

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

24, 25, 26 and 27 July 2018

(Extract from book 10)

Internet: 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
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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

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Deputy President:

Mr N. ELASMAR

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The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

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The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

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Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

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Dr S. RATNAM

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Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁸	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ³	Western Metropolitan	AC	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Mr Luke Bartholomew ⁹	Northern Victoria	Nats
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Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
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Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini ¹¹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred ⁷	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁶	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Truong, Ms Huong ¹²	Western Metropolitan	Greens
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
			Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

¹ Resigned 28 September 2017

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ DLP until 26 June 2017

⁴ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁶ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁷ Resigned 9 February 2018

⁸ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁹ Appointed 12 October 2016

¹⁰ ASP until 16 January 2018

¹¹ Appointed 18 October 2017

¹² Appointed 21 February 2018

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

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WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Tuesday, 24 July 2018

South Gippsland Hospital

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

REPLY:

I am pleased to advise the Member that South Gippsland Hospital has been allocated \$1 650 000 in Round 2 of the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund to reconfigure their operating and maternity suites. In addition to this work, the allocation includes an additional teleconference facility and call bell stem to support safety, compliance and efficiency standards at the hospital.

Consumer scams

Raised with: Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 14 December 2017

REPLY:

The Woolworths gift card text message referred to by Mr Ramsay is typical of a lottery scam. A lottery scam is a common type of scam where the name of a legitimate organisation is used to send a genuine looking letter, email, text message or social media post claiming that a recipient has won a prize. To claim this 'prize', a person is often required to provide personal details or first pay a 'tax' or other fee. I note that Woolworths' own website features information about a number of these types of scams involving fraudulent claims about their gift cards.

The government remains committed to addressing the growing problem of scams, particularly through education and advice to the Victorian community.

Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) is the lead agency providing education, information and advice on scams to Victorians, and is part of the Australasian Consumer Fraud Taskforce (ACFT). This taskforce is made up of government regulatory agencies and departments in Australia and New Zealand that work alongside private sector groups, including banks, telecommunications companies, community groups and non-government partners. All of these agencies and partners work together to help prevent the public from being caught out by scams or fraudulent activity.

Each year a number of scam education campaigns are held, targeting those most at risk. On Valentine's Day CAV issued an alert to increase awareness of dating and romance scams to help prevent scammers causing financial and emotional detriment. In May I launched a new campaign to arm Victorians with tips and advice to avoid becoming a scam victim. This new campaign from CAV, in partnership with Crime Stoppers Victoria, will deliver education sessions at libraries across the state, focussing on helping older Victorians become more scam savvy.

CAV warns Victorians about new and emerging scams through the innovative use of various mechanisms, including social media, community groups, radio, and an online quiz covering common scams.

Scams have many variations and continue to become more sophisticated, which often makes them difficult to identify. Encouraging the community to provide information to agencies about scams is often the best defence against them, as this information can be used to help others recognise and avoid scams.

Sunbury car parking

Raised with: Minister for Local Government
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 6 February 2018

REPLY:

Parliament has conferred on councils' responsibility for various matters, including the power to fix and enforce parking restrictions in public areas.

The Local Government Act 1989 enables councils to plan and implement parking restrictions. More specifically the Act allows councils to "fix, rescind or vary the days, hours, and periods of time for which, and the conditions on which, vehicles may stand in a parking area in any highway or other parking area".

I encourage the Member for Wester Metropolitan Region to discuss any concerns he may have on this matter with Hume City Council.

Carer support

Raised with: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Raised by: Ms Crozier
Raised on: 7 March 2018

REPLY:

The Victorian Carer Strategy is being developed based on an extensive consultation with carers, peak organisations and service providers. The Andrews Labor Government will be releasing the Strategy in mid 2018.

The Victorian Carer Strategy will include a focus on a broad range of carers, including young carers.

The government values and recognises carers and the Victorian Carer Strategy will provide the support and recognition carers deserve.

The government continues to fund support services for carers. This includes supporting young carers. The government recently provided \$15 000 to *Little Dreamers*, a young carers support organisation to hold events during National Carers Week.

Nagambie tourism

Raised with: Minister for Tourism and Major Events
Raised by: Ms Symes
Raised on: 7 March 2018

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government recognises the importance of supporting and growing regional tourism. In July 2016, I released the Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy, which identifies nine priorities to grow visitor spend to \$36.5 billion by 2025, including building on the potential of regional and rural tourism.

I note that investment in new and unique tourism experiences is a key way to draw visitors to the regions, as is the staging of regional events. That is why the Andrews Labor Government has been investing in tourism in regional Victoria, through a range of commitments such as \$103 million Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund, the \$20 million Regional Events Fund and through campaigns such as Visit Victoria's *Wander Victoria*.

I recognise that Nagambie has many great experiences to offer visitors to our State, including food and wine, history and nature-based experiences, and I am particularly pleased to hear about the many exciting events being

held in your region such the Australian Skydiving Championships 2018 and the Australian Masters Rowing Championships 2017.

I was delighted to visit Nagambie on 11 April this year to announce the two year Go Fish Regional Event and visit the new Mitchelton Winery and launch the Growing the Goulburn River Visitor Economy Plan.

For the year ending December 2017, the total tourism expenditure in the Murray region was \$1.3 billion, representing a 3.5 per cent increase since 2014. The region also attracted approximately 5.6 million visitors, representing an increase of 14.3 per cent since 2014.

Shepparton police resources

Raised with: Minister for Police

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 28 March 2018

REPLY:

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 the Shepparton community, 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 15 police have commenced deployment across the Goulbourn Valley Division, including 13 family violence specialist officers.

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. The additional resources being deployed to the Goulburn Valley Police Division will further assist local police to operate high visibility patrols and community engagement in Shepparton.

The Government's \$2 billion 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 4.4 per cent reduction in crime in the Greater Shepparton Local Government Area. This is testament to the relentless work of local police across the community.

Murray Valley Highway, Strathmerton

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 1 May 2018

REPLY:

I am advised by VicRoads that the Moira Shire Council will soon complete the construction of a pedestrian refuge at Strathmerton, across the Murray Valley Highway.

VicRoads conducted data collection to record traffic volumes and speeds prior to the installation of the refuge and will collect the information again after the installation. Comparison of before and after data will determine the impact of the refuge on road user behaviour.

A meeting was held with VicRoads, Moira Shire Council and members of the Strathmerton Community Planning Group on 31 May 2018. VicRoads and the council listened to the community's safety concerns in relation to crossing the Murray Valley Highway at Strathmerton. The council presented its pedestrian refuge designs and attendees visited the proposed, refuge site to better understand the traffic movements at the location.

VicRoads will commence a speed review process that will be completed by the end of 2018. VicRoads will consider the results of the traffic data collection, and liaise with stakeholders regarding the speed review. The review process will involve opportunities for the broader Strathmerton community to share their views and VicRoads will advise the community of the proposed consultation process over the coming months.

Knoxfield dam

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Ms Dunn
Raised on: 1 May 2018

REPLY:

The land at 609 — 621 Burwood Highway, Knoxfield has been declared surplus to current and future government operational requirements. I referred the proposed planning scheme changes for the site to the independent Government Land Standing Advisory Committee for consideration and to provide recommendations on the suitability of these changes. The advisory committee is tasked with providing a consultative, transparent and timely process for the consideration of changes to planning scheme provisions of government land.

As part of this transparent and consultative process, the proposal was exhibited for a six-week period beginning 15 January 2018. Notice of the proposal was given to surrounding owners and occupiers within a notification boundary agreed to in consultation with Knox City Council. Supporting documentation was exhibited at locations specified by Council and online. The advisory committee hosted a public information session on 6 February 2018 to provide the public with further detail regarding the proposal and an opportunity to ask questions about the process and timing of the proposal. Community members were invited to make submissions outlining their views on the proposal to the advisory committee. One hundred and fifty-four submissions were received and a number of these related to open space, conservation values and the role of the existing dam on the site. A public hearing was held on 8 and 9 March 2018.

The advisory committee will consider the proposal and the submissions received in providing its report and recommendations to me. I will then assess the report and submissions received, including the environmental significance of the site, in making my decision on the appropriate planning controls for the site.

Lemnos solar plant

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Mr O'Sullivan
Raised on: 1 May 2018

REPLY:

The Victorian Government supports the economic development of the Goulburn Valley and the important role of agriculture in supporting local communities, employment and food production. In Victoria's Regional Statement (2015), the Andrews Labor Government recognised that the food and fibre sector underpins the Goulburn region's economy and the Goulburn Murray Water Connections project. The regional statement also notes that 'prime agricultural land' is a priority for the area.

For this reason, I agreed to the request from the Greater Shepparton City Council to decide on four applications for solar farm proposals mentioned by the Member for Northern Victoria. I established a Planning Panel to carefully examine these proposals. Public hearings commenced on 14 May 2018 and concluded on 28 May 2018. The Public Hearings have been open to all members of the local community to have a say on these proposals. Submissions about the role of the Shepparton area for high value fruit and dairy production have been presented. Expert advice has also been presented about heat island issues. The Panel will consider all these matters and submit its report to me mid-year, which will help to inform my decisions on the applications.

The Planning Panel will also advise me on how to assess future proposals for solar farms in Victoria. I will work with my colleagues in the energy, agriculture and water portfolios to develop clear guidance to support future development of the solar industry that strikes a sensible balance between agriculture and renewable energy generation. Key stakeholders, such as the energy sector, the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Farmers Federation will be consulted in preparation of draft guidelines for solar farms. The draft guidelines will be available for public comment in the last quarter of 2018.

Fire services property levy

Raised with: Minister for Emergency Services
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 1 May 2018

REPLY:

As part of the Fire Services Reforms, the government froze the Fire Services Property Levy for two years, so that the amount collected in 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 would not exceed the level collected in 2016/2017. This has been delivered.

For further information on the Fire Services Property Levy, I refer the Member to Table 4.2 on page 142 of the 2018/19 Budget Paper No 5 *Statement of Finances*.

Arthurs Seat Eagle

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Ms Pennicuik
Raised on: 9 May 2018

REPLY:

The Hon Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Planning, is responsible for approving matters specifically required by the planning scheme or a planning permit, that must be endorsed, approved or done to the satisfaction of the responsible authority for the Arthurs Seat Eagle development. The Mornington Peninsula Shire Council is responsible for enforcing the planning scheme, including any work carried out under the scheme or the planning permit for the Arthurs Seat Eagle development.

