



FINN IN THE HOUSE

Speeches February to June 2013



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Liquor Control Reform Amendment Bill 2012

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I must begin my contribution to the debate on the Liquor Control Reform Amendment Bill 2012 by declaring an interest — that is, on a warm day I have been known to enjoy a cold beer. Some days I have had two. In fact last Sunday I was seen down at the Black Horse Hotel in Bulla having an ale with an old mate who was visiting from overseas. It was very enjoyable, and a great deal of responsible activity was going on down at that particular locale.

In my experience, it is safe to say that over the last 25 or 30 years Melbourne has gone from one extreme to the other. I remember back in the late 70s and early 80s leaving meetings at 10.30 p.m. and having to hold further discussions on the street because there was nowhere to go. I recall friends and colleagues flying in from interstate for such meetings, and when those meetings finished at 10.30 p.m. they would say, 'Let's go for a drink.' I would say, 'Well, you'll have to get back on the plane and fly back to wherever you came from, because there is no drinking here.' That is what Melbourne was like. I cannot go back to the 6 o'clock swill, but I can certainly go back to the days when there was very little drinking beyond 10.00 p.m. I well recall the great excitement when a venue in Exhibition Street opened a supper club. Unfortunately it is no longer there, but it was just down the road from Liberal Party headquarters and gained a good deal of patronage from a number of us who spent a good deal of time at that particular venue.

We have gone from a time all those years ago when basically you could not get a drink after 10 o'clock at night to the point now where booze is everywhere. You just cannot get away from it. It does not matter whether you set out deliberately to go to a place where they serve alcohol or you are just walking down the street — it is everywhere. I am sure every member of this house has had the experience of walking through the streets after a function at maybe 2 or 3 in the morning and finding Melbourne absolutely full of drunks.

Mrs Peulich interjected.

Mr FINN — I do not know whether they are Victorians but they are certainly drunks. I have to agree with the 3AW broadcaster Ross Stevenson, who says on a regular basis that no good ever comes after 2 o'clock in the morning.

I think that is true, and this bill today will go some way towards ensuring that we have some degree of law and order and control on the streets after 2 in the morning and hopefully before then as well. This bill not only gives the police and protective services officers the powers to tip alcohol out in front of the — generally — lads who are drinking it but also instils in those people a degree of respect that has perhaps not been there for the last decade or so. Respect for authority and, in particular, respect for the police has been sadly lacking among many young people over recent times. The legislation before us today gives police the power to remove alcohol from young people and tip it out in front of them and will certainly make those individuals aware that the police do have the authority to exert some control over the way they carry on.

This is a very important and very good bill. I commend the government for its introduction, and I wish it a speedy passage through this house.

Retirement Villages Amendment (Information Disclosure) Bill 2012

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — It gives me a great deal of pleasure on this first day of Parliament in 2013 to rise to support the Retirement Villages Amendment (Information Disclosure) Bill 2012. In particular I commend the Minister for Consumer Affairs, who I have to say is doing an outstanding job in this area, as he is in his other portfolio areas. This bill in particular is something that will endear him to many.

There is one thing that upsets me more than anything else, and that is to see the vulnerable taken advantage of — that is, to see those who are

not in a position to properly defend themselves exploited and used by those who perhaps do not have the same degree of ethical standards that many of us have. It has to be said that I have no personal experience of procuring a retirement home for my parents as they passed away when they were quite young. I have no experience in that regard, but that does not stop me from being aware of the very real challenges involved in growing old. I am very hopeful that one day I might be in that situation, although it cannot be said that that is a unanimous wish. It is something I am hoping I might be able to get to at some stage.

There are real challenges for those who are growing old and challenges for those whose parents are growing old, but we should not under any circumstances allow the challenges to move to being a burden, because those who may have problems associated with old age deserve our support. We owe them. In most instances they have built for us the life we have today. We owe them, and we have a great opportunity in their twilight years to repay them in a way that we ourselves will hopefully one day be repaid.

Aged people should not have to worry about things like money. They should not have to worry about pensions or unexpected expenses — things like the carbon tax, for example. These things affect people and they should concern us all. To quote the motto of a school out my way in Gladstone Park, 'Knowledge is power.' The knowledge that is provided by this legislation today gives retirees and their families a degree of warning and a degree of power that is much needed and, I am sure, much appreciated.

Unfortunately, as I alluded to before, there are people in our community who will go after a cheap buck. There are people who do not have any ethics at all, quite frankly. There are people who will rip off old people, young people or any people they can. They think that the world owes them a living, and as such they will do whatever is in their power to bring themselves the standard of living that they would deny others. To a very large extent this legislation will provide protection against such people.

Once again I commend the minister. We have a huge responsibility toward the aged members of our community, particularly those who are frail, and those who are in a state of confusion and who have perhaps seen better

days, if I can put it that way. We owe them big-time, as I mentioned earlier, and I believe this legislation goes some way towards ensuring that our debt is paid to those who have built our society before us. I commend the bill to the house.

**COUNCIL | Questions without Notice
5 February 2013**

Planning: urban renewal

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Planning, and I ask: can the minister inform the house what action he has taken to bring urban renewal to central Melbourne and which projects have been approved that will create jobs?

Mr Leane interjected.

Hon. M. J. GUY (Minister for Planning) — I am glad Mr Leane wants to talk about party renewal, because so does Martin Foley, the member for Albert Park in the Assembly. I note that while the President has come into the chamber with a beard, we on this side of the house do not think he is from Transylvania. There are certainly other people in this chamber who fit that description.

I thank Mr Finn for his question. In just seven months this government has approved some \$3 billion worth of works that are under way in our central city area and are providing certainty and jobs for central Melbourne. If I can take a planning captain's pick, I will run through a few of those works. Members might have noticed that the Celtic Club Melbourne development was recently approved at a height of 154 metres, and it will be built at a cost of \$65 million. That is a great investment for Melbourne and of course a huge boost for jobs in the central city.

Similarly, the new development to be built at 450 Elizabeth Street has been approved.

That building will be 200 metres and 61 storeys, and it represents hundreds of jobs for our central city area and will see urban renewal in central Melbourne. The new development to be built at 150 Queen Street will be 68 storeys and 221 metres. It represents \$171 million worth of investment in our central city area. The new development to be built at 720 Bourke Street, which will be the new Bourke Street head office of Medibank, represents \$180 million worth of

investment in our central city area. All these projects — over \$3 billion worth — represent thousands of new jobs for Melburnians in our central city area.

I thank Mr Finn for his question, because recently I approved another fabulous future development for our city at the former site of the Melbourne Age newspaper. While some of us were pleased to be there to issue the demolition permit for the former site of the Spencer Street Soviet, it crossed my mind that Mrs Peulich may have liked to have joined me for the first swinging of that great big black ball into the old Age building.

The former Age site presents a unique opportunity for urban renewal in Melbourne. Six towers have been proposed for the site, and that proposal represents \$800 million worth of investment. This will see change over an eight-year period. Importantly, in issuing this permit we have ensured that the public open space requirements for the development will be put in place within the first six months post demolition, so we will not end up with a bombsite such as we have at the Savoy Hotel site opposite Southern Cross station. That important permit condition will ensure that this site is one that Melburnians will be able to enjoy before it is built upon over the next decade with the relevant level of open space within that development.

Urban renewal is very important to me.

When you have organisations run by factional Volturi — who are ultimately soulless vampires devoid of contact with the real world, as Martin Foley says about his colleagues in the Labor Party — you see why some people, even from the Labor Party today, still oppose urban renewal. They still oppose the chance to provide great levels of density in the world's greatest city, and that includes members of ex-governments, former governments, recent governments and the current vacant, soulless frontbenchers who have no plan or vision for our city, unlike the Baillieu government.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
5 February 2013**

Rail: St Albans level crossing

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter in the adjournment debate this evening for the attention of the Minister for Roads, who is also the Minister for Public Transport concerning the ongoing issue of the St Albans railway line. For the benefit of members, this issue goes back many years, in fact to my first term in the Parliament, back in the 1990s. Some members will recall that the Kennett government committed to fixing the problem that is the St Albans railway crossing back in 1999. Unfortunately, as a result of an electoral hiccup, it did not get the opportunity to fix the railway line in St Albans.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT — Order! Mr Finn should be careful that he does not mislead the house.

Mr FINN — It was perhaps more than a hiccup, Deputy President — in fact some of us actually choked on that occasion.

The Labor government came in promising to fix the level crossing, but after 11 years it still was not done. My understanding is that after the election of the Bracks government in 1999 all works were put on hold. Here we are in 2013, and we still have this St Albans level crossing problem, which has claimed 16 lives. The government has made a firm commitment to solve it once and for all, and we will do that.

The thing that confuses me is that recently Mr Elsbury and I were at the St Albans Lunar New Year Festival. The federal member for Maribyrnong and Minister for Getting the Numbers, Bill Shorten, was there. He said he believed that the level crossing solution should be a bipartisan issue. In fact I thanked him in my speech for the contribution that the federal government would make. As I recall, Mr Eideh also thanked Mr Shorten in his speech for the financial contribution that the federal government would make.

Ms Pulford — On a point of order, Deputy President, I was not here at the commencement of the adjournment debate, but I believe we are on the adjournment debate because the bells rang. I wonder how Mr Finn's conversational reports relate to his raising a matter of government administration with the

minister.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT — Order!

I think the member has plenty of time to make his request of the minister, and he is able to make his contribution in his own particular way.

Mr FINN — Thank you, Deputy President. I was quite excited about the financial contribution the federal government was apparently going to make, but unfortunately within days of making that offer Mr Shorten withdrew it. This past Sunday the federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Mr Albanese, was in St Albans making the same offer. I am very confused. Is the federal government going to put new money into this project? Is the federal government going to make this a bipartisan effort or not? Do we believe Mr Shorten the first time, Mr Shorten the second time or Mr Albanese now?

I know the minister, Mr Mulder, is very firmly committed to solving this dreadful problem in St Albans, and I ask him to approach his federal colleague with a view to ascertaining exactly how much the federal government is prepared to put on the table so that at long last we can solve this problem.

COUNCIL | Adjournment (Reply)
5 February 2013

East Meets West Lunar New Year Festival

*Raised with the Minister for
Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship
on 12 September 2012*

REPLY:

The East Meets West Lunar New Year Festival is a significant social and cultural event that is enjoyed by the broad Victorian community.

I understand the Festival has received support of \$40 000 since 2005 from the community grants program.

I am advised that the Footscray Asian Business Association has recently applied to the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship for a festival and events grant to fund the East Meets West Lunar New Year Festival under the 2012-13 community grants program.

I am advised that the application is currently being considered and that the Association will be advised accordingly.

COUNCIL | Second Reading
7 February 2013

Planning And Environment Amendment (General) Bill 2012

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise with pleasure to speak on the Planning and Environment Amendment (General) Bill 2012. In doing so I commend the Minister for Planning, the Honourable Matthew Guy, for the work he is doing in this regard. He is an energetic minister, he is a proactive minister and I have to say he is a very caring minister. He is a minister who actually cares about the people he is making decisions about.

It has to be said that in years gone by that was not always the case, but it certainly is now and I think that makes for a balanced planning system and one we can all be proud of.

I listened to Mr Tee earlier. It was not always in silence. I thought his contribution was pretty pathetic. As I look over to the opposition benches, I see not a sausage! Oh, no, there he is. He was hiding behind a chair. I am sorry. Mr Tee was hiding behind a chair, but he has popped up at the last minute. He is the only one over there. If I had listened to his performance earlier, I would have left too. It was not flash at all.

One point in particular that I want to make about Mr Tee's effort is that I think his attempt to use the Country Fire Authority to make a political point on this, the anniversary of Black Saturday, was low. I thought it was lower than this Parliament deserves and the people of Victoria deserve.

I hope that Mr Tee might have a think about his standards and about what he uses in the course of parliamentary debate to make a political point from here on in, because to use the anniversary of Black Saturday is absolutely despicable.

We also heard Mr Tee talking about the Stalinist nature of the Minister for Planning's regime, which made me laugh given the Minister for Planning's views on Stalin, communism and most other things of that nature. If anybody would know about Stalinism, it would be a man who not only comes from the extreme left but who also worked for a bloke

called Rob Hulls, who was a former Attorney-General and former Minister for Planning. That bloke was so Stalinist that he attempted to reshape Victoria in his own image. Such was the giant ego of the man, he thought everybody should be just like him. I can only say thank God that did not turn out to be the case, and thank God he is no longer in this Parliament. However, unfortunately the smell lingers on, and we have seen evidence of that from the other side of the chamber today. It is very sad indeed.

We heard from Mr Tee on a whole range of points, but I felt a bit sorry for him, as I often do, because I am a compassionate man and he is clearly struggling. That was one of the reasons I threw in the odd interjection — just to help him out. He was clearly struggling, and during some of the points he made he could not even keep a straight face. For him to smile is really something. For him to laugh means we have hit the jackpot today, have we not? This is sensational! Some of the points he was making were so ludicrous and nonsensical that even he was laughing at them. How can we be expected to take him, or anything that he says on this matter, seriously?

Reference has been made in this debate to the change that we have seen over the last couple of years to planning processes in Victoria. As I mentioned earlier, we have a can-do minister and somebody who has restored consistency and integrity to the planning system in this state.

I remember that for my first four years in this house, when I sat on the benches opposite, Justin Madden was Minister for Planning. He sat just over there to the left of where I am sitting now. You would have to wonder if he knew what day it was. I was tempted a couple of times to give him a calendar, because that would have been the only way he would have known. It did not matter whether it was the Windsor development — about which he did not seem to have a clue, even though his office had created a sham consultation and made the whole process the laughing-stock of Victoria, if not Australia — or his own electorate office in Brimbank, where one of the greatest acts of shysterism in this state was perpetrated; he did not seem to know about that either. He should be very wary when he crosses the road, because a tram might be coming and he might not know it is there until the bell rings — I have cleaned that up considerably.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to support this bill today. Mr Koch is making hand gestures at me, which

means that I regretfully cannot continue, as I might for a considerable amount of time, as there are many points that I wish to make about Mr Tee and Mr Leane, who also made a contribution that can only be described as 'Leane-istic' —

Hon. M. J. Guy — Apparently he's an MP!

Mr FINN — Apparently! Word has it. As the minister says, apparently he is an MP. One of these days we might work out why; better still, he might, and that will be a good thing too. I commend the bill to the house.

I commend the minister. It is wonderful to know that planning in this state is once again in strong and safe hands.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ondarchie) — Order! I thank Mr Finn for his quiet contribution.

COUNCIL | Members Statements
7 February 2013

Australian Labor Party: federal performance

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — Later this year every adult Victorian has the opportunity to do their state a huge favour. In November 2010 the current federal government declared war on Victoria. That war has extended to New South Wales and Queensland, where Labor was swept away in electoral tsunamis over the past couple of years. However, the Gillard government's real hatred has been directed at Victoria and Victorians.

We can speculate on exactly why the Prime Minister has treated Victoria so shabbily, but nobody can dispute the fact that Victorians are being unmercifully ripped off by the federal Labor government. Some of these financial outrages against our state may have gone largely unnoticed, but when the commonwealth Minister for Health, Tanya Plibersek, decided to attack our hospitals, she crossed the line.

Public anger against the Gillard government health cuts has been white hot. In Melbourne's west, Werribee Mercy Hospital and Williamstown Hospital in particular have been victims of Labor cuts, but there has not been a hospital in Victoria that has not felt the pain of the Gillard-Swan-Plibersek king-hit to some extent.

As mentioned earlier, Victorians will get the chance to right the wrongs soon — just not soon enough. In September those who have perpetrated these injustices face the people they have hurt so badly. Any Victorian who votes for more is clearly a masochist, but I have no doubt the overwhelming majority will vote for change, for a fair go for Victoria and for a Tony Abbott-led Liberal-Nationals coalition government for this nation.

COUNCIL | Second Reading
19 February 2013

Crimes Amendment (Gross Violence Offences) Bill 2012

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise this evening to support the Crimes Amendment (Gross Violence Offences) Bill 2012.

I heard with a great deal of interest the contribution of Ms Pennicuik — what was, as you pointed out, Acting President, the substantial contribution of Ms Pennicuik. I thought some of the points she made interesting, and it is not very often I will say that. I thought it interesting she made some points, given the record the Greens have on protecting people from criminals and from crime. The Greens do not have the greatest track record in the world, you would have to say, and unfortunately, going by what we have heard tonight, I note it is happening again. I find that very sad indeed.

We have to accept that one of the great issues in our community is the threat of violence on our streets and even in our homes. It is a tragedy when people cannot feel safe in their own homes.

To have elderly people bashed in their own homes by contemptible people who take that liberty upon themselves — to break into homes, to bash the occupants, who cannot defend themselves in any way, shape or form, and then to rob those occupants — is something that is surely abhorrent to us all. I am very hopeful that this legislation here tonight will go some way toward being a deterrent against those sorts of activities.

Comment has been made here tonight by Mr Pakula about the work the Attorney-General has done in this regard. It has to be said that the Attorney-General, Mr Clark, is doing an outstanding job of protecting the rights of victims and stepping up the campaign against violence in our society. I think I have said before that one of the great highlights of election night 2010 was the knowledge that Robert Clark would replace Rob Hulls as Attorney-General. As we know, Rob Hulls was soft on crime; indeed Labor was — and you would have to say, still is — soft on crime. That is deeply regrettable.

You would hope that in this day and age, with so many serious acts of violence occurring in our society, this sort of legislation and the sort of view we are putting forward here tonight would be bipartisan and that Labor would be promoting the same sorts of values and views the government has. It seems, however, that that might not be the case.

