginal Co-Design in Infrastructure Projects forum as part of Reconciliation Week on 30 June 2018. The forum resulted in a resource guide that included the Australian Indigenous Design Charter. This resource guide was shared with LXRA's projects and the other major transport infrastructure projects to promote accurate and respectful representation of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in design.

LXRA has also developed an Aboriginal Inclusion Action Plan as part of its Training for the Future program. The Action Plan has resulted in the production of an Aboriginal Resource Guide for industry and an annual Building Aboriginal Victoria supplier and buyer event for the rail infrastructure industry.

These events and resources support the use of social procurement of Aboriginal businesses into the rail infrastructure supply chain, as well as direct employment and training of Aboriginal people.

As a result, as at the end of June 2018, investments in Aboriginal businesses and employment through LXRA's program of works has resulted in the removal of level crossings with 338 152 Aboriginal employment hours, along with a \$28.9 million investment in Aboriginal businesses and social enterprises.

### **Jumps racing**

**Raised with:** Minister for Racing  
**Raised by:** Ms Pennicuik  
**Raised on:** 27 July 2018

#### **REPLY:**

As part of its 2014 platform, the Victorian Government made an election commitment to leave key decisions about the management and administration of thoroughbred racing to Racing Victoria (RV). This includes all decisions about jumps racing and the scheduling of races.

The safety and welfare of horses and jockeys is of great concern to the Victorian racing industry and the Government. As part of its commitment to safe and responsible racing, RV has adopted a number of safety improvements, including modification to the design of jumps, improved schooling and trialling requirements and stricter horse qualification standards.

I am advised that since the introduction of safety enhancements for the 2010 season, there has been an average of 2.5 fatalities per season in Victorian jumps racing to 2018. This is a significant improvement on the preceding period from 2002 to 2009 which averaged 8.4 fatalities per season. The Government and the industry are committed to further improvements.

There was an unusually high number of falls at the Bendigo race meeting on Sunday 22 July 2018. There were also a number of horses that were retired from their races.

The number of retirements is a direct result of rule changes and jockey education on the primacy of horse welfare over other considerations.

Local Rule of Racing 62(9)(a) requires a jockey to retire his or her horse from a race immediately if the horse is fatigued, distressed, or if continuing could increase the risk of the horse, or another horse in the race, falling.

RV's Jumps Review Panel, which was established to improve safety by actively monitoring all racing incidents, has reviewed each of the falls at the Bendigo meeting. RV will consider the findings of this review and decide whether any changes need to be made.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Thursday, 23 August 2018**

**Moorabbin and Caulfield Little Athletics clubs**

**Raised with:** Minister for Sport  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 21 June 2017

**REPLY:**

I refer to your adjournment debate matter regarding the Moorabbin and Caulfield Little Athletics Clubs.

Across Victoria we've invested \$420 million in community sport and recreation facilities including local and regional sports grounds, leisure facilities, parks, playgrounds, trails and other sport and recreation infrastructure.

I am proud to say that the Andrews Government has contributed to resurfacing the athletics tracks for both clubs:

- \$300 000 from the 2016-2017 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund — Major Facilities category — for the GR Bricker Athletics Track
- \$250 000 from the 2017-2018 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund — Major Facilities category — for the Duncan Mackinnon Reserve Athletics Track

It is my understanding that Kingston City Council and Glen Eira City Council worked together with the Little Athletics clubs to come to an amicable arrangement regarding activity space at Duncan Mackinnon Reserve. The upgrade to GR Bricker Reserve went smoothly and the Mackinnon Reserve redevelopment has now commenced. As of this summer season both clubs will resume competition at their home tracks. I am happy to hear about clubs and councils working together to support health and wellbeing in Victoria and that the 600 children from the Moorabbin and Caulfield Little Athletics clubs were able to continue their sporting activities.

**Tyler Street–Plenty Road, Preston, tram stop**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Raised on:** 25 July 2018

**REPLY:**

I am advised that stop 52 was closed when the E-Class trams were introduced to Route 86, because of the length of the new trams. Plenty Road curves where it intersects with Tyler Street, and the trams would have encroached onto a road without protection for boarding and alighting passengers, presenting a safety risk to passengers, motorists and other road users.

Public Transport Victoria is upgrading the tram terminus for Route 86 in Bundoora, with works expected to commence in the coming months.