Parks Victoria is continuing to deliver the landscape master plan outcome for areas of Arthurs Seat State Park surrounding the Arthurs Seat Eagle development. It has completed over \$3 million capital works within the park, enhancing visitor experiences in the precinct.

Mill Park police station

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Mr Ondarchie
Raised on: 10 May 2018

REPLY:

As I have previously advised the member, the Andrews Labor Government is firmly committed to ensuring that Victoria Police has adequate resources and infrastructure to reduce harm in the community and keep Victorians safe.

The Government is well aware of the community safety challenges that growing suburbs such as South Morang face, which is why we invested \$15 million in the construction of the new Police Station at Mernda. The opening of the Mernda station also serves to benefit surrounding communities such as South Morang and Mill Park by reducing their response zone and enabling them to focus more on incidents in their immediate surrounds.

Victoria Police advised that there is not currently a need for refurbishment of the Mill Park Police Station. In fact, the station has recently received refurbishments to accommodate the needs of the new Police Custody Officers.

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.

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 61 police, including 12 family violence specialist officers, are being allocated across the Diamond Creek Division, which services Mill Park and South Morang.

This is the second wave of police resources to hit the beat since the first deployment of additional frontline police funded under the 2016-17 State Budget which saw Diamond Creek division receive an additional 45 frontline police.

In relation to the crime rate in Mill Park and South Morgan, the recent independent Crime Statistics Agency release for the year ending 31 March 2018 indicates a 9.3 per cent reduction in crime in the Whittlesea Local Government Area (LGA).

I can also confirm that police investigators within each region have been allocated additional resources with the aim of preventing, deterring and investigating aggravated burglaries and carjackings. Patrols are being conducted, both day and night at high risk locations to prevent offences taking place. Many of the offenders are on remand and facing serious charges.

The Government's Community Crime Prevention program has also funded nine projects in the Whittlesea LGA. These grants have supported security improvements at community facilities and clubs, education and training programs, public art for graffiti hotspots, a graffiti removal projects, and amenity and infrastructure improvements projects to make public places safer.

We are listening to Victoria Police and the community about what they need, and we will continue to respond through our record investment.

All Nations Park

Raised with: Minister for Local Government
Raised by: Ms Patten
Raised on: 22 May 2018

REPLY:

I would like to thank the Member for Northern Victoria, Ms Fiona Patten for her 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 I would encourage any members of the community who have an interest in this area to make their views known to their local councillors.

Severe combined immunodeficiency

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Springle
Raised on: 22 May 2018

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government acknowledges the importance of the newborn bloodspot screening program which identifies babies at risk of having rare, but serious medical conditions that can affect normal development. Screening and subsequent treatment mitigate adverse effects of these conditions in newborns, including preventing neonatal death. The Department of Health and Human Services provides funding to Victorian Clinical Genetics Services Limited to assess the newborn bloodspot samples.

In May 2018, Victoria, together with the other states and territories in Australia, adopted a new process for adding new conditions in the newborn bloodspot screening programs. Anyone in Australia, including clinicians, researchers and patient advocacy groups, can nominate a condition for inclusion in the newborn bloodspot screening programs. This transparent and evidence-based process will ensure the ongoing success of the newborn bloodspot screening in Victoria.

Healthier Lives, stronger economy: Victoria's Health and Medical Research Strategy 2016-2020 reflects the Victorian Government's commitment to actively supporting new and evolving fields of world class medical research and the rapid translation of proven medical advances into practice.

Victoria is also acclaimed as a world leader in health and medical discovery and translation research. This state consistently attracts around 40 per cent of funding through the Australian Government's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). In 2017, Victoria received a total of \$355 614 204 through the NHMRC's competitive grants. The Victorian Government's \$34 million in annual support to independent medical research institutes is an important enabler of this success.

Greater Geelong City Council

Raised with: Minister for Local Government
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 22 May 2018

REPLY:

I thank the Member for Western Victoria for his question and for the opportunity to draw attention to the progress of the Greater Geelong City Council to address the dysfunction of the past with the assistance of the monitors.

In line with standard practice, the monitors appointed at the council continue to provide regular updates to me as the Minister for Local Government on the performance of the council.

The monitors also provide regular updates to the council in partnership with the council administration on its Transformation Program established by the panel of administrators. These updates include the status of key governance reform initiatives which the council continues to make good progress towards implementing.

The monitors continue to assist and advise the council in relation to governance matters. Most recently, the monitors supported the process to recruit the council's new Chief Executive Officer which was a major decision made by the council.

The council is first and foremost accountable to its community. The written updates prepared by the council and the monitors detailing the council's progress to implement the Transformation Program and to ensure the highest standards of governance at the council are available on the Local Government Victoria website.

The council is making good progress to address the issues identified by the Commission of Inquiry and to embed good governance across the organisation with the expert advice of the monitors.

I am confident the council will continue to work with the monitors to ensure it meets the standards of governance expected by the Greater Geelong community.

Nixon Street–Goulburn Valley Highway, Shepparton

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 23 May 2018

REPLY:

I am advised by VicRoads that the traffic signals at the intersection of the Goulburn Valley Highway and Nixon Street were designed and built in 1989 and were built according the conditions and sightlines of the time. The westbound traffic approaching the intersection on Nixon Street is a single lane approach, with no apparent sightline issue and, in this situation, I am advised it does not typically require a mastarm.

While I understand there is no recorded crash history at this intersection, VicRoads will conduct a road safety audit on this intersection to investigate the number of lanterns, their position and the impact that the street trees have on sightlines at this location.

Mordialloc police resources

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Mr O'Donohue
Raised on: 23 May 2018

REPLY:

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.

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 29 resources, including 7 family violence specialist officers have been allocated to the Moorabbin Division, which services Mordialloc.

The Government's \$2 billion 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 12.3 per cent reduction in crime in the Kingston Local Government Area.

In response to crime in and around Epsom Estate specifically, Victoria Police have reinforced the police presence, regularly conducting proactive patrols across the estate and surrounding areas.

East Shepparton Bowls Club

Raised with: Minister for Sport
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 24 May 2018

REPLY:

Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities in Victoria is a key aim of the Victorian Government, and is integral to increasing participation opportunities and enhancing the health and wellbeing of all Victorians. That is why the government has committed \$180 million into the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund to facilitate the upgrade and development of community sports facilities during this term of government.

To be considered for support from the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, I would encourage a representative of East Shepparton Bowls Club to liaise with Greater Shepparton City Council, as local government authorities are instrumental in developing and supporting projects for consideration from the fund. I recommend East Shepparton Bowls Club liaise directly with the Manager of Sport and Recreation, Greater Shepparton City Council, on telephone (03) 5832 9700.

Livestock theft

Raised with: Minister for Agriculture
Raised by: Mr O'Sullivan
Raised on: 24 May 2018

REPLY:

The Victorian Government takes matters of livestock theft and/or fraud very seriously.

Incidents of alleged livestock theft and farm crime are addressed under criminal laws administered and enforced by Victoria Police.

In Victoria, these crimes are reported to the Victoria Police 'Farm Crime and Livestock Theft Group', which investigates livestock theft and other farm related crime. The group includes approximately 50 Agricultural Liaison Officers located across Victoria, who are specially trained to deal with farm-related crime.

In March 2018, members of the Victorian 'Farm Crime and Livestock Theft Group' met with Agriculture Victoria and livestock industry representatives to discuss ways in which the Victorian government and industry can work more effectively to reduce farm crime.

Victoria has a well-established traceability system for livestock and robust systems for identifying, testing and trading of wool. These systems can assist police in investigations and enquiries.

Shepparton Mechanics Institute

Raised with: Minister for Regional Development
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 25 May 2018

REPLY:

Key facilities for community organisations play a crucial role in supporting the wellbeing and liveability of residents in towns and regional centres across Victoria.

In the Goulburn Valley, Shepparton Access and other organisations play an important role in supporting those in the community with a disability, and I support the provision of government assistance to these organisations as appropriate.

In 2010, \$200 000 was provided to the trustees of the Mechanics' Institute to undertake the initial redevelopment of the Mechanics' Institute building to support the work of Shepparton Access. This funding was provided through a Victorian Community Support, Building Community Infrastructure grant.

In November 2017, Regional Development Victoria held discussions with the trustees of the Mechanics' Institute in relation to its plans for the final stages of the building's redevelopment.

In February 2018, a range of possible state, federal and philanthropic funding options were provided to the trustees, through Shepparton Access, for its consideration.

Regional Development Victoria has been asked to make contact with the Trustees of the Mechanics Institute to provide further support and assistance in trying to identify suitable funding options for their project.

Timber industry

Raised with: Minister for Agriculture
Raised by: Mr O'Donohue
Raised on: 25 May 2018

REPLY:

I am aware of concerns expressed by Victorian native hardwood sawmills regarding timber supply and the Government's purchase of the ASH Heyfield mill. I recognise the importance of maintaining open dialogue and ongoing engagement with stakeholders around these issues. I, along with other ministers, have met and corresponded with members of these sawmills, and understand the importance of forestry to Victorian communities.

The Victorian Government also recognises the importance of actively ensuring strong and appropriate separation in the Government's environmental, industry and policy settings. I am confident that the Government has the settings in place to ensure that there is proper governance of ASH and separation between ASH Holdings and VicForests.

VicForests was mindful of its obligations under existing contracts with other customers when negotiating the terms of its agreement with ASH, and the terms offered to ASH were consistent with VicForests' legal obligation to manage Victoria's forests sustainably in the long-term interests of Victoria's forest industries.

VicForests' 2017 Resource Outlook details a reduction in high quality ash timber supply. VicForests decided not to proceed with non-binding extension clauses within Timber Sales Agreements for Central Highlands sawmills. However, VicForests has advised that any ash timber surplus to VicForests' existing contractual obligations will be offered to the market through an open and competitive future allocation process. I understand that VicForests has begun formal consultation with its customers on potential options for forward timber allocation and the timing of any potential process.

