

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**5, 6, 7 and 8 June 2018**

**(Extract from book 8)**

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## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable KEN LAY, AO, APM

## **The ministry**

(from 16 October 2017)

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Special Minister of State . . . . .	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
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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
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Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development . . . . .	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections . . . . .	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning . . . . .	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Ms M. Thomas, MP

### Legislative Council committees

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

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

### Legislative Council standing committees

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

**Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning** — Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, #Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, #Dr Ratnam, #Ms Symes, Ms Truong and Mr Young.

**Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues** — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, Ms Fitzherbert, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Dr Ratnam, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing, Mr Somyurek, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

**Port of Melbourne Select Committee** — Mr Mulino, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

**Fire Services Bill Select Committee** — Ms Lovell, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Rich Phillips, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

### Joint committees

**Accountability and Oversight Committee** — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Noonan and Ms Thomson.

**Dispute Resolution Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Ms Hutchins, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O’Brien, Mr Pakula and Mr Walsh.

**Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmarr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Garrett and Ms Ryall.

**Electoral Matters Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Bath, Ms Patten and Mr Somyurek. (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon and Ms Spence.

**Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Halfpenny, Mr Richardson and Mr Riordan.

**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): Ms Britnell, Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards and Ms McLeish.

**House Committee** — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson.

**Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson and Mr Wells.

**Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Gepp and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

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

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

### Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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**Deputy President:**

Mr K. EIDEH

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**Deputy Leader of the Government:**

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**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

**Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

**Leader of the Greens:**

Dr S. RATNAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

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



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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, 5 June 2018**

**Port Phillip homelessness**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 6 March 2018

**REPLY:**

The City of Port Phillip has a Local Law that manages camping on council land. This Local Law prohibits camping on council land or any public place in a vehicle, tent, caravan or any other type of temporary or provisional form of accommodation. Since 2001, the Local Law has included an exemption to address people who are homeless or have complex needs. In these instances, the person is not guilty of an offence under the Local Law.

People who are found to be homeless and sleeping rough are linked into social and housing support services to help them find secure accommodation. This has been found to be an effective approach to assisting vulnerable people who are experiencing homelessness.

In the case of the homeless people in Elwood referred to in Ms Crozier's question, Council has advised that they have been referred to the Launch Housing Rough Sleeper Initiative and Star Health Community Connection Program (both State Government funded programs) to find suitable housing locally. Council staff have further advised that Launch Housing caseworkers are actively seeking housing support for these homeless people and they are listed on priority housing waiting lists. Council's officers continue to monitor the impact and amenity issues at the site. If items used for 'camping' by the person who is homeless are identified as hazards, these would be impounded by council officers and any criminal activity would be referred to the Police.

**Nillumbik Shire Council**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 7 March 2018

**REPLY:**

Libraries are the heart of our community. The space and facilities they provide underpin strong and vibrant communities across Victoria.

The Victorian Government recognises the role of public libraries in fostering lifelong learning, providing access to information and providing a safe, supported community space for people to engage in a wide range of activities. Libraries provide free public access to information, access to technology, literacy support and training and skills development that engage communities and enrich community life.

That is why the Victorian Government is committed to improving Victoria's libraries and continues to invest in the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program which assists councils in developing new library facilities and refurbishing and expanding existing facilities.

I can advise that Nillumbik Shire Council has not sought funding under the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program to relocate the Diamond Valley Library.

Councils operate as a separate tier of government, and democratically elected councillors have the responsibility for making decisions and setting priorities that endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for their local communities.

**Victoria Police forensic services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Raised on:** 8 March 2018

**REPLY:**

Sexual assault kits collect physical evidence from victims. Forensic testing of this evidence can then assist the investigation of the offence. For example, DNA evidence can assist in identifying an offender.

Victoria Police conducts forensic testing on sexual assault kits on an 'as needs' basis according to when the results are needed for investigations or prosecutions. In some cases, testing of the kits will not be required at all, such as where the offender makes full admissions or where the offender can be identified through other means.

