

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

6, 7 and 8 March 2018

(Extract from book 3)

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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
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Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
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Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and Minister for Local Government	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Mikakos, Mr O’Sullivan, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips 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, 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 Elasmr, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, #Dr Ratnam, Ms Shing, #Ms Symes, Ms Truong and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmr, Ms Fitzherbert, Mr Morris, Mr Mulino, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Dr Ratnam, #Mr Rich-Phillips, 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 Elasmr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Garrett and Ms Ryall.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

President:

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

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

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Dr S. RATNAM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John ¹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
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, Luke Bartholomew ⁹	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona ¹⁰	Northern Metropolitan	RV
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ⁴	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 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

CONTENTS

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

TUESDAY, 6 MARCH 2018

<i>Wyndham kindergartens</i>	953
<i>Craigieburn Road duplication</i>	953
<i>St Kilda police resources</i>	954, 955
<i>VicForests</i>	955
<i>Gormandale and District Primary School bus service</i>	956
<i>Gippsland rail services</i>	956
<i>Energy security</i>	957
<i>Beaumaris Bay fossil site</i>	957
<i>Lara goat farm</i>	958
<i>Australia Day awards</i>	958
<i>Grange Road, Alphington, level crossing removal</i>	959
<i>Victoria University Sunbury site</i>	959
<i>Family violence</i>	960

WEDNESDAY, 7 MARCH 2018

<i>Ballarat Base Hospital</i>	961
<i>Victorian Heart Hospital</i>	961
<i>Child influenza vaccination</i>	962
<i>Goulburn Valley Health</i>	962

THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 2018

<i>Goulburn Valley Health radiotherapy services</i>	963
<i>Western Metropolitan Region employment</i>	963
<i>Hurstbridge line level crossing removals</i>	964
<i>Upfield line level crossing removals</i>	965
<i>Workplace deaths</i>	965
<i>Melbourne Metro rail project</i>	966

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Tuesday, 6 March 2018

Wyndham kindergartens

Raised with: Minister for Early Childhood Education
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 1 November 2017

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria the Education State.

I am aware of the impact that population growth has on Melbourne's growth areas, including in Wyndham, and the importance of ensuring all families have timely access to local services and facilities.

This is why the Andrews Labor Government has invested a record \$76.4 million to build, expand and upgrade kindergartens across Victoria, more than double what the previous Liberal Government appropriated in its entire term. This includes \$10 million specifically for infrastructure in seven growth-defined suburbs, including Wyndham, as well as \$10 million to build three early learning facilities on school sites.

The Department of Education and Training (the Department) monitors current enrolments and population projections and works with local governments, service providers and other organisations to help ensure there are enough kindergarten places for both current and future families with young children.

The Government is partnering with Wyndham Council to deliver two relocatable kindergarten buildings in Wyndham Vale and Tarneit for 2018. This is an innovative initiative that can be delivered quickly to address demand for kinder places in Wyndham and Hume. These will be brand new, purpose built buildings that will provide high quality learning environments.

The Government has also delivered a range of grants through the Children's Facilities Capital Program for projects to improve and expand the capacity of kindergartens across Wyndham, including \$650 000 for the Truganina South New Early Learning Centre.

The Department will continue to work closely with Wyndham City Council and the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to support all eligible children to access a funded kindergarten program in 2018.

Craigieburn Road duplication

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Mr Ondarchie
Raised on: 14 December 2017

REPLY:

Thank you, Mr Craig Ondarchie MP, Member for Northern Metropolitan, for your adjournment question in the Legislative Council on 14 December 2017. I apologise for the delayed reply.

VicRoads advises me that it has done extensive consultation with several councils that represent the outer suburbs of Melbourne, including Hume City Council, to identify strategically important roads that require some form of infrastructure upgrade. As you are aware, we recognise that Craigieburn Road is one of these roads.

VicRoads has recently undertaken traffic modelling investigations for Craigeburn Road to monitor current traffic volumes and get a better understanding of forecasted traffic volumes in the future. In addition, initial planning investigations such as Cultural and European heritage and environmental investigations have commenced on Craigeburn Road. These investigations are important to ensure that potential future upgrades will mitigate any impacts on the surrounding area.

