

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

8, 9 and 10 May 2018

(Extract from book 6)

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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
Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy, and Minister for Small Business	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	The Hon. L. D' Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and Minister for Local Government	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

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

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

Legislative Council standing committees

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

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

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, 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 Elasmarr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Garrett and Ms Ryall.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

President:

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

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

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Dr S. RATNAM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John 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

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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, 8 May 2018

Seymour Football Netball Club

Raised with: Minister for Sport
Raised by: Ms Symes
Raised on: 23 February 2017

REPLY:

Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities in Victoria is a key aim of the Victorian Government and is integral to increasing participation opportunities and enhancing the health and wellbeing of all Victorians.

I can confirm the Victorian Government has provided \$100 000 to Mitchell Shire Council from the 2016-2017 Country Football and Netball Program for the construction of a second netball court with lighting at Kings Park in Seymour. This court will support the increasing demand for competition and training court time by Seymour Netball Clubs, Seymour Junior Netball Association and Net Set Go program. Construction is expected to be completed by the commencement of the 2018 netball season.

Thank you for raising this matter with me and I trust this information has been of assistance to you.

Young Thinker in Residence

Raised with: Minister for Youth Affairs
Raised by: Ms Patten
Raised on: 12 December 2017

REPLY:

Through our Youth Policy — Building Stronger Youth Engagement in Victoria, the Andrews Labor Government is creating opportunities right across government to engage with young people, including those whose voices often go unheard.

We have established the Victorian Youth Congress a group of young people who are providing advice to our government on priority issues such as mental health and we have held two Victorian Youth Summits specifically to hear the views of young people on issues that matter to them.

The views being expressed by young people through these mechanisms are being used to shape policies, programs and services that benefit young people. We are also incorporating youth voice in a number of our new youth programs such Empower Youth, Aboriginal Youth Mentoring and Youth Space.

I was fortunate to attend the YACVic annual general meeting on November 23, 2017 where Brittany and Annika presented their projects and reflected on their experience as Young Thinkers in Residence, one of several programs delivered by YACVic that also amplifies the views and experiences of young people.

The Andrews Labor Government recognises the valuable role played by YACVic in empowering young people and we currently provide \$402 500 per annum to support YACVic's important core work. We also provide \$500 000 per annum for YACVic's regional presence programs in Swan Hill and Warrnambool to enable young people in rural and regional Victoria to also be heard and supported.

Leadbeater's possum

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Ms Dunn
Raised on: 28 March 2018

REPLY:

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) has provided, and will continue to provide, technical information and advice to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy to support the preparation of a national recovery plan for Leadbeater's Possum.

Much of the recent scientific work on Leadbeater's Possum has been undertaken by staff of DELWP's Arthur Rylah Institute. These scientists are held in high regard by the scientific community and in many cases draw on decades of experience in conducting surveys and research on native mammals such as Leadbeater's Possum.

Recent records of Leadbeater's Possum have been submitted by a range of organisations, including community-based conservation groups and VicForests. These records are brought together in DELWP's Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. All submitted records are subject to expert review and validation based on the suitability of the habitat, the appropriateness of the survey technique used and the supporting evidence provided.

Existing review processes, including peer review of key projects, routine expert review and validation of species observation data will continue to be used to verify scientific information.

Waste management

Raised with: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Raised by: Mr Finn
Raised on: 28 March 2018

REPLY:

Victoria has a comprehensive framework in place that maps out our goals for waste and recycling for the next 30 years. These goals include only using landfills to dispose of waste when all resources, including energy, have been recovered.

Over the last two State Budgets the Andrews Labor Government invested a record \$53.4 million over five years to improve management of waste and recover more resources. The allocation of \$30.4 million in the 2017-18 State Budget was the largest single allocation of waste and resource recovery funding ever made by a Victorian Government.

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

There are promising opportunities for us to use waste to energy technologies to recover energy from wastes that would otherwise be sent to landfill. My government is already supporting waste to energy through several existing programs, including the \$2.4 million Waste to Energy Infrastructure Fund, the New Energy Jobs Fund and the \$30 million Agricultural Energy Investment Plan.

Last year I released a discussion paper on waste to energy opportunities for Victoria. Feedback received is being used to develop new policy for waste to energy in Victoria, which will be released in mid-2018.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Wednesday, 9 May 2018

Valuing Volunteers

Raised with: Minister for Emergency Services
Raised by: Ms Bath
Raised on: 21 February 2018

REPLY:

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting the significant contribution of the more than 100 000 emergency service volunteers, through much needed investment in equipment and facilities. The volunteers of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) are fundamental to Victoria's ability to plan, respond to and recover from a range of emergencies.