### Autism Plus

**Raised with:** Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 25 July 2018

#### REPLY:

I understand and acknowledge that a number of families are concerned about the future of services which are currently provided by Autism Plus.

I take the concerns of these families very seriously and I am committed to ensuring that services and care provided for all people with a disability are safe and of high quality. In doing so I note the report of the Ombudsman into the organisation and a number of other reports into the safety and quality of care provided.

The Administrator for Autism Plus is working closely with the Directors of Autism Plus and the Department of Health and Human Services on a strategy to ensure the services currently provided by Autism Plus continue with minimal disruption to clients. This strategy involves the transfer of services to an alternative disability service provider that can provide ongoing high quality service and care for clients of Autism Plus.

The Administrator has reassured families that all efforts are being made to ensure that any transfer of service to another provider will occur smoothly and with the least disruption possible and that the quality of service and care for their loved ones will continue as we work through this process.

I can reassure the families and the wider community that the new alternate provider will need to meet strict criteria on quality of service provision and safeguarding and will be required to have specific expertise and experience in service delivery to people with Autism who have complex needs. Such an outcome is in the best interests of the clients, families and staff of the organisation.

### Frankston and Pakenham rail lines

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Raised on:** 25 July 2018

#### REPLY:

The adjournment from the Member for South Eastern Metropolitan points out the service disruptions that have recently taken place on train lines in the south-east of Melbourne. These lines are all being upgraded by the Andrews Labor Government to remove level crossings and to undertake a range of network upgrades to allow for more trains to run more often.

The former Liberal Government did not undertake a single major project on the Pakenham, Cranbourne or Frankston lines, and refused to remove dangerous and congested level crossings. In contrast the Andrews Labor Government is removing 27 level crossings on these train lines, with more than half, 14, of them already gone. The removal of level crossings improves safety, cuts road congestion and also allows more trains to run more often with less delays and cancellations. The Government has also built nine new train stations on these train lines, with another seven to come.

The Metro Tunnel will increase services on these train lines by up to 45 per cent and slash travel times by up to 50 minutes a day. The Liberal Opposition has committed to delaying this project by two years to renegotiate the signed contracts.

The Liberal decision to extend the Cranbourne line to Clyde but not duplicate between Dandenong and Cranbourne means the line will be longer and have more passengers, but without any more trains being able to run. This will just mean more congestion, delays and cancellations.

The Andrews Labor Government will continue to remove dangerous and congested level crossings and run more trains. If the Liberals were to be elected, the removal of level crossings would grind to a halt and more trains running more often would be set back by years.

**Morwell commercial development**

**Raised with:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 26 July 2018

**REPLY:**

The site at 145-147 Princes Drive, Morwell has an existing planning permit that allows for the development of a former service station. However, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria has issued a clean up notice, which requires a 53X environmental audit of the site be completed by August 2019. This decision is largely due to concerns over the levels of contamination and the potential risks associated both on and off site. The process will ensure both the appropriate management of contamination and development at the site.

It is important to note that EPA is an independent statutory authority under the Environment Protection Act 2017, and must retain its independence in order to deliver its key functions. Therefore, it is not within my ministerial remit to review clean-up notices. EPA have advised that they continue to be available for any further consultation with the site owner and any other parties.

**ConnectGV**

**Raised with:** Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 27 July 2018

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government values the commitment and contributions made by ConnectGV in supporting people with disability and their families in the Goulburn Valley area.

The government is supportive of ConnectGV finding innovative ways to provide day time support for people with disability which facilitates access to social and recreational activities in the community. The government will continue to make its equity in Bowenhall St available for Connect GV to provide a range of programs that will improve the quality of life and promote community inclusion of people with disability.

I encourage Connect GV to further discuss with the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the redevelopment of Connect GV day service model as they transition to NDIS in 2019.





**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Friday, 24 August 2018**

**Sunbury after-hours emergency services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Health  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 23 May 2018

**REPLY:**

In an emergency, Sunbury residents should contact Triple Zero for an emergency ambulance. The June 2018 quarterly data shows that average Code 1 ambulance response times are a minute faster than the previous year. 87.7% of Code 1 responses in Hume met the 15 minute benchmark.

This compares to 64.8% under the former Liberal Government who drove the ambulance system into crisis.

Western Health provide acute hospital services to the residents of Sunbury. The area is also serviced by Sunbury Community Health, and several general medical practices, some of whom offer extended hours coverage up to 10 pm and 11:30 pm.