Having heard Mr Pakula I am still wondering exactly where those in opposition stand. They tell us one thing and then they say something else that is completely different, so I am not exactly sure where they stand. For a future leader of the opposition to take a stand as he did tonight was a little confusing. I say to Mr Pakula — and to Mr Leane, who might like to hand over some advice to his future leader — if Mr Pakula wants to travel down to the Assembly and take over from Daniel Andrews, the current Leader of the Opposition, he is going to have to work out what he believes in and take strong stands on issues. He is going to have to have some belief in what he says. I have to say that tonight it did not strike me that he did. In fact, it struck me that he was having two bob each way, which is not unusual for the Labor Party. That is something we have come to expect.

There is one part of this bill that I want to make brief mention of and that is the recognition in this legislation of the value of an unborn child. I think it is long overdue. I welcome it, and I congratulate the government on putting that recognition into this bill. I hope that that recognition will be extended into other pieces of legislation before too long. In the very brief time that I have this evening I want to congratulate the government on this piece of legislation. Protecting the community has to be our first priority as a government, and it is pieces of legislation like this that will send —

Mrs Coote — It is an electoral

promise!

Mr FINN — As Mrs Coote said, it is another electoral promise that we are keeping. It is important that the people of Victoria know they have a government that puts the welfare and the protection of the vulnerable in our community first. It is pieces of legislation such as this that make sure that that message is received loud and clear by people from one end of Victoria to the other. I commend the bill, and I urge the house to give it a speedy passage.

**COUNCIL | Questions without Notice
19 February 2013**

Kraft Foods: Ringwood

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade, Mr Dalla-Riva, and I ask: can the minister update the house on any new developments in the food manufacturing industry?

Hon. R. A. DALLA-RIVA (Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade) — I thank the member for his question. I was pleased to join the Premier on 8 February to officially open stage 1 of the Kraft Foods Asia-Pacific confectionery centre of excellence, with the Australia-New Zealand president of Kraft Foods, Rebecca Dee-Bradbury. This was at one of the Kraft Foods manufacturing facilities, the Cadbury facility out at Ringwood. Kraft is the largest food manufacturer based in Melbourne. It has other facilities at Scoresby and Port Melbourne.

This Asia-Pacific confectionery centre for excellence will be a world-class, globally competitive research facility located at Kraft's manufacturing site at Ringwood. The centre will provide a significant boost to Victorian food manufacturing innovation and will be staffed by the largest food research and development (R and D) team in Australia. It will generate more than 100 new jobs and will secure 1000 jobs at Kraft's Ringwood manufacturing operation.

Mr Leane interjected.

Hon. R. A. DALLA-RIVA — Mr Leane interjects that I do not know where it is, but I can tell him I know where it is better than Mr Pakula knows where Lyndhurst is.

I can tell the house that we are focused on implementing a clear strategy to assist Victoria's

manufacturing industry to grow our markets and trade in the Asia-Pacific region. The coalition government's investment into the Kraft Asia-Pacific confectionery centre for excellence will expand Kraft's market from the 20 million people who consume Kraft's wonderful chocolates here in Australia to a market in excess of 1.6 billion consumers across the Asia-Pacific region. This will accelerate the development of high-quality, innovative food products for the region. It will ensure that we position Victoria as the leading food manufacturing centre in the Asia-Pacific region with the capacity and capability to supply a global market. We found during our visit that consumer tastes are substantially different in different parts of the world, and the idea is to ensure that we match the growing markets in those places.

The centre will contribute to attracting, developing and retaining talent in food innovation and manufacturing, to securing Victoria's position as Australia's manufacturing and R and D centre for the food industry and building on its international reputation.

There may be some who wish to talk down the food industry, but we are about ensuring that we create an environment to attract further investment around this regional hub, and more importantly we will make sure that we assist supply chain partners of small to medium enterprises to help develop manufacturing capabilities.

It is interesting to note that a key stakeholder, Gary Dawson, the chief executive of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, congratulated the development. He said:

Innovation is of critical importance to Australia's \$110 billion food and grocery manufacturing industry. This important investment by one of the most significant global food manufacturing companies underlines Australia's potential to become a major manufacturing hub for the Asian century ...

The Kraft investment will ensure that Victoria is the home of the largest and most significant Kraft R and D centre in the Asia-Pacific region with a focus on chocolate and confectionery innovation. This adds to our international engagement strategy and our manufacturing strategy in delivering assistance to small and medium enterprises to deliver high-quality, safe and innovative food to our growing global markets.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
19 February 2013**

Alpha Autism: funding

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Community Services, the Honourable Mary Wooldridge, and it concerns the plight — —

Mrs Coote — A very good minister!

Mr FINN — A very good minister indeed. She is doing a very good job. I wish to raise with the minister the plight of Alpha Autism, an organisation based across Melbourne in eight centres at Albert Park, Heatherton, Narre Warren, Altona North, Keilor, Northcote, Box Hill and Malvern East. It is the largest and most experienced service provider for adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorder in Australia, and it has been supporting thousands of clients, their families and carers for over 25 years.

Its employment service involves a collaborative approach which addresses the needs of employers and clients, ensuring successful matches are made for sustained employment outcomes and community lifestyles.

Alpha Autism's consultancy services also assist workplaces in developing tailored training solutions. As we can see, it is providing a much-needed service, and it is one which will be needed even more in the years to come, given the increase in diagnoses of autism in recent years. Indeed as we speak there is an army of children with autism preparing to come through the system and grow into adulthood. We must remember that these children in their own way are very bright. They have much to offer our society, and they are capable of making a very positive contribution not just to those around them but to their own particular situation. It is important that we find appropriate jobs for them to fit into and make that contribution of which I speak, instead of throwing them on the scrapheap, as it would seem will happen if Alpha Autism is to close.

I say it may close because the federal government has notified Alpha Autism that it no longer meets the criteria for funding. That is a government which tells us it cares about the downtrodden; it is a government that tells us it cares about those battlers in our community, and yet it does this to an organisation — —

Mr O'Brien — Labor values!

Mr FINN — Labor values, indeed, Mr O'Brien. That is what it tells us, and yet it does this to an organisation which is doing wonderful work in providing employment for people with autism.

I ask the minister to investigate the full circumstances of Alpha Autism with regard to commonwealth funding and, if necessary, to take the appropriate steps to raise with the federal government the need to continue funding for this fine organisation.

RESPONSE:

Hon. W. A. LOVELL (Minister for Housing) — Mr Finn raised a matter for the Minister for Community Services regarding the Alpha Autism group and the withdrawal of federal funding. This is becoming quite a pattern. In my local area we have seen the Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation, which was founded by Allan and Kim Turner after their young daughter, Zaidee, who I think was seven years old, died and her family donated her organs. The foundation was founded in her honour to raise awareness of organ donation, but the federal government has withdrawn its funding. The federal government has withdrawn funding from the B-Safe victims of domestic violence program in northern Victoria, and we saw it withdraw funding from the Take a Break occasional child-care program.

Just recently we have also seen a huge cut to health funding in this state by the federal government.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment (Reply)
19 February 2013**

Local government: LeadWest funding

Raised with the Minister for Local Government on 11 October 2012

REPLY:

I am advised that LeadWest was formed in 2007 by the municipalities of Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley and Wyndham.

These five councils represent one of Melbourne's fastest growing regions.

LeadWest performs a role in the management western Melbourne's development at a time when sustainable growth is challenged by many pressures, particularly rapid demographic and environmental

change.

By joining together, the member councils have sought to maximise their capacity and resources to meet these challenges.

I note your views about the use of ratepayers' money by LeadWest.

I can advise that the responsibility for auditing council finances lies with the Auditor-General.

I thank you for your ongoing interest in local government.

**COUNCIL | Statements on Reports
20 February 2013**

Auditor-General: Allocation of Electronic Gaming Machine Entitlements

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — This afternoon I rise to speak on the Victorian Auditor-General's report Allocation of Electronic Gaming Machine Entitlements. If ever there were a report of which it could be said 'read it and weep,' it is this report. A number of its components I could refer to at very great length. Unfortunately I have only 5 minutes on this particular occasion. I could easily speak on this report for 6 or 7 hours, because if ever there were a lesson for us on how not to do something, it would be about how the former Labor government handled the allocation of electronic gaming machine licences. Even by Labor's standards it was one of the great stuff-ups of our time.

We find ourselves in a situation once again where Labor has shown us just how incompetent it is. Labor has shown us its total inability to handle money. It is something we have known for decades.

Those of us who lived through the Cain and Kirner years remember only too well how those governments handled money. To call it flawed would be an understatement; it was deeply, deeply flawed. We remember the Bracks and Brumby governments; we remember myki; we remember the north-south pipeline; we can remember the subject of the report before me. There was one financial disaster after another created by those governments. Just at the moment the Gillard government in Canberra is making a very nice mess of Australian

finances. That is a tragedy in itself.

In this report we can read about the low reserve figure. On page viii of the report's audit summary it is clearly stated that:

The decision to largely retain the approvals process was made before the reserve was set.

Further on in the report there is a description of the reserve being a lot lower than one would normally expect under the circumstances. Everybody in this house, everybody in this Parliament and everybody in this state knows that having electronic gaming machines is a licence to print money. You would expect that a government overseeing the auction of those licences would be upping the ante and would be keen to get as much money as it possibly could. What did we see from the Labor Party, the former government? The licences came in approximately \$3 billion under the odds. Read it and weep. It is truly one of the greatest financial stuff-ups of our time that the Labor Party should not be allowed to forget. The Victorian people should not be allowed to forget this in this term of government as we head towards the next election.

I weep particularly when I consider what could have been bought with the \$3 billion. It could have gone a very long way to building the east-west link, which we so desperately need in Victoria.

I do not know if the opposition is currently supporting or opposing the east-west link. I am not sure if opposition members are aware of their positions at the moment; they might like to tell us sometime. The amount of \$3 billion would more than cover the federal government's health cuts that have caused so much pain and suffering to so many in Victorian hospitals in recent times. In my electorate of Western Metropolitan Region there are so many things we could have spent that \$3 billion on. It did not happen, because the Labor Party cannot handle money, and it got it wrong again.

**COUNCIL | Members Statements
20 February 2013**

Australian Workers Union: leadership

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — If we were to thoroughly examine our Funk and Wagnalls, we would

undoubtedly find a time in the dim, distant past when trade unions were relevant. Before roting union officials dug their snouts deep into the trough, trade unions may have cared about the interests of their members. Before shonky union bosses used the unions as a springboard into Parliament there may have been a reason for trade unionism. This week's announcement by the Australian Workers Union (AWU) that it is preparing to spend \$5 million to support the decaying Gillard government is a further sign of the irrelevance of this dinosaur of the workplace.

How many members of the AWU were actually consulted before the decision was made to throw away \$5 million of their hard-earned?

Is Paul Howe's ego more important than the rights of the rank and file — many of whom are undoubtedly preparing to vote to put federal opposition leader Tony Abbott into the Lodge come September or whenever the election is held? Trade unions will again be respected in this country when they put their members before the desires of officials to use them as a base for their own self-promotion. For the AWU to support a government that has attacked the jobs of its members is outrageous and a total betrayal of those members. Today, this week, this year, for yet another reason the Australian Workers Union stands in disgrace.

**COUNCIL | Second Reading
21 February 2013**

Health Services Amendment (Health Purchasing Victoria) Bill 2012

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise with a great deal of pleasure to support the Health Services Amendment (Health Purchasing Victoria) Bill 2012 this morning. Over a long period of time I have had a great deal to do with community health centres. Firstly, as a member of Parliament I had a close working relationship with a number of local community health centres, particularly Sunbury Community Health Centre, when I was the member for Tullamarine in a previous

incarnation. I have to say that back then — and I assume now — that community health centre was one of the best in the state. It does a great job.

In more recent years I have had further to do with that community health centre through the early intervention programs it runs for children with autism, as my son attended there. I can recommend the program it runs. It made the world of difference to my son. He started there when he was about three or four, and it made a huge difference.

Community health centres do a wonderful job. I think they are largely underrated in the community, which is sad, because they should be given the accolades they are due. They reach out to people who would otherwise be left alone — the elderly, the vulnerable and obviously the sick. Many people in the community are helped through community health centres, but sometimes those centres are seen as the poor relation of the health system. That should not be the case, but I regret that it is.

I was pleased to hear this morning that the federal government has done another backflip, this time on the \$107 million that it had ripped out of the Victorian health system.

Mr Leane — Are you happy about that?

Mr FINN — I am very happy about that. I am happy that Prime Minister Julia Gillard has finally admitted that the federal Treasurer is a goose. I am delighted that the Prime Minister has finally admitted that her Treasurer, Wayne Swan, has not got the first idea what he is doing. I am delighted to hear that the Prime Minister of this country says her Treasurer is a total idiot. He has not got the first idea what he is doing. How can you have a Treasurer of this nation who cannot count? It is staggering, and clearly he cannot read either.

I mean, he is innumerate and illiterate — a total dill — and it is very encouraging to hear the Prime Minister of this country tell the truth perhaps for the first time in her life. She has actually told the truth this morning, and that makes it a red letter day for us all. I might write about it in my diary, and every year we might celebrate 21 February as a great day of national celebration — that is, the day that Julia Gillard told the truth, which is something we are not used to in this country.

The federal government has caused pain and suffering to many sick people who, you would have to say,

do not deserve or need the stress of the federal government cuts to funding. After all that we have finally got a situation where the federal government has admitted that it was wrong, and the justified allocation is again being directed to hospitals and the Victorian health system.

You look up to Canberra, as one reluctantly does from time to time, and you see the three stooges of Australian politics — the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, the federal Minister for Health, Tanya Plibersek, and the Treasurer, Wayne Swan. I heard Tanya Plibersek being interviewed on the radio this morning by Neil Mitchell. She clearly has been taking lessons from her leader, Julia Gillard, because she too lies through her teeth. She absolutely lies through her teeth. She did it again this morning, and she has done it time and time again.

Mr Leane — On a point of order, Acting President —

Mr FINN — Here we go. What is going on with Mr Leane?

Mr Leane — There are all sorts of things going on with me, Mr Finn. The point of order is that I am not sure that it is appropriate for a member of the chamber to refer to members of the federal Parliament as liars.

A number of unparliamentary terms were used during the last 8 minutes and 40 seconds of the member's contribution.

Mr FINN — On the point of order, Acting President, the standing orders clearly state that members of federal Parliament and members of any other Parliament are not protected. They are not given the protection that Mr Leane is seeking to give them just at the minute. Secondly, as justified as it may have been, I have to point out that at no time have I referred to Tanya Plibersek as a liar. I said she lied, and by God she has, but I have not referred to her as a liar.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ondarchie) — Order! Thank you, Mr Finn, but I uphold the point of order on this occasion. I remind the chamber of President Smith's ruling of 12 November 2009 when he said that members should refrain from making imputations concerning members from other parliaments which could be regarded as personally derogatory towards them. I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr FINN — I will withdraw very reluctantly.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ondarchie) — Order! I remind Mr Finn that just a withdrawal will be

fine.

Mr FINN — I withdraw, and I wish I had heard that ruling by President Smith, because clearly that is in contravention of the standing orders of this Parliament. That ruling is in contravention of our standing orders and, as I have said to the current President, I do not believe that any Presiding Officer of this Parliament should have the ability to rewrite the standing orders.

Mr Barber — On a point of order, Acting President, Mr Finn is now reflecting against the ruling of a former President, which is in exactly the same vein as if he had reflected against you, Acting President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ondarchie) — Order! I accept Mr Barber's point of order.

Mr FINN — I think the point has been made. Members of the opposition are very keen to protect the decaying government in Canberra, a government that is disintegrating before our very eyes, and we should remind the electorate whenever we can that this crowd opposite are in the pockets of Julia Gillard. They are in the pockets of Tanya Plibersek. They are in the pockets of Wayne Swan and the crew in Canberra that is screwing Victoria over at every opportunity. That crowd over there are the ones who put their own —

Mr Leane — On a point of order, Acting President, back on unparliamentary terms. I am not too sure if 'screwing' is a parliamentary term that we use in this particular chamber.

Mr FINN — I said 'screwing over', which is totally different from 'screwing'.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ondarchie) — Order! I will not uphold the point of order in this case.

Mr FINN — Shaun is having a big day. I will not go on for too much longer. As I said, I think the point has been made. I hope the people of Victoria realise just how severely they have been betrayed, not just by the Gillard government but by the Victorian ALP. I sincerely hope the people of Victoria know and accept that they have been totally and comprehensively betrayed by the Labor Party.

Hon. M. P. Pakula — Are you making the same speech again?

Mr FINN — Here comes the Leader of the Opposition! I am sorry — Mr Pakula has entered the chamber. He has managed to get off the phone for long enough to come in here — or perhaps he already has the numbers.

Perhaps he does not need to make any more phone calls, so he has wandered in here. It is a marvellous honour. It is a delight to see him here in one of his last appearances in this chamber, and I welcome him. It is a rarity. I should say to Mr Pakula that we in the western suburbs will miss him. When he goes to Lyndhurst, we will miss him — not that we see him all that often. As we know, it is a very long way from Werribee to Black Rock, and he does not make the trek very often. But, nonetheless, we will miss him. When he replaces the member for Mulgrave in the other place, Daniel Andrews, as Leader of the Opposition, I will wave to him on the telly.

