



Question: 167 QUESTION ON NOTICE — Mr Crisp to ask the Attorney-General —
With reference to Statutory Declarations:

(1) Why is the operator of a Post Office unable to witness Victorian Statutory Declarations, given that the Commonwealth accepts the authority of a Post Office operator to witness a Statutory Declaration.

(2) What is the final jurisdiction when authorising a Statutory Declaration.

Answer: I am advised that:

(1) The current list of persons authorised to witness statutory declarations under Victorian legislation differs from that under Commonwealth law.

My department is currently developing options for modernising the law relating to statutory declarations in Victoria, including witnessing requirements.

(2) The Victorian statutory declaration requirements only apply to statutory declarations required or permitted under Victorian law. Operators of post offices in Victoria are still authorised to witness Commonwealth statutory declarations (that is, statutory declarations required or permitted under Commonwealth law).

THE HON MARTIN PAKULA MP
Attorney General

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 25/05/2015

Question: 168 QUESTION ON NOTICE — Mr Crisp to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety —
Will the Minister instruct VicRoads to undertake formal reviews that incorporate rural and remote community consultation in order to protect necessary services centres throughout Victoria.

Answer:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

VicRoads delivers its registration and licensing services across Victoria through a network of 39 service centres and 90 agencies. It also operates two large call centres - one in regional Victoria. These arrangements ensure that VicRoads provides accessible services to all Victorians including those in rural communities.

Consistent with the Andrews Labor Government directions and community expectations in digital services, VicRoads is making more of its services available online. This is increasing the convenience and accessibility of VicRoads' services for people across the state, irrespective of where they live. Improved online and telephone services can be of specific benefit for remote communities, as it can save the need to travel to a service outlet.

VicRoads will continue its practice of consulting with communities and service delivery partners whenever changes are proposed to the services to be delivered in their area.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 09/06/2015

Question: 169 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Hodgett to ask the Minister for Public Transport —
My constituency question is to the Minister for Public Transport. I ask the minister for an update on a request for review made to her in relation to a public transport infringement notice.

My constituent Natalie Grasso contacted my office with regard to infringement notice no. 3312824, which she received for having her foot on a seat while travelling on a train. At the time Natalie was undergoing treatment for an ankle condition, waiting for a screw in her ankle to be removed. Natalie is experiencing extreme shooting pains, which are sporadic, up to 50 times a day, along the length of her leg, and the only relief she can get is by elevating her foot for a minute at a time until the pain subsides.

Whilst on the train journey Natalie sought relief from her pain by elevating her foot onto the adjoining seat. A public transport authorised officer proceeded to issue Natalie a fine for having her foot on the seat. Natalie explained her situation to the authorised officer; however, this was discounted and the fine was issued.

I have written to the minister seeking her intervention in this matter, and I ask the minister for an update so that I can keep Natalie informed on a matter that is causing her a great deal of concern and stress.

Answer: I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:
As the Shadow Minister for Public Transport, the Hon David Hodgett, should be well aware that it is not appropriate for the Minister for Public Transport to intervene in matters relating to individual infringement notices.
Matters pertaining to specific infringement notices need to be considered in accordance with the current regulations to ensure matters are treated equally. Constituents who feel that they should have their infringement notice reviewed should therefore follow the review process outlined on the infringement notice. All appeals are carefully reviewed on their individual merits and in the context of the entire compliance program.
The infringement notice process was established as an alternative to attending court. The oversight of an independent judicial body is an important part of the process to ensure fair and reasonable outcomes in accord with legislation.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 03/06/2015

Question: 170 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Green to ask the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing for the Minister for Families and Children —
My constituency question is to the Minister for Families and Children. Local men's sheds across Victoria and in particular in my electorate are great organisations offering activities that are beneficial to individuals in the community. The Diamond Creek Men's Shed is very keen to attract more funding to improve its premises to continue its amazing work. I ask whether the minister can confirm ongoing funding for men's sheds in Victoria and how the program may provide flexibility for new, refurbished and extended sheds to allow them to grow and prosper.