Monash City Council code of conduct

Raised with: Minister for Local Government
Raised by: Mrs Peulich
Raised on: 25 May 2018

REPLY:

I am pleased for the opportunity to discuss the councillor conduct framework under the current *Local Government Act 1989* and the Local Government Bill 2018.

The councillor conduct framework allows councillor behaviour to be addressed by the most appropriate body. In the first instance, councils are empowered to address councillor conduct through the development and enforcement of their councillor codes of conduct.

Among other things, the codes must set out the processes to resolve disputes between councillors and must include an internal resolution procedure. Enforcing these processes is a matter for the relevant council. Failure of a councillor to comply with the internal resolution procedure or to comply with a written direction from the council for a contravention of the code could result in a finding of misconduct by a Councillor Conduct Panel.

It is a matter for Monash City Council to enforce its councillor code of conduct, including any processes that have been adopted as part of its code and any outcomes as the result of enforcing its code.

The Local Government Bill 2018 strengthens the conduct framework by ensuring councillor conduct principles are included in all councillor codes of conduct and includes specific reference to sexual harassment by councillors. All councillors will be required to make a declaration to abide by their code of conduct, including future amendments made to the code during their term.

Councils are accountable first and foremost to the communities they are elected to represent. As such, they are responsible for articulating the standards of councillor conduct expected by their community, the processes they will use to ensure these standards are upheld and for enforcing their codes.

Blue-green algae

Raised with: Minister for Water
Raised by: Ms Dunn
Raised on: 5 June 2018

REPLY:

I thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan for her question on the management of Blue-green algae in Victoria, and for her ongoing attention to the management of Victoria's natural values.

Victoria is a world leader in water management, which we have achieved through constant vigilance and improvement. The Victorian Government is committed to the ongoing improvement of the health of Victoria's catchments, waterways and water quality in response to emerging science, changing community expectations and changes in our climate. There is no room for complacency.

The Victorian Government has allocated a record \$222 million in funding to improve the health of our waterways and catchments.

Blue-green algae are naturally occurring and widespread in terrestrial and aquatic environments. Given the right environmental conditions, blue green algae populations can increase rapidly, resulting in algal blooms.

Blue-green algae only become a problem to human health when concentrations reach defined trigger levels. These trigger levels are set by the National Health Medical and Research Council. When trigger levels are reached, a process is activated to protect human health.

Our water corporations have well established procedures to regularly test water bodies where blue-green algae occurs.

In regard to recreational uses, Victoria's emergency management systems are activated when outbreaks occur, which includes issuing a range of public notifications. Ongoing testing of water and public notifications continue until levels are safe.

In regard to drinking water, actions include isolation of affected waterways or additional treatment to ensure water is safe to drink and compliant with the *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines*.

In the interests of good governance, the regulation of Victoria's drinking water quality and public health is undertaken by the Department of Health and Human Services, which is separate from my portfolio responsibilities. The Department of Health and Human Services advises that there is no consistent evidence that exposure to harmful algae causes motor neurone disease in humans. Likewise, there is no evidence that people living in the vicinity of algae-affected water are at increased risk of developing the disease.

The Victorian Government will continue to monitor the research and science in relation to water quality to ensure the safety of all Victorians, which is a priority for this government.

Buckley Street, Essendon, level crossing

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Ms Truong
Raised on: 5 June 2018

REPLY:

I thank the Member for Western Metropolitan and her interest in the Andrews Labor Government's ambitious public transport infrastructure program, and congratulate her for asking her first public transport-related constituency question after three months in Parliament.

It is unfortunate that the new Greens political party Member for Western Metropolitan is joining the Liberals to stand in opposition to the removal of the dangerous and congested level crossing at Buckley Street, Essendon.

We all know the majority of locals in Melbourne's north west support this project. The Andrews Labor Government promised to remove the dangerous and congested Buckley Street level crossing, work began last December, and the boom gates are expected to go by the end of 2018.

The Andrews Labor Government's plan to safely separate Buckley Street and the network's second busiest train line will return 78 minutes of traffic flow during peak travel times to road users, improve reliability for rail users, and make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists in the area.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) has been regularly consulting with the community, traders, schools, Moonee Valley City Council, local Members of Parliament — including those in the Greens political party — and many transport and construction experts since October 2016 about the Buckley Street level crossing removal project.

As part of the extensive and well publicised consultation on the Buckley Street level crossing project, local schools including Lowther Hall and St Columba's, have been intricately involved providing feedback on how their communities will benefit from the project. In fact, St Columba's even hosted LXRA public information sessions open to the entire Essendon community.

Improving safety is paramount to LXRA. All designs for level crossing removals follow strict regulations to ensure the safety of the community. These safety reviews have included the safety of cyclists and the cycling infrastructure that is included as part of the Buckley Street level crossing removal project.

LXRA is installing cycling sharrows and cycling priority boxes; calming traffic on Rose Street; implementing 40km/h speed limits on the service roads along Buckley Street; modifying the northern underpass for cyclists; and signalling the intersection at Shamrock Street and Mt Alexander Road.

LXRA's advice to Government is that the recommended road underpass design is the best solution for the removal of the Buckley Street crossing. It puts safety first, involves no property acquisition, maintains current connections, significantly improves traffic flow along Buckley Street and is designed to allow for future improvements in the wider area.

We are getting on with the job to remove the dangerous and congested Buckley Street level crossing. The team at LXRA will continue to work with key stakeholders and the community to ensure the safest outcome for everyone.

Ballarat West waste-to-energy facility

Raised with: Treasurer (responded to by Minister for Finance)
Raised by: Mr Morris
Raised on: 5 June 2018

REPLY:

The Treasurer has referred this Adjournment Matter to myself to respond.

The 2014-15 State Budget provided funding of \$30.2 million to deliver Stage 1 of the BWEZ project. The project involves the development of land by the Victorian Government and the City of Ballarat to support industry and employment in the Ballarat region. The specific purpose of the use, of the land is managed by Development Victoria.

Container deposit scheme

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Ms Springle
Raised on: 5 June 2018

REPLY:

Victoria's litter levels have fallen every year for the past seven years. But we are always looking for ways we can do more.

We need to make sure that any new scheme is a good fit for Victoria and that its benefits outweigh the costs.

We are watching with interest what happens in New South Wales and other jurisdictions as they introduce container deposit schemes, and considering the implications for Victoria.

The New South Wales scheme, introduced late last year, has experienced rollout delays, unforeseen implementation costs, and concerns around access to collection facilities.

South Australia and New South Wales have container deposit schemes, and both are experiencing impacts from China's trade measures.

In the meantime, we are working with local government and industry to respond to the global market changes flowing from China's new trade measures.

On 3 July 2018 I released the Recycling Industry Strategic Plan, which sets out our vision for the recycling sector, and maps out a clear set of complementary actions for transition to a more sustainable, resilient model.

The Andrews Labor Government has provided \$37 million from the Sustainability Fund to deliver the Strategic Plan. This brings our total investment in waste and resource recovery initiatives to more than \$100 million over four years — the largest allocation ever by a Victorian Government.

This investment is supporting programs to develop markets for recovered resources, facilitate private investment in resource recovery infrastructure, and educate households and businesses about how to better manage waste.

Recently, we announced the details of our plastic bag ban, which will help reduce plastic litter and protect our waterways and oceans. This is a significant first step to reducing plastic pollution in Victoria. Our next step is to develop a plastic pollution plan to prioritise the most effective actions to reduce other types of plastic pollution in Victoria.

Snug.com

Raised with: Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Raised by: Mr Davis

Raised on: 5 June 2018

REPLY:

I am aware of the company Snug Technologies Pty Ltd and its product BondCover.

BondCover is a type of guarantee intended to replace the cash bond normally paid by a tenant under a residential tenancy agreement as security against damage to their landlord's rental property.

As to this product's legality, I am advised by Consumer Affairs Victoria that BondCover cannot currently be legally offered in Victoria, or any other Australian jurisdiction.

The Victorian Government recognises the potential community benefits of new models of innovation and disruptive technologies.

However, before it can be determined whether or not it is desirable to amend our residential tenancies laws to enable products such as BondCover to be offered in Victoria, significant policy work is required.

I have asked Consumer Affairs Victoria to commence this work, with particular attention to be paid to confirming whether any problems exist in the current bonds market, and identifying the costs and benefits of bond replacement products.

St Albans Leisure Centre

Raised with: Minister for Sport

Raised by: Mr Finn

Raised on: 5 June 2018

REPLY:

I refer to your adjournment debate matter regarding funding for the St Albans Leisure Centre.

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 am informed that my department is working with Brimbank City Council to maximise broader health benefits for the community. They are working together to identify the next steps required for progressing an application for the St Albans Leisure Centre to the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund — Better Pools category.

Farm safety

Raised with: Minister for Agriculture

Raised by: Mr Ramsay

Raised on: 6 June 2018

REPLY:

The Victorian Government is committed to actively supporting the health and safety of Victorian farmers and their families. Our support includes \$4 million in the 2015-16 Budget to ensure the National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) at Hamilton continues to deliver its award-winning programs and services.

Agriculture Victoria is currently investigating options to build a stronger culture of safety on farms, including initiatives that complement existing government and industry support, such as the NCFH's AgriSafe clinics and Dairy Australia's Farm Safety Starter Kit.

Agriculture Victoria will engage with industry and community stakeholders, including the VFF and the Victorian Agricultural Advisory Committee, to ensure that any new Victorian Government initiatives are appropriate and effective.

Hume Freeway–McKoy Street, West Wodonga

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 6 June 2018

REPLY:

The works at the intersection of the Hume Freeway and McKoy Street are being undertaken as part of a private development.

As you have stated, VicRoads objected to the petrol station being built on McKoy Street. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal hearing resulted in the planning permit being upheld and conditions placed on the developer to upgrade the intersection.

VicRoads undertook a road safety audit of the new intersection design. The audit considered and made recommendations to address safety concerns and the developer has addressed all required items in the design. VicRoads will inspect the intersection before it is returned to operation to assess the function and safety of the intersection in its built form.

As a result of community feedback regarding the intersection upgrade works, I asked VicRoads to meet with local business on McKoy Street in Wodonga. These one-on-one meetings were undertaken on 7 and 15 June 2018 and provided an opportunity for local businesses to have their concerns heard and to learn more about the safety improvements at the intersection. Further consultation regarding the intersection upgrade will be undertaken with local landholders and the broader community.

