



**Question:** 179 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Smith (Warrandyte) to ask the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water —

I rise today to highlight to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water an important opportunity that exists in relation to the Warrandyte State Park. Recently a parcel of 2.5 hectares of private land abutting the park has become available for sale. This land at 133 Webb Street in Warrandyte has been in the hands of what I understand to have been absentee owners, and as such it has been managed by local volunteers with support from Parks Victoria.

The land has important environmental values, such as the presence of the wine-lipped spider orchid, and there is an environmental significance overlay that recognises these values. It would be a fantastic win for both the local environment and my community to see this land purchased by the state and incorporated into the Warrandyte State Park. I ask the minister to consider the environmental value of this parcel of land and instruct her department to purchase the land so that those environmental values can be protected into the future.

**Answer:** Thank you for your question about the land at 133 Webb Street, Warrandyte and the possibility of government buying it for its addition to the Warrandyte State Park. As you are aware, having served in government between 2010 and 2014 as the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is often asked to buy land for various public purposes throughout Victoria. In considering such requests, the department must take into account funding available for land acquisition, and whether the land is crucially needed for addition to the Crown's parks and reserves network.

While the subject land adjoins the park and contains high quality native vegetation, it is outside the existing park boundary and is not designated for addition to the park via a public acquisition overlay in the Manningham Planning Scheme. The department is not seeking to expand its metropolitan parkland network beyond land that is already subject to public acquisition overlay for park purposes in relevant municipal planning schemes.

The land is within a rural conservation zone and is subject to environmental significance and wildfire management overlays in the Manningham Planning Scheme. The purpose of these planning controls includes the protection of environmental values.

In the circumstances I must advise that the government does not intend to acquire the land at 133 Webb Street, Warrandyte.

### **HON LISA NEVILLE MP**

Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

**Attachments:** No Attachments

**Answer Published Date:** 26/05/2015

**Question:** 180 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Green to ask the Minister for Sport — My constituency question is to the Minister for Sport. The Andrews government's first budget has been great news for local community sporting clubs, with \$100 million allocated to the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (CSIF) to help local clubs upgrade tired grounds and to build the facilities they need to keep up with increasing membership. In my electorate of Yan Yean the Wallan Football and Netball Club is one such club that is getting on with building better facilities, including with the support of a government commitment to invest \$100 000 in netball courts. Can the minister advise what the process is for clubs such as the Wallan Football and Netball Club to access funding that the government has committed to from the new \$100 million CSIF?

**Answer:** Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities in Victoria is a key aim of the Victorian Government. A range of commitments were made during the election campaign directed at achieving this objective. I will be in a position to announce how local government authorities and community organisations can apply for funding in mid-2015. I would note however, that historically, sport facility projects are required to demonstrate a direct link to providing increased participation outcomes, supporting our objective of improving the health and wellbeing of Victorians. Given local government authorities will be instrumental in developing and supporting projects for consideration under these initiatives, I encourage the Wallan Football and Netball Club to liaise directly with the Recreation Services Co-ordinator at Mitchell Shire Council to develop a project that may be considered for funding in the future.

**Attachments:** No Attachments

**Answer Published Date:** 03/06/2015

**Question:** 181 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr O'Brien (Gippsland South) to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety — My question is to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety and relates to road funding for the major arterials in my electorate of Gippsland South. A return to wetter seasons over the past four years since the end of the millennium drought has caused havoc on local roads. A significant additional investment of \$130 million in roads by the coalition in last year's budget has delivered dividends, but there is more work to be done. I believe there is a case for additional road funding in South Gippsland, in particular due to the higher rainfall, hilly topography and the higher number of milk tankers, stock transports and logging trucks on the roads, all of which place more pressure on the road surface than in is the case in some other parts of the state. I know the minister is aware of this, because he visited the area as the shadow minister and had a lot to say about the need for more road spending. Can the minister please outline the works proposed and the total value of those works on the South Gippsland Highway from Cranbourne through to Sale, as well as works on the Strzelecki and Highland highways over the next two years?

**Answer:** \$86.7 million has been allocated under the Road Surface Replacement Program to resurface unsafe, deteriorating road surfaces around the state. Regular maintenance work is carried out in South Gippsland and planning is underway on a number of projects that will improve the highway in the long term.

VicRoads is currently finalising its road-sealing program. However, surfacing of the South Gippsland Highway, Strzelecki Highway and Hyland Highway will be given priority in 2015/16 under the Road Surface Replacement Program.

\$6.02 million will be also be invested in reconstructing the worst sections of the South Gippsland Highway at Tooradin, Koo Wee Rup, Ruby, South of Leongatha near little Ruby Creek, Alberton and Yarram.