Mr Leane — My point of order relates to relevance, Acting President. I think there have been rulings before on talking about what happens within political parties —

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ondarchie) — Order! Thank you Mr Leane, I understand your point of order and I uphold it. I am sure Mr Finn has some other substantive things to say in his contribution. I ask him to continue.

Mr FINN — Indeed I do, Acting President. I had not actually intended to speak for this long, but the provocation from the other side of the house, I am sure you will agree, has led me to go a little bit further than I would otherwise have done.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ondarchie) — Order! Mr Finn will continue on the bill.

Mr FINN — I am reaching out to Mr Pakula in the way that a caring, sharing, compassionate person would. I am with him. I say to him, 'I am with you, brother; don't you worry about that!' I am with him as he attempts —

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ondarchie) — Order! Back to the bill, Mr Finn.

Mr FINN — Certainly, Acting President. This is a particularly good bill. It is not a big bill —

Hon. M. P. Pakula — And I haven't read it. I have no idea what it's about.

Mr FINN — Mr Pakula has not actually read the bill. He comes in here and starts yelling at me; fit to burst, he is. He is fresh off the telephone, having got the numbers for his nomination for the seat of Lyndhurst —

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ondarchie) — Order! I am sure Mr Finn has read the bill. Go back to it, please.

Mr FINN — Certainly. As I said,

it is a particularly good bill; I might actually take it home and read it to the kids tonight. It is a good bill and I commend it to the house. In Victoria we will have great difficulty between now and 14 September fighting off the attacks of the federal government. I am delighted to say that at least one of them has failed. This is a red letter day for Australia.

This is the day that Prime Minister Julia Gillard told the truth — that has never happened before. I welcome the bill, I commend it to the house and I am delighted that members of the opposition and the Greens will be supporting it today.

**COUNCIL | Second Reading
5 March 2013**

Jury Directions Bill 2012

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise this afternoon to support the Jury Directions Bill 2012. In doing so I believe I will give another perspective, because there are two sorts of people who deal with the law: there are the insiders and there are the outsiders. I have to say very firmly that I am an outsider, and, like the majority of Victorians, I wish to stay that way for as long as is humanly possible.

Mr O'Brien, as a barrister and a man who, I understand, was paid by the word at some previous stage in his career, understands the law very well indeed.

Mr Lenders — Wouldn't you like to wear the wig?

Mr FINN — That might be for another time; I will get back to you on that one. Mr O'Brien is a man who has a very deep and thorough understanding of the law and has conducted his professional life with distinction and considerable skill. His understanding of the law is way above mine or that of the average person in the street. I include myself in the category of the 'average person in the street'. I think the average person is very much like me and does not want to have much to do with the law at all, firstly, because involvement with the law usually means that you are in trouble, and secondly, because any involvement with the law will cost you an arm and a leg; that is not something that anybody is too keen to jump into.

The bill makes reforms in six main areas. It provides guiding principles to aid in the interpretation of the bill,

which is helpful because anything that aids in the interpretation of the law or people's understanding of the law has to be a very good thing. There is a general perception that the law is created for lawyers by lawyers at the exclusion of all else, and this bill goes some way toward breaking down that perception in the community. The bill sets down new processes for identifying the directions a trial judge must give to a jury, again providing an outline to the judge on what he or she may be able to do to help the jury at some stage.

The bill clarifies the obligation of the trial judge to identify evidence and encourages a targeted and succinct summing-up. That is a very important part of this bill, because the summing-up is far more important than any direction that may be given by the judge.

Once members of a jury have sat through a trial, heard all the evidence and perhaps asked the judge particular questions, I personally find it to be a little odd that they receive direction from the judge. I think direction should be limited, and the summing-up should pretty much cover that ground, if I can call it that. I think any direction from the judge is unnecessary.

The bill also improves the way directions are given to the jury by supporting the use of integrated jury directions, and that again is going to provide assistance for juries in making decisions which obviously in many cases will decide the future life directions of many people and determine justice or injustice in this state. The bill allows trial judges to answer questions from juries about the meaning of 'proof beyond reasonable doubt' and provides guidance to the trial judge on the content of such a direction. That is very important because the jurors who are making the decision must be very clear in their own minds as to exactly what they are doing and what they are deciding.

It is extremely important that the trial judge be allowed to answer questions from the jury in a simplified manner and provide guidance or indeed answers to such questions.

Finally, the bill provides for simple and clear directions on evidence of post-offence conduct. I understand that would be largely to do with sentencing, but either way, whether it be before sentencing or during the sentencing process, it is extremely important that the jury have as firm an idea as possible of what it is deciding and what it is

adjudicating on. This bill is about simplifying the jury process, and that has to be a good thing, because, as Mr Elasmár mentioned earlier, the jury system provides judgement by a person's peers. Hopefully it provides a judgement that surpasses that of a judge alone and allows varying differences and opinions to enter the realm of discussion whilst the jury is considering its verdict.

I have never been on a jury. I have never been called up to be on a jury. I am not overly enthusiastic about the prospect of doing it, and Mr Ondarchie tells me I am not eligible, so that rules that out for the moment. I assume I am not eligible because I am a member of Parliament, not because I have lost my mind or some other possibility that members opposite — or indeed some members on this side — may well suggest. I see I have stolen Mr Scheffer's line; he is showing his disapproval just at this minute! It is extremely important that we allow members of juries a simplified way to understand exactly what it is they are on about. I congratulate the Attorney-General on what he has done.

I have to say I agree with Mr Elasmár on many things, but we must part company on his view of Rob Hulls, the former Attorney-General, because I do not think Rob Hulls as Attorney-General in this state did justice in Victoria any good at all — none, zilch. As I pointed out to this house, one of the great joys of November 2010 was the knowledge that we were to get an Attorney-General who actually cared about the law and was not interested in pushing his own particular social agenda, as Rob Hulls had done for 11 years as Attorney-General. I congratulate the current Attorney-General on this bill, and I am sure that on many occasions to come I will be up on my hindquarters congratulating the Attorney-General on future pieces of legislation that will be introduced and undoubtedly passed to make the law a better thing for Victorians and indeed to make justice a better thing for Victoria.

As I have said in this house before, we do not need a legal system; we need a justice system. It is about justice.

The legal system — the justice system — is not about making lawyers rich. It is not about employing judges. It is about providing justice for Victorians, and that brings me to the victims. Mr Hulls as Attorney-General completely forgot about the rights of victims. He was not even mildly

interested in the rights of victims and the justice they sought for the crimes committed against them. I am particularly delighted to say that Attorney-General Clark has included the rights of victims on his agenda as a very high priority, and this bill is a further part of that.

I again congratulate the Attorney-General. I am delighted the opposition and the Greens are not opposing this bill; in fact they may even be supporting it. Would we go that far?

Mr Elasmár interjected.

Mr FINN — Would Mr Elasmár go so far as saying he supports it? He is not going to stick his neck out on that one, but he is certainly not opposing it. The Labor Party is not opposing the bill. That is a very good thing. That means that when I sit down and we have another couple of speakers we will get this bill through the house very quickly, and that will be a very good thing for justice in Victoria.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
5 March 2013**

Planning: Maribyrnong development

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My adjournment matter is for the Minister for Planning, the Honourable Matthew Guy. I begin by thanking the minister for the interest and the support he has given to the western suburbs of Melbourne since becoming a minister a little over two years ago. It is very much appreciated, particularly when we consider the previous 11 years of neglect experienced by the west of Melbourne. This matter is the direct result of a meeting I conducted last week with the mayor and the CEO of the City of Maribyrnong, and it concerns the Maribyrnong defence force site development — and I hope Mr Tee is listening to this because it is something that may interest him.

To give a little bit of history of the area that I am talking about, the decision to develop the former defence site for a new housing estate and some office buildings was announced by the previous government on 9 April 2009. The site is a 128-hectare site situated in the suburb of Maribyrnong. It borders the Maribyrnong River to the north, east and west and Cordite Avenue to the south. The site has previously

been used for defence department activities, but it has been substantially vacant for approximately 10 years.

It is proposed to develop the site for approximately 2000 to 3000 dwellings and significant office developments employing 2000 to 3000 workers. The site contains approximately 400 buildings used by the defence industries, and many of these will be incorporated into the final design and layout. Those of us who live locally and the Maribyrnong City Council are hoping that this matter will be finalised within the next two to three years, but we are waiting on the federal government to come through with the promised money to clean up the land, which members can imagine is heavily —

Mr Ondarchie interjected.

Mr FINN — We are waiting on the feds yet again.

Mrs Coote — It is not in the west of Sydney.

Mr FINN — That is right, Mrs Coote; it is not in the west of Sydney. That is probably why the federal government has not shown any interest at all in providing the money to decontaminate the site we are talking about. The local federal member for Maribyrnong, Bill Shorten, has been throwing his weight around apparently. If grandstanding was an Olympic sport, he would not be able to walk for gold medals. However, there has been very little action.

It is almost four years since this project was put forward, and I ask the minister to meet with the council as a matter of urgency to develop a plan to bring pressure on the federal government to provide the money that has been promised for Melbourne's west.

**COUNCIL | Members Statements
6 March 2013**

Western suburbs: federal government support

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — There were no words to describe my excitement when I heard the Prime Minister, Ms Gillard, was to visit the western suburbs to meet with locals, hear of their problems and, most importantly, shower them with gold in order to gain their favour. 'At long last', I thought to myself, 'we'll get

some federal cash for the desperately needed east-west link. Maybe we'll get some federal money for our overstretched health services. There are so many needs, and the Prime Minister is riding into town to grant our every wish. I was barely able to breathe from excitement.

The house can imagine my disgust when I discovered that Ms Gillard was not headed for Ravenhall but for Rooty Hill and that she was not going to spend time with the good people of Melbourne's west but was going to try to win back disgruntled Labor voters in Sydney who, unfortunately for her, can see right through her pathetic election stunt and are making their disgust abundantly clear. While Julia Gillard is spending the week in Sydney's west in a vain attempt to save the ALP, the people of Melbourne's western suburbs are wondering when we will get our fair share from her. Despite the fact we have the Prime Minister herself and two other federal ministers — three until recently — allegedly representing us in the west, we get precious little from Canberra.

The anger felt by those of us in the western suburbs as we watched our Sydney counterparts being bribed to within an inch of their lives will not be forgotten easily.

We will not forget that we rarely see Julia Gillard, federal Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Brendan O'Connor or federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Bill Shorten, much less get a sniff of the newly printed banknotes they are flashing around Sydney's west in such large quantities. Most importantly, we will not forget that preparing to dump local MPs brings national attention and is the sort of manna from heaven we could previously only dream of. Who knows — if we get angry enough, we might even score ourselves a visit from the Prime Minister.

**COUNCIL | Second Reading
7 March 2013**

Corrections Amendment Bill 2012

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — It gives me a great deal of pleasure to support the Corrections Amendment Bill 2012 in the house today, because as many members would be aware law and order has been an issue close to my heart for a very long time. I believe it is the first duty of

government to protect its citizens. Without that protection we are all in dreadful trouble; it is as simple as that. I ask the house to remember that over the last six years or so I have spoken frequently on policing matters, particularly when I have believed that the police force has been treated in a way that was not up to scratch or that it has been given the rough end of the pineapple.

We really owe it to our citizens to have a police force which is efficient, which is well resourced and which has the high morale and authority required to actually do its job. Over the past 15 years or so there have been times when that has not necessarily been the case, and I am delighted to see that we now have a Chief Commissioner of Police who is doing a very good job. If you were to drop into a police station anywhere in Victoria, you would see a higher level of satisfaction among members of our police force than we have had for a very long time, and that is a very good thing.

Mr Leane — Why did Bill Tilley lose his gig?

Mr FINN — I do not know what that has to do with this particular bill. I know Mr Leane is desperately keen to impose himself upon this debate in a vain bid to appear relevant in some way to this Parliament, but unfortunately, like on so many occasions, Mr Leane has failed again.

That is something that we have come to expect from Mr Leane, and here we go again.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr FINN — It is staggering. I come in here to speak on these very important matters which the people of Victoria take very seriously, and rightly so — their own personal protection, the protection of their assets and property and the protection of their families are very important matters — and Mr Leane attempts to trivialise it. I do not understand why he wants to do that, although the Labor Party, over a long period of time, has been soft on law and order. I do not think there is any doubt about that.

Mr Somyurek — It is not about the Labor Party.

Mr FINN — Mr Somyurek says it is not about the Labor Party, and certainly it had not been my intention to raise the Labor Party in this debate, but given Mr Leane's —

Mr Somyurek — You were provoked, were you?

Mr FINN — I was provoked indeed, Mr Somyurek. I have been provoked

by Mr Leane, who has entered this debate in a most unfortunate manner, one that I do not think the people of Victoria would welcome, particularly those who are concerned about these serious matters. I do not think the people of Victoria would be at all pleased that a member of the Labor Party in this Parliament would seek to trivialise this very important matter, because law and order, policing and corrections are very important — extremely important — matters.

Mr Somyurek interjected.

Mr FINN — Quite frankly, he should know better. I would have expected more from Mr Leane than what he has attempted to do here today.

An honourable member — You shouldn't.

Mr FINN — I should not; that is true. I have been in here with Mr Leane for over six years, and I do not know why I would have expected more, because quite frankly he has form, if I can use that term, with regard to these matters, and like his colleagues in the Labor Party, when we seek to discuss these very important matters he quite often seeks the lowest common denominator. Members of the Labor Party seek to bring these matters down to their level, and I think that is deeply regrettable. It brings this Parliament into some degree of disrepute, of which none of us should be or can be at all proud, so I caution Mr Leane and members opposite about continuing down that path.

I do not think it is going too far to suggest that these are life-and-death issues, because without proper policing, protection, corrections systems and so forth that go with a strong law and order policy, people's lives would be at risk. Members of the Labor Party should take that on board before trying to turn this place into a circus — with or without elephants.

Hon. W. A. Lovell interjected.

Mr FINN — White elephants? I am sorry, Ms Lovell, we are not talking about the desal plant just at the minute — or the north-south pipeline, or even the carbon tax for that matter.

Ms Pennicuik interjected.

Mr FINN — Ms Pennicuik wants to talk about a boat ramp. I have no idea why she wants to talk about a boat ramp, but I am happy to accommodate her if at some stage we get time. I do not know what is going on. It has to be said that this week this place is fairly interesting, to understate the matter significantly. Quite frankly it does not surprise me at all that Ms Pennicuik comes in

here to debate a bill on corrections and wants to talk about a boat ramp. After what has happened this week, nothing would surprise me — absolutely nothing at all.

Mr Leane interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ramsay) — Order! Mr Leane! Mr Finn, without assistance.

Mr FINN — I hope Mr Leane will take note of your much-deserved rebuke of him, Acting President, for his continual interjections and disruption of the proceedings of the house.

What I was saying earlier is that in the law and order area we need to ensure that we have a complete cycle that is effective from start to finish — from the point where police arrest alleged offenders to a time when they are put before the courts and are subject to a justice system, and to a point where, if they are found guilty of the crimes with which they have been charged, then they are sentenced and go to correctional facilities. Those sentences should be carried out and should be respected.

I have spoken about sentencing on a number of occasions in this house, and I have expressed a view that in certain instances I believe sentences are very lean, if I can use that term, and need to be stiffened up, particularly for drug dealers and terrorists. I have made no secret of the fact that I believe we should reintroduce the death penalty for such offenders — not for all offenders, but certainly for drug dealers. I refer to drug kingpins, not the clowns on the street who sell the drugs but the people who coordinate the whole system — the ones up the top of the tree — who make millions if not hundreds of millions of dollars, making themselves very rich from other people's misery and indeed killing our kids. Under any circumstances we should not tolerate this. I have spoken in this house about the need for zero tolerance in our approach to drugs, and zero tolerance should go as far as the ultimate penalty for those who coordinate drug businesses and reap the rewards, rich as they are, from the evil business they are involved in.

The issue of terrorism speaks for itself. When somebody performs an act of terror they have declared war on our society, and in a time of war we have the right to use capital punishment. Certainly the war on terror is just as much a war as any other war. We should, and I believe we must — I am certainly open to debate

on this — at some stage reassess our views on this matter. In years gone by I was a very strong opponent of the death penalty. I have reassessed my views on this matter in relation to drug bosses and terrorists, and it is something we as a society should have a look at. We should revisit it because it is a matter that strikes at the heart of us all.

As the father of young children — the father of a teenager in fact — I believe very strongly that we cannot go in hard enough against these drug barons because the drugs they are peddling, producing and bringing into this country pose the greatest single threat to many of our children.

As everybody in this house knows, as far as I am concerned children are sacrosanct; you just do not touch them. Adults can look after themselves, but the innocence of children and young people is something we must protect at all costs. I could go into many other issues on that score, but in terms of the sentencing of drug lords and terrorists I believe we should revisit the ultimate penalty. That is something that should be applied to those who are found guilty of those crimes. I do not think it would happen very often, clearly, but you would not have to do it very often; with one or two the message would get across very quickly.

I support this particular piece of legislation very strongly. As I said the other day, this government is a very strong proponent of law and order in this state. The previous government failed the people of Victoria.

We know the Greens are not particularly keen on law and order at all; in fact I sometimes think the Greens would be very happy if the police went around with targets on their backs, such is their contempt for our law enforcement agencies and those in the thin blue line who protect us. I certainly believe this legislation is very necessary. I believe this legislation will make our correctional system a better system, and I believe the continuum of law and order in this state will be served very well by this bill. I commend the government for bringing it before the house, and I urge all members to give it a speedy passage.