St Kilda police resources

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Ms Crozier
Raised on: 14 December 2017

REPLY:

As I have previously advised, Victoria Police operations are determined by the Chief Commissioner.

Victoria Police has initiated Operation Sandsafe which is the standing response to these local issues in St Kilda. Operations Response Unit commitments have been obtained to support local deployments on days when the temperature is likely to result in large crowds.

The Port Phillip Local Area Commander (LAC) is engaged with the St Kilda community and met with foreshore operators, the City of Port Phillip CEO and the Hon. Martin Foley, Member for Albert Park, in December 2017 to form a coordinated response.

On 5 February 2018, Mr Foley announced a grant of up to \$220 000 to the City of Port Phillip as part of this coordinated response. Of these funds, \$100 000 will support traffic treatment measures to address hooning behaviour in the Pier Road area and to prevent unauthorised vehicle access to the St Kilda foreshore. A further \$120 000 has been allocated to support the planning and installation of CCTV cameras, subject to final designs and council support.

This approach builds on the Government's investment in 2015 of almost \$250 000 through the Public Safety Infrastructure Fund to Council to install CCTV cameras in Fitzroy Street. While these cameras are part of a two-year trial, it is clear they have supported police operations and led to the successful identification and prosecution of offenders.

On 7 February 2018, Victoria Police also joined Mr Foley, St Kilda Foreshore Traders and other concerned traders and resident's to encourage Council to extend the alcohol ban within the municipality. City of Port Philip has now agreed to extend the alcohol ban until April 2018.

St Kilda police resources

Raised with: Minister for Police
Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert
Raised on: 14 December 2017

REPLY:

Victoria Police operations are determined by the Chief Commissioner. Victoria Police has initiated Operation Sandsafe which is the standing response to these local issues in St Kilda.

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St Kilda police resources

Raised with: Minister for Police

Raised by: Mr O'Donohue

Raised on: 14 December 2017

REPLY:

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VicForests

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Raised by: Ms Dunn

Raised on: 6 February 2018

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government takes the protection of our natural environment very seriously and understands that Victoria's forests are highly valued in the community.

All timber harvesting operations in State forest must be undertaken in accordance with the regulatory framework. Key to this is the *Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014* (the Code), a legislative instrument that contains specific rules that protect threatened species and other forest values.

The commercial and operational aspects of timber harvesting in Victoria's public forests is undertaken by VicForests. This includes preparing and amending Timber Release Plans, in consultation with the community.

I understand that VicForests recently proposed amendments to the Timber Release Plan, and sought feedback from communities and stakeholders about the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments considered earlier feedback from the Mirboo North community, and removed an area alongside the "Lyrebird Walk," to minimise impacts on community access and use of the area during the harvest period.

I am advised that VicForests has also committed publicly to undertaking pre-harvest surveys prior to commencing harvesting in any of the coupes located in Mirboo North and that harvesting is unlikely to occur before 2019.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will closely monitor any operations to ensure compliance with the Code.

Gormandale and District Primary School bus service

Raised with: Minister for Education
Raised by: Ms Bath
Raised on: 6 February 2018

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

I refer to your matter raised during the legislative assembly on 6 February 2018 regarding a school bus service extension for Gormandale and District Primary School.

The Andrews Labor Government, through Public Transport Victoria and the Department of Education and Training, provides transport assistance to families through an extensive network of free bus services or a conveyance allowance for eligible students throughout rural and regional Victoria.

The process to vary or modify an existing bus service involves a number of different stages, and requires input from key stakeholders. Alterations must be safe for all road users. I am informed that the Department's Student Transport Unit and Public Transport Victoria worked closely with Ms Christine Robinson, principal of the Gormandale and Districts Primary School, and the Wellington Shire Council during 2017 to identify a service extension opportunity. It was discovered that road conditions were unsuitable for the school bus to navigate safely along the proposed route and were unable to be modified to enable safe turning of the bus.

I am further advised that, in this case, the criteria for a feeder service is not met because, although the service extension was not approved, the six Gormandale and District Primary School students have access to a current school bus service via an existing stop approximately 3 kilometres from their homes.