Construction of the South Gippsland Highway - Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternative Route will also commence late 2015, and be completed late 2016. This \$5.12 million jointly funded Federal and State Government project will see 600 trucks diverted away from Bair Street at the centre of Leongatha making it a more attractive place to visit.

Construction of an overtaking lane on the Strzelecki Highway near Driffield, which commenced late 2014, will be completed late 2015 and will make it easier for trucks to share the road with other road users. This \$4.27 million overtaking lane is also jointly funded by the Federal and State Governments.

VicRoads will also be undertaking vital safety works funded under the TAC Safe System Road Infrastructure Program including:

- Removal of roadside hazards, installation of safety barrier and improvements to signing and linemarking on the Strzelecki Highway, near Leongatha (\$3.8 million). These works commenced in late 2014 and will be completed mid 2016.
- Removal of roadside hazards, installation of safety barrier and improvements to signing and linemarking on the Inverloch Venus Bay Road, from Inverloch to Venus Bay, (\$2.39 million). These works will commence late 2015 and will be completed late 2016.
- Improvements to the intersections of the Strzelecki Highway and Mardan Road for \$360,000 and the intersection of Inverloch Venus Bay Road with Tarwin Lower Road for \$416,000. These works will be completed in 2016.

**Attachments:** No Attachments

**Answer Published Date:** 18/06/2015

**Question:** 182 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Kilkenny to ask the Minister for Industry — My constituency question is for the Minister for Industry. Can the minister provide an update on the work that is being done to assist automotive supply chain companies as they face the wind-down in operations by the three major automotive manufacturers in Victoria. While a lot of the focus is on the possible impacts on businesses and jobs in the north and west of Melbourne, a large number of automotive supply chain companies are in the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne, which are also likely to be affected by the wind-down of the automotive manufacturers in Victoria in 2017. A number of those supply chain companies are in my electorate of Carrum or close by in Dandenong. Many people living in my electorate work for those companies.

I have received a number of queries from constituents expressing concern about what impact the winding down of the three major automotive manufacturers will have on their jobs, on their futures and on their families. I know that they, together with the automotive supply chain companies in the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne, are very eager to hear what steps the Andrews Labor government is taking to address possible impacts from the winding down of the three major automotive manufacturers. I look forward to receiving an update from the minister.

**Answer:**

The Victorian Government recognises the challenges faced by automotive supply chain companies as a result of the wind down in manufacturing operations by the three major automotive manufacturers in Victoria. These challenges will be most acute in certain parts of the State - like Geelong, Melbourne's north, and Melbourne's south east.

The Victorian Government has a comprehensive plan to create jobs and boost investment, including in Melbourne's south-east. Our Back To Work Plan includes a number of initiatives. These include:

- The \$100 million Back To Work Scheme that will get unemployed young people, long term unemployed and retrenched workers back into the workforce. Importantly, this will include retrenched automotive workers.
- The \$508 million Premier's Jobs and Investment panel that will bring together expertise across business, the community and industry to ensure that the Government is working with all key stakeholders on our economic growth agenda.

In addition, the \$200 million Future Industries Fund will support the development of six sectors with high growth potential. These six sectors are:

- Medical technology and pharmaceuticals;
- New energy technology;
- Food and fibre;
- Transport, defence and construction technology;
- International education; and
- Professional services.

The automotive supply sector is well-placed to diversify into some of these sectors and the Future Industries Fund will be a key enabler to do so.

The Victorian Government has made two submissions to the Commonwealth Government's Senate Economics References Committee Inquiry Into the Future of Australia's Automotive Industry to ensure that the Commonwealth Government understands the impact of their decisions on Victorian communities.

Commonwealth Government support for the automotive sector is predominantly administered through the automotive Transformation Scheme. The Commonwealth Government was intent on delivering radical cuts to the scheme, which the Victorian Government strongly opposed.

The Commonwealth Government half-heartedly walked away from those cuts but the savings are still there for all to see in the 2015-16 Federal Budget. Of the \$900 million that was initially proposed to be cut, \$795 million will be achieved by stealth.

The Victorian Government opposes this approach and has proposed a range of practical solutions to improve Commonwealth Government policies and programs relating to automotive businesses and workers.

The Victorian Government has been actively assisting automotive supply chain businesses, including those from Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs through business matching activities during Automotive Week 2015, which was part of the Victorian Invitation Program inbound mission in March this year. These business matching events connected automotive supply chain companies, of which around 30 were from Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs, with global as well as domestic non-automotive opportunities. Some of these non-automotive opportunities

included the six growth sectors mentioned previously.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources has also engaged individually with south-east Melbourne automotive businesses to provide assistance through the Workforce Development Centres which offer career and re-skilling advice to affected workers.

