

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

Tuesday, 7 August 2018

(Extract from book 11)

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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 Mulino, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, #Dr Ratnam, #Ms Symes, Ms Truong and Mr Young.

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

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

Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

President:

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr N. ELASMAR

Acting Presidents:

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

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O’SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Dr S. RATNAM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John 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	Ind	O’Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O’Sullivan, Mr Luke Bartholomew 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	V1LJ
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini ¹¹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred ⁶	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁷	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;

Australian Conservatives until 3 August 2018

⁴ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁶ Resigned 9 February 2018

⁷ Resigned 6 April 2017

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

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party; DLP — Democratic Labour Party;
Greens — Australian Greens; Ind — Independent; LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
RV — Reason Victoria; SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

CONTENTS

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

TUESDAY, 7 AUGUST 2018

<i>Gippsland family violence services</i>	4099
<i>Eastern Domestic Violence Service</i>	4099
<i>Goulburn Valley Health radiotherapy services</i>	4100
<i>Nillumbik public land</i>	4100
<i>Bush nursing centres</i>	4100
<i>Shepparton radiotherapy services</i>	4100
<i>Shepparton education plan</i>	4101
<i>Tallarook Mechanics Institute</i>	4101
<i>Country Fire Authority Wollert station</i>	4102
<i>Motor vehicle registration fees</i>	4102
<i>Country Fire Authority Shepparton East and Kialla & District brigades</i>	4103
<i>Carnegie and Murrumbeena railway stations</i>	4103
<i>Calder Highway, Ravenswood</i>	4104

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Tuesday, 7 August 2018

Gippsland family violence services

Raised with: Minister for Women
Raised by: Ms Shing
Raised on: 20 September 2017

REPLY:

I would like to thank Ms Shing for the invitation and was pleased to meet with the member for Gippsland and her constituents on 2 May 2018 to discuss how the Andrews Labor Government is working to end family violence and all forms of violence against women in Gippsland.

Since forming government, we have committed over \$2.4 billion to acquitting all 227 recommendation from the Royal Commission into Family Violence and to implementing both Safe and Strong: Victoria's gender equality strategy; and Free From Violence: Victoria's strategy to end family violence and all forms of violence against women.

Eastern Domestic Violence Service

Raised with: Minister for Women
Raised by: Mr Leane
Raised on: 20 September 2017

REPLY:

As part of the Victorian Government's commitment to the prevention of family violence and all forms of violence against women, I would like to bring to your attention a prevention initiative being carried out in the Eastern Metropolitan region as part of the government's \$3.85 million Community Partnerships for Primary Prevention (CPPP) grants program. The Community Partnerships for Primary Prevention grants program has funded 34 primary prevention partnerships across Victoria, including the Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS) HAIR project. EDVOS will promote gender equality through the implementation of their HAIR project, an initiative which recognises women's trusting bonds with their hairdressers. EDVOS will educate hairdressers to understand the link between gender inequality and family violence. It will support the hairdressing workforce to engage in conversations with their clients that challenge community attitudes that reinforce gender inequality.

In May 2018 the Victorian government committed a further \$24m over four years to primary prevention of family violence and all forms of violence against women. This investment builds on the Victorian Governments commitment in 2017-18 which invests \$50.8m in over four years. Of this amount \$12 million over four years has been allocated to establish Respect Victoria, a new organisation which will have a dedicated focus on primary prevention.

The government is also providing \$3.8 million over four years for Victoria's nine regional and three state-wide women's health services, with \$100 000 allocated to Women's Health East, for a 12 month period.

These important next steps take forward the government's vision to build a state free from violence, create a safer Victoria and stop violence before it starts.

Goulburn Valley Health radiotherapy services

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 20 February 2018

REPLY:

I refer the Member to my responses to you of 30 January 2018 (Adjournment Debate raised on 21 June 2017) and two further responses on 8 March 2017 (Constituency question asked on 7 February 2017 and Adjournment Debate raised on 9 November 2016).

Nillumbik public land

Raised with: Minister for Planning
Raised by: Mr Leane
Raised on: 6 March 2018

REPLY:

The Registrar of Titles has investigated the status of the 17 parcels proposed for sale by Nillumbik Shire Council.