In the meantime, VicRoads is progressing a planning study into improving access along the Hume Freeway at Wodonga, which will determine the ultimate solution for this intersection. Community consultation will continue as part of the planning study, with concept designs for the ultimate intersection treatment at McKoy Street to go on public exhibition in the coming months.

Circular economy research

Raised with: Minister for Industry and Employment
Raised by: Ms Springle
Raised on: 6 June 2018

REPLY:

Thank you for bringing to our attention Lifecycles' recent research on the circular economy and the potential impacts on the labour market in South Australia.

The government will contact Lifecycles to better understand their services and how they might support the Victorian Government's objectives.

Duranta Drive, Gowanbrae

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 6 June 2018

REPLY:

I thank Mr Finn for his question and concern about landowners in Duranta Drive, Gowanbrae.

This is a local planning matter. I note that Moreland City Council is responsible for the enforcement of planning permits and local car parking regulations. I encourage Mr Finn's constituents to work with the council and the developer to resolve their issues. I do not consider that an inquiry into the matter is required.

Mr Finn's constituents may wish to seek advice from the Local Government Inspectorate or the Victorian Ombudsman if they consider that the decisions, actions or conduct of the council require investigation.

Sydney Road, Brunswick, tram track works

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Mr Ondarchie
Raised on: 6 June 2018

REPLY:

The tram track works on Sydney Road were necessary to improve reliability and safety on the tram network for the thousands of people who use these tram services every day. Every effort is made by Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and Yarra Trams to schedule infrastructure upgrade works at times to minimise disruption to residents and traders.

I am advised that during the Sydney Road tram track works, road access was maintained in the work zone and pedestrian access was maintained at all times.

PTV and Yarra Trams advised local stakeholders that shops would remain open to pedestrians during these renewal works. In addition, Yarra Trams' community engagement team met with the local trader association, including individual traders along Sydney Road, to seek feedback on what could be done to support them through the construction period.

Dandenong Creek

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Mr Leane
Raised on: 6 June 2018

REPLY:

Since November 2017, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria has been investigating ongoing pollution reports about Dandenong Creek, most relating to foamy water in and around the creek. EPA has conducted 42 inspections in Bayswater, Ferntree Gully and the surrounding area where drainage leads from these sites to Dandenong Creek. From these inspections, EPA has issued remedial notices to three premises that required the installation of controls to prevent contamination of stormwater.

EPA continues to actively engage with First Friends of Dandenong Creek to share information and address pollution concerns. Most recently, this has involved EPA working directly with First Friends of Dandenong Creek to investigate a pollution event that occurred on 19 May 2018.

EPA and First Friends of Dandenong Creek are also exploring options for First Friends of Dandenong Creek to participate in EPA's citizen science program. The citizen science program provides an opportunity for volunteers to be involved in scientific projects in their local community and aims to create a two-way working relationship between EPA and groups such as First Friend of Dandenong Creek to better understand the cause and source of pollution in their local area.

EPA continues to work collaboratively with Melbourne Water, South East Water and Knox City Council to address ongoing pollution concerns at Dandenong Creek and the wider catchment. Most recently, this included conducting joint operations and inspecting sites in response to a pollution event on 19 May 2018 to identify and address possible sources of pollution.

On 7 June 2018, EPA met with Melbourne Water and the Centre for Aquatic Pollution Identification and Management (CAPIM), a research organisation funded by University of Melbourne, to discuss pollution at Dandenong Creek and to explore options to collaborate on action to address pollution at the creek. A representative of First Friends of Dandenong Creek also attended this meeting.

The Andrews Labor Government has invested over \$180 million to reform EPA to protect the environment and human health from waste and pollution. This represents the government's commitment to a once-in-a-generation transformation of the EPA to equip it for the future. The government has also introduced legislative changes to modernise EPA's governance and overhaul the Environment Protection Act 1970. The first Bill was passed by Parliament and received Royal Assent on 24 October 2017. The second Bill will complete the reform of the Environment Protection Act 1970. These changes will strengthen EPA's independence and scientific expertise, and deliver certainty, and consistent and efficient regulation for industry. There will be a landmark shift of approach to preventing harm to the health of Victorians and our environment.

Hallam creek

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Mrs Peulich
Raised on: 6 June 2018

REPLY:

Improving the health and amenity of Victorian waterways is a priority for the Victorian Government.

Direction 6.3 of Melbourne's metropolitan planning strategy, *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*, is to integrate urban development and water cycle management to support a resilient and liveable city. It is policy under this direction to protect and enhance the health of urban waterways and to improve alignment between urban water management and planning by adopting an integrated water management approach.

Landmark legislation passed through the Victorian Parliament in 2017 to protect the Yarra River for future generations positions Victoria is a leader in water management. The Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017 recognises the Yarra River as one living, integrated natural entity for protection and improvement. The new legislation has led to the implementation of stronger planning controls and the current development of a strategic plan for the river corridor by Melbourne Water. The Plan Melbourne Implementation Action Plan includes a commitment to scope further opportunities to introduce new planning provisions for other river corridors.

Targets for improving both biodiversity and community values for rivers, wetlands and estuaries in the Dandenong catchment (including Hallam creek) are a key component of Melbourne Water's forthcoming Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018-2028. This strategy, prepared under the Water Act 1989, is designed to guide investment and programs by Melbourne Water, councils and other government and community organisations over the next 10 years. The draft strategy contains performance objectives for addressing pollution and litter as well as improving the community's access to waterways for recreational enjoyment and level of environmental stewardship. The draft strategy will shortly be released for public consultation and all sectors of the community are encouraged to provide feedback.

These actions demonstrate the Victorian Government's commitment toward ensuring continual improvement and implementation of legislation, planning and policy to protect Victoria's waterways.

Ensuring that individual properties are well maintained is the responsibility of the local council. Casey Community Local Law 2018 prevents land from being kept in a manner considered to be unsightly or detrimental to the general neighbourhood amenity. Council's Integrated Water Management plan also delivers outcomes for water quality, waterway health and liveability.

Hazelwood Pondage

Raised with: Minister for Resources
Raised by: Ms Bath
Raised on: 6 June 2018

REPLY:

ENGIE commissioned GHD to prepare a Technical Report in relation to the Hazelwood Pondage, particularly the integrity of the dam walls. ENGIE has advised that an executive summary of this report is currently under preparation and will be made available to key stakeholders including government representatives.

ENGIE has advised that it will continue to engage with stakeholders on the matter including the Victorian Government, Latrobe City Council, key user groups and the community.

In addition, ENGIE has advised that a third-party peer review of the GHD Preliminary Technical Report will be undertaken over the next three months. It is anticipated that further information regarding the integrity of the dam walls and remedial works will become clearer at that time. That information will then allow for further discussion and consultation with key stakeholders.

Murray-Darling Basin plan

Raised with: Minister for Water
Raised by: Mr O'Sullivan
Raised on: 7 June 2018

REPLY:

I would expect that the South Australian government takes the Weekly Times report on unauthorised taking of water by South Australian irrigators seriously, and put measures in place to minimise it and to act when it is detected.

The practice of overuse was not addressed in the Murray-Darling Basin Compliance Review published in November 2017, and we have no indication as to the scale of the practice of overuse in South Australia, or in Queensland and New South Wales.

I note that South Australia, as quoted in the Weekly Times, did not propose any new actions to deal with this issue. South Australia's capacity to manage overuse effectively may be limited by their practice of requiring water users to self-report their water use to the South Australian Department of Environment and Water, typically on a quarterly basis.

I can confirm that in Victoria water corporations identify instances of overuse as compliance breaches and warning notices are issued. In Victoria we are confident that our extensive metering and measurement systems are targeted to areas where water use is highest, and provide the information needed to understand and manage the risks of overuse.

The Andrews Labor Government has a strong record of standing up for Victorian farmers and irrigators. At the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council meeting on 8 June 2018 I secured assurances from the Commonwealth that no on-farm expressions of interest will be carried out in Victoria.

I have also strongly advocated for the Basin Compliance Compact, which was approved at the Ministerial Council meeting and will now be provided to the Council of Australian Governments for endorsement at its next meeting. The Basin Compliance Compact represents a significant milestone in securing a consistent and transparent approach to improving compliance with all Commonwealth and state laws applicable to water use in the Basin.

V/Line services

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Davis

Raised on: 7 June 2018

REPLY:

On 6 June 2018, V/Line experienced a higher-than-usual number of staff unwell, which unfortunately led to service changes and a number of cancellations across the network.

V/Line do have standby drivers rostered; however, on occasions a service may need to be cancelled, altered or replaced with coaches should a replacement train driver not be readily available.

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.

Calder Highway, Ravenswood

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 8 June 2018

REPLY:

I have been advised by VicRoads that acoustic fences have been offered to impacted property owners to reduce noise. This offer is for property owners with changed access conditions adjacent to the Jock Comini Rest Area entrance. VicRoads will continue to work with the property owners to finalise access arrangements.

I am advised that the project will help make sure residents don't have to slow down on the freeway to enter their property or merge with fast-moving traffic when they exit their property.

Gippsland public transport

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Ms Bath
Raised on: 8 June 2018

REPLY:

I regret to hear of the passengers who were inconvenienced by this incident. I investigated this issue as a matter of urgency, and subsequently reminded V/Line of their necessity to provide reliable rail replacement coach services with adequate seating.

In addition, I also reminded V/Line of their obligations to ensure that any unplanned disruptions or services changes are communicated to passengers in a timely and accurate manner.

As you are aware, the Andrews Labor Government is investing more than ever before in the Gippsland line with upgrades to power and signalling to improve reliability on the Cranbourne Pakenham corridor, and the \$530 million Gippsland Line Upgrade which will enable much needed extra services on the Gippsland line.

Gowanbrae municipality

Raised with: Minister for Local Government
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 8 June 2018

REPLY:

Changes to a council's external boundaries would only be considered in exceptional circumstances where overwhelming evidence demonstrates current boundaries directly impair the council's ability to provide good government to an area.

In this context, the government has no plans to alter Moreland City Council's existing municipal boundaries.