It is, therefore, incorrect to refer to untested sexual assault kits as a 'backlog'. Rather, testing of those kits has not yet been required. Nevertheless, Victoria Police is continually reviewing its forensic testing procedures to ensure they support efforts to increase intelligence capabilities for use in high victim impact crime investigations and identifying recidivist offenders.

It should also be noted that the fact a sexual assault kit has not been tested does not mean that Victoria Police have not obtained a DNA sample from a suspect or offender. For example, if the offender has pleaded guilty without the need for testing of the sexual assault kit, police can still seek a court order to take a DNA from them to cross-match against other crimes.

The Government will be introducing legislation later this year to streamline these powers to further increase the number of DNA samples able to be taken from persons suspected, or found guilty, of sexual and other indictable offences. This will improve Victoria Police's ability to detect, investigate and prove criminal activity and positively impact community safety.

In addition, Victoria Police has been allocated \$46.898 million in additional funding between 2017-18 and 2020-21 to increase its DNA testing capability. This figure includes funding for additional VPS and forensic officers as well as additional testing equipment.

**Shakti Australia**

**Raised with:** Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence  
**Raised by:** Ms Springle  
**Raised on:** 27 March 2018

**REPLY:**

Thank you for the advice you have provided about the work being undertaken by SHAKTI to support women from a range of cultural backgrounds who are experiencing family violence.

As you know, this Government is strongly committed to addressing all forms of family violence. The Family Violence Royal Commission made 227 recommendations and the Victorian Government has committed to implementing them all.

The Royal Commission also highlighted the variable ways in which family violence manifests in different cultural communities and the additional barriers women and children from CALD communities who are experiencing family violence may face in seeking appropriate support.

For this reason the Victorian Government funds a state-wide multicultural family violence service, In Touch, and a number of Men's Behaviour Change Programs specifically targeted to men from particular cultural backgrounds.

We also understand the importance of ensuring that mainstream services are inclusive and that workers have the capability to provide a high quality response to women and children from all backgrounds. This is Why we have

invested in building the capacity of specialist family violence and mainstream workforces to respond to intersectional need, so that they can better understand, recognise and respond to the needs of all victim-survivors, through Building from Strength: 10-Year Industry Plan for Family Violence Prevention and Response. We are also investing in interpreters and translators specialising in family violence, to help overcome some of the practical barriers for victim survivors seeking support.

Of course, there is always more that we can do, and for that reason, I have asked Family Safety Victoria to make contact with SHAKTI so that we can learn from their experience and look at opportunities for them to contribute to the system moving forward.

### **Gippsland public transport**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Ms Shing**

**Raised on: 8 May 2018**

#### **REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Eastern Victoria on her ongoing advocacy on behalf of her constituents for improved transport services.

The Andrews Labor Government has committed to a combined investment of \$1 billion for the two stages of the Monash Freeway Upgrade. Stage one is nearing completion with new lanes being opened in May between EastLink and Clyde Road. All works on the first stage will be completed by mid-year, with a new state-of-the-art freeway management system being the last works now to complete to make trips on the freeway quicker, smoother and safer.

Works on stage two of the Monash Freeway are being fast-tracked to add further lanes between Warrigal Road and EastLink, and from Clyde Road to Cardinia Road. Construction of the new lanes will start in 2019.

I am pleased to advise that once again express coach services between Warragul, Drouin and Parliament are being offered to passengers, with three services in the morning peak and four services in the evening peak. The free Wi-Fi service on these express rail replacement coach services will continue during this time to deliver high speed, easily connected and reliable Internet services for passengers.

I have requested Transport for Victoria to work with VicRoads to monitor the performance of replacement buses along the Monash Freeway to identify what can be done to improve journeys for Gippsland passengers.

### **Tarneit rail services**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Mr Davis**

**Raised on: 8 May 2018**

#### **REPLY:**

Changes to stopping patterns of Warrnambool trains were implemented in August 2017 to reduce crowding and improve travel time for passengers on these long-haul services.

While Warrnambool services now operate express through stations between Footscray and Geelong, including Tarneit and Wyndham Vale, passengers at these intermediate stations can still access Warrnambool services by interchanging at Geelong station from a stopping all stations service to Geelong.