All 17 parcels are freehold land.

In 16 of 17 cases the Nillumbik Shire Council is the sole proprietor. In the other case, the land is registered in the name of a legal personal representative of a deceased estate dating back to 1962. However, the land appears to be vested in the Nillumbik Shire Council through operation of the Road Management Act 2004.

Council can deal with the land as it wishes to do so.

For your information I have supplied a table that provides a summary of the status of the land.

Bush nursing centres

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Wooldridge
Raised on: 8 March 2018

REPLY:

Senior staff of the Department of Health and Human Services (the department) have met and corresponded with Leading Aged Services Australia (LASA) and delegates from the eleven Bush Nursing Centres (BNCs) LASA represents on this issue on a number of occasions.

Each of the 15 Bush Nursing Centres has received increases in annual funding, in addition to supplementary funding to allow Bush Nursing Centres to enter into new Enterprise Agreements with their nurses.

Shepparton radiotherapy services

Raised with: Minister for Health
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 27 March 2018

REPLY:

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

Shepparton education plan

Raised with: Minister for Education
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 9 May 2018

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Andrews Labor Government. This has been demonstrated through our last four State Budgets that delivered the largest ever investment in Victorian school infrastructure, allocating more than \$3.8 billion to build, upgrade and maintain schools across the state. This funding means that 70 new school projects are now completed or underway.

Across the State Electorate of Shepparton Labor has now invested more than \$37.7 million into local school infrastructure. This compares to an unacceptable \$1.7 million for some minor maintenance across the electorate under the former Liberal and National government.

I find it encouraging that you are now taking an 'interest' in local schools given you neglected them and ignored their needs when you had the chance.

Overwhelmingly feedback has indicated that the school and community are supportive of a one school / one campus model in Shepparton, and we are busily underway in delivering that work. Over three weeks the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) ran nine workshops with more than 200 people in-person and 185 online. We've received more than 4750 comments to contribute to the development of this project.

As you may be aware, the VSBA is responsible for the planning of the site. The VSBA will commence a traffic management study in recognition that this is an important issue. It will form an integral part of the early due diligence associated with the development.

The traffic management study will review traffic movements within the precinct, requirements for bus set down, parent drop-off zones, as well as carpark requirements for the school. As part of the progression of the planning process, the VSBA will consult with both Greater Shepparton City Council and VicRoads to discuss the findings as well as proposed requirements for the redevelopment.

Tallarook Mechanics Institute

Raised with: Treasurer
Raised by: Ms Symes
Raised on: 10 May 2018

REPLY:

I thank the Member for her strong advocacy and for bringing this matter to my attention. I understand from conversations with the Member that the Tallarook Mechanics Institute plays a central role in the life of the town, and plays host to an excellent farmers market.

I am therefore pleased that we have been able to achieve a measure of success in assisting the community through the provision of \$200 000, to assist in the rebuild of the Institute. Such institutions nourish our community life and it is important that government invests accordingly.

Country Fire Authority Wollert station

Raised with: Minister for Emergency Services
Raised by: Mr Ondarchie
Raised on: 5 June 2018

REPLY:

I am unable to take your claim that you are concerned for the safety of communities in the growing outer suburbs seriously, after you made false claims about your commitment to your faith on Good Friday this year, in order to block legislation that would have helped keep those communities safe.

However, the Victorian Government does value the work of the Wollert Country Fire Authority (CFA) Brigade, and its selfless contributions to the safety and wellbeing of the community.

The Victorian Government recognises the vital work that the Wollert CFA perform as highly trained and skilled service providers and appreciates the commitment of its volunteers dedicated to serving the community.

During this term the Government has provided Wollert and District CFA with over \$25 000 in facilities and improvements through the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program.

The rebuild of the Craigieburn CFA station was a commitment the Government made and delivered on, because unlike you we take our commitments seriously and put community safety first.

Motor vehicle registration fees

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Ms Shing
Raised on: 8 June 2018

REPLY:

Since short-term registration was introduced in January 2018, more than 24 000 Victorians each week have been signing up to enjoy new three and six-month registration options.