To assist in managing the growing demand for acute health services in the north and west of metropolitan Melbourne, the government has increased the recurrent funding of Western Health by 10.9% or \$65 million for the 2018-19 financial year. Western Health has received recurrent growth of \$146 million over the last 4 years which is a 28% increase.

We have released a Statewide design, services and infrastructure plan for Victoria's Health System 2017-2037, which sets out priorities for how we will configure and invest in health service and infrastructure capacity to better respond to changing population needs and growth.

The need for additional after hours medical services in the Sunbury region will be considered through this framework, having regard also for the emerging local priorities identified by the metropolitan and regional partnerships in the north and west of Melbourne.

**Preston electrical substation**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Raised on:** 26 July 2018

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan for his continued interest in the Andrews Labor Government's huge public transport investments in Melbourne's north-east, including the \$600 million Mernda Rail Extension and \$395 million Hurstbridge Line Upgrade.

Due to these investments, from 26 August South Morang/Mernda passengers will be able to choose from 115 new and extended services every week to improve travel choice, especially during peak times, while the new Mernda Station will give passengers access to 982 services every week. Hurstbridge Line passengers living between Eltham and the city will have more options to get to work, school or leisure activities with 35 new and extended services each week.

To run more services, trains need more power. That's why the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) is upgrading the electrical system up and down these two busy rail lines. Part of these works include the upgraded substation at Preston on Government-owned land.

The Preston substation upgrade is not directly related to the removal of the Bell Street level crossing in Preston, despite the proximity. The location of the upgraded substation was determined by the existing substation and is on rail corridor land.

LXRA has advised that an acoustic barrier is not required around the substation, as noise modelling conducted by specialists at the site in May 2017 identified that noise levels were expected to fall below the Victorian State Environment Protection Policy (SEPP) N-1 night noise limit.

Noise levels will be confirmed by testing following the completion of the substation upgrade and further noise mitigation considered, if required.

The LXRA is continuing to engage with residents on the substation works and the Bell Street level crossing removal project and will consult on landscaping and urban design improvements for the local area.

### **Waurin Ponds train stabling depot**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 27 July 2018

#### **REPLY:**

A project of this size (including land acquisition) is a complex matter and meeting all statutory planning requirements can be a lengthy process. I appreciate that this can cause uncertainty and difficulty for impacted landowners.

Rail Projects Victoria (RPV) has been tasked with delivering the facility and continues to work on finalising its planning and design. The planning processes consider potential environmental, business and amenity impacts and how these are best managed, as well the process to acquire the land necessary for this project.

RPV will also consult with relevant government bodies and nearby landowners as this project progresses.

### **Hawkstowe railway station**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Raised on:** 27 July 2018

#### **REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan for his interest in one of the Andrews Labor Government largest rail infrastructure projects — the \$600 million Mernda Rail Extension.

Creating more than 3000 jobs, we are extending the South Morang line for eight kilometres north to Mernda, with three new stations — Middle Gorge, Hawkstowe and Mernda, and adding 8000 commuters a day to the line.

Trains will run from 26 August 2018, months ahead of schedule, providing nearly 1000 new services a week to Melbourne's north-east.

Regarding works in the Hawkstowe area, I have investigated this matter and understand that there have been several road closures in the Hawkstowe estate area as we get closer to opening the new Mernda Rail Extension.

I believe the event referred to by the Member for Northern Metropolitan was on Thursday 26 July, where intermittent lane closures were in place at The Parkway between 12pm and 12:30pm. I understand that there was a

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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minor delay in traffic for a short period of time during this off-peak lane closure, however The Parkway was fully opened once the works were completed.

It is a priority of the project team to facilitate convenience for residents by advising of closures and detours in advance, through notifications to those directly affected.

Notifications are also available 24/7 for any residents who have questions about the work. I would like to thank these residents for their continued patience while we finalise work to extend the rail line from South Morang to Mernda and build three new stations.

I would also note that emergency services are advised in advance of all road closures and detours for our projects. Should an emergency services vehicle require access through road works or closures, works will be paused, and traffic management crews will allow access for these vehicles.

Of course, these disruptions will soon be over as the project is nearing completion. And, because of the Andrews Labor Government's Mernda Rail Extension project, residents will soon be able to take the train to where they need to go from one of three new stations.