The connecting services for the journey between Tarneit and Geelong are scheduled as VLocity fleet, which are fitted with built in luggage storage facilities and allow easy movement between carriages.

As Geelong is a fully staffed station from first to last service, V/Line staff are available at Geelong station to advise any teachers and students that may require further assistance or direction. This issue has been raised with V/Line, which has worked with the school to investigate and trial alternate travel options available to the students.

The Andrews Labor Government has added nearly 600 services across the regional network, including 97 new weekly services on the Geelong line. These extra services add to the 260 extra services added to the Geelong line following the completion of the \$3.6 billion Regional Rail Link project in 2015.

The first new services in a decade have also been rolled out on the Warrnambool line, with 12 extra having started in January 2017. This has brought services up to four return each weekday and three return on weekends.

The Andrews Labor Government has also ordered 87 new VLocity carriages and restored funding to V/Line. This is in direct contrast to the previous Liberal/National Coalition Government, which cut \$120 million from V/Line and failed to order a single carriage in its first two years.

### **Privacy and data protection**

**Raised with:** Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 8 May 2018

#### **REPLY:**

I am advised that the constituent whose concerns Ms Crozier has raised is known to the departmental staff responsible for handling complaints. Since 2015 he has had contact with the central Complaints Advisors on multiple occasions about a series of separate concerns including relations with neighbours, maintenance, the conduct of staff and former staff of the department and other organisations, and the services he has received from the department.

In April 2016, a senior departmental employee reviewed the matters raised by the constituent and the responses which had been provided. The senior employee determined that all the matters had been dealt with appropriately. At that time the Victorian Ombudsman had also investigated the complaint and was satisfied with the department's responses to the constituent.

The constituent was invited to raise any new matters with the relevant departmental employees, who also offered to meet with him to facilitate the response to any new concerns.

I am also advised the matters raised by Ms Crozier have been investigated by senior departmental officers and found to be unsubstantiated. The constituent has not accepted this outcome and has lodged complaints with the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner and the Victorian Ombudsman's Office. Those processes are ongoing. If the Ombudsman finds any failing in the responses provided to the constituent by the department, the department will respond appropriately.

### **Fairness Fund**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 9 May 2018

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is providing over \$500 million in financial assistance to former taxi and hire car licence holders. This is the most generous financial assistance package in the country.

The Member for Western Metropolitan and his Liberal colleagues voted to allow for ridesharing and Uber and voted in support of removing existing taxi and hire car licences.

The Member for Western Metropolitan and his Liberal colleagues voted against providing financial assistance to the existing industry.

The Member for Western Metropolitan was a proud supporter of the former Liberal Government's Fels reform which cut taxi licence values in half with not a single dollar of financial assistance being provided.

Applications to the Fairness Fund are carefully assessed on a case-by-case basis against the eligibility criteria, with the support of independent auditors. The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources has worked with applicants to give them every opportunity to support their application for a payment, while still undertaking due diligence to ensure taxpayer funds are used for their intended purpose.

### **Workplace deaths**

**Raised with:** Minister for Finance

**Raised by:** Mr Gepp

**Raised on:** 10 May 2018

#### **REPLY:**

I thank Mr Gepp for his comments and invitation to attend a forum in his electorate.

As I have noted before, the Andrews Labor Government has a priority to ensure Victoria remains the safest Australian state in which to work.

I am acutely aware agricultural communities are over-represented in work place fatalities. Last year's statistics for regional Victoria reached double figures, with 20 overall workplace fatalities. This is already a tragic occurrence, but given the figure is almost three times the amount of fatalities in greater metropolitan Melbourne, over the same period (7), this becomes an even greater tragedy, and is unacceptable. Indeed, despite agriculture employing only three per cent of Victorian workers, 30 per cent of Victoria's workplace deaths take place on farms.

In my last address, I spoke of a number of Government initiatives, programs and campaigns designed to help reduce such fatalities in regional workplaces. WorkSafe continues to help farmers and other employers understand and address the risks associated with farm work, and that which comes with working with heavy machinery and quad bikes. This includes targeted inspector visits, regional field and on-farm safety events around the state, and the development and revision of safety information to assist farmers.