Port Phillip Bay: ferry service

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Planning, and I ask: can the minister advise the house what action the government has taken to facilitate new travel outcomes for those who live in new estates in Melbourne's growth areas?

Hon. M. J. GUY (Minister for Planning) — I thank Mr Finn for a very important question. Indeed I thank him, Mr Elsbury and Mr Katos, the member for South Barwon in the Assembly, who joined me this morning in launching the first stage of a government feasibility study into the possibility of water-based transport for Geelong, the Bellarine Peninsula and the western suburbs of Melbourne.

The transport study that we looked at this morning is integral to the government's blueprint for metropolitan Melbourne, the metropolitan Melbourne planning strategy, which we are working on, and of course to the G21 strategy for Greater Geelong. We looked at stop locations, population demand, travel times, vessels that would be needed, water draft or depth, environment, and of course the boat speed that would be needed to put in place a service from the western suburbs.

Melbourne's western suburbs are growing inexorably. They have been growing much faster over the last 15 years than anyone had forecast 20 years ago. The previous government ignored Melbourne's western suburbs — utterly ignored them. That is why this government is getting on with the job. The coalition government has made an effort to go and find ways to make life more livable for residents of Melbourne's western suburbs. In suburbs where infrastructure was not put in place 10 or 15 years ago, this government is doing it now.

That is why we are getting on with the Sneydes Road interchange, that is why we are getting on with the East Werribee employment centre and that is why we are moving the feasibility study for water-based transport to the next step. We hope the public consultation that we are asking for will bring back ideas from the private sector on how this might operate — ticket prices, cost, government subsidies — and how we take it to the

next step.

Mrs Kronberg would know from the parliamentary Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee's trip to Vancouver how important water-based transport is. She knows firsthand how cities can be made more sustainable. That committee knows from its report how cities can be much more sustainable when you use all the options available for livability — that is, road, rail and water. Port Phillip Bay is one of the largest inland bodies of water in the world. It is ridiculous that we do not look at inputs to metropolitan planning visions about better utilising that resource.

In the past some people said that the Fishermans Bend idea would be a thought bubble, and then the rezoning occurred. Some said that the metropolitan planning strategy had stalled, and then we had the biggest consultation ever for a metropolitan planning strategy in Australia's history. Some said that this very study will never be complete and will never happen. Those people from the Australian Labor Party stand condemned for their negativity, those who are akin to a Soviet politburo, who were all the grey-suited, besuited fellows who sat in the Kremlin in the 1970s and 1980s, rotting away, plotting the world in their own little socialist fantasies. Speaking of which

— —
Honourable members interjecting.

Mr Viney — On a point of order, President, apart from the fact that you are wearing a grey suit, I suggest to you that the Minister for Planning is debating the question.

The PRESIDENT — Order! On the point of order, yes, I think the minister was showing some licence. He was perhaps giving us a bit of a history lesson, but nonetheless I am not sure that it was as pertinent to the question, which was about water-based transport from Geelong, as I might have expected. The minister to complete his answer.

Hon. M. J. GUY — As I was saying in conclusion, the initiative to look at that water-based transport option is very significant. It is very significant for Melbourne's growing western suburbs. Mr O'Brien knows this in terms of his interest in innovative ways to get from our second largest city to Melbourne, Mrs Kronberg knows this from her committee's work in Vancouver, and Mr Finn and Mr Elsbury know this as they live and breathe it, coming from Melbourne's west. Hopefully some other members

who are from or formerly from Melbourne's west might now move into their new seats, Mr Pakula.

That aside, I simply say that this is an important study. It is an important input into the metropolitan planning strategy and one we are very proud to have launched today to show that water-based transport from the western suburbs of Melbourne is viable. It can happen, and this government is going to take it to the next step.

Essendon: traffic management plan

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan)
— I raise a matter for the Minister for Roads, and it concerns issues that were raised at a meeting I had yesterday with representatives of Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School in Essendon. There are a number of schools in the vicinity of Lowther Hall, including St Columba's College and Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School, and those three schools involve a goodly number of students and inevitably parents who drop the students off, leading to absolute traffic bedlam at the drop-off and collection times later in the afternoon.

To add to that confusion, Buckley Street, Essendon, has a level crossing which is causing some degree of distress for motorists given that the increased number of trains that the north-western suburbs are now enjoying is causing no end of problems for drivers, some of whom have been stuck at the crossing for up to 10 minutes at a time. That adds further to the concerns of parents dropping their children off at the three schools to which I refer — St Columba's, Lowther Hall and Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School — about how they access the area around the school, and it is causing considerable concern.

The parents that I spoke to yesterday have expressed their very great fears that if something is not done very soon, a child will be hit and killed. I have raised this matter with the mayor of Moonee Valley Council, and I will continue to do so.

She is a very good mayor and will do what she can to assist because it is at least partially a council matter,

but I am asking the Minister for Roads to direct VicRoads, in consultation and cooperation with the Moonee Valley council, to conduct a traffic management plan which will identify options to solve the problems facing hundreds, if not thousands, of people on a daily basis in this area at the moment. It is dangerous, it is traffic bedlam, and what I have asked for will go some way towards solving the problem.

COUNCIL | Adjournment (Reply)
19 March 2013

Health: western suburbs

Raised with the Minister for Health on 13 December 2012

REPLY:

With regard to past neglect of health services in the western suburbs by Labor governments, the Baillieu government has proactively undertaken service and capital planning initiatives with the aim of progressively improving provision of health services for people in the western suburbs.

In recognition of the demographic trends contributing to strong demand growth, particularly for the catchment area served by Sunshine Hospital, capital funding of \$15.1 million was allocated by the Baillieu government to Western Health in the 2012-13 state budget. Together with \$3.5 million funding through the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital services, this project will deliver up to 13 additional critical-care beds and two additional labour delivery rooms at the Sunshine Hospital.

The second matter raised was the additional cost imposed of the carbon price and its impact on health service delivery. On 19 June last year I advised the house, based on modelling commissioned by the Department of Health, that it was estimated that the impact of the carbon price at Western Health would equate to approximately 106 elective procedures based on the average weighted cost of a surgical procedure.

More recent analysis of actual energy and billing data indicates that the cost of carbon for Western Health over 2012-13 will now be in the order of \$638 000, which equates to some 128 elective procedures based on the average weighted cost of a surgical procedure.

The Baillieu government will

continue to strongly advocate on behalf of Victorian hospitals to ensure that Victoria is not disadvantaged from the carbon price compared to other states or to industries that are receiving support.

COUNCIL | Adjournment (Reply)
19 March 2013

Rail: St Albans level crossing

Raised with the Minister for Roads on 5 February 2013

REPLY:

The Victorian government has confirmed the removal of the Main Road level crossing in St Albans as a priority, with works to commence in the first term of government.

I will seek to clarify with the federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport what level of financial contribution the federal Government is prepared to make, in order to assist the Victorian government's commitment to this project.

COUNCIL
20 March 2013

Production Of Documents

Mr BARBER (Northern Metropolitan) — I move:

That this house requires the Leader of the Government to table in the Legislative Council on Tuesday, 16 April 2013, a copy of:

(1) all documents relating to the 'Route alignments peer reviewed and short-listed' and 'Communications and engagement strategy finalised' referred to on page 3 of 'East-west link reform and investment framework — stages 1 to 6' dated August 2012, which formed part of the east-west link submission to Infrastructure Australia;

(2) the agenda, minutes, any attachments to the minutes and any presentations or materials tabled in relation to each meeting of the Department of Transport's east-west steering committee to date;

(3) all documents (including invitees list, agenda, minutes where they exist and the Microsoft PowerPoint presentation used) relating to a briefing, held on 17 July 2012 at the Treasury building, on the development of a business case for the east-west link; and

(4) all minutes and other documentation of meetings held with over 40 entities by the Minister for Roads and/or Department of Transport representatives relating to the proposed east-west tunnel infrastructure project, which are referenced in the media release 'East-west link is declared under major transport projects act'.

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I thank Mrs Kronberg for her contribution; I appreciate it. I rise in the house this afternoon on behalf of the people of the western suburbs of Melbourne to say, quite categorically and without hesitation: we support the east-west link. We totally and completely support the east-west link. It is without doubt the most important piece of infrastructure needed in Victoria right now.

If anybody is in any doubt about how desperately we need the east-west link, this morning all they would have needed to do was look at the West Gate Freeway; it was banked back to Duncans Road — to Werribee — from the bridge. You just have to drive down the Tullamarine Freeway any morning and you will see that the freeway is chock-a-block, with red lights as far as the eye can see. The growth in the west and north-west of Melbourne has been extraordinary over recent years, and as a result our roads have struggled to cope. You would go as far as to say, in fact, that they have not coped. There are a lot more minor roads that are struggling, of course, but our freeways, into which all these minor roads funnel traffic, have not been able to cope at all.

We therefore desperately need the east-west link.

Mr Barber — To go to Doncaster?

Mr FINN — The people of the western suburbs demand that the east-west link be built.

Mr Barber interjected.

Mr FINN — Mr Barber does not particularly care about people in the outer suburbs of Melbourne. He makes that very clear on a very frequent basis. A lot of the people using the West Gate Freeway and the Tullamarine Freeway — yes — do want to go further. As Mrs Kronberg said, 40 per cent of users on those freeways want to go beyond the city. They would use that tunnel.

I can say to Mr Barber through you, Acting President, that he might be interested to know that in a previous life I travelled from Sunbury to Wantirna and back again on a daily basis. When I began that daily trek it took me about an hour and three-

quarters. Two years later it was taking me between two and a half hours and two and three-quarter hours. Generally speaking it was taking me about an hour longer than it had two years earlier when I had begun taking that journey. I certainly, therefore, would have jumped at the opportunity to get in a tunnel and travel from the Tullamarine Freeway to the Eastern Freeway. That would have been absolutely delightful.

For the life of me I cannot work out why Mr Barber is so opposed to this. There are thousands and thousands of cars that every day travel down the Eastern Freeway, and what do they do when they get to the end of the Eastern Freeway? They hit Collingwood, they hit North Fitzroy and they hit Carlton. Who do you think largely inhabit Collingwood, North Fitzroy and Carlton?

Mrs Kronberg — The Greens.

Mr FINN — The Greens voters! You would think, Acting President, that Mr Barber would be absolutely jubilant at the prospect that all those cars travelling through Collingwood, North Fitzroy and Carlton would be going through a tunnel underground. If you had half a brain in your head, wouldn't you say, 'Yes, I want to clear the streets where my voters live. I want to get rid of all those dreadful cars that are polluting the city with CO₂, that dreadful gas, and sending it into the ozone layer' or wherever it is this week that it goes. You would think that Mr Barber would absolutely be champing at the bit to have the east-west link built; but no, when it comes to the Greens, logic comes a very distant last on every front. It is a nonsense to suggest otherwise.

The Labor Party has its own problems in that it does not actually know what it wants to do.

My understanding is that it used to support the east-west link, and then there was a by-election in Melbourne. It was desperate to keep that seat of Melbourne; can you believe that in this day and age the Labor Party regards Melbourne as a marginal seat? It is extraordinary. That tells us a great deal about how the stocks of the ALP have fallen in this country. I do not know whether that was due to the fact that people had not forgiven the state Labor government for the neglect and vandalism it caused in Victoria over 11 long years, or whether they were taking it out on the state Labor Party for the sins of the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, and her government in Canberra. Clearly that is ongoing and there are a lot of people who are on their verandas

with baseball bats just waiting for the opportunity to get hold of the Gillard government — or it may be the Rudd government by that time, or it could be the Crean government. Alternatively, as I said this morning, Dick Adams deserves a run because we have not had a Tasmanian prime minister for a very long time, and I think Dick is prime ministerial material.

Mr Ramsay interjected.

Mr FINN — He carries a lot of weight behind him — but then in front of him, too. He is beside the point to a large extent. This plan is quite vexing for the Labor Party, because while the party used to be very supportive of it, now it is totally opposed to it, according to Mr Tee. However, according to Mr Leane perhaps the Labor Party is not so opposed to the idea of the link. Perhaps Mr Leane might have some idea of what the people in his electorate think. I have absolutely no doubt that Mr Tee has not got a clue. Mr Tee gets around with a bubble around his head. He is not on the same planet as the rest of us, but Mr Leane just might be. He might have visited the local hotel, the local TAB or his local footy match and got a very good idea from his constituents that they too support the east-west link and they want government to build it. To be kind to him, he very largely conceded the next federal election to us. To be perfectly frank, that is a reasonable thing for anybody to do, given what — —

Mr Ramsay interjected.

Mr FINN — He has been pragmatic. When he was working with Dean Mighell in the Electrical Trades Union all those years ago, the degree of pragmatism he showed had to be seen to be believed.

But he understands that the people of the eastern suburbs, and indeed the people of the western suburbs, are very anxious to vote for the Leader of the Opposition, Tony Abbott, for a number of reasons but in particular because of the \$1.5 billion that Tony Abbott has committed to the east-west link — a very important project. It has to be added that it is not just the people of the eastern and western suburbs who will benefit from this link. The benefits of this project will go right through to Ballarat for the people of Ballarat to enjoy. The people of Geelong down on the Surf Coast will also enjoy the very real benefits of this project. I am sure that, for example, when people in the federal electorate of Corangamite decide to vote later this year they will put the

cheeseburger in the bin and vote for Tony Abbott in very large numbers, because they can see he has made a commitment to the sorts of projects that people want.

This is taxpayers money that we are talking about.

To listen to Labor members, to listen to Mr Barber, you would think it was their money. It is not; this is the taxpayers money; this is the people of Australia's money. As governments we have an obligation, a duty, and the privilege to distribute that money according to our priorities. That is as it should be. I personally would much rather see a little less of it being distributed, but that is something we can discuss another day. The Labor Party and the Greens seem to think it is their money to distribute according to their own sectional needs, whereas we on this side of the house accept that the money that comes from taxpayers should be returned to taxpayers either directly through tax cuts or via these projects which will benefit the greatest number of people. I do not think any member in this chamber, if they were honest with themselves and with us, could say that the east-west link will not benefit millions of Victorians, because clearly it will.

If Mr Barber, Mr Leane and Mr Tee have a different view, can I suggest that they do a run on the Tullamarine Freeway or the West Gate Freeway tomorrow and tell those people who are patiently waiting in their cars to get across the West Gate Bridge or through the tunnel or into the city off the Tullamarine Freeway that their time does not matter, that Labor and the Greens do not really care that those thousands of people are stuck in traffic on a daily basis, because that is the truth. They do not care about people stuck in traffic jams every day. If they did care, they would be in here in large numbers supporting the east-west link.

It is not surprising that the Greens oppose this project. If there is one thing you can say about the Greens, it is that they are consistent, whereas the Labor Party is incompetent and will go to extraordinary lengths to prove it, whether it be at state or federal level.

However, the Greens deliberately go out of their way to destroy civilisation as we know it, and that includes the motor car. Its members hate the motor car. In fact the last time anybody hated motor cars as much as the Greens it was a bloke called John Cain, a former Premier of Victoria. He hated freeways so much — —

Hon. D. M. Davis — He built a car park — the south-eastern car park!

Mr FINN — He did build a car park, as Mr Davis points out. He built the car park that is the Monash Freeway, as it is called now. Back then John Cain told his driver that he was not allowed to travel on freeways. They would travel miles out of their way just to avoid a freeway. One cannot begin to imagine how much carbon dioxide and how many emissions were sent into the atmosphere as a result of that Premier's particular hatred of freeways and efficient motoring.

But the Greens just hate cars.

I hope Mr Barber and his comrades in the Greens will strongly support the proposal that Mr Guy, Mr Elsbury, Mr Katos, the member for South Barwon in the other place, and I put forward this week — that ferries should soon take many thousands of people from the western suburbs to the city. It is an exciting development that I believe will engage the imagination and support of the people of the western suburbs, but we have not heard from the Greens about whether or not they support that. One would think that to get all those cars off the roads and onto a ferry —

Business interrupted pursuant to standing orders. (Resumes 17 April 2013)

**COUNCIL | Members Statements
20 March 2013**

Media: federal government legislation

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — Our national capital is always an intriguing place, but no more so than today. As the glint of the caucus guillotine gleams in the autumn sun of Canberra, bookies take money on exactly who will be Prime Minister by 4.00 p.m. today. Will Julia Gillard survive? Will Kevin Rudd return? Will Simon Crean make the biggest comeback for 2000 years? My rank outsider is Dick Adams. We have not had a Prime Minister from Tasmania for years, and nobody can deny that Dick is a man of considerable substance.

While the Labor leadership circus is in full swing, what is left of the Gillard government is attempting the greatest attack on freedom in Australia since the bombs fell on Darwin. Australia is a land of freedom. Not only do we love

our own freedom but we have always jumped to the defence of freedom whenever it has been under siege.

For Senator Stephen Conroy and his government comrades to attempt to stifle a free media flies in the face of everything this nation stands for. Either legislation to regulate content of the media or this federal Labor government should go. Come to think of it, the best interests of Australians would be well served if they were both turfed out. Thousands have fought and died for our freedom. It must not be torn from us by the insanity of a desperate government on the mat for the final time. Our freedom as Australians is too important.

**COUNCIL | Second Reading
21 March 2013**

Major Sporting Events Amendment Bill 2013

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I have always been of the view that it is a bipartisan agreement between members in this house and those in the other place that Victoria is regarded as the sporting capital of Australia; in many circles it is regarded as the sporting capital of the world. Then Mr Tee got up today and tried to trash Melbourne's reputation as the sporting capital of this nation. I have heard some appalling things in this Parliament over the past 20 years, but I cannot believe that a member of the opposition would try to hammer Melbourne's reputation — and it is an international reputation — as the sporting capital of this nation.