Gippsland rail services

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Ms Shing
Raised on: 6 February 2018

REPLY:

The Victorian Government recognises Gippsland line passengers have been affected by changes to train services whilst nine dangerous level crossings are removed between Caulfield and Dandenong.

This record investment in making these deadly level crossings safer will also improve the reliability of the Dandenong-Caulfield corridor, providing flow-on benefits to Gippsland line services. The significant nature of these works requires substantial changes to the normal timetable, with longer journey times and train-replacement coaches.

Between 31 January and 14 February 2018, a temporary timetable was implemented on the Gippsland Line to reflect the extended travel times and replacement of trains with coaches.

The Victorian Government continues to investigate ways to provide additional support to Gippsland line passengers, recognising the significant disruption to their travel patterns caused by these important upgrades. There will be an opportunity for passengers to provide feedback about their recent experiences so V/Line can make improvements for future works.

I have also asked V/Line to ensure it communicates service changes to passengers quickly and accurately when there are disruptions affecting Gippsland line. V/Line and Public Transport Victoria will also provide advance notice to commuters of upcoming disruptions, so people can make alternative arrangements if necessary.

Passengers whose journey is delayed by more than 60 minutes from the scheduled arrival time may be eligible for compensation.

The Victorian Government is getting on with the job of delivering more trains, more often for the Gippsland community. This includes the planned \$530 million Gippsland line upgrade, which will provide additional tracks and passing loops, new platforms and signalling upgrades and a replacement of the Avon River Bridge at Stratford.

In addition, power and signalling upgrades associated with the High Capacity Metro Trains project will ensure there is additional capacity on the Pakenham metropolitan corridor, which again has flow-on benefits for Gippsland line passengers.

I look forward to continuing to work with the local Member to deliver better train services for the Gippsland community.

Energy security

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 7 February 2018

REPLY:

At all times noted by the honourable member there was more than enough supply of electricity.

Localised electricity outages occurred for a variety of reasons including heat related stress on distribution assets, coupled with extremely high electricity demand.

The government will continue to work with the private operators that a liberal-national government sold these assets to, to ensure all Victorian consumers are provided with a secure and reliable supply of electricity.

Beaumaris Bay fossil site

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Raised by: Ms Pennicuik

Raised on: 7 February 2018

REPLY:

The significance of the fossil beds at Beaumaris Bay were highlighted by the Victorian Environment Assessment Council in 2011 and its recommendation to create a natural features reserve to protect the area was supported by the

government. I understand that the fossil beds are considered to be of international significance by eminent palaeontologists, geomorphologists and geologists in Australia and abroad.

My advisor met with Associate Professor Vicki Kotsirilos of the Sandringham Foreshore Association and Professor Erich Fitzgerald of Melbourne Museum on 22 February 2018 to discuss the most recent fossil discoveries at Beaumaris Bay. She also had the opportunity to personally view some of the fossils held by the museum.

I have committed to providing a letter of support in addition to the letter already provided by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to support the nomination of Beaumaris Bay for inclusion on the National Heritage List to the Beaumaris Bay Heritage Consortium.

Lara goat farm

Raised with: Minister for Agriculture
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 7 February 2018

REPLY:

The Victorian Government supports the responsible planning and development of intensive animal industries, and welcomes the significant economic benefits these industries bring to our regions.

Robust and appropriate on-farm risk management plans are fundamental to the protection of both human and animal health. Agriculture Victoria works closely with animal industries to ensure that producers understand how to manage their responsibilities in relation to biosecurity as well as other animal health and welfare requirements. Agriculture Victoria also provides advice on these matters to applicants for new animal industry developments, and to councils considering such applications.

In the case of Q fever, which is a human health matter, Agriculture Victoria works closely with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Environmental Protection Authority, to provide sound advice during the application process on how on-farm measures can manage potential public health risks to surrounding communities. Uptake of Q fever immunity testing and vaccination for workers is encouraged under Occupational Health and Safety legislation.