Answer: The Victorian Government is a proud supporter of men's sheds. Local men's sheds provide safe, friendly and inclusive places where men can work together on projects of interest and be connected to their community. On Friday 20 March 2015, I announced a new funding round worth \$750,000 to support the construction of new men's sheds across Victoria.
As the Diamond Creek Men's Shed group received \$32,542.40 in March 2013 for a refurbishment project it is ineligible to apply for funding in the current round to build a new men's shed. However as there will be further funding rounds to support men's sheds in Victoria, the Diamond Creek men's shed could be eligible for funding in the future, depending on the nature of the grants on offer. I will ensure that the Department of Health and Human Services advises the Diamond Creek Men's Shed of all future grant rounds.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 18/05/2015

Question: 171 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Smith (Kew) to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety —
My constituency question is to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. Has the government developed a traffic management plan and completion date for the duplication of the Chandler Highway bridge?

Answer: I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:
VicRoads is currently in the early stages of preconstruction for this project. This includes investigations around land acquisition and planning for community consultation, which will be undertaken in consultation with the Yarra City Council and the developers of the former Amcor site to ensure that the Chandler Highway project meets current and future transport needs.
Traffic management is a major activity that is planned, monitored and reviewed throughout the project to ensure the safety of road workers and the general public.
Preliminary consideration of traffic management plans for the Chandler Highway duplication project involves managing the existing traffic to allow the existing bridge and road alignment to remain in service until the new bridge is constructed. Traffic will be transferred to the new road alignment and then reconstruction of the existing pavement will commence.
Detailed traffic management plans will be considered for the different types of construction activities once detailed design and construction methodologies are established.
The duplication of the Chandler Highway has a project duration of four years.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 03/06/2015

Question: 172 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Pearson to ask the Minister for Public Transport — My constituency question is to the Minister for Public Transport. The district of Essendon is home to a

significant Greek community, many members of which I have had the great pleasure of getting to know over the course of the past year. Many members of the community are ageing and no longer drive. Often they are widowed and therefore reliant upon family and friends to provide transport to Keilor Cemetery to visit the graves of their loved ones. The 476 bus route that runs from Moonee Ponds to Hillside services Keilor Cemetery, but the bus stop is some 500 metres away from the cemetery's entrance. Can the minister therefore advise what options exist for extending the 476 bus route to provide a bus stop at Keilor Cemetery?

Answer: I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:
In response to the advocacy of the Member for Essendon, PTV is investigation options to extent bus route 476 to Keilor Cemetery. This included identifying the safest location for the bus to turn around and what infrastructure works are required. Improving the bus route will allow local communities to visit Keilor Cemetery and provide a vital transport connection for family and friends. PTV will also conduct safety trials to consider the best option for extending the 476 bus.
Members of the local community have recently met with PTV to explore the most suitable option for the bus stop location and timetable and frequency of the bus. PTV will continue to work with local residents, Keilor Cemetery and the wider community as it finalises plans to extend the bus route.
The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$100 million to improve Victoria's bus networks, adding more reroutes, expanding others, restoring cut services and providing better bus services.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 18/06/2015

Question: 173 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Thompson (Sandringham) to ask the Minister for Education — My constituency question is to the Minister for Education. Sandringham College was established as a benchmark school in 1988 under the then Labor government. It provided a years 11 and 12 pathway to secondary students, enabling breadth of curriculum. At the last election the government committed to establishing a stand-alone high school in Beaumaris and allocated some \$4 million for the purpose. This sum of money will not be adequate to establish the breadth of curriculum and infrastructure necessary to achieve a years 7 to 12 pathway in the district. I ask: what funding resources will be established to enable the infrastructure of the sporting precinct to be used both by surrounding schools and by the Beaumaris community, as promised by the government?

Answer:
The Government has announced a \$730 million education infrastructure package for Victoria. The 2015-16 State Budget provides funding to refurbish and renovate schools, deliver brand-new relocatable classrooms and construct new schools.

We are pleased to confirm that the Government has announced \$6.5 million for the creation of a new stand-alone years 7 - 12 Beaumaris Secondary College at the current Beaumaris campus of Sandringham College.

In relation to sporting facilities on the site, I recently met with representatives of the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) to discuss the possibility of first-class sporting facilities being created at the Beaumaris site by the MCC Foundation.