I encourage residents to take up issues of concern about council services directly with their local council. I also expect each council to seriously consider those concerns so they can be appropriately addressed.

Ballarat railway station car parking

Raised with: Minister for Regional Development
Raised by: Mr Morris
Raised on: 8 June 2018

REPLY:

Thank you for your keen interest in the Ballarat Station Precinct where the Government is redeveloping this underutilised precinct that will include the construction of a 405-space commuter carpark equipped with modern facilities such as lighting and CCTV. Eight of these spaces have been designated as Disability Discrimination Act compliant spaces and all floors of this carpark are accessible via wheelchair friendly ramps. This marks a significant increase of accessible parking spaces that more than doubles the current amount within the precinct.

Upon further investigation of the south side of the precinct, there are four Disability Discrimination Act compliant spaces which will remain unaffected by the redevelopment. However, the existing two Disability Discrimination Act spaces to the north of the station are within the footprint of Stage Two of the precinct redevelopment. This phase is currently undergoing detailed design in consultation with relevant transport agencies on accessible passenger requirements in that area of the precinct.

Your ongoing opposition to a \$44 million redevelopment in Ballarat that is creating 140 jobs during construction and 30 ongoing jobs post construction is duly noted.

Disability sector training

Raised with: Minister for Training and Skills
Raised by: Mr Leane
Raised on: 19 June 2018

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

On Friday 15 June, I launched the TAFE NDIS Training Campaign at The Gordon promoting the new 'Course in Introduction to the NDIS'. At the launch, I had the pleasure of meeting John Gee, who is one of the Ambassadors of the Campaign and has a disability himself.

It was fantastic to meet John and hear personally how important the work is that TAFEs are doing to support the implementation of the NDIS, and support the needs of students with a disability so that they can take charge of and shape their careers.

TAFEs have a key role in providing all Victorians with access to quality training that meets priority workforce needs. This course is about providing a pathway into a rewarding career in the disability sector, and developing the skilled workforce required to support Victorians accessing the NDIS.

The new 'Course in Introduction to the NDIS' has been developed as a TAFE-exclusive offering by the Victorian Skills Commissioner. The course will be delivered state-wide across the TAFE Network, making it available to people right across Victoria, including in the following locations in the east of Melbourne:

Box Hill Institute — Elgar campus

Melbourne Polytechnic — Greensborough campus

Federation Training — Warragul campus; Traralgon campus; and Bairnsdale campus

Chisholm Institute — Berwick campus; Frankston campus

Holmesglen — Chadstone campus; Moorabbin campus

Swinburne — Hawthorn campus; Wantirna campus

This ensures students can access the course at their local TAFE or a TAFE of their choice.

With the implementation of the NDIS, workforce demand in Victoria alone is estimated to grow by 76% by the end of 2018-19.

The new 'Course in Introduction to the NDIS' is particularly targeted at those who may be reskilling or re-entering the workforce. Victorian TAFEs have a range of student support services to help provide a rewarding experience for students who are returning to training.

TAFEs lead the training sector in providing inclusive learning environments and are working in partnership with service agencies to ensure delivery meets client needs.

St Kilda Junction Area Action Group

Raised with: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Raised by: Ms Crozier
Raised on: 19 June 2018

REPLY:

I refer you to my response to the letter from the St Kilda Junction Area Action Group.

Geelong rail services

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 19 June 2018

REPLY:

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.

Shrives and Pound roads, Hampton Park

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Mrs Peulich
Raised on: 19 June 2018

REPLY:

I am advised by VicRoads that the road safety improvement work at this intersection is well progressed with the implementation of a small interim roundabout. This will minimise the need for lane closures during works and keep the traffic flow as unimpeded as possible while maintaining a low speed environment for the safety of workers and road users.

However, this is an active worksite and some disruption is to be expected. The site is monitored to ensure continued safety for road workers and road users as site conditions change during construction.

In regards to the temporary roadwork signing, this is in accordance with Australian Standards and is verified by independent road safety audits and VicRoads.

Street lighting during construction has been maintained to a level consistent to before commencement of construction and will be further upgraded as work progresses.

Ringwood Secondary College

Raised with: Minister for Education
Raised by: Mr Leane
Raised on: 20 June 2018

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

I would like to thank you for raising this adjournment matter.

The Andrews Labor Government has invested more than \$3.8 billion over the last four State Budgets to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state. As part of this record investment, Ringwood Secondary College has received funding for Stage 2 of its upgrade and modernisation project.

The Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) is currently reviewing the viability of building a new Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) building or, alternatively, building a new senior learning block at Ringwood Secondary College. Following the review, the VSBA will work with the college to deliver the project to the agreed scope within the available budget.

I trust this information is of assistance.

West Gate tunnel project

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 20 June 2018

REPLY:

Construction of the West Gate Tunnel Project is a massive job and while some planned disruption is unavoidable, there are measures in place to protect local businesses and help them to get involved in supplying goods and services to the project and its workforce.

Before tunnelling can start, a section of the North Yarra Main Sewer needs to be diverted which means some changes to traffic arrangements and detours in place.

This detour hasn't started yet. Ahead of it starting, the project team has had extensive conversations with Mr Murphy to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place before the traffic changes are made.

The Project has put in special arrangements to continue to provide access for Murphy's Transport to get onto the street, and traffic controllers will be present to allow this and prioritise their entry and exit where possible.

At no stage was access to Murphys' transport going to be closed.

The Project team will continue their engagement with Murphy's Transport as the traffic changes are made and remain committed to working positively with them.

We need to build this project now to ensure local businesses have the transport network they need. 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.

Bairnsdale Secondary College

Raised with: Minister for Education
Raised by: Ms Bath
Raised on: 20 June 2018

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government has a strong and ambitious agenda to grow 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.

The Government is aware that schools such as Bairnsdale Secondary College may have capital or maintenance requirements. The needs of all schools will be considered when determining priorities for the capital works program. The Government will continue to use all available data, including condition assessments and pre-existing project plans, when allocating resources in future State Budgets. The college is scheduled to be assessed as part of Department's Rolling Facilities Evaluation program by the end of 2018.

The Victorian School Building Authority has undertaken reinstatement works at the school related to storms in December 2017. This included make-safe and related works as well as mould remediation.

In 2018, \$169 826 was allocated to the college for maintenance and minor works funding through its SRP. Bairnsdale Secondary College is advised to address maintenance issues as they arise, using funds allocated annually through its SRP.

If the college has any emergency maintenance needs, I encourage it to apply for assistance through the Department's Emergency Maintenance Program.

As previously advised, I would of course be pleased to visit the college when my schedule permits.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Public housing heater replacement

Raised with: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Raised by: Ms Crozier
Raised on: 20 June 2018

REPLY:

The Department of Health and Human Services has identified that approximately 53 127 public housing homes have gas heaters, of which 6525 are known to have Vulcan Heritage/Pyrox gas heaters.

Remedial works have commenced and the supply and installation of new gas heaters is being prioritised for households where gas heaters have been disconnected, with priority for disconnection given to tenants who have a serious health related condition, are over 75 or are living in a one bedroom dwelling.

The department has taken the following steps:

- Written to the 6525 tenants who are residing in dwellings with a Vulcan Heritage or Pyrox gas heater
- Written to the remaining tenants who reside in dwellings with a gas heating appliance, advising them of the issues associated with the Vulcan Heritage and Pyrox gas heaters
- Established a dedicated free call hotline number for tenants to call if they have any queries
- Inspecting all known Vulcan Heritage/Pyrox gas heaters and providing plug in oil filled electric heaters free of charge to tenants
- Replacing gas heaters with a room sealed powered flue gas heater
- Continuing to collaboratively work with Energy Safe Victoria to ensure that the Victorian community as whole is made aware of the potential risks associated with using a Vulcan Heritage or Pyrox gas heater

The department's property maintenance contractors have engaged additional licensed and registered gas plumbers to respond to this unprecedented immediate loss of around 10 per cent of the state's public housing heaters. There are about 100 gas fitters working across the state on this project.

The gas heater work in the Wodonga area is progressing with all known Vulcan gas heaters disconnected. The gas heater replacement program has commenced and will be completed as soon as possible.

Mernda rail extension

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Mr Ondarchie
Raised on: 21 June 2018

REPLY:

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

It was a Labor Government that extended the line from Epping to South Morang and a Labor Government is now delivering this project. 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.

The Andrews Labor Government recently announced that the Mernda Rail Extension project is currently ahead of schedule and test trains are now running along the eight kilometres of new rail.

Good weather and smart design decisions have contributed to the project running ahead of schedule.

The decision to take 14 per cent of the new rail over local roads means that we have spared the community from the prolonged impacts that would have been associated with attempting to dig out very hard basalt rock.

We have worked closely with nearby residents to manage impacts and have a range of mitigations in place to support the community throughout peak periods of construction.

In all, around 1000 trains a week will run between Mernda and the city — the Mernda Rail Extension will be delivered ahead of schedule and within budget by the Andrews Labor Government.

Cape Otway Road Australia project

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Dr Ratnam
Raised on: 21 June 2018

REPLY:

The Surf Coast Shire Council has requested that I act as the planning authority for a proposed amendment to the Surf Coast Planning Scheme to facilitate the delivery of the Cape Otway Road Australia (CORA) project by the proponent COESR Pty Ltd.

The council considers this proposed major project, comprising an elite sports training facility, retail village, hotel, wellness centre, eco lodges and rural residential lots, to be of state and regional significance.

I will consider the advice of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning before I respond to the council's request.

I am aware of the public interest in this proposal and that concerns are being raised about its scale, proximity to Lake Modewarre, and potential environmental, social and economic impacts.

If a planning scheme amendment proceeds, it will be subject to public exhibition in accordance with the Planning and Environment Act 1987. In these circumstances, all interested and affected parties will have the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed amendment and have their views heard by an appointed independent planning panel before any final decision on the amendment is made.