Agriculture Victoria and Regional Development Victoria will continue to work with Nuchev Pty Ltd, and other state government agencies to support the development and implementation of appropriate risk management plans and on-farm management practices to address human health risks of Q fever, and enable high-standards of animal health and welfare.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that growth of our animal industries is managed appropriately, supports sustainable land use and protects amenity and the environment. To this end, the Victorian Government is working with industry, community and local government to deliver improved planning systems for sustainable animal industries.

Australia Day awards

Raised with: Premier
Raised by: Mr O'Sullivan
Raised on: 7 February 2018

REPLY:

I thank the member for bringing this to my attention.

On behalf of all Victorians, I would like to congratulate them for their Australia Day awards and will write to Mr Baxter, Mr Kilgour and Mr Ryan personally.

Grange Road, Alphington, level crossing removal

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Mr Leane
Raised on: 8 February 2018

REPLY:

I would like to thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan and the Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure for his efforts on the level crossing removal project at Grange Road in Alphington.

Scheduled between mid-March and late April, there will be major construction works at the Grange Road site, as we prepare to remove the dangerous and congested level crossing by lowering the rail line underneath the road.

During the upcoming 44-day construction blitz, the North Eastern Program Alliance (NEPA) will be digging around 30 000 cubic metres of soil and rock — equivalent to 15 Olympic-sized swimming pools — to make way for the rail trench, and also installing a bridge deck over Grange Road.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) understands there is a great deal of interest in the project in Alphington. As a result, a viewing area is being established in a safe location next to the works site to give local residents and the wider community an insight into the significant works taking place between mid-March and late April.

At times during the construction blitz, NEPA will conduct Q&A sessions at the viewing area, giving people an opportunity to talk to construction experts from the project team. LXRA will advertise these sessions in advance through its regular communication channels, especially via social media and their website.

In addition to the on-site viewing area, LXRA will have regular video footage of the trench excavation and bridge deck being installed. This will give residents a further chance to see the level crossing being removed.

Like Mr Leane and the residents surrounding Grange Road, I am very much looking forward to the removal of another of Melbourne's dangerous and congested level crossings.

Victoria University Sunbury site

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 8 February 2018

REPLY:

The site is owned by Victoria University which is responsible for management of the property. It is acting to improve management of site access and prevent vandalism, including the installation of fencing.

The site is no longer required for education purposes. It has been through the First Right of Refusal process to offer the site to other government agencies (including State, Local and Commonwealth government). This is a requirement of the Victorian Government Landholding Policy and Guidelines when government owned land becomes surplus to requirements.

The listing of the site on the Department of Treasury and Finance website occurs once land has been through the First Right of Refusal Process. The website lists land which is undergoing due diligence to prepare it for a potential future sale, and is not an indicator that the land is to be immediately sold.

The Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) has developed a draft master plan for the site in consultation with the community, which will identify potential future land uses including uses that will continue and improve community access. Community engagement on the draft master plan ended on 11 February 2018. The VPA will now review submissions and feedback received and amend the draft master plan as appropriate. It is intended that the master plan will be submitted to me for approval later this year.

Family violence

Raised with: Minister for Agriculture
Raised by: Ms Crozier
Raised on: 8 February 2018

REPLY:

Animal shelters and rescue organisations provide an important service within our community for emergency pet care and accommodation.

The Victorian Government continues to support the Pets in Crisis program through a commitment to provide \$100 000 over four years to house and protect at-risk animals. The program is a joint initiative between the Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre, the Lort Smith Animal Hospital, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA Victoria) and the Municipal Association of Victoria.

During 2017, the Animal Welfare Fund provided over \$350 000 in grants to not-for-profit organisations to improve the welfare of companion animals in Victoria. These include animal shelters and rescue groups, organisations promoting responsible animal ownership education, community foster care networks, and groups that provide relief facilities and services during an emergency.

Foster carers also provide an integral role in interim accommodation for animals needing emergency accommodation. The Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pets Shops) Act 2017 introduces a new scheme to assist foster carers by providing a reduced registration rate for cats and dogs in their care.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Wednesday, 7 March 2018

Ballarat Base Hospital

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Mr Morris
Raised on: 9 February 2017

REPLY:

Ballarat Health Services is committed to delivering safe and appropriate care in a timely manner to all patients. Ballarat Health Services is continually developing initiatives which see more patients successfully receive the surgery they require, including developing partnerships with other rural hospitals in the Grampians region to ensure patients can be treated as close to home as possible.