I chaired an automotive Industry Roundtable meeting in Dandenong on 1 May 2015 that focussed on automotive supply chain businesses. It was pleasing that the

Member for Carrum was able to attend that meeting and provide valuable input. Similar roundtable meetings were also held in Broadmeadows and Geelong on 15 May. These meetings were an opportunity to hear directly from stakeholders and discuss areas where Victorian Government policies could potentially be strengthened in the future.

As you can see, The Victorian Government has not been standing still. In fact, we have actively engaged with industry and will continue to do so to ensure that the effect of the wind down of passenger car manufacturing is minimised and that Victorian businesses capitalise on growth opportunities.

Thank you for raising this important matter with me.

**Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**

Minister for Industry

**Attachments:** No Attachments

**Answer Published Date:** 05/06/2015

**Question:** 183 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Southwick to ask the Minister for Health — My constituency question is to the Minister for Health. Many of my constituents in Caulfield have expressed concerns over rooming houses and backpacker accommodation and their tenants. The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 requires proprietors of rooming houses to register with local councils with minimum standards for prescribed accommodation set out in the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009. Given that there are growing concerns in my electorate about profiteers establishing backpacker accommodation under the guise of rooming houses in quiet suburban streets, where in many instances tenants are causing severe disruption to neighbours, what will the minister do to improve the minimum standards of the prescribed accommodation to address this issue?

**Answer:** I am advised that the Glen Eira City Council is aware of the concerns you have raised and is working with you, and with affected residents, to address them.

These are not public health matter but rather neighbourhood amenity issue that concern the permitting of small, shared accommodation businesses catering to low income people to operate in established residential areas.

Certain classes of shared accommodation, including backpackers' hostels and rooming houses, are regulated under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 for the purpose of protecting public health. Hostel and rooming house operators must register their premises with the local council and must comply with prescribed health and hygiene standards which are monitored and enforced by council Environmental Health Officers.

There are also a range of rooming house standards in residential tenancies legislation, enforced by Consumer Affairs Victoria, that protect resident safety and amenity.

The location of small rooming houses and hostels in residential areas also requires approval by councils under the applicable Building Code and Planning Scheme.

It would not be appropriate for public health or tenancy laws to be used to control the profile of housing types allowed in local communities. This is properly a matter for the local planning authority and the local community.

**Hon Jill Hennessy MP  
Minister for Health**

**Attachments:** No Attachments

**Answer Published Date:** 01/06/2015

**Question:** 184 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Williams to ask the Minister for Public Transport —  
My constituency question is to the Minister for Public Transport, and it relates to the recent announcement of a \$2 billion of investment in train and tram manufacturing in Victoria. It is an initiative that will provide great certainty to rolling stock manufacturers in my electorate and in this great state generally. It will also ensure that the Victorian community — —

The manufacturing sector is the lifeblood of the south east, and the recent announcement has caused much excitement locally. I had the pleasure of joining the Premier, the Minister for Public Transport and the Minister for Industry earlier this week at Bombardier in my electorate, and the mood was buzzing. I ask that the minister provide details of the tender process that will be undertaken to determine which manufacturers will take part in this massive expansion of our train and tram fleet.

**Answer:** I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:  
The Victorian Rolling Stock Strategy - Trains, Trams and Jobs 2015-2025 sets out the government's ten-year plan for 100 new metropolitan trains, 100 new metropolitan trams and a massive expansion of our regional train fleet.  
In the 2015-16 budget the following funds were committed to extend the current orders with train and tram manufacturers in Victoria:

- \$90 million for five six-car X'Trapolis trains to be built by Alstom in Ballarat
- \$257 million for 21 VLocity carriages to be built by Bombardier in Dandenong (and supporting infrastructure)
- \$295 million for 20 E-Class trams to be built by Bombardier in Dandenong (and supporting infrastructure).

Victorian's rolling stock supply chain employs approximately 10,000 people. Extending these existing contracts will provide certainty for rolling stock manufacturers in Victoria and allow for projected patronage growth while the pipeline of future purchases is established and procured. In addition to the manufacturing benefits, rolling stock maintenance will also support ongoing employment across Victoria.

**Attachments:** No Attachments

**Answer Published Date:** 09/06/2015

**Question:** 185 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Hibbins to ask the Minister for Education —  
My constituency question is to the Minister for Education. The state budget includes \$4.75 million in the 2015-16 year for the new Prahran secondary school, on top of an estimated expenditure of \$1 million in the previous year, with an estimated completion date at the end of 2019. There is no doubt that families and prospective families in the Prahran community will welcome the commitment to the new school and funding to progress its construction. As I have said previously in this house, this is the no. 1 issue in the Prahran community. Local parents and principals are very keen to be involved in the development of the new school and would welcome further details on the progress of the new state secondary school in Prahran, its location and completion date.