With quad bikes and tractors a leading cause of death and serious injury, the Government will continue its action to reduce death and serious injuries. As many would know—this being the second phase of a wider farm safety campaign—our \$6 million rebate package for Victorian farmers to buy safer equipment has been a great success, and is supported by a broader quad bike safety campaign, which includes the ability for farmers to identify the risk of rollover.

The Quad Bike Safety campaign has been running since October 2016, and will continue till 30 June 2018.

Figures as at 16 May 2018 show 3312 rebate applications were approved and over \$2.9 million was paid to farmers for the purchase of a safer alternate vehicle or operator protective device. 1997 operator protective devices have been fitted and 1315 safer alternate side by side vehicles have been purchased.

WorkSafe is also continuing its presence in country football and netball, to bring the message of work safety into the many regional communities they represent. WorkSafe continues to be a naming rights sponsor of country football, through AFL Victoria (since 2002). Such sponsorships help WorkSafe build stronger relationships within our regional community and support our health and safety and insurance functions.

I agree with Mr Gepp that it matters not where the ideas for improvement come from, and to that end, I am more than happy to take up Mr Gepp's invitation to visit his Northern Victorian electorate. I am very much open to discussion, and look forward to the possibility of attending a forum on these matters, and to hear the views of his constituents. I feel this would be a great chance to discuss and inform on the government's key health and safety priorities aimed at regional workers, and to similarly discuss return to work risks within the community.

**Boronia Heights secondary college site**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Ms Dunn  
**Raised on:** 10 May 2018

**REPLY:**

The former Boronia Heights Secondary College site has been declared surplus to the needs of the Department of Education and Training and has been nominated by the government as one of the six pilot sites for the government's inclusionary housing pilot (IHP) program.

The IHP will see up to 100 new social housing homes delivered across six surplus government land sites in areas close to services, jobs and transport. The Victorian Government is piloting an innovative new way to deliver social housing for Victorians in need by redeveloping surplus government land with an inclusive mix of social and private housing.

The IHP program is part of the government's Homes for Victorians package to improve affordability and help ensure all Victorians can access a stable and secure home.

I understand community concerns have been raised about the need to protect remnant native vegetation, public open space and potential over development of the site. Departmental and Ministerial staff met on 3 May 2018 with representatives of the Knox Environmental Society to discuss these issues and ensure that any concerns could be heard and understood.

Let me reassure you that government takes these community concerns seriously. Proposed planning controls seek to retain important flora and fauna and open space, as well as ensuring that proposed designs respond to the neighbourhood character of the area. Please be assured that these issues have been considered, along with other submissions by the Government Land Standing Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee).

The Advisory Committee panel process took place in February 2018. I will consider the Advisory Committee's expert and independent advice regarding proposed planning changes.

This includes protections for native flora and fauna.

At this time the type and design of development for the site, including the number of social or private dwellings and open space requirements, is yet to be determined.

In terms of the next stage of the process, development of the sites will take place via a competitive Expression of Interest process that will seek innovative and high-quality design concepts for each site from the development industry. Designs will be evaluated by a panel with multi-disciplinary expertise to make sure they deliver the best options for social housing, the best value for money, and the best value for the community and the environment.

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Wednesday, 6 June 2018**

**Asylum seeker support**

**Raised with:** Premier  
**Raised by:** Ms Springle  
**Raised on:** 1 May 2018

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Labor Government is concerned about continued service restrictions for community-based asylum seekers, including recent changes to Status Resolution Support Services eligibility. We are also concerned about the lack of Commonwealth support for asylum seekers who are not found to be owed protection but remain in the community. However, policies and legislation relating to asylum seekers are principally the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government which limits the capacity of the state.

Where possible the Victorian Government provides supports for asylum seekers through a number of state-funded initiatives and support services.