Ballarat Health Services has rapidly expanded the services it delivers with a number of substantial capital works being completed in recent years including the Ballarat Integrated Cancer Centre, new Emergency Department entrance and waiting rooms, and the recently opened 32 bed Gardiner-Pittard Building.

I am pleased to confirm my earlier announcement of \$1 million to enable planning and design to begin for the fit-out of the shell space on level one of the new Gardiner-Pittard Building.

Unlike the former Liberal Government, this Government supports our public hospitals. In 2017-18, Ballarat Health Service received \$273 million. That's \$48 million or 22 per cent more than they received under the last Liberal budget. In addition, Ballarat Health Services has recently received in excess of \$5 million for replacement medical equipment, infrastructure and health service violence prevention.

I am also pleased to report that a restructured Executive team, led by recently appointed CEO Dale Fraser, is leading Ballarat Health Services into the future with renewed enthusiasm and commitment.

Victorian Heart Hospital

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Wooldridge
Raised on: 23 March 2017

REPLY:

Unlike the Liberals, the Andrews Labor Government believes that investing in health, including building world class facilities and hospitals is a worthwhile thing to do. Indeed, an imperative thing to do.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to delivering the Victorian Heart Hospital, which will be a centre of excellence for patient care, research and clinical education.

The Victorian Heart Hospital will be developed in partnership with Monash Health, Monash University and others, and will be built on the Monash University campus in Clayton.

It's a shame that the Opposition doesn't support the Victorian Heart Hospital, those working in our cardiac system, and the health of all Victorians.

Child influenza vaccination

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Wooldridge
Raised on: 19 October 2017

REPLY:

This flu season has hit us hard. But our health services have been working together to ensure Victorians continue to have access to the care they need when they need it.

Our Ministerial Roundtable on flu discussed key strategies that our health services can implement, and considered what more we can do in future surge times, to provide continuity of care to Victorians.

This includes lifting the Victorian health workforce immunisation rate from its current target of 75 per cent to 90 per cent, to be reached in five years. To achieve this, immunisation for staff will be available throughout the flu season — not just at the beginning — to improve the uptake rate.

However, the flu epidemic is a national problem and we need a national response. That's why we are calling on the Federal Government to put in their fair share and expand access to the flu vaccine. All vulnerable Australians — particularly children aged between 6 months and 5 years, and health workers who are in constant contact with vulnerable patients — must be given free access to the flu vaccine to help prevent future outbreaks.

The vaccination of children aged six months to under five years of age is unequivocally a national issue and should be actioned via the national immunisation schedule. This would maximise impact on community-level transmission and facilitate coordination across jurisdictions. As a minimum, the program should be expanded to include all children aged six months to five years and also all health care workers.

Goulburn Valley Health

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 29 November 2017

REPLY:

In response to your Adjournment Debate question raised on 29 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.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Thursday, 8 March 2018

Goulburn Valley Health radiotherapy services

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 19 September 2017

REPLY:

In response to your Adjournment Debate question raised on 19 September 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.

Western Metropolitan Region employment

Raised with: Minister for Industry and Employment
Raised by: Mr Melhem
Raised on: 6 February 2018

REPLY:

The Victorian Government has committed \$68 million to Jobs Victoria to deliver targeted policies and programs aimed at reducing unemployment across Victoria by providing assistance to long-term jobseekers facing barriers to employment. The flagship program, the Jobs Victoria Employment Network, funds tailored services to provide employment support to jobseekers, helping pave a path for jobseekers to ongoing employment. On the latest figures available, the Jobs Victoria Employment Network has registered over 8308 jobseekers, and placed 2976 of this number into employment across Victoria. I am particularly pleased to inform the Member that this includes 1699 jobseekers registered and 701 placed into employment across Melbourne's west via ten regional services.

However, there are still areas of need the Victorian Government is actively addressing. Reducing youth unemployment is a key priority area of the Victorian Government and multiple Jobs Victoria programs directly support the improving employment outcomes of young Victorians.