If Mr Tee has any doubts about whether Melbourne is the sporting capital of Australia or about what its position is in terms of sport, he should go to Moonee Valley tomorrow night. He should go to see Black Caviar, along with the tens of thousands of other Victorians who will be there to see her.

He should come with me to the MCG next Thursday night when 80 000 or 90 000 people will cram in under lights to see Richmond beat Carlton in what will be a magnificent first game for the start of the AFL season in Melbourne. There is, I understand, some minor game on in Adelaide or somewhere tomorrow night, but the big game is next week. The big game is next week because,

apart from the fact that Richmond is playing, it is being played at the MCG under lights in front of what will be close to a capacity crowd. As anybody who has ever been in that situation knows, there is nothing better. It is just brilliant. It is Melbourne at its best. It is quintessential Melbourne and something that we on this side of the house are very proud of. It is a pity that those in the Labor Party have attempted to trash the legacy that we as Victorians are all so proud of.

**COUNCIL | Condolences
16 April 2013**

Bruce Albert Edward Skeggs, OAM

Hon. D. M. DAVIS (Minister for Health) — By leave, I move:

That this house expresses its sincere sorrow at the death on 21 March 2013 of Mr Bruce Albert Edward Skeggs, OAM, and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Ivanhoe from 1973 to 1982 and the Legislative Council for the electoral province of Templestowe from 1988 to 1996.

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — It has to be said first and foremost that whichever way you look at it Bruce Skeggs was a man of substance, and considerable substance at that. When we consider the life and times of Bruce Skeggs, I cannot help but draw some parallels with myself. He was a broadcaster. He called the trots; I think they call it harness racing now, but in his day they were called the trots or the red hots. There are myriad stories that one could tell about his days calling the trots, including the fact that he was, from what I understand, an excellent tipster. At a moment's notice he would be able to tip a winner for anybody who asked him, but he never took to the punt because he believed that it was a conflict of interest. That is probably not something that we see a lot of today. Having worked with other race callers, I know that that is not their view at all.

Bruce Skeggs was also a political commentator on radio 3XY for many years.

I can only imagine that booming voice expressing the views of the Liberal Party over the airwaves back

during his time on 3XY.

He was an icon of those from the other side of the Yarra or from the north and north-west of Melbourne. He did not do it all that easily to begin with. Before he was elected to Parliament he contested the federal seat of Batman for the Liberal Party on three occasions. They could not have been fun times, but he always flew the Liberal flag wherever it needed to be flown.

Then he became mayor of the then city of Heidelberg, and he became quite a legend in that role. In 1973 he was elected as the member for Ivanhoe in the Assembly, and that is when he really came into his own in terms of politics. He became something of a legend around this place and around Victoria until in 1982, with the change of government — and again, I can relate to these things — he lost his seat.

That was a great shock to him and to many who believed that Bruce Skeggs would hold Ivanhoe forever. But, as we know, in politics strange things can happen from time to time. But he came back six years later, that time into this place, the Legislative Council, and stayed until 1996.

He expressed his views — how would you describe it? — very forcefully on any subject that he took a feeling toward. That is something many of us who served with him in this Parliament, although I was in the other place at the time, will very fondly remember Bruce doing. He was a fighter for what he believed to be right. He did not back off, and that is what I particularly liked about him. He knew what he believed in, and he stood up for it at all times. He was a fervent foe of communism. He led an organisation called the Freedom Coalition, which I attended many meetings of throughout the 1980s. I will carry with me throughout my life memories of listening to Bruce hold forth on the importance and joys of freedom and liberty.

Bruce's son Philip gave a fulsome summary of his life at his funeral at St George's Anglican Church in Ivanhoe East a couple of weeks ago. Mr Guy was there that day, and it was very much a celebration of Bruce's life. We revisited some of the times that we remembered and some of the times that we did not. A former member of the other house, Mr Victor Perton, also gave a eulogy at the funeral. It very much relived a time that we perhaps might not see again. That in itself is a very sad thing.

Bruce Skeggs welcomed me very

warmly into this Parliament when I was first elected in 1992, and I will never forget the warmth and support that he showed me in the first term of the Kennett government. I would like to take this opportunity to put on the record my thanks not only for those times but also for his contribution to his state, his community and his nation. Bruce Skeggs, in my view, was a good man; he was a great man. Indeed he was a man who fought the good fight.

**COUNCIL | Questions without Notice
16 April 2013**

Technology sector: government initiatives

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My question without notice is directed to Mr Rich-Phillips in his capacity as the Minister for Technology, and I ask: can the minister inform the house of how the government is driving the uptake of new technologies across the Victorian economy?

Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS (Minister for Technology) — I thank Mr Finn for his question and for his interest in Victoria's vibrant technology sector. Mr Finn's question goes to the issue of driving the uptake of technology in the Victorian economy. In 2011 the government launched Victoria's technology plan for the future, and it had two key streams. The first was the traditional role government plays in supporting investment in technology companies and in supporting export development by our technology companies.

The second related to encouraging the uptake of technology in the broader economy by those sectors and those companies that do not necessarily use technology on a broad scale, encouraging them to take up the opportunity that Victoria's technology companies offer to improve their products and develop new processes.

As part of that plan, at the end of last year I was pleased to launch Victoria's technology voucher program. This is a program that has been designed to encourage project proponents to partner with technology companies, be they ICT companies, be they biotech companies, be they nanotech

companies, to use the capability and intellectual property of our technology companies to improve the products and processes of the proponent organisation. Last week I was delighted to visit the small technology cluster in Scoresby, which is a great hub of innovation where a large number of technology companies all work on either nanotechnology or microtechnology in product development.

They are all clustered in the one location at Scoresby, where they are developing some unique and innovative technologies and products.

During that visit I was delighted to announce the first round of funding under the technology voucher program, a commitment to seven separate projects with grants totalling \$1.6 million. Some of the technology companies that will benefit from partnering in these projects include companies like miniFAB, Micronisers Pty Ltd, Universal Biosensors and the Melbourne Centre for Nanofabrication, among others. As these projects unfold we will see projects as diverse as the development of mobile forensic DNA fingerprinting, a project to commence pilot-scale manufacturing of a renewable solvent that does not use a petrochemical base and even the development of a Cloud-enabled livestock weighing program for primary producers to weigh their livestock and have that data directly uploaded to their tablet devices or personal computers.

A broad range of projects is being supported under this program, which really highlights the capability of Victoria's technology sector. This benefits the proponents of these projects in getting their ideas off the ground and to market, and it creates a great opportunity for Victoria's technology companies, be they ICT, be they biotech or be they small tech, to use their intellectual property, their innovation and their knowhow to drive and develop the Victorian economy.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
16 April 2013**

Mental health: women's facilities

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Mental Health, Mary Wooldridge. It very closely follows Mr Ondarchie's

comments on the subject of gender-specific mental health services. I am asking the minister for support for services in the Werribee and Sunshine areas specifically so as to provide such services for many women in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

It has to be said that the western suburbs have their own particular set of problems. We have a very large group of residents who come from non-English-speaking backgrounds, and of course that provides some difficulties in itself. There is no doubt that there are many women suffering from mental health problems who come from cultures that perhaps do not readily accept such problems, and they suffer as a result of that.

It also has to be said that in domestic violence situations the role of male partners, or indeed female partners, have a great deal to do with some areas of mental health, and this is one of the areas that we could and should be looking at. I know that some community health services have taken up these programs. The Sunbury Community Health Centre has run a program for many years that aims to teach men how to break the cycle of domestic violence and anger and touches on a number of issues which may result in mental health problems for women. That is something that should be seriously looked at by the minister and by health providers in the western suburbs.

As I said, we in the west have some specific problems. The minister has shown a great deal of interest in and is preparing to show a great deal of support for health services in the western suburbs. I ask the minister to look favourably upon requests from health providers from the west.

COUNCIL | Adjournment (Reply)
16 April 2013

Alpha Autism: funding

Raised with the Minister for Disability Services and Reform on 19 February 2013

REPLY:

I am informed that Alpha Autism was unsuccessful in their bid to continue providing commonwealth-funded Disability Employment Services. The funding decision was made at the commonwealth level and funding ceased on 1 March 2013.

The Victorian Department of Human Services has recently been

in contact with the organisation and offered assistance. I understand Alpha Autism made independent representations to the commonwealth government and did not request further assistance from my department in that regard.

I am informed the commonwealth government has put in place transitional arrangements for people currently supported by the organisation's employment service and that no participants will be disadvantaged in the process.

Alpha Autism provides disability support services on behalf of my department across the Melbourne metropolitan area.

Alpha Autism will continue to provide valuable support for people with a disability.

COUNCIL
17 April 2013

Production Of Documents

Debate resumed from 20 March; motion of Mr BARBER (Northern Metropolitan)

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — It gives me pleasure to rise to speak on this motion once again because, as I pointed out to the house the last time I spoke on this matter, the east-west link is an issue that goes to the heart of how people in government regard the western suburbs of Melbourne. Over an extended period of time we in the west have been neglected. Governments — particularly Labor governments, I hasten to add — have regarded the people of the western suburbs as second-class citizens. There are many and varied opportunities to spend vast amounts of money in government. The Labor Party is particularly good at spending money. It is not particularly good at getting results for that money but it knows how to spend it; there are no two ways about that. But this project, once completed, would bring immediate relief to the people of the western suburbs.

As I said the last time I spoke on this matter, the people of the west are suffering as a result of traffic congestion due to the growth in the western suburbs. For example, the cities of Wyndham and Melton are the fastest and second fastest growing municipalities in Australia. I urge members who have not been out that way of late to take a drive — not during peak hour, certainly, but on a

weekend — and see what has been happening in the west over the past few years. They will be staggered.

I have often mentioned Point Cook in this house. When I came into this chamber not all that long ago — a bit over six years ago — Point Cook was not much more than a few paddocks with the odd sheep in them. It is now a thriving metropolis. I was at Point Cook just last week — I am sorry, I tell a lie, which does not happen often; it was on Monday — announcing a new transport program which will be of great benefit to elderly and disabled people in Point Cook.

Even though the area has grown like Topsy over the last five years or so, it continues to grow. We now have it linked up with Sanctuary Lakes, and we will soon have it linked up with Wyndham Harbour and Werribee South. These areas are growing at an extraordinary rate. On the other side of Werribee we have places like Tarneit.

The rate at which the growth is occurring is amazing. It is impossible to keep up with the growth. If a new edition of Melway were to be published every month, we might have some hope of keeping up, but short of that I will have to learn how to use my TomTom, which I have at home and will one day figure out how to use. The east-west link is an important issue for the western suburbs.

Let me say to Mr Barber, to the other Greens and to Labor members: anybody who opposes the east-west link slaps everybody in the western suburbs in the face.

To be opposed to the east-west link is to attack the people of the western suburbs.

Mr Barber interjected.

Mr FINN — Mr Barber finds all this very amusing. We do not have trams in most parts of the western suburbs, not that Mr Barber would be aware of this as he does not get beyond the tram tracks. As far as the Greens are concerned there is nothing beyond the tram tracks because beyond the tram tracks nobody votes for them, and you can understand why. If that is the way the Greens treat people in outer Melbourne, it is little wonder that they get precious few votes from them.

Mr Barber — On a point of order, Acting President, I heard Mr Davis's point of order a few minutes ago in relation to the narrowness of Ms Hartland's motion.

This motion seeks the tabling of some documents that would better

inform the house about what the east-west tunnel will or will not do. Mr Finn has managed to filibuster on this for three weeks so that we have waited even longer to get the same piece of information. He should not be allowed to do that indefinitely in this place. He should be required to be relevant to the subject matter — that is, whether these documents should or should not be tabled in the house.

Mr FINN — On the point of order, Acting President, my understanding is — as was the case three weeks ago when we first started debating this matter — that it is a matter on which there has been a bit of leverage. I think I have stayed within the parameters that were set three weeks ago when we began debating this motion. I was referring to the Greens attitude towards the building of this particular project. I do not see how that is out of order at all.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ramsay) — Order! I do not uphold the point of order.

However, I do ask that Mr Finn address his contribution to the motion at hand.

Mr FINN — I have no intention of continuing for too much longer because I believe that this matter, from my point of view anyway, has been covered quite comprehensively. But it is important that this house is aware that this matter is of vital importance to the western suburbs of Melbourne. As such I will stand up and support it. I will support it loudly and strongly, and I will oppose those such as Mr Barber and his Greens friends who wish to oppose it. I do not know why they want the documents; I do not know what they are going to do with the documents. It seems to me that they want documents on everything known to man. I do not particularly care what they do with the documents. I just want to see the project finished. I just want to see it built. I just want to see a situation where people in the western suburbs of Melbourne are not stuck in traffic forever while trying to get to work.

In the course of this debate we have heard that up to 60 per cent of people who are currently stuck on the Tullamarine or West Gate freeways do not want to go to the city at all; they want to go to the other side of Melbourne — —

Mr Barber interjected.

Mr FINN — No, I am not pulling numbers out of the air at all. That was a number that was delivered to this house three weeks ago. That means there are a lot of people who would

use the east-west link. There are a lot of people who will continue to be very angry if Mr Barber and his friends try to hold this project up. If gaining the documents of which Mr Barber speaks today is part of that campaign to hold this project up, then I have some very grave concerns indeed.

In concluding my contribution, I would suggest to Mr Barber, and indeed to the Labor Party — and it is a pity that Mr Barber is actually leaving the chamber as I am just about to make a very strong suggestion to him — —

Mr Barber — On a point of order, Acting President, are the toilet habits of members to be brought into debate in this place?

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ramsay) — Order! I am sorry, but I did not hear the reference. The advice to me is that the comment made by Mr Finn was that Mr Barber was about to leave the chamber. I did not hear any reference to toilet breaks. I am happy to stand corrected, but the Clerk has advised me that that is the case.

Mr FINN — On the point of order, Acting President, I have heard a number of members during this debate, in both this chamber and in the other one for that matter, refer to members leaving the chamber. I made no reference as to why Mr Barber was leaving the chamber — —

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ramsay) — Order! I do not uphold the point of order.

Mr FINN — It should also be pointed out that we are still entirely unsure as to where the Labor Party stands on this. This is something that not only affects the west of Melbourne; it affects the west of Victoria. There are a good number of people in Ballarat and Geelong who are very keen to use this link once it is completed. I am sure they would like the opposition to tell them what would happen to this project if Labor was to come into government at the next election.

I see members opposite furiously trying to ignore me at this point in time. But I think it is only fair, right and reasonable that the people on the western side of the state know what the opposition would do regarding the east-west link. We just do not know. Apparently Labor Party members supported the east-west link for a period of time. Then they opposed it. Then they supported it again. Then they opposed it. Where they are at the moment, I do not know.

I see Ms Tierney on the other side

of the house. She might like to tell us. She might like to tell her constituents in Geelong, Ballarat and Colac what her position on this matter is. Where exactly does the Labor Party stand on this issue? I say to you, Acting President, that you do not need documents to know that this is one of the biggest projects upon which we have ever embarked in Victoria's history — —

Mr Barber interjected.

Mr FINN — Yes, it will be good, I am sure. We are talking about billions of dollars being spent on this project. Yet we have a major party, a party which claims to be the alternative government of this state, refuse to tell us where it stands on the biggest project this state has ever had.

Ms Tierney — who is usually pretty vocal I have to say, when the mood takes her — is not saying a word at this point in time. She is not committing herself. She is toeing the party line beautifully. She is not saying a word. She is not committing herself one way or the other. But let me tell Ms Tierney and the members of the Labor Party that there are millions of Victorians who want to know where the opposition stands. There are millions of Victorians who have a very keen interest in this project and who want to know what will happen if Labor is voted into government.

As I said before, that is a reasonable question. If we are talking about a multimillion-dollar project which is going to transform the face of transportation in Melbourne and which will go down in the history books as something the likes of which we have never seen before, it is only reasonable that the Labor Party tell us where it stands. Would it continue the project or would it scrap it? Would it flick it? Would it give in to its friends from the Greens and scrap the thing altogether?

The Greens are at least consistent — they want to stop everything. If it is good for society and the community, the Greens want to stop it. We accept and know that. But the Labor Party will not tell us where it stands. From my point of view, that is an insult to the people of the west of Melbourne, whom I represent. On the subject of the documents that we are discussing today, I am sure the Labor Party would have had similar documents when it was in government.

It would be aware of what this matter involves, and it would be in a position to make a commitment one way or the other on this matter.

We have a government in Canberra which we know has contempt for the west of Melbourne. We know that because it shows it every day, not just in terms of this project but in so many other situations. How much has the Gillard government promised for this project if it is re-elected at the next election? Not a cent! Not a cracker! That is what it thinks of the people of the west of Melbourne. These are people like the federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Bill Shorten, the federal Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Brendan O'Connor, and of course Prime Minister Julia Gillard, who are alleged to represent the west of Melbourne. Despite the fact that they have had their names on ballot papers for a number of years, and I have seen the odd how-to-vote card with their photo on it, I have not seen any evidence that they have gone in to bat for the best interests of the west.

They are certainly not doing it on this occasion. They are not going in to bat for the west of Melbourne, they are not going in to bat for Ballarat and they are certainly not going in to bat for Geelong.

This is an issue that goes right down the south-western corridor of Victoria — and for that matter probably north-west too. It is shameful that, firstly, we have a situation where at a state level the Labor Party will not tell us what it would do if it ever came to government. God help us! Secondly, we have a federal government which is snubbing its nose at millions of Victorians. This is not the first time it has done so, but on this occasion I find that absolutely intolerable.