Roadworks speed limits

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Mr Melhem
Raised on: 21 June 2018

REPLY:

Safety at road worksites is a strategic and important issue for VicRoads and the traffic management industry. As such, VicRoads advises me it has signed a Statement of Agreement with Austroads and all other State Road Authorities, with the intention that it demonstrate jurisdictional commitment to adopt the following work:

- The development of a Code of Practice for Temporary Traffic Management (COPTTM) that will deliver a nationally harmonised approach to temporary traffic management guidance and practice in Australia;

- The redevelopment and adoption of a nationally harmonised Traffic Controller Training that will achieve a consistently high standard of traffic management practice and support a nationally mobile industry. The new material and modules will allow the adoption of practices similar to those already adopted in New Zealand; and
- Investigation into Registration Scheme for Traffic Controllers in partnership with industry to ensure that practitioners are trained by approved Registered Training Organisations and that certification can be readily accessible by a mobile industry.

At times, work site traffic management is not entirely set up in accordance with the relevant Codes and Acts. I am advised that where this is identified, VicRoads has a process in place where these non-compliances are addressed by the traffic management company and the contractor that is responsible for that site. Additionally, VicRoads surveillance officers monitor worksite traffic management and provide feedback.

If poor traffic management is observed at work sites it can be reported to the VicRoads Traffic Management Centre on 131170, via their website <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/>, or via WorkSafe at <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/>.

Murray Basin rail project

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Mr O'Sullivan
Raised on: 21 June 2018

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to delivering the Murray Basin Rail Project and it's essential that we get it right.

The second stage of the Murray Basin Rail Project is largely complete, with freight trains running between Yelta and Maryborough, and between Maryborough and Ararat on a standard gauge line, enabling freight trains to carry more produce to ports.

We have been consulting with industry to get the best outcomes for the movement of freight and these stakeholders have told us they want better alignment between the remaining work on the Murray Basin Rail Project, the Ballarat Line Upgrade and the Andrews Labor Government's recently announced Freight-Passenger Rail Separation Project.

The Freight-Passenger Rail Separation Project will untangle the Ballarat rail network and provide faster and more reliable freight paths from the Murray Basin region to the ports.

The Freight-Passenger Rail Separation Project will ensure that we maximise the benefits of both the Murray Basin Rail Project and the Ballarat Line Upgrade — meaning more passenger services in the future and dedicated pathways for freight to the ports.

This includes a fifth daily V/Line service to Ararat, paving the way for additional services to Maryborough and retaining the dual-gauge connection between Maryborough and Dunolly to allow future passenger rail to Dunolly.

Our priority is to keep trains running so our farmers and freight operators aren't disadvantaged, while we continue to deliver these important projects.

We are continuing to consult with industry as we determine the best way to deliver these projects to ensure disruption to their operations is minimised and they continue to have access to the Ports of Geelong and Melbourne.

Eastern Metropolitan Region bus services

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Ms Dunn
Raised on: 21 June 2018

REPLY:

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) works with Transdev to improve service performance, and to mitigate any delays due to scheduled occupations on the public transport network that may impact Transdev services.

Additionally, Transdev and PTV work collaboratively with VicRoads and local councils to develop initiatives that will improve service delivery or remove impediments to bus priority on the network.

Mentone Girls Secondary College

Raised with: Minister for Education
Raised by: Ms Springle
Raised on: 21 June 2018

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

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. Our ongoing challenge, however, is to responsibly balance and prioritise the needs of over 1500 government schools, all in varying condition.

The Government is aware that schools such as Mentone Girls' Secondary College may have capital or maintenance requirements. The needs of all schools will be considered when determining future priorities for the capital works program. We will continue to use all available data, including condition assessments and pre-existing project plans, when allocating funding in future State Budgets.

I am advised that the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) has undertaken MakeSafe activities at the school. Consistent with the role of the school to manage its assets, a structural engineer attended the school. The report of the engineer informed the school that there were no major structural issues to be addressed.

I understand that the VSBA is working with the school to identify suitable contractors to repair windows that have non-friable asbestos. The 2016-17 State Budget increased the resources available through the annual Student Resource Package so that all schools, including Mentone Girls Secondary College, share in \$72.5 million every year. This funding is used to address any maintenance requirements as they arise.

I note that as at May 2018, Mentone Girls' Secondary College had \$3.5 million in its bank account.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Cardinia Cultural Centre

Raised with: Minister for Local Government
Raised by: Mr Mulino
Raised on: 21 June 2018

REPLY:

I would like to thank the Member for Eastern Victoria for raising this matter with me.

The Victorian Government is making a significant investment of \$200 million through the Growing Suburbs Fund towards meeting the critical infrastructure needs of communities in Melbourne's diverse and fast-growing interface

local government areas. This fund has brought forward many community infrastructure priorities, delivering projects that improve the amenity, liveability and resilience of interface communities, whilst supporting connections, enhancing services and providing local jobs.

The Growing Suburbs Fund is designed to support Melbourne's ten interface councils, encompassing Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, Mitchell, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Wyndham and Yarra Ranges.

The fund recognises the important role local government plays in creating liveable communities and 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.

The Growing Suburbs Fund contribution of \$3 million towards the redevelopment and extension of the Cardinia Cultural Centre will provide the community with a dedicated creative arts space and greatly enhance community connections.

I have asked my department to work closely with Cardinia Shire Council and the community in the construction schedule and milestones for the Cardinia Cultural Centre redevelopment project to ensure best outcomes for the community.

I look forward to celebrating with local councils the successful delivery of community infrastructure projects funded under the Growing Suburbs Fund, including the redeveloped Cardinia Cultural Centre.

Ballan Road–Anniversary Avenue, Wyndham Vale

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 22 June 2018

REPLY:

There are currently a no right turn sign and double lines in place which make turning right from Ballan Road to Anniversary Avenue illegal.

VicRoads works closely with Victoria Police and has requested appropriate enforcement be undertaken to assist with behaviours relating to the right turn ban at this intersection.

VicRoads advises it is working with the Wyndham City Council to identify options to improve safety at this intersection.

Pick My Project

Raised with: Treasurer
Raised by: Mrs Peulich
Raised on: 22 June 2018

REPLY:

The Member has raised an issue that falls outside my ministerial responsibilities. Pick my Project is the responsibility of the Premier and the Member would be advised on future occasions to raise these issues directly with the Premier.

However, on this occasion, I am advised that Victorians everywhere now have the chance to pitch their ideas for community projects and to vote for them, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government's \$30 million Pick My Project fund.

In a Victorian-first, all residents aged 16 and over will be able to submit their idea for consideration under the program and then vote for the projects they think are most important.

All they'll need is an idea that helps build a stronger community, and the backing of a local organisation, community group, school, local council, or other eligible group able to help deliver the project.

Project ideas submitted as part of Pick My Project will be reviewed to ensure applications align with the project guidelines and FAQs. Consultation will also be undertaken with nominated partner organisations and landholders, where applicable, to ensure the project idea is supported by these organisations. Applicants, partner organisations and landholders will be advised of their eligibility just prior to the commencement of public voting.

Scheduled to commence in August 2018, voting will occur through the Pick My Project website. A two-factor authentication process will be used to help ensure eligible Victorians aged 16 and above vote only once. The project team will also be undertaking a series of quality assurance measures throughout voting to provide safeguards that the process is conducted fairly.

The Andrews Labor Government knows that locals know what's best for their community, and Pick My Project is a wonderful opportunity for their ideas to become a reality.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Wednesday, 25 July 2018

Goulburn Valley Health radiotherapy services

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 15 November 2017

REPLY:

In response to your Adjournment Debate question raised on 15 November 2017 regarding Goulburn Valley Health radiotherapy services, I refer the Member to my response to you of 30 January 2018 and two earlier responses on 8 March 2017.

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Wooldridge
Raised on: 15 December 2017

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing rates of sexually transmissible infections which are a significant public health concern for Victorian communities.

The rates of sexually transmissible infections have been rising in Victoria and nationally for over a decade.

In response to these increases the *Victorian Sexually Transmissible Infections Workplan 2017-18* was developed by the Department of Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections. This workplan provides a framework for action by the department in partnership with the sector.

Additionally, in September 2017 a Ministerial Roundtable was held to discuss current and emerging issue's. The Director of the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre attended the Roundtable and is a member of the Departmental Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections.

The government has also announced the establishment of eight sexual and reproductive health hubs over the next four years, to increase access to sexual and reproductive health services across Victoria.

I commend the excellent services the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre delivers for the Victorian community.

GenesisCare

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 6 February 2018

REPLY:

I refer the Member to my response to you of 30 January 2018 and two earlier responses on 8 March 2017.

Ballarat Base Hospital

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Mr Morris
Raised on: 8 May 2018

REPLY:

\$461.6 million has been committed for the expansion and redevelopment of the Ballarat Base Hospital. The cash flow for the project represents the extensive planning and design work that will occur before construction works begin.

Hospital redevelopments of this scale are complex in nature and require extensive planning to maintain the hospital functions whilst construction works are occurring.

The expansion and redevelopment of the Ballarat Base Hospital will provide the additional capacity to meet the identified service demand and meet contemporary best practice.

Ambulance service payment guidelines

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Wooldridge
Raised on: 9 May 2018

REPLY:

The Victorian Government pays for emergency and non-emergency ambulance patient transport for pensioners and healthcare card holders if it is clinically necessary in most cases. For a patient transport to be considered clinically necessary the patient must need clinical monitoring or assistance during the transport and it must be medically authorised by an appropriate health professional.

On 1 July 2014 the previous Liberal National Government changed the fee arrangements for ambulance and patient transport. One of the changes related to transports from private healthcare facilities. At this time, private healthcare facilities became responsible for payment of clinically necessary transport of pensioners and healthcare card holders from their facilities, as it is considered to be a component of the patient's care in that facility.

At the time these changes were introduced, nearly four years ago, significant engagement was undertaken with stakeholders, including the private healthcare sector. It is at the discretion of private healthcare facilities to determine how to manage the costs associated with clinically necessary ambulance transport.

Representatives of my department recently met with Day Hospitals Australia to discuss this matter, and will continue to engage on the issue of fee arrangements.

Queen Elizabeth Centre

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Springle
Raised on: 10 May 2018

REPLY:

The Queen Elizabeth Centre (QEC) is one of three specialist, state-wide Early Parenting Centres seeing approximately 3000 families across Victoria each year.