As part of the Jobs Victoria Employment Network, the Victorian Government has allocated \$6.7 million to employment services focused on unemployed young people and youth that have interacted with the criminal justice system. Another 29 multi-target services also cater to the employment needs of young people and are supported as part of this program.

To create more entry-level vocational work opportunities, the Victorian Government has committed to the Major Project Skills Guarantee (MPSG). This requires principal contractors delivering publicly funded building, construction, infrastructure, engineering and other capital projects over the value of \$20 million to utilise Victorian apprentices, trainees, and engineering cadets for at least 10 per cent of the project's working labour hours. The MPSG is currently in the process of being applied to 98 planned projects across Victoria and has already created over 3500 work opportunities for young Victorians. 20 of these 98 projects fall within Melbourne's west and will greatly support employment outcomes for young people in this area.

The Victorian Government is also delivering the Youth Employment Scheme (YES), which offers 280 traineeships each year to young Victorians looking to gain experience in the public sector and enhance their prospects for employment. As an extension to this program, the Jobs Victoria Youth Cadetship program offers 135 YES graduates a further two years of work experience in the public sector.

Recently, the Victorian Government also launched Jobs Victoria JobsBank, a new initiative modelled on the success of the Jobs Victoria Employment Network to provide more intensive personalised support to jobseekers with complex needs. Jobs Victoria JobsBank identifies young people as within its target demographics and will complement the ongoing efforts of the Victorian Government to support young people in employment across Victoria.

Hurstbridge line level crossing removals

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Ms Dunn

Raised on: 7 February 2018

REPLY:

I thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan for her interest in the Andrews Labor Government's \$495 million investment in upgrading the Hurstbridge line. I would also like to thank her for her efforts leading the Greens political party's transport portfolio, and am sorry to see her move to other responsibilities.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to ensuring that contractors engaged in the delivery of major transport infrastructure projects comply with relevant environmental and sustainability standards.

The vacant parcel of land at the corner of Greensborough Road and Drysdale Street in Yallambie is currently being used for the temporary storage of materials and equipment associated with the delivery of the Lower Plenty Road level crossing removal, the new Rosanna Station and the track duplication between Heidelberg and Rosanna.

Clean fill has been stockpiled on the site, consistent with the uses approved by the Minister for Planning as part of Banyule Planning Scheme Amendment C113. I am advised that the Level Crossing Removal Authority project team inspected the site and confirmed that erosion and sediment controls were in place and have been effective in preventing sediment run-off from entering the Banyule drain. In particular, geofabric fencing has been in place between the stockpile area and the Banyule drain during the use of the site. Additionally, a buffer zone of at least 10 metres is in place between the soil stockpile and the drain.

Unfortunately, the project team has confirmed that clean soil had been incorrectly placed close to some trees. I am advised that all material has now been removed away from tree root zones and barrier fences have been installed to prevent material from encroaching into these areas. An arborist has assessed the condition of the trees and confirmed that there has been no adverse impact to the long-term health of the trees.

Appropriate controls to prevent sediment runoff into Drysdale Street stormwater drains have been implemented, including the regular cleaning of the road surface using street sweepers and the placement of silt sock sediment controls at drainage pit entrances.

The stockpiled fill is clean soil that has been removed from one part of the project and is being reused on the project rather than disposed to a landfill site, thereby reducing the overall environmental impact of the works. The project is also implementing other positive environmental initiatives including the use of rain water tanks for dust suppression, recycling of construction waste where possible which to date has resulted in 94 per cent being diverted from landfills, and the use of green power electricity to reduce carbon emissions.

The stockpiled fill is scheduled to be completely removed in March 2018. After that time the site will continue to be used for storage of equipment and supplies until the project is completed in mid-2018.

Upfield line level crossing removals

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Ms Patten
Raised on: 8 February 2018

REPLY:

I would like to thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan for her continued interest in the Andrews Labor Government's Level Crossing Removal Program and our further investments in the public transport system.

The Andrews Labor Government understands the importance of easing congestion, improving safety and reducing travel times for both passengers and motorists. This is why we are committed to removing the most dangerous and congested level crossings across Melbourne.