It is not as if members opposite do not know what is going on. They have the documents, and they have seen the documents we are talking about here today.

They know what this involves, so they have no excuse for hiding behind a tree, as they appear to be doing at the moment. That is deeply regrettable and shows a deep flaw in the Labor Party in Victoria. It shows that it does not have the capacity to make a firm decision and to show the sort of leadership that Premier Denis Naphthine is producing now for Victoria. As such, in my view, this disqualifies the members opposite from government. Until such time as they can stand up in this house or elsewhere and tell us exactly what they think, they should be disqualified from ever holding office in this state.

It is important to put on record the gratitude felt by many people whom I represent in the west of Melbourne to

Tony Abbott, the federal Leader of the Opposition and the man who has said he will put up \$1 billion of taxpayers money. You have to remember that we are talking about taxpayers money. Tony Abbott has said he will put up \$1 billion to get this thing under way. That is \$1 billion more than we have heard about from the Labor Party.

I would like to put on record my appreciation and my gratitude to Tony Abbott. I have no doubt he will be a Prime Minister who will fight for everybody. He will govern for everybody in Australia. He has already started to show that. He has already started to show that he will represent the people in the western suburbs of Melbourne in a way that the Labor Party never has. He will not neglect the west, he will not take the west for granted and he will not use and abuse the west. Instead he will provide for the people of the western suburbs of Melbourne in a way that Labor never has.

That is something I am very grateful for and something I am very much looking forward to. I look forward to 15 September, when we can actually get on with the job, get this country moving again and get this project, the east-west link, up and running. That will be a great day for hundreds of thousands of my constituents in the west, as indeed it will be for those in Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and right through that western half of the state.

I will now conclude my comments. I had not intended to speak quite this long, but it is a very important matter. I hope I have managed in some small way —

Mr Leane — No, you haven't.

Mr FINN — Mr Leane tells me that I have not been up to effectively conveying the importance of this project to the people of the western suburbs. I invite Mr Leane to come with me.

Mr Leane interjected.

Mr FINN — No, I invite Mr Leane to come with me out to the west. I do not know how long it is since he has been to the western suburbs.

Mr Leane — Have a stubby with me.

Mr FINN — I will have a stubby with him; I will have two. If he would like to join me in the western suburbs, I will show him new estate after new estate absolutely chock-a-block full of families who want to use the east-west link — the one the Labor Party is denying us, the one it will not say whether it will build and the one the Liberal-Nationals Naphthine government is committed to building. If Mr Leane would like to come out to

the western suburbs, I personally will show him around.

He will come away as convinced as I am that this project is most important for the future of not just the western suburbs and the western part of the state but the whole of Melbourne and the whole of Victoria.

As I said before, I very much look forward to this project getting under way and being part of our life. There was a fair bit of controversy about CityLink, but now we could not imagine what life would be like without it, although we got a taste of that one day last year when it was blocked and havoc ensued from one end of Melbourne to the other. I have no doubt that once the east-west link is constructed and completed it will be one of the greatest things that has ever happened to this wonderful city we live in.

**COUNCIL | Statements on Reports
17 April 2013**

Municipal Association of Victoria: Report 2011-12

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — In rising to speak today on the Municipal Association of Victoria annual report 2011-12, it occurs to me that the role of the Municipal Association of Victoria has expanded quite significantly over the years. I recall the days when local council was referred to in terms of roads, rubbish and rates, but these days we see local councils involved in economic development, community harmony — whatever that might be — and environmental works. In terms of the environmental work that a number of councils do, and a lot of them do some great work, unfortunately a significant number of them have fallen for the great green con.

That is a tragedy because the money is going to fight something that does not actually exist, namely, global warming, instead of going into providing a proper environment for the ratepayers of those municipalities.

Of course there has been an expanded role in planning for local councils despite the efforts of the previous government which tried desperately hard to squeeze councils out of planning altogether. It occurs to me that some councils might need to go back to basics; perhaps they have

gone a little bit too far beyond the reach of where councils should be. When I see councils debating motions on foreign affairs and condemning foreign governments and all that sort of nonsense, I do not think that serves the ratepayers as well as perhaps councils did when they were talking about roads, rubbish and rates as they used to.

Libraries have been an important part of local government for some years, and it is worth pointing out that this government, the Liberal-Nationals government, upped the ante by \$3 million in the last budget. There is a library being built in Sunshine, just at the back of my electorate office, and I anticipate I will be attending the opening of that in the not-too-distant future, just as I attended the announcement of that by the Minister for Local Government, Jeanette Powell. That would have been just last year, so they have really got a wriggle on.

You would have to say that Brimbank has come a fairly long way in a relatively short period of time because —

Hon. D. M. Davis — And I think Natalie Suleyman is coming here.

Mr FINN — I might get to that, Mr Davis, because I am sure the house would recall that Brimbank was giving local government a very bad name. There was corruption, there were shenanigans, there was shysterism and all manner of things going on at that council that led the government of the day to sack that council and appoint administrators. I am pleased to say that the most recent group of administrators that have taken over in Brimbank are doing an exceptionally good job. Certainly we do not see the sort of carry-on we had associated with the Brimbank City Council over a long time. We do not see party politics being put ahead of the people.

It is of great concern to me that those days, which may be behind us, might come back. It concerns me even more when I hear that, despite all the contempt that was shown to the people of Brimbank by that council, the then mayor of the Brimbank council, Cr Natalie Suleyman, is being touted as a potential member of this house. Can one believe that the Labor Party would nominate somebody like Natalie Suleyman, who held the people of Brimbank in such contempt and treated them so badly, to be a member of this house and represent those same people?

How rotten is the Labor Party that it would even contemplate doing such

a thing? How deeply does the Labor Party hold the people of the west in contempt when it would consider putting somebody like Natalie Suleyman in this house to represent the people she used to rub under her feet as dirt?

This is quite a good report, and I commend it to the house.

COUNCIL | Members Statements
18 April 2013

Baroness Thatcher

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise to express my deep sorrow at the passing of one of the truly great leaders of the past century. Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister of Great Britain when it was not all that great at all. In fact Britain was in a bad way. Years of rampant militant unionism had knocked the UK to the canvas, and it seemed there was no getting up. Mrs Thatcher, as she then was, knew differently. Here was someone with a vision of where she wanted her country to be. She set about instilling her values of hard work and reward for effort and transformed Britain from an economic basket case into a thriving modern economy. She was also determined to support freedom wherever she could and, along with President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II, she helped create the environment in which the Iron Curtain would crumble and millions would know liberty for the first time. She was a strong leader who served her nation and the world in the way leaders should.

Just as Baroness Thatcher showed us the heights of human achievement, the rabble that has celebrated her death in Britain and elsewhere, including Australia, has displayed the depths to which humanity can sink. Short of the nutbags at the Westboro Baptist Church, I have never before seen anything like what we have witnessed from the extreme left over the past week or so. For the political left hatred is oxygen. Without something or someone to hate, there is no reason for its existence. To the rent-a-crowd boofheads protesting against a frail elderly lady who has left us, I can only suggest they take a lesson from Margaret Thatcher's book. It just might not be too late for those pathetic creatures to in some way make this world a better place.

Margaret Hilda Thatcher certainly

did that. We are all the better for her having been among us. May God bless and keep her.

The PRESIDENT — Order!

I remind members that there is a condolence book for Margaret Thatcher in the library for those who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to sign it.

COUNCIL | Second Reading
18 April 2013

Planning And Environment Amendment (Growth Areas Authority And Miscellaneous) Bill 2013

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — It gives me a great deal of pleasure to support the Planning and Environment Amendment (Growth Areas Authority and Miscellaneous) Bill 2013, and in doing so I commend the Minister for Planning who, in my experience going back some 21 years in this place, is the most outstanding planning minister we have had.

Mrs Peulich interjected.

Mr FINN — Outstanding indeed. As Mrs Peulich says, we covered that yesterday. There was a long list, and each one of those synonyms could be equally applied to Minister Guy, because he has shown a vision and an ability to get on with things that we have not seen in this state for a very long time.

Coming to the role as he did after four years of Justin Madden, now the member for Essendon in the Assembly, the local government sector in particular and the development sector cannot believe their good fortune that we have somebody who wants to get on with the job. This bill will assist that task enormously. I warmly congratulate the minister on bringing this legislation before the house.

I will speak very briefly on this bill and in particular raise a matter that I have raised in this house before, but I think it is important enough to raise again — that is, what happened in Point Cook during its development phase under Justin Madden, which was very little in terms of planning.

There was a situation where the then Labor government was very happy to take the land tax and stamp duty from new owners but was not prepared to put the money back into Point Cook to provide the roads, transport and other infrastructure necessary for modern living. If we ever needed to categorise how not to develop a suburb, Point Cook would be it.

Again I commend Minister Guy on the effort, time and work that he has put in to rectifying that situation. I was down in Point Cook on Monday announcing a new transport initiative in cooperation with the local council and with state government involvement. People were saying that they have noticed very much how the state government has taken a real interest in what is happening in Point Cook since the change of government. That is in no small way due to what Minister Guy has done. I would hate to think that we would ever have a situation in the foreseeable future when Labor would be returned to the government benches and we would again have a minister like Justin Madden, who was incompetent and indeed would be incompetent again. He would not have a clue about what he should and should not do. He does not have a vision or a bone in his body which would tell him what he should or should not do.

We in the west have felt that very strongly.

Anybody who travels to Point Cook and tries to get out of Point Cook will now find themselves waiting a very long time. For example, as they travel down Point Cook Road they will find a situation where a suburb has been built with a road from it which goes through a shopping centre to get onto the freeway — you go over the freeway and then through a shopping centre to get onto the freeway. It is just absolutely insane. Any reasonable planning body would tell you that that is not the way to go and not the way to do things, but that is what Labor did. I am delighted to say that it will not be happening again whilst this government is in a position to oversee the planning of new suburbs. I certainly look forward to the planning of Finn-land, the new suburb down near Werribee, that will be providing — for the people of Point Cook as well — a new road onto the freeway at Sneydes Road. I believe that is going to be of major benefit to the people of Werribee and surrounds.

I support this bill, I hope the Labor Party supports this bill, and I hope the Greens support this bill — I assume they are supporting this bill.

Mr Ramsay interjected.

Mr FINN — We can never be sure, can we, Mr Ramsay?

Mr Koch interjected.

Mr FINN — But we can hope and pray, Mr Koch. I commend the bill to the house, and I commend the minister for the job that he is doing and for bringing this legislation to the house, and I trust — —

Mrs Peulich — He is outstanding.

Mr FINN — He is. He is doing a brilliant job as minister. As Mrs Peulich says, he is doing a first-class and extraordinary job as planning minister. I hope members opposite will join me in congratulating the minister on the magnificent job he is doing. I trust that this bill will have a safe and speedy passage.

**COUNCIL | Questions without Notice
7 May 2013**

Health sciences: academic research centres

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Health, and I ask: can the minister inform the house about the establishment of academic health science centres in Victoria?

Hon. D. M. DAVIS (Minister for Health) — I thank the member for his question. I can indicate to the house that the government is proud to have been closely involved in the establishment of two academic health science research centres in Victoria. It is important to recognise that these are modelled on the approach adopted in a number of jurisdictions overseas. The two academic health science centres which we announced last week included the Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre and the Melbourne Academic Health Research Centre.

The Monash partners included Monash University, Alfred Health, Baker IDI, Monash Health, Cabrini Health, the Burnet Institute, Epworth HealthCare and Prince Henry's Institute. The Melbourne Academic Health Research Centre included the University of Melbourne, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne Health, Florey Neuroscience Institutes, Mercy Health, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and others.

This approach of having academic health science centres is a very

important way of strengthening our research and aligning clinical and research activities. Our hospitals, our medical research institutes and our universities come together in academic health science centres focused on better outcomes and better clinical results. This enables larger scale clinical trials to be run and a larger population pool which is able to be drawn from to conduct those clinical trials. It brings the strengths, the skills and the backgrounds that are required to run first-rate research in our state. Victoria has a unique place in the national research effort, and I know in this chamber there is strong bipartisan support for that effort.

Prior to the last election I was proud to announce at Alfred Health that the then opposition, if elected, would commit to establishing academic health science centres. I had strong support in that process from the Bio21 Institute, key individuals like Professor David Penington and others.

I was proud to make that announcement in the lead-up to the election and to see, post the election, the work that a number of these centres have done to organise their academic health science centres. I was also pleased to put in place two grants: \$850 000 for the Melbourne Academic Health Science Research Centre for clinical and translational research fellowships and \$850 000 for the Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre clinical research fellowships. There are also small coordination grants of \$150 000 for each to ensure that significant steps are taken as we go forward.

I know the McKeon review recognised the significance of academic health science centres at a national level, and I look forward to commonwealth government partnership in this process. I have brought to the attention of both the chamber and the community the concerns we have with reductions in funding and the funding flows to medical research institutes — —

Mr Lenders — On a point of order, President, which goes to the rule of anticipation, notice of motion 448 on the notice paper in Mr Davis's name and notice of motion 534, also in Mr Davis's name, both refer to cuts of federal funding and how they affect Victorian programs. I put to you that given they are listed on the government business program for today, Mr Davis is breaching the rule of anticipation and should be sat down.

Hon. D. M. DAVIS — On the point of order, President, they refer to different cuts. There is one lot of federal cuts, and I am about to talk about a different set of federal cuts and to make the point that the precise arrangements the federal government has put in place for medical research institutes will not assist in the project we have embarked upon with academic health science centres. They are a different set of cuts we are referring to.

The PRESIDENT — Order!

The standing order to which Mr Lenders refers is 12.19, 'Anticipating discussion,' and that standing order reads:

A member may not anticipate the discussion of a subject listed on the notice paper and expected to be debated on the same or next sitting day. In determining whether a discussion is out of order the President should not prevent incidental reference to a subject.

Most of Mr Davis's answer and response to this question has not been totally directed at the federal cuts. Whilst there are notices of motion on the notice paper, Mr Davis's subject matter in his response has not substantially gone to that issue.

It would be my view, given my understanding of the order of proceedings today, that neither of those notices of motion referred to by Mr Lenders will be the subject of any debate this day, and as tomorrow is opposition business I would form the view that they are not to be debated tomorrow either, so in the context of the standing order I cannot accept the point of order on this occasion.

Hon. D. M. DAVIS — I know the opposition is very tetchy about the situation with federal cuts. I know that its support for federal cuts has not sat well with the Victorian community. I know that at every turn it will seek to justify what is unjustifiable — that is, its support for federal cuts that have caused a series of significant impacts. But I would have thought that on the matter of academic health science research centres there would have been bipartisan support — indeed tripartisan support — across the chamber, and I would have thought that the support would have been very strong indeed.

COUNCIL
8 May 2013

Melbourne Planning Scheme: Amendment

(Relating to C194, the Australia 108 project, the tallest building in the southern hemisphere located at Southbank)

Mr BARBER (Northern Metropolitan) — I move:

That amendment C194 to the Melbourne planning scheme be revoked.

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I always take a great deal of interest in matters of mysticism, and there are some of the great mysteries of life that we, as individuals and as a society, can take into account. Some of the great questions we need to address include the meaning of life. Is this all there is? That is a question we often hear. Is there a God is another one that has been considered and talked about through the ages. Surely when taking all these matters into consideration one of the greatest issues not just of our time but of any time must be: what the hell is going on with the Greens? What is wrong with these people? It is something about which I have to say, 'I don't understand.'

I have been looking at the Greens for quite some time now. I have seen the Greens go through their embryonic stage and infancy. Up they went, and they have decided election after election. Now they have reached their peak and are on their way out, and we have seen that election after election.

It never ceases to amaze me why the Greens would want to put up motions like this, because its members keep telling us they do not want people living in the suburbs. For years we have heard from the Greens that they do not want the suburban sprawl. They want to keep the green wedge. They want people to live in smaller homes and largely keep out of the suburbs. They do not like people living in the country because that might upset the trees — and the last thing we want to do is upset the trees. Now they tell us here today they do not want people living in the city either. If they do not want people living in the suburbs, they do not want people living in the country and they

do not want people living in the city, we can only draw conclusions not totally unrelated to their views on a number of other issues that they do not want people living anywhere at all.

That is the bottom line when it comes to the Greens: they regard people as a nuisance and as a danger to the environment.

That is their basic problem and that is where they are coming from. That is where this motion comes from today. It is not the first time we have seen a motion of this nature, and it is not the first time we have heard a contribution of this nature come from the Labor Party either. Mr Tee has raised similar matters over a period of time. I heard Mr Tee's contribution in this debate today. I cannot say that I entirely understood what he said, but I heard it, and it was clearly antidevelopment. He made the point on a number of occasions that any decision supportive of development had to be opposed. Is this the new policy of the Labor Party? Have Labor members completely lost their senses and merged with the Greens into that mystic world I spoke of earlier?

As Mr Barber said by way of an interjection earlier, the Greens would have us all living in humpies by the banks of the Barcoo River or any similar river. Mr Barber would have us living like that. As we know, he would have us all riding bikes, would ban cars and does not want the tunnel.

We do not know whether the Labor Party wants the east-west link either, but listening to the debate today it seems that both Labor and the Greens have taken on the policy of total, complete and absolute opposition to any development at all. That clearly is not only a threat to the future of our city and our state, but it is also a clear and present threat to the jobs of thousands of Victorians, particularly those in the construction industry.