These new choices are relieving financial pressure on families and providing a boost to household budgets.

Of the eligible vehicle owners who have opted for the budget friendly short-term registration options, 51 per cent have selected the three-month option and 49 per cent have chosen to register their vehicles for six months.

The most popular areas for short-term registration in metropolitan Victoria are Pakenham, Cranbourne, Frankston, Werribee and Berwick, and in regional Victoria, the most popular areas are Mildura, Shepparton and Warrnambool.

Specific to eastern Victoria, around 21 000 customers have elected the three-month option and 20 000 the six-month option to date, with take up rate in each area determined by the timing of a vehicle owner's registration renewal. For eastern region, short-term registration has been most popular in Traralgon, Morwell and Warragul.

Short-term registration is available for cars, utes, vans, motorcycles and mobile plant vehicles. Heavy vehicles were not included as part of this initiative, as shorter registration options were already available for this vehicle type.

Since the announcement of short-term registration, VicRoads has undertaken a widespread campaign covering a range of communication mediums (print, radio, online and social) in addition to face-to-face support through VicRoads Customer Service Centre sites across Victoria, dedicated telephone support and 'pop up' advertising and encouragement of the flexible payment options via the VicRoads website.

Information on short-term registration is also included on the physical registration renewal notice, making customers aware of the options available and to help make an informed decision.

The Government will continue to build on the work undertaken in regional communities, with targeted promotion and coverage through advertising in all major regional newspapers and on radio (both English and culturally and linguistically diverse channels) undertaken.

VicRoads continues to monitor closely the uptake of shorter registration period selections, which also includes data on the locations to inform future targeted promotion opportunities.

The establishment of Regional Roads Victoria as a dedicated division of VicRoads, will both further support and strengthen the work already undertaken, continuing the promotion of the budget friendly short-term registration options for regional communities.

Country Fire Authority Shepparton East and Kialla & District brigades

Raised with: Minister for Emergency Services

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 19 June 2018

REPLY:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of the Shepparton East and Kialla and District Country Fire Authority (CFA) Brigades, and the selfless contributions to the safety and wellbeing of the respective communities.

In December 2017, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) launched its \$10 million Enhancing Volunteerism Grants Program (EVGP). These grants are part of the Victorian Government's \$60 million funding boost to the State's fire services. The EVGP, which consists of \$10 million over two years, will fund locally-driven initiatives that strengthen volunteerism and build brigade sustainability.

Grant applications for the EVGP are assessed and awarded by the CFA. The assessment criteria used by the CFA is available via the CFA website at <https://cfa.smartygrants.com.au/EVGP1>.

CFA has advised that the EVGP Assessment Panel will consider both applications under Round Two when it reconvenes in late July.

Carnegie and Murrumbeena railway stations

Raised with: Minister for Finance

Raised by: Mr Davis

Raised on: 19 June 2018

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is proud of the work being done to remove dangerous level crossings and will not compromise on safety while this work takes place.

WorkSafe responded to a service request on 21 June 2018 in relation to the raised platforms at the Murrumbeena train station. An inspection of the, raised platform that provides access from the ground to the rail platform was carried out with no issues identified.

Discussions with the duty holder revealed that an extensive risk assessment was undertaken which involved input from the builder, client, and emergency services that subsequently resulted in a report outlining the temporary egress requirements including fire safety provisions.

The interim measures provide an acceptable level of fire safety and are consistent with engineering and design standards. In addition, daily visual inspections have been carried out since the structure has been in place and weekly structural integrity inspections are also being conducted.

Calder Highway, Ravenswood

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Raised by: Ms Lovell
Raised on: 20 June 2018

REPLY:

I am advised by VicRoads that following the completion of works, it will be safer for residents to access McDonalds Lane. The upgrade includes a safety barrier offset at four metres from the traffic lane and the construction of a sealed shoulder that will provide a safe space for motorists to turn into McDonalds Lane.

VicRoads has been working closely with local residents and has arranged an independent noise assessment from the Ravenswood Interchange to Fogartys Gap Road. The results of this assessment will assist in understanding the full extent of the noise in the area and enable VicRoads to develop solutions in line with the VicRoads Noise Policy.