In September 2017, the Victorian Labor Government announced a \$600 000 package to assist around 100 asylum seekers that the Commonwealth Liberal Government had proposed to stop supporting. The funding package was developed in response to the Commonwealth's proposed withdrawal of income and housing support for asylum seekers transferred to Victoria from offshore detention centres for medical treatment. This funding will meet some of the critical needs of this group of asylum seekers, including accommodation, food, clothes, Myki cards, medicines and other direct service needs.

In the Victorian Budget 2016/17, the Victorian Government allocated an additional \$38.3 million over five years to specifically benefit refugees and asylum seekers across the multicultural affairs, health and education portfolios, to:

- support a coordinated, integrated and early intervention approach to the settlement of refugees and asylum seekers across Victoria;
- meet the priority health and welfare needs of new arrivals; and
- improve educational outcomes of refugees, asylum seeker and migrant young people.

Funding within the health portfolio has supported a new orientation, triage and referral model by refugee health nurses, through the Refugee Health Program. It has also supported paediatric specialist outreach clinics, a new refugee catch-up immunisation program, new mental health programs, increased casework support for the Refugee Minor Program, and additional language services support.

Funding within the education portfolio has supported the Refugee Education Support Program to improve wellbeing and engagement of students from refugee backgrounds. This funding also supports the Centre for Multicultural Youth's Learning Beyond the Bell program to build school and community partnerships to provide out-of-school-hours learning support programs. Additionally, funding has supported Foundation House's Schools Support Program for schools and early childhood services to engage with refugee and asylum seeker children and families.

The Jobs Victoria Employment Network has now allocated more than \$50 million for 51 employment services, which includes specialist multicultural employment services. These services will assist refugees and asylum seekers, amongst other culturally diverse Victorians, to gain employment.

We know how difficult the lives of some of these families have been — that's why it's vital that we help them.

### **Federation Training**

**Raised with:** Training and Skills  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 8 May 2018

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is investing \$35.5 million in the 2018-19 Victorian State Budget to transform Federation Training's Morwell Campus, giving Morwell the facilities it needs. This investment will provide young Victorians with the skills they need to get a job with a new Future Skills Training Centre and Technical Training Centre of Excellence. Following the recent opening of Morwell's new Tech School, this announcement cements Morwell as an education and training hub for Gippsland.

The funding commitment is a direct result of the community and stakeholder forums conducted late last year by the Institute to re-engage with students and industry, across the Gippsland region. The community consultations included more than 500 hundred submissions as well as face-to-face forums held in Traralgon, Moe, Morwell, Warragul, Leongatha, Bairnsdale and Sale.

The most commonly raised issues were accessibility, quality of facilities (buildings), and the courses and training offered by the TAFE. The community spoke and Government and the TAFE listened — modern, fit-for purpose, centrally located and easily accessible facilities that meet the needs of industry, community and students were the highest priority.

The Yallourn campus will continue to operate as the new facilities at Morwell are built. Federation Training will continue to review and consult with the local community to determine what training continues to be delivered at the Yallourn campus and in the Moe region more generally, throughout the development of the Morwell campus and beyond.

The interim CEO, Mr Grant Radford, held post budget staff briefings across all Federation Training's campuses, to discuss the Morwell and Port of Sale campus redevelopment. All staff have been encouraged to raise any issues and concerns about the upcoming infrastructure revitalisation projects.

Federation Training will continue to engage with its staff, local Councils, industry and the local community as the planning and design elements of both Morwell and Port of Sale projects are developed. Both Government and the TAFE are committed to ensuring the people of Gippsland have access to high quality, industry relevant training where they live, that leads to a job.

As noted in your adjournment matter, bus services fall under the responsibility of the Minister for Public Transport.

### **VicRoads Sunshine office**

**Raised with:** Premier  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 10 May 2018

**REPLY:**

On March 5 this year, Minister Donnellan opened the new VicRoads Sunshine Service Centre on Clarke Street which was relocated due to the expiring lease at the former premises.

VicRoads saw this as an opportunity to improve the way they connect with their customers and to enhance the services available to the Sunshine community by relocating the customer service centre and regional office to a new, purpose built building.