Recognising this, the Victorian Government funds grant programs aimed at maintaining, encouraging and strengthening volunteer organisations in Victoria such as the CFA. The Victorian Government is providing tens of millions of dollars in vehicles, facilities and training to volunteer firefighters and other emergency-service volunteers.

The Victorian Government recently announced \$60 million in funding for a range of initiatives to further strengthen fire service delivery in Victoria. Thanks to this investment, the CFA has launched its \$10 million Enhancing Volunteerism Grants Program (EVGP). The EVGP will fund locally-driven initiatives that strengthen volunteerism and build brigade sustainability.

Further to the EVGP, the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) provides grants to emergency services volunteer groups, including those who serve with the CFA, VICSES, LSV and AVCGA, for operational equipment, vehicles, trucks, tankers watercraft, trailers and minor facility improvements.

The Victorian Government also funds the Valuing Volunteers Program (VVP), which has a particular focus on retaining, recognising and recruiting volunteers. Funding assists in the development of innovative volunteer initiatives and pilot programs for the CFA, Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), Life Saving Victoria (LSV), Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) and the Emergency Services Foundation.

It is appropriate that government funded programs in CFA, including those which develop skills and leadership for CFA volunteers, are administered and delivered by CFA. This is not the role of a representative body. CFA have discussed this with VFBV.

Shepparton rail services

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 29 March 2018

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government committed in this year's budget to deliver up to nine train services a day to the Shepparton community.

The investment of \$313 million to deliver Stage 2 of the upgrade to the Shepparton Line is fully funded and will pave the way for V/Locity trains to run on an upgraded track. This will mean more reliable and faster journeys, with time savings of up to 20 minutes.

This builds on the work already underway to deliver stabling and track upgrades to enable five return services per day. The \$43.5 million Stage 1 Shepparton Line upgrade, funded in last year's budget, was fast-tracked in order to deliver these rail improvements sooner after years of inaction by the previous Liberal-National Government.

I am proud that this Labor Government will now build on this work to deliver the services the Shepparton community expect and deserve. As you will be aware, the Labor Government has already introduced an additional nine new weekly train services for Shepparton since 2014.

You will also be aware, that while works are underway to upgrade the Shepparton line, an additional 29 road coach services each week will be introduced to provide Shepparton passengers with more choice to get to Seymour and connect to rail services to and from Melbourne.

In contrast, I note your party has once again short-changed the people of Shepparton with only \$77 million promised to upgrade the rail line. This is well short of what is required to upgrade track and signalling to provide a modern regional network and introduce V/Locity trains.

I note the Liberal — National Coalition has a longstanding and clearly demonstrated commitment to cut and shut regional rail lines. Without a record of investment in regional rail projects, and having failed to start any significant infrastructure works across the rail network, it is no wonder the cost of regional infrastructure has been under-estimated, along with the value these investments provide to local regional communities.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Thursday, 10 May 2018

International drivers

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Mr Ramsay
Raised on: 20 February 2018

REPLY:

More international visitors than ever are visiting Victoria and more than a third of these visitors are choosing a self-driving holiday.

We are committed to improving road safety for all road users in Victoria and ensuring international visitors drive with confidence and stay safe on our roads.

There is no evidence to suggest that tourists are overrepresented in crashes. Despite the high numbers of visitors, Victorian drivers are still involved in the largest number of crashes in this region.

Tourism Victoria recently launched a visiting driver awareness program with key road safety messages. The program comprises of a suite of resources including:

- A simplified Chinese version of the Safety Tips for Visitors to Victoria brochure;
- A short road safety video (English/Chinese versions) for broadcast via key social media channels/websites;
- Supporting promotional materials (such as Keep Left stickers), which can be ordered online by vehicle rental companies and other interested parties; and
- Billboard advertising.

Tourism Victoria is undertaking ongoing work to promote the program at holiday accommodation and with hire car companies. The program was modelled on the successful New Zealand Visiting Drivers initiative.

VicRoads has installed more than 100 Drive on the Left signs and road direction markings along the Great Ocean Road, is installing road direction signs in Chinese language to reduce confusion around roadworks, and continues to work with the community and Victoria Police to identify high-risk locations and measures to ensure the safety of Victorians. VicRoads will continue to look at further ways to promote information for tourists.

VicRoads and Tourism Victoria will work together to ensure that car hire companies are aware of the community's concerns and that they are distributing road safety and road rule material with hire cars.