One would think that particularly members of the Labor Party would have some concern for the welfare of employees in the construction industry, because a good deal of the support and a good deal of the money that the ALP brings in to fight its campaigns come from the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, and it is those very jobs that we are talking about today. These are the very jobs that would come as a result of Australia 108, a building that would in its own way make a substantial contribution to the funds that the ALP will use to fight the next election.

Again, it mystifies me that the Labor Party would be against the development, as outlined by Mr Tee in the house today. I may be a little tired today — I think we are all a little bit tired today — but it goes beyond the realm of reason to try to match up the arguments of Labor via Mr Tee and the arguments of the Greens via Mr Barber with any logic or common sense at all. We have heard from Mr Barber and particularly from Mr Tee that this development would be some sort of threat to the Shrine of Remembrance. That of course is a nonsense. The shrine board of trustees —

Mr Barber — I did not say that.

Mr FINN — Mr Barber says he did not say that. He is more worried about some parrot or something, no doubt. Mr Tee certainly made it clear that he was concerned about the effect Australia 108 would have on the shrine. If that were the case, I would share that concern because the shrine is something that we should all regard with a great deal of respect, as it represents something that we all should hold very dear.

Mr Barber — That's why I consulted the trustees.

Mr FINN — I do not know what Mr Barber is saying there, but the shrine board of trustees has made it very clear that it does not oppose this development at all, and it put that in writing. I would not be too concerned.

I do not know what the trustees said to Mr Barber, but they have put it in writing that they are not opposed to this development. It offers no threat. Australia 108 offers no threat to the shrine. Let us face facts; we have to face facts here. The arguments about the shrine are secondary in consideration of the general view of the Labor Party and the Greens that development is bad, growth is bad, business is bad. That is what they are on about. That is what we expect from the extreme left, and that is what we have got here today. I think that in itself is very sad.

Ms Pulford — This from a member of the snooziest government in Victorian history!

Mr FINN — Ms Pulford might get very excited and passionate about these matters because she might not be as left wing as some of her comrades.

Mr Tee — On a point of order, Deputy President, Mr Finn has referred to the views of the shrine board of trustees by reference to a letter. I would ask that, as a courtesy to the house, he make that letter

available to all parties.

Mr FINN — On the point of order, Deputy President, certainly if I had been quoting from that letter I would be very happy to do that. My understanding is that the letter exists; I am surprised that Mr Tee has not seen it.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT — Order! That is sufficient on the point of order. There is no capacity for the Chair to require a member to table or make a document available. It is a matter for the member using such a document to determine whether or not they are prepared to do that. I cannot uphold Mr Tee's point of order, given that Mr Finn has indicated he does not wish to do so.

Mr FINN — Getting back to Ms Pulford's point, it is interesting that Ms Pulford enters this debate in the way that she has, as out of order as that may be. It is interesting that she has entered the debate in this way, because as we know the Victorian Labor Party at the moment is split between the extreme left, as led by the current Leader of the Opposition, Daniel Andrews, and the not-so-extreme left, led by the heir apparent, Mr Pakula. I would not go as far as suggesting that Ms Pulford —

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT — Order! Earlier in his contribution Mr Finn referred to the fact that he has spent many years in this place listening to the Greens and observing them. I have spent many years in this place listening to and observing Mr Finn, and what I can say is that he has a tendency in debates to move from the matter before the Chair. I think he has enough experience to cleverly bring his points back to the matter before the Chair, but at this stage he is failing to do so.

I ask him to address the matter before the Chair, which is a specific motion about a particular planning matter.

Mr FINN — I hear what you say, Deputy President, and I certainly hope you hear what I say as well. I just made that reference because there may be a little bit more than meets the eye when it comes to the views of the Labor Party on this matter, particularly as Ms Pakula — there was a Freudian slip! — particularly as Ms Pulford entered the debate in the manner in which she did.

Mrs Peulich — Being in the Pakula stable.

Mr FINN — As Mrs Peulich says, Ms Pulford is supporting one particular candidate, and it might not be the same candidate Mr Tee is supporting,

But that is another thing altogether, and I will move on.

We heard Mr Tee talk about his desire to work with councils on these sorts of developments. I laughed myself stupid. My memory might not be as good as it was 20 or 30 years ago, but it is not completely shot. I remember the last planning minister of this state, who tried to ride roughshod over every council in Victoria. He tried to take the ability to have any planning powers at all from every council in Victoria. It is drawing a long bow, to say the least, for members of the Labor Party, particularly a man who thinks he could be the Minister for Planning in Victoria, to get up here in this house today and talk about their desire to protect the rights of councils.

I remember not all that long ago when the then Minister for Planning, Mr Madden, now the member for Essendon in the Assembly, would have turned Mount Alexander Road in Essendon into a concrete canyon. Wherever there was a tram track you would have had concrete canyons — great mountains of buildings on either side. The Moonee Valley City Council was against that then, and I emphasise that that was a Labor council at the time. Wherever those councils were expressing a view, the minister just did not want to know.

If Labor Party members are now taking into consideration the views of councils, I commend them. I congratulate them because that is a giant step in the right direction for them and certainly a total and complete about-face on what they did and what they attempted to do the last time they were in government.

I am very excited about the development the Minister for Planning, Mr Guy, has approved.

Australia 108 is going to be a major asset to Melbourne and to Victoria, and I sincerely hope it will not be the last development of its type in Melbourne. You just have to go back 20 years to see that Melbourne was a dead city on the weekends and after hours.

Mr Koch — A ghost town.

Mr FINN — It was a ghost town, Mr Koch. There was nobody here. Nobody lived here. Over the last 20 years things changed, and that was started by former Minister for Planning Robert Maclellan, who took the view that Melbourne was a living, vibrant city that should be occupied by actual human beings after hours. He did that, and I am delighted to see that Mr Guy as the planning minister

now is continuing in that regard.

I have no doubt that in the years and decades to come people will look back and see Mr Guy as a visionary, and they will give him the due credit that is his for continuing our magnificent city as a living, breathing, vibrant city. That is an issue that is foremost in the minds of a good many people in the city.

I do not know who Mr Barber talks to; I have a fair idea, but I do not completely know. However, the people I speak to do not have any problem with these sorts of towers. They have no problem with these sorts of developments; in fact they regard them as being very good. As I say, they create jobs. They bring investment. We are talking about a \$600 million investment in the Victorian economy and 300 jobs in the construction and hospitality industries. You cannot buy investment like that. If we had a city nobody wanted to invest in, then we would have a problem, but here we have people who want to invest in Victoria, who want to invest in Melbourne, who want to create jobs and who want to create wealth.

That might be another problem for Mr Barber, because the Greens have a real problem with wealth. They do not like wealth. 'Profit' is a dirty word to them. I suppose it comes from their base, which is largely the hippie crowd, most of whom have never had a job in their lives. I suppose that flows through.

Mrs Kronberg — Do they ever polish their shoes?

Mr FINN — I do not know whether they polish their shoes, but I can only point the finger on that score, Mrs Kronberg. It comes back to the fact that the Greens and the left of the Labor Party, as epitomised by the outgoing Leader of the Opposition, Mr Andrews, the member for Mulgrave in the Assembly —

Mr Leane interjected.

Mr FINN — Mr Leane is very touchy on this subject. I am surprised.

Ms Pulford has gone quiet all of a sudden. Mr Leane is in furious defence of the outgoing Leader of the Labor Party, Mr Andrews, and the smile on Ms Pulford's face says it all, because she knows that her man is the one who is going to have the job very soon, and she will probably be leapfrogging that bench. It may well be the case that she will be taking Mr Tee's spot. Ms Pulford may well be the shadow Minister for Planning in —

Mr Ramsay — It's a giant leap of faith.

Mr FINN — Mr Ramsay is

absolutely on the money, as he so often is. He says, 'It's a giant leap of faith', and one I perhaps would not be prepared to make. However, Mr Pakula, who is now the member for Lyndhurst in the Assembly, may be prepared to do that.

To get back to what I was saying before, I commend the Minister for Planning, Mr Guy, on his vision. I commend him on the systematic and planned way he is going about developing parts of Melbourne that need these sorts of developments. We see him out in East Werribee at the moment. Parts of that area have been referred to by some as Finland, which I do not think is a bad name. We are seeing development right around the metropolitan area. We are seeing it in many country areas, and we are very fortunate as a government and as a state to have somebody like Matthew Guy in the planning portfolio overseeing the sorts of developments and growth that are happening right across the board. For that I am very grateful, and I am very proud to be part of a government that has him as minister in that portfolio.

Clearly I will not be supporting this motion today. Undoubtedly there will be more as Victoria continues to grow. As Victoria continues to improve we will see Labor and the Greens joining together in an attempt to stop that growth — in an attempt to stop Victoria becoming a better place. That is one of the reasons they are going to be on that side of the house for a very long time to come.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
8 May 2013**

Planning: City of Maribyrnong

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Planning, Mr Guy. It is wonderful to see him in the chamber this afternoon. I wish to preface my comments and request by thanking the minister for the time and effort he has been putting into the western suburbs since he took over his portfolio. I can assure him that I certainly appreciate that effort and the people of the western suburbs appreciate that effort. We are not used to having ministers who actually care about the west of Melbourne. It is wonderful that we now have a Minister for Planning who actually does care, and I thank him most sincerely for that.

The matter I raise with the minister is one that was raised with me some time ago by the mayor of the City of Maribyrnong, Cr Catherine Cumming. I have known Cr Cumming for some years.

She is a dedicated servant of the people of Maribyrnong and she has been fighting for some years against a party machine which has put itself ahead of the people of that municipality. She now finds herself mayor and she is putting in place a number of programs and making a number of attempts to bring about change in a way that will greatly benefit the people of Maribyrnong and the suburbs within the city of Maribyrnong.

In particular, Cr Cumming raised with me her desire to change the image and the feel of the suburb of Braybrook. As I am sure the minister is aware, Braybrook is an area that has suffered from a great deal of neglect for a long time. It is a very disadvantaged area and has suffered over a long time. Cr Cumming is very keen to turn that around and to do so as quickly as possible. She is of the view that the minister, given his strong activity in Melbourne's west since becoming the Minister for Planning, would be the appropriate minister to speak to about changing the scope, feel and texture of the suburb of Braybrook.

I ask the minister to give Cr Cumming and the Maribyrnong City Council a positive response to their request for a meeting with him to discuss these very important matters, including the future of Braybrook and the people of that suburb.

RESPONSE:

Hon. M. J. GUY (Minister for Planning) — Mr Finn raised a matter with me around meeting the mayor of Maribyrnong. It is good to see Mr Finn again standing up for the western suburbs in this chamber; he does this every week. I am more than happy to meet the mayor with Mr Finn to discuss those issues. I think it is a very good idea, and no doubt we will do that in time.

**COUNCIL | Members Statements
9 May 2013**

Autism: western suburbs school

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — It has long been accepted that a proper education is a basic right of all Australians. Tragically one group of

Australians has long been denied that right. Gross discrimination against this group purely on the basis of their residential address is a matter of shame for governments of this state that have gone before. The fact that this group of Australians is comprised of children with autism is an outrage. That discrimination, I am delighted to say, is coming to an end.

This week the Minister for Education, Martin Dixon, visited Laverton to announce that decades of shame are over. The Napthine government is providing funding for a P-12 autism-specific school for Melbourne's west. No more will these children and their families suffer as a result of Labor neglect. Having a child with autism, or indeed any disability for that matter, is not easy.

The announcement this week will go a long way toward helping those families affected. It is a great relief to so many in the west that their children will at long last be able to get an education. No more will they be subjected to some wild social experiment led by people who do not seem to have much interest in what is best for children.

I express my personal thanks to Minister Dixon and perhaps even more so to his chief of staff, Darren Brown, who has done a marvellous job. This is a great win for the west, and a great win for children with autism in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

**COUNCIL | Second Reading
9 May 2013**

Gambling Regulation Amendment Bill 2013

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise to my feet this afternoon to support the Gambling Regulation Amendment Bill 2013. Right at the very beginning of my contribution, I have to say that I believe that over probably the past two decades there has been a lot of nonsense spoken about gambling. Far too many have been too free and easy in using those in the gambling industry as whipping boys. Too many have attacked the gambling industry in order to promote themselves and the issues in which they are particularly interested.

That is wrong because the

overwhelming majority of those in the gambling industry in this state — and I think this country — are doing a fine job. The industry is contributing to the economy, employment and the legitimate pastime or leisure time of a good many Australians. We have to admit that undoubtedly there will always be a small group of people who have problems with gambling. That is something that we most certainly have to deal with, and I think we have gone a long way in doing so.

I have to comment on Ms Hartland's statements on this matter. I do not believe that problem gambling is a blue-collar disease. I do not believe that blue-collar gambling is almost entirely contained in the northern and western suburbs of Melbourne. I believe that it is highly insulting to the people of my electorate of Western Metropolitan Region for someone to get up in this house — or anywhere, for that matter — and say that the people of the west cannot control themselves when they get near a poker machine. I do not believe that; in fact, I know that to be wrong. I know a good many people who play the pokies.

In fact in years gone by I had quite a bit of enthusiasm for the caper of playing the pokies myself.

I have to say that in recent years that has faded a bit, as I have become quite bored with them. There are still a number of people who on a Friday or Saturday night like to go wherever it may be and have a flutter. Whether it be \$5, \$10, \$50 or whatever it might be, they set their limit and they go in there. If they can win a few dollars, they are happy; if they lose it, they accept that that is the way it goes. It does not present a problem for them or their families. In fact there is no problem involved. These people are good, hardworking, honest taxpayers of this state and should not be condemned by anybody or have any black mark cast against their names because they enjoy a flutter.

Those who say that problem gambling is a symptom of the working classes — if they want to use that term; it is not a term that I use, but if they want to use that term, I suppose they will — should very much think again. I think that anybody is capable of being hooked on these machines. Place of residence is not a criterion.

Anybody with a predilection to being caught in the problem gambling area can be caught; it has nothing to do with a person's residential address or where they come from. I just ask people to take that into consideration, in defence of the people in my

electorate, who I believe are unfairly maligned far, far too often.

I remember when poker machines were introduced to this state. We were told that civilisation as we knew it was about to end. That clearly has not happened. We have to remember who introduced poker machines into this state. It was, of course, Joan Kirner as Premier and, as I recall, Steve Crabb.

Mrs Coote interjected.

Mr FINN — Remember the Crabbaret? It was the original Tabaret down in Collins Street, but most people called it the Crabbaret, after Steve Crabb, who was the gaming minister, I think, in the Kirner government.

He introduced poker machines at that particular venue. They were obviously a raging success, because very shortly thereafter everybody wanted them, and unfortunately everybody got them. I think the biggest mistake that was made by Joan Kirner as Premier — and God knows, she made a lot of mistakes — was to allow poker machines to be placed in hotels because that, of course, allowed saturation of the machines in the community and allowed for no constraints to be placed on people who might have a problem. Basically, as a result of what Joan Kirner did as Premier, we had poker machines on almost every corner, and those who did have a problem really had a lot of difficulty getting away from them. There was no way to escape them, because they were everywhere.

If poker machines had been confined to community-based clubs, first of all, there would have been far greater control over who was using them. Clearly the number of machines would have been in a more organised and confined space, and not on every corner.

As I say, that was a major mistake in this whole gambling and gaming industry. I really wish that Joan Kirner had not done that. Members might recall —

Mr Tee interjected.

Mr FINN — Mr Tee might recall that back in the early 1990s, Joan Kirner was Premier. She oversaw the bankruptcy of Victoria. If she had been a director of a private company, she probably would have been thrown into jail for what she did to Victoria.

Mrs Coote — But she got the poison chalice because of Cain!

Mr FINN — She did get the poison chalice, to a degree.

A lot of people say, Mrs Coote, that Joan Kirner had to wear it because of what John Cain did, but they seem

to forget that for almost the entire term of the Cain government Joan Kirner was sitting beside him. Was she so absent-minded that she did not actually notice what was happening around her at the cabinet table? You have to wonder about that.

Mrs Coote — What was that Treasurer's name? Tony Sheehan.

Mr FINN — We could talk about Tony Sheehan, we could talk about Rob Jolly and we could talk about snappy Tom Roper.

Mrs Coote — The Guilty Party!

Mr FINN — We could talk about the Guilty Party, and we could talk about snappy Tom Roper. I will remember Jeff Kennett, the then opposition leader, who of course later became Premier, saying that when he heard that Tom Roper had been made Treasurer he had to look at the calendar, because he thought it was 1 April. He could not believe his luck. That is to a degree, only a small degree, beside the point.

The then Premier, Joan Kirner, in a lot of ways you would have to say is in a parallel universe with the current Prime Minister, because the founders of Emily's List are not good with money. Joan Kirner was an economic basket case, or she created an economic basket case, and Julia Gillard has done exactly the same thing federally. That is an interesting thing. They might have been 20-odd years apart but history has a tendency to repeat itself, and it is most certainly repeating itself in Canberra and around Australia just at the moment.

I reiterate that I regret very much that Joan Kirner was so strapped for cash that she whacked these machines into hotels around the state and allowed carte blanche gambling for those who might have difficulties controlling themselves. I think it was very sad. It was a tragedy.

Labor introduced these poker machines, and you would think they would have had some idea of their value. You would think they would have had some idea of what these machines would be worth to the Victorian economy. When they decided they would have an auction process for the poker machine licences one would have thought they would have had some idea of the value these things could bring in to so many areas across Victoria, but of course what happened was what always happens when Labor tries just about anything: it stuffed it up, it botched it, and it cost Victorian taxpayers billions of dollars. One can only begin to imagine the sorts of

benefits Victorian taxpayers would have reaped if the Labor Party in government had not made a complete botch of this process.