What is the intended use of both the \$4.75 million earmarked for the 2015-16 financial year and the \$1 million to be spent by the end of this financial year?

**Answer:** The Labor Government is committed to building a new secondary school in Prahran

The Department of Education and Training is currently engaged in negotiations for a site at 597 St Kilda Road, Melbourne. As I am sure you will understand, at this early stage, we are unable to provide a proposed opening date for the school.

Funding to date has been spent on expert planning consultants, legal fees and community consultation. Funding earmarked for the next financial year may include comprehensive design and site preparation.

< span style="font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif"; font-size: 11pt">The Hon. James Merlino, MP  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Education**

**Attachments:** No Attachments

**Answer Published Date:** 25/05/2015

**Question:** 186 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Thomson (Footscray) to ask the Minister for Education — My constituency question is to the Minister for Education. It concerns the Victorian government's commitment to turn Footscray into a preschool-to-postgraduate education precinct. It was great to see the initial funding for this project included in the budget. It is an important issue for constituents in my electorate who wish to see Footscray developed into a centre of learning so anyone, no matter what their age or background, can access lifelong quality education. This landmark plan will see a preschool, a primary school and a secondary school as well as a tertiary provider all in the one campus. Will the minister outline what the next stage will be and outline the consultation process for this project so that the constituents who have raised this issue with me can be informed?

**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 were pleased to announce funding of \$1 million for an early planning stage of the Footscray Learning Precinct. As you are aware, the Victorian Government is committed to delivering a landmark educating precinct in Footscray. This complex project will require substantial planning and preparation in order to ensure the best outcome for the community.

The Department of Education and Training is currently working with key stakeholders, including Victoria University and the Maribyrnong City Council, to establish initial project parameters.

We are working hard to ensure that the development of the Precinct is based on the principles of collaboration and connection, acknowledging the benefits of bringing together key stakeholders, pedagogy experts and community leaders.

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< span style="font-family: 'Arial','sans-serif"; font-size: 11pt">The Hon. James Merlino, MP  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Education**

**Attachments:** No Attachments

**Answer Published Date:** 22/05/2015

**Question:** 187 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Kealy to ask the Minister for Health — My constituency question is to the Minister for Health, and the information I seek is regarding funding for the Wimmera cancer centre. People diagnosed with cancer in the Wimmera and southern Mallee region have the highest five-year mortality rate in Victoria. This is compounded by poor access to cancer treatment, with 40 per cent of patients with cancer in the Wimmera travelling outside the region to access treatment. These people are unwell; suffering from the impacts of cancer and the side effects of treatment, including chemotherapy; nearing their end of life; and travelling many hours by car to Ballarat and beyond. Our people deserve to be able to access cancer treatment close to home.

In March the federal coalition government committed \$1 million toward the \$3 million Wimmera cancer centre. This funding is contingent on \$1 million funding from the state government. I therefore ask the minister on behalf of the people of the Wimmera and southern Mallee region: when will the Labor government deliver \$1 million to the Wimmera cancer centre and thereby improve cancer outcomes for our local people?

**Answer:** I am aware that Commonwealth Government has pledged \$1 million toward the fundraising effort by Wimmera Health Care Group for the refurbishment of oncology facilities in Horsham.

I have requested that officers from the Department of Health and Human Services engage with Wimmera Health Care Group to discuss service planning work. Service planning work is required to map the needs and what possible oncology service design might look like. This process ensures consistency with regional cancer service planning and emerging models of care.

I have requested that the Department continues to work with Wimmera Health Care Group on this project and keep me informed of developments. I will also be meeting with the Chief Executive Officer in the near future.

**Attachments:** No Attachments

**Answer Published Date:** 03/06/2015

**Question:** 188 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Spence to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety — My constituency question is to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. I ask that the minister provide information as to what measures may be taken to reduce congestion on Craigieburn Road in Craigieburn. As the minister is no doubt aware, Craigieburn is experiencing considerable growth, and this increased population has led to significant congestion on Craigieburn Road. Also contributing to this congestion is the long-awaited Craigieburn Central shopping centre, and with the ongoing provision of community facilities and housing growth this congestion is likely to not only continue but worsen.

This issue is of great concern to my constituents, who would appreciate knowing what can be done to alleviate congestion on this important road.

**Answer:** VicRoads is working closely with the Hume City Council on a Corridor Study for Craigieburn Road. The study is seeking to identify a suitable road layout that meets the future traffic, pedestrian, bicycle and public transport requirements for the length of Craigieburn Road between the Hume Highway and the future Outer Metropolitan Ring Road. The study will also assist in determining its priority for future investment. The study, which is jointly funded by the Hume Council City and VicRoads, commenced earlier this year and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2015.

**Attachments:** No Attachments

**Answer Published Date:** 15/07/2015