Early Parenting Centres offer a range of specialist services to families requiring intensive parenting support to build their parenting skills and ability to provide sensitive care for their children. Dependant on need and complexity of issues, families may participate in a day-stay group program, in-home assessment and support, or residential stays.

Early Parenting Centres are health services under the *Health Services Act 1988*. They are not universal services.

Early Parenting Centres are allocated over \$10.7 million per year to provide specialist services to families with significant parenting, parent-child attachment, or sleep and settling issues.

The Victorian Health and Human Service Building Authority is undertaking robust service planning to develop a service plan for the three Early Parenting Centres. This will include examination of demand for services and consideration of options to address current and future service demand.

Maternal and Child Health Services, and the Maternal and Child Health Line are the universal service available to all families. These services provide information on feeding and sleeping, and assess and support healthy childhood development. Maternal Child Health nurses can also screen a parent for issues such as depression.

Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Services are available for parents who need additional support with sleep, settling premature babies or multiple births.

In 2017-18 the Victorian Government invested an additional \$81.1 million to Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Services to provide extra support to parents.

Ballarat Base Hospital

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Mr Morris

Raised on: 22 May 2018

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government announced \$461.6 million in the 2018/19 state budget to significantly expand and redevelop the Ballarat Base Hospital, extensive planning and design work will occur to ensure the optimal service delivery within the hospital

The Gardiner-Pittard building was opened in 2017 providing a new main entry to the hospital, 30 acute beds with expansion zones for future growth, a helipad and a new multi-level carpark.

A further \$1 million was committed from the Rural Health Infrastructure Fund in 2017 for planning and design of the shell space within the building and a feasibility study was completed to locate additional theatres and a hot floor within this expansion zone.

Given the scale of the Ballarat Base Hospital expansion, a review of all existing services, including theatres, will be completed to ensure the redevelopment optimises the critical functional relationships within the hospital and locates the right functions within the right areas of the existing, or potentially new buildings.

The expansion and redevelopment of the Ballarat Base Hospital will provide the additional capacity required to meet demand and contemporary best practice. This will enable local people to get the medical services they need at a location closer to their homes.

Building cladding replacement

Raised with: Minister for Planning

Raised by: Mr Davis

Raised on: 23 May 2018

REPLY:

I thank the Member for Southern Metropolitan for raising this important matter with me.

I am very conscious of the significant concern in the community about risks presented by combustible cladding on high-rise buildings, as well as the associated costs that may arise to deal with these risks. In dealing with these

matter, public safety is always the Victorian Government primary concern. That is why, following the interim report of the Victorian Cladding Taskforce, the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) is working with local government to inspect buildings that have been identified as being at risk of having combustible cladding. These buildings are independently assessed by an expert advisory panel and, where necessary, recommendations made for urgent actions that need to be taken to reduce the risks to residents. Our number one priority is to ensure that people are safe in their homes.

Under current legislation, owners corporations are required to manage, administer, repair and maintain the common property including external cladding, organise insurance, raise fees and levies from owners to discharge their role and ensure compliance with the law. The owners corporations and individual owners are occupiers of common property and each has a duty to take steps to prevent injury or damage to persons arising from the state of the premises.

Nonetheless, I recognise that the issue of the cost of rectification is a significant concern for some owners. That is why, consistent with the recommendations of the Victorian Cladding Taskforce, I have directed the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to develop options for owners to access low cost funding. DELWP is also working actively to better understand the extent of non-compliant cladding and the risks involved, so that it can develop practical guidance for owners about appropriate actions for rectifying buildings based on an expert safety risk assessment. I hope to have more to update the Parliament on in relation to these matters in the near future.

Regarding the correspondence you received from Kevin and Jennifer Opie about the costs associated with the rectification of non-compliant cladding on their building, I can confirm that my office has also been in contact with Mr and Mrs Opie and advised them of this same information.

Further information and updates can be found on the DELWP website at:
<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/building-policy/victorian-cladding-taskforce>

Updates on the Victorian Building Authority's audit and safety notices are released at: <http://www.vba.vic.gov.au/>.

Carp herpesvirus

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Ms Shing
Raised on: 5 June 2018

REPLY:

As you are aware, the Andrews Labor Government is working with the Commonwealth and other state governments to develop a comprehensive National Carp Control Plan. However, your question around controls for this pest species best sits with my colleague, the Minister for Agriculture.

Anglesea land use

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 7 June 2018

REPLY:

I expect the final *Anglesea Futures Land Use Plan* to be released shortly.

Feedback received on the exhibited *Anglesea Futures Draft Land Use Plan*, as well as relevant policy and site attributes, is being considered in the preparation of the final plan.

The feedback received has been documented in a summary of feedback report. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning publicly released the *Anglesea Futures Summary of Feedback: Draft Land Use Plan and Engagement Report (June 2018)* on 15 June 2018.

This report outlines the key areas of interest expressed by the community and stakeholders about future land uses for the area.

It includes a summary of the 365 survey responses and 69 written submissions received during the community consultation on the *Anglesea Futures Draft Land Use Plan*, together with a summary of the feedback received over the three-year *Anglesea Futures Community Conversations* series.

Waste management

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Raised on: 19 June 2018

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government has provided over \$100 million for waste and resource recovery initiatives in the last four years—the largest allocation by any Victorian Government. Over \$600 million in Sustainability Fund spending in total has been committed over the forward estimates.

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.

There are promising opportunities for waste to energy technologies to recover energy from wastes that would otherwise be sent to landfill. My government is already supporting waste to energy through several programs, including the \$2 million Waste to Energy Infrastructure Fund and the New Energy Jobs Fund.

Last year I released a discussion paper on waste to energy opportunities for Victoria. Feedback received is being considered by government, and we expect to respond in the coming months.

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria conducts ongoing monthly site inspections to ensure the operator of Melbourne Regional Landfill complies with its licence, and to ensure any issues are addressed in a timely manner.

EPA also operates a 24-hour hotline to provide the community with a means of reporting pollution, in conjunction with an after-hours response roster so these community reports can be addressed immediately. This approach ensures that environmental issues are responded to and holders of EPA licences are held to account when issues occur.

If community members are experiencing odour, I would encourage them to report pollution to EPA via the hotline number 1300 372 842. This will ensure that all reports are logged and responded to appropriately.

Early childhood language program

Raised with: Minister for Early Childhood Education
Raised by: Mr Elasmr
Raised on: 19 June 2018

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

As part of the \$135.9 million investment in early childhood education in the 2018-19 State Budget, the Andrews Labor Government is delivering \$17.9 million for the first state-funded language program ever to be rolled out in kindergartens.

Starting next year, the Early Childhood Languages Program will give more than 3000 children in up to 130 kindergartens the opportunity to learn in another language. This program will enable specialist language teachers to

deliver up to three hours of weekly language sessions and enable a further 10 services to become bilingual, that is, deliver up to half of their program in another language.

The Department of Education and Training held 14 information sessions across Victoria including in your local areas of Preston, Melbourne and Broadmeadows. These sessions were very well attended by early childhood services, parents and other interested community members. They outlined further detail about the program, the benefits of learning another language and how to apply.

There is currently an Expression of Interest process underway, open to all early childhood services with a state-funded kindergarten program and including other eligibility criteria, that will determine the language selection based on the interests of kindergartens and their communities. Completed applications must be submitted to the Department of Education and Training by 20 August 2018.

I would encourage you to write to your local kindergarten services about this exciting initiative.

Australian Paper Maryvale mill

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Ms Dunn
Raised on: 20 June 2018

REPLY:

Australian Paper has submitted a proposal to Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria for the construction of a waste to energy facility in the Latrobe Valley. I am confident that EPA Victoria will effectively and impartially assess this proposal. I am not able to comment further on a matter that is currently being assessed by EPA Victoria.

Over the last four years, the Andrews Labor Government has invested over \$100 million for waste and resource recovery initiatives — the largest allocation ever by a Victorian Government. Over \$600 million in Sustainability Fund spending in total has been committed over the forward estimates.

In comparison, the former Coalition Government allocated less than \$15 million in new Sustainability Fund spending across all programs in their entire four years in government.

The Andrews Labor Government understands that Victoria's forests are highly valued in the community. Our forests are managed for multiple benefits and the government is committed to achieving an appropriate balance between the protection of Victoria's forest values, through our system of parks and conservation reserves, and setting appropriate environmental standards for sustainable timber harvesting activities in the *Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014*.

The Andrews Labor Government has recently delivered the following additional protections for forests:

- A 2500-hectare protection area in and around the Kuark forest of East Gippsland.
- Exclusion of all large trees greater than 2.5 metres in diameter from timber harvesting operations statewide.
- An investment of \$35.9 million for “*Delivering greater community value from Victoria's forests*” including \$18 million for an enhanced program of surveys, to ensure threatened species protection requirements are being met before harvesting occurs and improve our knowledge of their distribution across the forest estate.
- A significant boost to Victoria's forestry and wildlife compliance operations with an investment of \$30.3 million, including 25 new roles in frontline compliance and six roles in data and intelligence support.

Autism Plus

Raised with: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 21 June 2018

REPLY:

After a series of investigations — including a report by the Victorian Ombudsman, the Victorian Government conducted an independent investigation in disability provider, Autism Plus which resulted in an Administrator being appointed earlier this year.

This decision to recommend to the Governor in Council that an Administrator be appointed, was not made lightly. It was made because the government was not satisfied that appropriate steps had been taken by Autism Plus to make significant improvements in their operations and the way they care for people with a disability.

While I support those who share my concerns about keeping their loved ones safe, I do not shy away from calling for the highest standards possible from agencies responsible for providing care to vulnerable people.

The Administrator appointed has successfully overseen the support of people with complex needs and is maintaining and improving the day-to-day delivery of services to clients. They have been overseeing the continued operation of the service whilst making improvements to strengthen quality and safety.

The Administrator is working closely with the Department of Health and Human Services on a strategy to ensure the ongoing provision of services to clients supported by Autism Plus. I would seek to reassure the families that continuity of service and care will continue for their loved ones as we work through this process.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Thursday, 26 July 2018

Livestock theft

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Mr O'Donohue
Raised on: 1 May 2018

REPLY:

Victoria Police takes the matter of livestock theft very seriously, dedicating significant resources across the State to manage farm crime as part of the Agricultural Liaison Officer (AGLO) program.