In 2014, we took a list of 50 level crossings to be removed to the election. As you know, the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) has been tasked with removing these 50 level crossings. To date, we've removed 15, including Camp Road, Campbellfield on the Upfield line, with another 13 currently under construction.

Early planning for the removal of the level crossings at Bell Street, Coburg and Moreland Road, Brunswick is underway. I am aware of local support for an elevated solution along sections of the Upfield line in addition to the level crossings we have already committed to remove.

While the current priority is to remove these 50 dangerous and congested level crossings, I welcome suggestions about how we can get rid of more crossings, sooner.

Workplace deaths

Raised with: Minister for Finance
Raised by: Mr Gepp
Raised on: 8 February 2018

REPLY:

Ensuring that Victoria remains the safest state in which to work is a priority for the Andrews Labor Government. We know that workers in our regions are significantly over represented in workplace fatalities. Last year was a tragic year, with 20 workplace fatalities in regional Victoria, almost three times the number of those that occurred in greater metropolitan Melbourne (7). This is not acceptable.

The Government has a number of initiatives, programs and campaigns aimed at reducing regional workplace fatalities.

Despite agriculture employing only three per cent of Victorian workers, 30 per cent of Victoria's workplace deaths happen on farms. Quad bikes and tractors are leading causes of death and serious injury. Agriculture is a priority industry for WorkSafe and there are a number of targeted programs and campaigns focused on its unique safety challenges.

WorkSafe continues to work with regional and farming communities to help farmers and other employers understand and address the risks associated with farm work, including working with heavy machinery and quad bikes. This includes targeted inspector visits, attending regional field days, on-farm safety events around the state, and the development and revision of safety information to assist farmers.

The Government has taken decisive action to reduce death and serious injuries involving quad bikes. This is a second phase of a wider farm safety campaign of attitudinal and behavioural change. We have taken the lead on this issue by introducing a \$6 million rebate package for Victorian farmers to buy safer equipment, supported by a broader quad bike safety campaign to raise awareness that quad bikes are one of the main causes of fatalities on Australian farms. A 'new risk' assessment tool enables farmers to identify their risk of rollover, while the Quad Bike Safety Rebate encourages the take-up of safety solutions.

The Quad Bike Safety campaign was first launched in October 2016 and ran until 30 June 2017. Following a successful evaluation, it has been running again from October 2017 and will continue until 30 June 2018.

Figures as at 31 January 2018 show 2972 rebate applications were approved and \$2 675 876.29 paid to farmers for the purchase of a safer alternate vehicle or operator protective device. 1768 operator protective devices have been fitted and 1204 safer alternate side by side vehicles have been purchased.

Country football and netball is part of the fabric of country life and such clubs are the social lifeblood of the many country communities they represent. WorkSafe has been a naming rights sponsor of country football, through AFL Victoria, since 2002. In 2005, WorkSafe extended this partnership to include country netball. These sponsorships help WorkSafe to build stronger relationships with key segments of the community in support of WorkSafe's health and safety and insurance functions; and to inform and increase knowledge about key health and safety, and return to work risks within the community.

Melbourne Metro rail project

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert

Raised on: 8 February 2018

REPLY:

It is acknowledged that the Member for Southern Metropolitan has called for the Metro Tunnel project to be delayed.

The Andrews Labor Government has rejected this call, and major works on the Metro Tunnel are underway to support construction of the new Anzac Station.

From 14 February 2018, St Kilda Road was reduced to one lane in each direction between Dorcas Street and Toorak Road for up to four years. Ongoing works in February included site establishment, the removal of trees, installation of fencing, barriers and site sheds, site investigations and preliminary road realignment and tram works.

A comprehensive public awareness campaign (including pop-up information sessions, television and radio placements and local letterbox drops) was undertaken to advise residents, businesses and all other stakeholders of the works.

The Metro Tunnel is currently ahead of schedule, but the greatest threat to its completion is the commitment from the Liberal Party to renegotiate the contract which would delay the project by at least two years, cost at least a billion dollars, and delay more trains running more often across Melbourne.