The new centre is conveniently located for customers to access over 65 different services including licence renewal, change of address, learner and hazard perception tests and various registration and licence transactions. Customers will be able to conduct face-to-face VicRoads transactions and access digital services on-site.

Accessibility for the community has been improved with the centre located close to the Sunshine train station, multiple bus routes, modern public toilets and the local shopping district.

VicRoads has re-directed physical driver testing and vehicle inspections to other neighbouring Customer Service Centres including Broadmeadows, Hoppers Crossing, Werribee, Sunbury and Melton. Capacity at these neighbouring centres has been increased so VicRoads can meet the additional demand for licensing and vehicle inspection services. There will be no reduction in appointments for the community as a result of this change.

Drive tests are not zoned, so VicRoads is confident that local operators and customers have not been disadvantaged by the relocation of testing to other surrounding locations. It is not uncommon for driving instructors to take learner drivers to areas outside of where they reside or plan to take their test, based on the need to practice in a variety of road conditions.

I thank Mr Thomson for his tireless advocacy on this important issue and assure him that the Government is making it more convenient for locals to access the services that they need right in the heart of Sunshine.



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Thursday, 7 June 2018**

**Bulla bypass**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 8 May 2018

**REPLY:**

As you are aware, VicRoads has completed a planning investigation for the Bulla Bypass and has been undertaking further work to consider additional options in response to a request from the Minister for Planning, the Hon Richard Wynne MP.

The 2018-19 Victorian State Budget included a massive investment in the Suburban Roads Upgrade, with over \$1 billion to be spent on widening and improving safety on roads across Melbourne's northern suburbs. As part of this package of works, Sunbury Road will be widened from two lanes to four between Powlett Street and Bulla-Diggers Rest Road in Sunbury. These works are needed to support the ultimate Bulla Bypass.

Further, safety improvements on Sunbury Road between the Tullamarine Freeway and Oakland Road have begun and are expected to be completed by July 2018. These works are part of a \$1.1 billion investment to reduce deaths and serious injury on Victoria's roads and include new flexible safety barriers, widening of the road to accommodate safety barriers and upgrading public lighting.

**Federation Training**

**Raised with:** Minister for Training and Skills  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 8 May 2018

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is investing \$35.5 million in the 2018-19 Victorian State Budget to transform Federation Training's Morwell Campus, giving Morwell the facilities it needs. This investment will provide young Victorians with the skills they need to get a job with a new Future Skills Training Centre and Technical Training Centre of Excellence. Following the recent opening of Morwell's new Tech School, this announcement cements Morwell as an education and training hub for Gippsland.

The funding commitment is a direct result of the community and stakeholder forums conducted late last year by the Institute to re-engage with students and industry, across the Gippsland region. The community consultations included more than 500 hundred submissions as well as face-to-face forums held in Traralgon, Moe, Morwell, Warragul, Leongatha, Bairnsdale and Sale.

The most commonly raised issues were accessibility, quality of facilities (buildings), and the courses and training offered by the TAFE. The community spoke and Government and the TAFE listened — modern, fit-for purpose, centrally located and easily accessible facilities that meet the needs of industry, community and students were the highest priority.

The Yallourn campus will continue to operate as the new facilities at Morwell are built. Federation Training will continue to review and consult with the local community to determine what training continues to be delivered at the

Yallourn campus and in the Moe region more generally, throughout the development of the Morwell campus and beyond.

The interim CEO, Mr Grant Radford, held post budget staff briefings across all Federation Training's campuses, to discuss the Morwell and Port of Sale campus redevelopment. All staff have been encouraged to raise any issues and concerns about the upcoming infrastructure revitalisation projects.

Federation Training will continue to engage with its staff, local Councils, industry and the local community as the planning and design elements of both Morwell and Port of Sale projects are developed. Both Government and the TAFE are committed to ensuring the people of Gippsland have access to high quality, industry relevant training where they live, that leads to a job.

As noted in your adjournment matter, bus services fall under the responsibility of the Minister for Public Transport.