AGLOs are placed out in the regions to oversee farm crime and livestock theft investigations where required. They work closely with their colleagues including divisional crime investigation units to detect and disrupt farm crime.

In relation to the members concerns about underreporting of farm crime, AGLOs also play a vital role in encouraging the reporting of livestock theft. In doing so they are able to maintain a knowledge of local trends, issues, and engage with partners to identify and mitigate risks in farming practice.

In establishing and maintaining relationships with the farming community, AGLOs provide guidance and assistance in relation to farm crime and livestock theft while also maintaining a focus on operational policing.

The Andrews Labor Government commends Victoria Police for their continued efforts, through the dedication of these resources, to combat livestock theft and farm crime in our regional communities.

We will continue to work closely with the Chief Commissioner of Police and farm crime experts to ensure Victoria Police continue to be well placed to respond to this matter.

Perth Avenue–Ballarat Road, Albion

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Ms Truong
Raised on: 22 May 2018

REPLY:

As you may appreciate, VicRoads receives many requests each year for the installation of pedestrian signals throughout Victoria. All requests are considered and evaluated on a statewide basis with consideration given to factors such as the number and type of vehicles using the intersection, 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.

Based on the above context, any improvement proposals, such as pedestrian-operated signals at the intersection of Perth Avenue and Ballarat Road, Albion, will be considered for funding in a future program.

Werribee police numbers

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Raised on: 5 June 2018

REPLY:

I can assure the member that the Andrews Labor Government is committed to ensuring that Victoria Police have the necessary resources to protect and service our community.

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.

In addition, the Government has invested \$210 million in the establishment of the Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting tool. Under this new system, which will be fully operational by the end of 2019, calls or online enquiries will be triaged by a contact centre run by sworn police officers and staff.

These services will provide greater convenience to the community and assist to reduce the instance of peak service demands at all police stations.

The Government's record investment in police and community safety is already 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.

Hume Freeway–McKoy Street, West Wodonga

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 6 June 2018

REPLY:

The works at the intersection of the Hume Freeway and McKoy Street are being undertaken as part of a private development.

As you have stated, VicRoads objected to the petrol station being built on McKoy Street. The Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal hearing resulted in the planning permit being upheld and conditions placed on the developer to upgrade the intersection.

VicRoads undertook a road safety audit of the new intersection design. The audit considered and made recommendations to address safety concerns and the developer has addressed all required items in the design.

VicRoads will inspect the intersection before it is returned to operation to assess the function and safety of the intersection in its built form.

As a result of community feedback regarding the intersection upgrade works, I asked VicRoads to meet with local business on McKoy Street in Wodonga. These one-on-one meetings were undertaken on 7 and 15 June 2018 and provided an opportunity for local businesses to have their concerns heard and to learn more about the safety improvements at the intersection. Further consultation regarding the intersection upgrade will be undertaken with local landholders and the broader community.

In the meantime, VicRoads is progressing a planning study into improving access along the Hume Freeway at Wodonga, which will determine the ultimate solution for this intersection. Community consultation will continue as part of the planning study, with concept designs for the ultimate intersection treatment at McKoy Street to go on public exhibition in the coming months.

East–west link

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Mr Ondarchie

Raised on: 7 June 2018

REPLY:

Extensive independent investigations of the need and performance of major infrastructure options have been undertaken:

The issues of the need, economic performance, priority and timing of a range of potential major transport infrastructure projects for Melbourne have been the subject of extensive investigation and consideration by the Government's independent infrastructure advisor, Infrastructure Victoria.

In particular, Infrastructure Victoria has investigated, amongst a range of options, the relative performance of a North East Link and an East West Link East (EWL-E) between the Eastern Freeway and CityLink.

Infrastructure Victoria's investigation showed that the North East Link would make a superior contribution, in comparison with an EWL-E, in meeting fundamental economic and community needs, as follows:

- North East Link would make a 'significant' contribution to meeting the needs of freight supply chains and make a 'moderate' contribution to improving access to middle and outer metropolitan employment centres.¹
- EWL-E would make a 'Low' contribution to meeting these needs.²

The North East Link Business Case shows that following the opening of North East Link, by 2036, the projected increase of traffic on the Eastern Freeway of 95 000 vehicles per day (compared with not building North East Link) would occur on the section of Eastern Freeway, between North East Link and Doncaster Road, that is to the east of North East Link.

The Business Case modelling further shows that the increase of traffic on Eastern Freeway east of Hoddle Street is projected at 10 000 vehicles per day by 2036, not 100 000 vehicles per day, as implied by the question asked.

In regard to the issue of traffic congestion in Epping Road, the Government is duplicating Epping Road between Memorial Avenue and Craigieburn Road to reduce traffic congestion, as part of the Northern Arterial Roads package announced in the recent State Budget.

The Government has no plans to construct the East West Link Eastern Section.

¹ Infrastructure Victoria, 2016, *'Options Book'*, p. 536

² Infrastructure Victoria, 2016, *'Options Book'*, p. 313

St Kilda police resources

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert
Raised on: 7 June 2018

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to ensuring that Victoria Police has the power and resources it needs to reduce harm in the community and keep Victorians safe.

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 2017.

Victoria Police has focused resources on the Barkley St/Carlisle St precinct in recent months, with a number of arrests taking place following investigations into drug offences.

Specifically, the Victoria Police Mounted Branch and Transit Police have been engaged and tasked to support local resources. Victoria Police has also engaged with the City of Port Phillip (the Council) Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the National Theatre CEO, Friends of St Kilda Hill Community Group, residents and local traders to maintain a regular dialogue between multiple parties in relation to drug offences in the precinct.

A Community Safety Audit was conducted on 23 April 2018 with best practice *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* principles being followed. The Community safety audit had representatives from the community, National Theatre management, Office of Housing, DHHS, the Council and Victoria Police in attendance.

An action plan has been developed outlining crime prevention strategies to be enacted by both government and non-government agencies, with Victoria Police and stakeholders maintaining a presence and focus on the area to enhance community safety.

The Victorian Government has also invested in a range of crime prevention and safety programs to help prevent crime, improve safety and encourage communities to enjoy our public spaces in St Kilda. This includes almost \$750 000 in CCTV and other measures on Fitzroy Street, Little Grey Street and on the St Kilda foreshore.

Victoria Police have advised that members of the community have observed improvements to safety in recent times, to which they have reported back to Victoria Police.

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 the Port Phillip Local Government Area.

Neighbourhood Watch

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Ms Shing
Raised on: 19 June 2018

REPLY:

Thank you for your question. I am pleased to advise that the Andrews Labor Government's Community Safety Statement (CSS) 2018-19 prioritises greater support for organisations like Neighbourhood Watch as one of its core crime prevention initiatives.

Accordingly, \$1.3 million has been committed over the next four years to support Neighbourhood Watch to deliver crime prevention initiatives across metropolitan and regional Victoria. The funding represents a significant investment in core capabilities of Neighbourhood Watch Victoria. This funding will support:

- improving and modernising the Neighbourhood Watch Victoria brand and its awareness

– building the membership base and means of connecting with and building capacity of members.

Neighbourhood Watch Victoria is also a key partner in the establishment of 12 Community Safety Networks. These networks form a partnership between Government, Victoria Police, Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Stoppers to bring local communities together to discuss crime issues and policing priorities.

Funding of \$50 000 is available for each Community Safety Network to develop and deliver community safety projects. The first six networks, which includes Latrobe, commenced in late 2017.

Funding is also available over the next four years to support communities to implement local crime prevention initiatives through the continuation of the Community Safety Fund, Public Safety Infrastructure Fund and Graffiti Prevention Grants programs.

These programs provide funding to Councils and community organisations for a range of community safety and crime prevention initiatives such as the installation of CCTV, lighting and murals, as well as the delivery of education awareness programs.

Neighbourhood Watch groups are encouraged to meet with their Council to discuss their local crime issues and possible solutions. More information about these grant programs, including opening and closing dates, is available at: <https://www.crimeprevention.vic.gov.au/>

Elwood police patrols

Raised with: Minister for Police

Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert

Raised on: 21 June 2018

REPLY:

I share the member's sentiments regarding the tragic death of Eurydice Dixon and the outpouring of grief from the community.

Firstly, if any of your constituents experience stalking-like behaviour or feel that their immediate safety is at risk they must call the emergency number '000' to report the incident to local police. Providing police with a physical description of any suspicious individual is vital information for local police tasking and investigations and may eventuate in the successful prosecution of a potentially violent offender.

I am pleased to advise that an additional 25 police have been allocated to the Prahran Division which services the suburb of Elwood. This includes seven crime scene investigation specialists and six family violence specialists which are shared across the broader Division. This is the second wave of police resources to hit the beat since the deployment of additional frontline police funded under the 2016-17 State Budget.

In regards to further Government action undertaken to protect against such offending behaviour, a suite of new laws came into effect in May 2017 giving Victoria Police stronger powers to better monitor and investigate registered sex offenders.

Under changes to the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*, police have the ability to take DNA and fingerprints from convicted sex offenders without a court order. This includes those convicted for crimes interstate or internationally. Victoria Police were also given powers to capture DNA or fingerprints from those offenders already on the Sex Offenders Register, but who did not previously have a court order to have DNA or fingerprints taken. Police also have new powers to search registered sex offenders, and their homes, to ensure compliance with their reporting obligations.

The Government also recently announced a \$25 million Community Crime Prevention package. This includes \$4 million in Crime Prevention Grants to boost public safety. These will see councils eligible to apply for up to \$250 000 under the Public Safety Infrastructure Fund (PSIF), which provides funding for security infrastructure that supports safe communities. Projects that could receive funding include lighting upgrades, streetscape and other amenity improvements, or the installation of CCTV technology in high risk areas.

Shepparton rail services

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 22 June 2018

REPLY:

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.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Friday, 27 July 2018

Monash Medical Centre

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 20 February 2018

REPLY:

I thank Mr Finn for raising the important issue of humane, safe and high quality medical treatment for people living with disabilities. I await further details of the matter he raises so that the Government can make appropriate enquiries.

The Minister for Disability has portfolio responsibility for these matters. I have referred the question to Minister Foley and request that he respond to your directly.