The Labor Government welcomes this possible opportunity, recognising that if a partnership with the MCC can be forged while the demerger and new stand-alone school are being completed, this outcome will provide a significant long-term benefit for the new Beaumaris High School and surrounding schools.

Sandringham College's Beaumaris campus will not be taking enrolments for 2016 as works get underway to develop the new Beaumaris Secondary College.

Sandringham College's Beaumaris campus currently caters to Year 7 and Year 9 students. The Year 9 students who are currently based at the Beaumaris campus will at the end this year transfer to Sandringham College's Junior Campus, in Highett, as will any current or prospective Year 7 students.

The Hon. James Merlino, MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 25/05/2015

Question: 174 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Graley to ask the Minister for Health —
My constituency question is to the Minister for Health and concerns shade protection at Strathaird Primary School. This outstanding local school has 850 students yet lacks adequate sheltered areas for students to play under during summer or in poor weather. It is of particular concern during summer as students are exposed to harmful ultraviolet radiation. The provision of shelter over the basketball courts would not only provide students with a large area to play and exercise under but would be an outdoor meeting and assembly place — it would be an excellent multipurpose place. The school has costed the project at \$201 000; however, it would make a significant financial contribution to this much-needed project.

Strathaird Primary School is also a SunSmart member, and it does an outstanding job educating our young people about the dangers of ultraviolet radiation. This is a fantastic opportunity to provide much-needed shade protection at a wonderful and growing local school. I ask the minister to outline how schools like Strathaird Primary School can apply for a grant through this fantastic SunSmart program, because I know the Andrews Labor government is committed to such projects.

Answer: I commend Strathaird Primary School for being a SunSmart member, and their commitment to educating students on the importance of sun protection.

The Victorian Government has committed \$15.2 million in skin cancer prevention initiatives in partnership with the SunSmart Program, including SunSmart public education campaigns, and grants for shade in public places such as playgrounds, beaches and parks.

I can confirm that schools will be able to apply for a grant through this program. Implementation planning of these grants is currently underway, once this process is finalised, further information will be provided to eligible recipients regarding how these grants can be accessed.

Hon Jill Hennessy MP
Minister for Health

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 01/06/2015

Question: 175 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Sheed to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety — My constituency question is to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. Local councils across regional Victoria, including Greater Shepparton City Council and Moira Shire Council in my electorate, have expressed great concern about access to vital ongoing funding for repairs to roads and bridges. Can the minister urgently provide details as to how and when the \$1 billion promised for roads and bridges before the last election will be provided to regional Victoria? Further, can he guarantee his government will at least match the previous government's promise of \$160 million for country roads and bridges?

Answer: The Victorian Government has guaranteed funding of at least \$1 billion over eight years for the upgrade and repair of unsafe and congested roads and rail level crossings across regional Victoria. We recently announced funding of \$42.8 million to strengthen 52 bridges primarily on major regional freight corridors and \$50 million to increase safety at 52 rail level crossings in regional Victoria. The bridge strengthening works will commence in 2015-16. The 2015-16 Budget also allocates \$86.7 million to resurface unsafe, deteriorating roads around the state, so families in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria can travel safely.

The Federal Government also provides direct funding to local councils for the maintenance of local roads and bridges, under the Roads to Recovery Program and Bridges Renewal Program. The Federal Government recently announced funding of \$4.892 million for VicRoads to strengthen bridges on arterial roads and \$7.939 million for Victorian Councils to strengthen bridges on local roads under the Bridges Renewal Program. Local Councils can continue to seek funding for local roads and bridges through the next round of the Federal Government's Bridges Renewal Program or through the Roads to Recovery Program.

The Federal Government also provides funding under the Black Spot Program, aimed at improving road safety across the nation. The allocation for Victoria is \$36.4 million each year for 2015-16 and also 2016-17, which is \$22.8 million higher than the 2014-15 allocation of \$13.6 million. The current recommendation, pending approval by the Federal Minister, is that all of the 2015-16 Black Spot Program funding should be allocated to projects on local roads.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 18/06/2015

Question: 176 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Carroll to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety — My constituency question is also to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. Can the minister provide an update on the CityLink-Tullamarine Freeway widening project, in particular the impact

on the English Street interchange and on Matthews Avenue in Airport West?