### **Hazelwood mine rehabilitation**

**Raised with: Minister for Water**  
**Raised by: Ms Bath**  
**Raised on: 23 May 2018**

#### **REPLY:**

The feasibility of forming a pit lake at the Hazelwood mine in terms of both water availability and the potential impacts on other water users, groundwater systems and the environment is the subject of a comprehensive investigation being undertaken by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as part of the development of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy — this is a significant part of the Victorian Government's commitment in response to the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry.

These water studies are currently underway and will be completed by early 2019. The results will ultimately be made available to the public as part of the Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy.

However, in terms of possible effects on other water users, including town supply, agriculture and other industrial users, I emphasise that the allocation and use of water in the Latrobe Valley, as elsewhere in the state, is managed according to Victoria's statutory water entitlement and planning framework.

This framework and the Water Act 1989 include provisions for the protection of water users' entitlements and rights to water, as well as protections for the health and sustainability of Victoria's waterways and groundwater systems.

These protections will be upheld in the context of the rehabilitation of the Latrobe Valley coal mines including Hazelwood.

Any application to use water for mine rehabilitation, such as filling a pit to form a pit lake, will be considered in the same manner as for any other proposed use of water within the state's entitlement framework.

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Friday, 8 June 2018**

**Freedom of information**

**Raised with:** Special Minister of State  
**Raised by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Raised on:** 8 May 2018

**REPLY:**

In the interest of consistent FOI decision making, it is appropriate where requests of a similar nature are made to more than one agency, for the lead agency to coordinate the responses to those requests.

It is common practice in Victoria for government departments to provide advice and support to their portfolio agencies in processing FOI requests.

After being informed that requests of a similar nature were being received by its portfolio agencies, on 5 March 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a guideline to its Health Services, to assist them with processing those requests.

FOI processing is the responsibility of each individual agency. Therefore, advice, support and guidelines are provided to them to assist and make suggestions only.

**Murray-Darling Basin agreement**

**Raised with:** Minister for Water  
**Raised by:** Ms Dunn  
**Raised on:** 9 May 2018

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government is committed to meeting our obligations under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan in a way that balances social, economic and environmental outcomes. It is essential that decisions about Basin Plan implementation are based on the best possible information.

Victoria has put forward 22 projects (business cases) to achieve the Murray-Darling Basin Plan's environmental targets without the need for further Commonwealth water buy-backs. Of these 22 projects, Victoria is the sole proponent for nine projects, six are joint Victoria and NSW projects and seven are joint projects with NSW and South Australia.

These projects are good for the environment, optimize the environmental value of water already recovered and also result in significant investment in regional communities.

Nine environmental works business cases are available online on the DELWP website and can be accessed at <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/murray-darling-basin/murray-darling-basin-plan>. In making information available the Information Privacy Act 2000 has been considered. The detailed cost estimates and other commercial-in-confidence information have been deliberately omitted to ensure that value for money is achieved when these projects are issued for tender. The supporting ecological reports and scientific data are available on request.

The release of joint government business cases is being considered in consultation with the co-proponents, New South Wales and South Australia. The same approach to redacting sensitive information would be applied to these business cases.

A briefing can be provided if required.

**Sewa Australia**

**Raised with:** Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
**Raised by:** Ms Springle  
**Raised on:** 9 May 2018

**REPLY:**

Sewa Australia and many other groups are doing wonderful work to support seniors from culturally diverse backgrounds.

I note that Sewa Australia are currently receiving funding under the Multicultural Senior Citizens Organisational Support stream of the Capacity Building and Participation grants program.

The Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division has also contacted Sewa to notify them of the Participation for CALD Seniors grants program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. These grants support the provision of assistance such as transport, social activities, education sessions.

**South Sudanese Australian Youth United**

**Raised with:** Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
**Raised by:** Ms Springle  
**Raised on:** 24 May 2018

**REPLY:**

I am aware of the South Sudanese Australian Youth United's (SSAYU) Bounce Back program, and the range of other valuable work it does in support of young people. In recognition of this work, I recently approved a \$40 000 allocation to SSAYU to assist it to meet the costs of delivering its programs.