On 9 April I met with representatives from the City of Moonee Valley, VicRoads and Essendon Airport to discuss the impact of the CityLink-Tullamarine Freeway widening project on the electorate of Niddrie. A key focus was the impact on the amenity of neighbouring streets, in particular on Matthews Avenue. As was reported in the Moonee Valley Weekly, this is a significant project. Even more importantly, on 20 March the mayor of the City of Moonee Valley wrote to the minister indicating the city's in-principle support of the project, subject to a number of conditions.

This is a wonderful project. As the minister announced on 30 April 2015, this \$1.28 billion project will increase capacity, ease congestion and improve safety along 24 kilometres of the Tullamarine Freeway, CityLink and West Gate Freeway, from Melbourne Airport to Southbank. On 30 April the minister signed an agreement with Transurban for the CityLink-Tullamarine Freeway widening project, and I would appreciate an update on the works.

Answer:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The CityLink Tulla Widening project is a major freeway upgrade that will increase capacity, ease congestion and improve safety along 24 kilometres of the Tullamarine Freeway, CityLink and the West Gate Freeway from Melbourne Airport, Tullamarine, through to Power Street in Southbank.

The \$1.28 billion project will be delivered in two sections. VicRoads will manage the Melbourne Airport to Bulla Road section and an Expressions of Interest has been released for the delivery of the works. The Bulla Road to Power Street section will be managed by Transurban.

As part of the Melbourne Airport to Bulla Road section, the English Street Bridge will be reconstructed to facilitate additional lanes on the Tullamarine Freeway. This will provide additional capacity at the interchange by making the bridge wider to assist with the expected growth in this important business hub. There will also be an improvement in the visual amenity of the area around Matthews Avenue and the English Street Bridge.

Detailed design of the interchange at Matthews Avenue and the English Street Bridge will be undertaken once a contractor is appointed later this year. VicRoads will continue its engagement with key stakeholders as the designs are progressed. Major construction will commence in late 2015 and is expected to be completed in 2018.

Hon Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 01/07/2015

Question: 177 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Dixon to ask the Minister for Public Transport for the Minister for Agriculture — My constituency question is to the Minister for Agriculture. I refer to Labor's commitment to halt commercial netting in Corio Bay and Port Phillip Bay, which also was a commitment made by the coalition government. I specifically ask the minister: what is the time line for the implementation of that commitment? By that I mean, what is the year-by-year breakdown of funding that will be committed to the buyback of current commercial licenses?

Answer: The government's intention is to remove commercial net fishing from Port Phillip Bay, including Corio Bay, over an eight year period concluding in 2022. This commitment will be delivered using \$20 million of new funding. Formal consultation has recently commenced on an initial phase of this process to put in place a catch cap on commercial catch in order to ensure that catch reduces as netting entitlements are removed.

The time line and process for implementing the commitments will be supported by legislation. I intend to introduce this legislation into the House in the spring session.

Hon Jaala Pulford MP
Minister for Agriculture

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 28/08/2015

Question: 178 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Edwards to ask the Minister for Education — My constituency question is to the Minister for Education. On behalf of the community of Castlemaine and the surrounding region, can the minister provide an update on the progress at the new Castlemaine Secondary College and in particular an update on stage 2 of this important four-stage project? This is a project that will deliver a new secondary school for students and families in Castlemaine and the surrounding district.

Answer: I am advised that the architect submitted a design proposal in May, which was prepared in collaboration with the school's principal, members of staff and members of the school council. I am further advised that a meeting was held on 26 May to review and endorse the proposal. Representatives from the Department and the school, including the principal and the school council, were present at this meeting. I understand that the proposal was approved and the school and the Department have agreed to fast track the next steps in the design process. Following the conclusion of this process, the college's stage 2 project will then move into the standard design and tender documentation process required under the Department's Capital Works Program. I am advised that the project should proceed to tender at the end of 2015, with construction expected to commence in early 2016.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 11/06/2015