There is one thing we have to learn, and that is that it does not matter which component of the economy it is — it can even be poker machines — the Labor Party cannot be trusted with money. Labor has no idea. It proves it time and again. It proved it in Victoria during the Cain and Kirner governments and the Bracks and Brumby governments, and it is certainly proving it at the moment during the last remaining months of the Gillard and Swan regime in Canberra. That is something that I think Australians have to take a lesson from, that Victorians have to take a lesson from. We seem to have this cycle whereby the Labor Party gets in, makes a complete, unmitigated disaster of the state or the country that it is administering — —

Mr Ramsay interjected.

Mr FINN — Indeed, as Mr Ramsay says, anything it touches.

Then it is thrown out, the conservatives come in, we fix it up — we are always called upon to fix it up and we dutifully do that — then people forget and they put Labor back in again, and sure enough Labor stuffs it up again. That is the Labor way. Labor cannot do much right, but it certainly knows how to stuff it up. Whatever it may be, Labor knows how to stuff it up. It has done that again and again with this gaming situation as well. In the last couple of minutes that I have I want to make some comments about — —

Mr Tee — The bill?

Mr FINN — I have been speaking about the bill, Mr Tee. You were a bit late. You were probably out having a cup of tea with a few comrades, no doubt fixing up a preselection or two somewhere. It is good to see that you have come into the chamber to hear my contribution; I appreciate your support.

It is worth mentioning just very briefly in the time I have left the contributions that those who operate gaming venues make to the Victorian economy, and I think no more so than in regional Victoria, particularly up on the border. We all remember, I am sure, in years gone by busloads of people heading across the border into New South Wales, unloading their pockets into the New South Wales economy and creating wealth and jobs in that state. That does not happen anymore. That money is by and large kept here in Victoria, and

I think that is something we have to give the venue operators credit for.

Mrs Coote spoke about Crown Casino. As I understand it, that is the no. 1 tourist attraction in Victoria. It brings in many millions of dollars from interstate and overseas and creates jobs for many thousands of people. We should take these things into consideration when discussing these matters. It is not all about problem gambling; it is not all about the bad side, the downside of gaming.

Perhaps I am speaking here as somebody with a fair bit of Irish blood coursing through their veins, but gambling is not a bad thing. It can in fact contribute significantly to the welfare of the state, and I certainly believe it does. I support this bill, and I wish it a speedy passage.

COUNCIL | Adjournment (Reply)
28 May 2013

Planning: coastal management

Raised with the Minister for Planning on 23 October 2012

REPLY:

Last year I announced changes to the State Planning Policy Framework of all Victorian planning schemes to provide further clarity in addressing possible sea level rise and inundation risk in the planning system while further work in priority locations is undertaken by councils and DSE over the next four-five years. The changes included:

- revising the State Planning Policy Framework to recognise incremental change and increase floor levels by an additional 0.2 metres over current one-in-100-year flood levels for new urban infill development;
- maintaining the existing long term commitment to plan for not less than 0.8 metre possible sea level rise by 2100 in new greenfield developments outside existing town boundaries.

The changes provide consistency in addressing inundation risk in the planning system. They provide for a commonsense approach to development in existing areas such as Williamstown, Altona and Point Cook. Councils, the development industry and all Victorians now have more clarity about the matters Catchment Management Authorities and Melbourne Water consider in providing advice about inundation risk for development in both

existing coastal settlements and new greenfield development.

The government is committed to developing further information to inform decision makers about possible future inundation risk within coastal areas. This work is being led by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

**COUNCIL | Adjournment (Reply)
28 May 2013**

Essendon: traffic management plan

Raised with the Minister for Roads on 19 March 2013

REPLY:

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

There is traffic congestion at times in Buckley Street due to the level crossing and signalised intersection. This location has to accommodate trains, pedestrians, and nearby bus operations.

VicRoads is responsible for the management of Buckley Street. The Moonee Valley City Council is the road authority responsible for Leslie Road.

VicRoads will work with the Moonee Valley City Council regarding the issues raised, to identify any appropriate treatments to ensure the safety of road users with particular attention to the safety needs of school children.

**COUNCIL | Members Statements
29 May 2013**

Australian Labor Party: union affiliation

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — The entry of a new member to this house is always a joyous event — a wonderful celebration of democracy in fact. Even when it is surrounded by bitter factional warfare it is still a marvellous thing. Even when one of the most prominent federal cabinet ministers and arguably no. 1 factional warlord in Victoria makes a complete galah of himself, it is still a salute to all things that make our nation great. Even when one of the two major political parties rips itself in two as it goes about choosing the victor

and then does a dodgy deal with the vanquished — yes, even then we raise our glasses to the art of number crunching.

As deep personal hatred, factional brawling and heartfelt promises of retribution next time move aside, we stand and applaud as the winner, fresh from the kill of a preselection battle, enters this chamber.

It is a glorious thing, a new member of this house to add to the diversity of backgrounds and interests held by fellow members — unless of course that new member just happens to spring from the same background and interests as most of the members already on his side of the chamber.

Could it be the ALP has contributed to this diversity by giving us yet another union good old boy? With or without a slush fund I would have thought the very last thing the Labor Party needs right now is another professional unionist in the Parliament. A small businessperson, a carpenter, a butcher, a baker, a candlestick maker — maybe even a totally discredited ex-mayor of a western suburban council — is much needed in a Labor Party that has hit the rocks and is sinking fast. Instead the Labor Party give us another union man — not even a union woman! Whatever will Joan Kirner say?

Honourable members interjecting.

The PRESIDENT — Order!

**COUNCIL | Questions without Notice
29 May 2013**

Merrifield employment precinct: development

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My question without notice is directed to my friend and colleague the Minister for Planning, and I ask: can the minister advise the house what action he has taken to bring forward employment land for Melbourne's northern suburbs?

Hon. M. J. GUY (Minister for Planning) — I thank Mr Finn for that important question about jobs and growth in Melbourne's outer urban areas.

Honourable members interjecting.

Hon. M. J. GUY — Calm down, Mr Lenders, we are only just into the question.

This is an important — —

Honourable members interjecting.

Hon. M. J. GUY — In the Ukraine they say, 'Keep fire away from straw,' and I would have thought today was not the day for Labor members to interject, unless one of them wants to come over and headbutt me.

I was asked an important question by Mr Finn, and it deserves a detailed answer. I recently launched an employment precinct in Melbourne's northern suburbs, in the northern growth corridor — and that employment suburb is called Merrifield. It was my pleasure to be at that launch last week because that new precinct will create 20 000 jobs for Melbourne's northern suburbs. This builds on the back of the Werribee employment precinct, which Mr Elsbury, Mr Finn and I launched last year, which will create 50 000 jobs in Melbourne's outer western suburbs. Between them these precincts will get jobs where people live, build on the 20-minute city concept and importantly get jobs to where people are going to move in our outer urban areas. This is a policy of the coalition government that we are getting right, and it is about getting jobs in place before the people come to those suburbs.

We will see thousands of people come to this area between Craigieburn and Wallan in the next few years. It is a major corridor in a major growth area. That is why the government is putting in place a works-in-kind process so that some of that infrastructure can be realised earlier than it would normally be realised.

Importantly, that is why I was there to launch the Merrifield development — a 300-hectare business precinct, a 110-hectare town centre, future land for primary schools, secondary schools and open space. As I said before, it exemplifies the 20-minute city concept, actually getting Melbourne into a polycentric form by building jobs growth in outer urban growth areas so that people will have jobs at the time of residential development. None of this is rocket science. It is about getting jobs in place first. That is why the coalition government is absolutely committed to building a sustainable Melbourne and sustainable outer urban areas.

This contrasts with what we inherited when we came to government. Suburbs had been built but had little infrastructure upgrade for 10 years, like Point Cook. There were suburbs that had many, many residents and structure plans approved with no level of

infrastructure upgrade submitted before them.

That is why this government and others, including Mr Elsbury, Mr Finn and me, are proud to bring forward \$72 million worth of infrastructure for the Werribee employment precinct and are proud to bring forward jobs and jobs growth in Merrifield so that the northern growth corridor will have jobs in place at the time people move in.

We are doing what is right, what is important, to build a sustainable Melbourne for the long term. It is not about short-sightedness. It is not about building a city based on press releases and spin, which is what we inherited. It is about putting in place the infrastructure, the building blocks and the jobs to make sure that Melbourne remains the world's most livable city.

COUNCIL
29 May 2013

East-West Link: Community Impact

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I will endeavour to wake myself and indeed the chamber after having listened to a huge dose of human Mogadon for the last half hour or so.

Mrs Peulich — It was his usual stuff.

Mr FINN — It was his usual stuff, it has to be said.

What we heard from Mr Tee throughout his contribution was an attempt to divert attention from this motion. It was not a very successful attempt, but this amendment that the Labor Party has put forward and the speech by Mr Tee, which, as I said, was pretty dozy stuff, is all about trying to get us to concentrate on something else — anything else — because the Labor Party has had a lot of trouble with this issue over an extended period of time. The Labor Party of course used to support this motion.

Mrs Peulich — So did Mr Melhem.

Mr FINN — Mr Melhem may well want to speak on this motion, and I hope he does. The Labor Party used to support this motion, then came the Melbourne by-election and for purely political reasons Labor dumped the people of the western and the eastern suburbs out the window in its hunt for votes in the inner city.

The western suburbs used to be

Labor's happy hunting ground, but it felt that it had to turf its traditional people over in the west and the marginal people in the east in pursuit of a vote in the inner suburbs of Melbourne. It is pathetic when a political party puts its own political interests ahead of what is good for this state, what is good for the people of this state and, from my point of view, what is good for the people of the western suburbs.

I am here today representing the western suburbs, Mr Melhem is here representing the western suburbs and Mr Elsbury is here representing the Western suburbs, and we all have the same view: we all support the east-west link. Mr Tee might like to get excited about it, but the fact is that the view opposing the east-west link on the opposition side of the house is hardly unanimous, and if he does not believe me, he should turn around and asked the bloke behind him, because Mr Melhem will be able to tell him all about it.

I say only one thing to the Labor Party: get on board. Let us make a decision here today to support the east-west link — with no more delays, no more inquiries and no more committees — because it is good for Melbourne and Victoria. I say to the Labor Party it is decision time. It is time that ALP members got on board, put aside their own parochial interests and decided what is best for the people of Victoria. It is most certainly the east-west link.

If Labor members wanted to look at it in political terms, perhaps they could look at it in these terms: do they want to win Melbourne or do they want to win Macedon? Do they want to win Tarneit? Do they want to win some of those seats out in the eastern suburbs that I cannot quite think of at the moment? Do they want to win those seats that are occupied by people who at the moment are stuck in gridlock on the Tullamarine, the West Gate, the Eastern and the Monash freeways and who would use the east-west link in their thousands every day?

These people are desperate for an east-west link, and the Labor Party is saying to them, 'Forget it. We're putting our political interests ahead of yours,' and that is pretty pathetic. I will be opposing the amendment moved by Mr Tee. It is just another delay that Victoria can do without.

I turn to Mr Barber's contribution, and what a fascinating contribution it was, because he told me what I was going to say and he got some of it right. I say to Mr Barber that if

he happens to come adrift from his seat after the next election, as may happen because I think the Greens are well and truly on the way out, I may consider taking him on as a speech writer because he told me at some length exactly what I was going to say. What I really liked was Mr Barber's reference to the Good Ship Lollipop bound for glory. It is a cross between Shirley Temple and Angry Anderson. I wondered out loud who this cross between Shirley Temple and Angry Anderson might be, and my good friend and colleague Mr Ondarchie informed me that he was probably referring to federal Greens leader, Christine Milne. I do not know if that is the case, but it is something to speculate on as we continue this debate.

I have to say to Mr Barber and this house that having been around this place for a fair while I heard many of the arguments that Mr Barber and Mr Tee put today used against CityLink. It is almost as if they picked the arguments up from 20 years ago, put them down on the desk, opened the book and are using them all over again. They say that history repeats itself, and ain't that the truth, because we are hearing today exactly the same arguments we heard nearly two decades ago against CityLink.

We now know just how important CityLink is, and the importance of the east-west link to this city and to this state was illustrated, far too graphically, just a couple of weeks ago when we had that dreadful accident on the Bolte Bridge, which caused the whole road network in Melbourne to shut down. Our network was gridlocked from one end of Melbourne to the other.

If we had had the east-west link, that would not have happened. We would not have had gridlock; we would have had an alternative that people could have used to get to where they wanted to get to whether they were commercial travellers, truck drivers or commuters heading to work. I point out to Mr Barber that it has been estimated that some 40 per cent of people who use the West Gate Freeway do not want to go into the city; they want to go to the other side of town and if they want to do that, clearly they are going to use the east-west link. It makes sense.

I am not sure where Mr Barber gets his figures from, although I suspect it will be from a place that is possibly not all that hygienic, but I can assure you I will not go into that in any depth.

I particularly enjoyed this motion

as much as anything else for its first component, where Mr Barber opposed the Napthine government's proposed east-west tollway because it lacked a 'robust economic case.' I did have a bit of a chuckle to hear the Greens professing concern for the taxpayer and professing that they have some sense of economic responsibility. Give me a break! Since when have the Greens cared about the taxpayers of Australia? Since when have the Greens cared about any economic responsibility at all? They show every day in Canberra that they do not care where the money comes from. They just want to spend it; that is what they are on about. They make Wayne Swan look genuinely stingy, and that is really saying something.

The highest spending Treasurer in Australia's history is tight compared to the Greens, so for the Greens to come into this house and start talking about a robust economic case really makes me laugh. I find that extremely amusing.

I would dearly love to make a number of other points on this particular motion, but unfortunately I have been asked to keep my comments as brief as possible, so I will do so. However, I make the point that the east-west link will bring enormous benefits to the western suburbs of Melbourne. I know that Mr Barber does not care about the western suburbs of Melbourne, nor does he care particularly about any outer suburb of Melbourne. As far as Mr Barber is concerned, he goes with the old tradition that Victoria ends at the end of the tram tracks. He does not particularly care what happens in Werribee, Melton, Sunbury or any of those places you travel through as you go out through eastern, western or northern suburbs.

He does not care about those areas, but I can assure him that thousands and thousands of people are desperately waiting for the east-west link to be built, and it will be very much welcomed, as most of Victoria very much welcomed Tony Abbott's offer of \$1.5 billion to get this project up and running.

What a great pity it is that the outgoing Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, has refused to make any contribution to the east-west link at all. She has kicked in huge sums of money for the western suburbs of Sydney, but of course that is where the marginal seats are. That is the only thing the Labor Party cares about. Just as Labor's members do not care about what is beneficial for the people of Victoria with regard to the east-west

link, they do not care that this project needs the federal funding that Julia Gillard is denying it. That money is going to where Julia Gillard needs the votes. I will tell you what: it is going to be a huge waste of money, because she is not going to get the votes up there anyway, so she is wasting her time.

I will say to the house what I have said to the house before. I really hope we do not get to the point of debating this matter every week because it could become almost as boring as Mr Tee, and that is really saying something. I say to Mr Tee and to members of the opposition that every day thousands of people are caught on the West Gate Freeway and the Tullamarine Freeway, and all they want to do is to get to work. Every morning and every night all they want is to get to work and then to get home. At the moment they are prevented from doing that in any speedy and reasonable way by virtue of the fact that the congestion is beyond all reason. We need the east-west link. Those people stuck in the traffic need the east-west link.

What time is it now — a quarter past five? We are talking about the peak hour. Right now the Tullamarine Freeway and the West Gate Freeway outbound will both be chock-a-block; they would be jam-packed. Mr Tee should go out and tell those people that he does not care how long they sit on the freeway, that he does not care how long it takes them to get home, that he does not care how long it takes them to see their families and their loved ones, because that is the attitude of the Labor Party, the attitude of the Greens and most certainly not the attitude of this government. We want the east-west link built, built now and as soon as is practically possible. From my point of view and from those of Mr Elsbury and Mr Melhem, it will be a huge benefit and a great boon for the western suburbs; indeed it will be a major plus for the city of Melbourne, for the suburbs of Melbourne and indeed for the state of Victoria.

I urge those members of the opposition who are very keen to see the east-west link built to come and join us on this matter. I urge them to make their views known, not just in their party room, if they were allowed to do that, but also in this Parliament. Some may not have had the opportunity for all that long to make their views known on this matter within this house, but I ask them, very humbly of course, to make their views known, that they support

the east-west link just as we — Mr Elsbury and I, as representatives of the western suburbs — support the east-west link, because we know it is best for the people of the west, and that is what we need. As a member of this place I support the east-west link and, as a result, like the government, I will be opposing both the amendment and the motion.

**COUNCIL | Statements on Reports
29 May 2013**

Outer Suburban/ Interface Services and Development Committee: livability options in outer suburban Melbourne

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise this evening to make a contribution on the Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee's report on the inquiry into the livability options in outer suburban Melbourne. It is a matter that attracts my personal interest because I have lived in the outer suburbs for quite some time. This report, to say the very least, is thorough. I commend the committee and in particular its chair, Mrs Kronberg, whose enthusiasm for this report knows no bounds, it would seem, and understandably so because it is an excellent publication.

The report is very well put together. It covers a whole range of matters that one would regard as being pretty important if you live in the outer suburbs — the interface suburbs.

They are things such as population growth and other demographic trends; housing affordability and the cost of living; planning for livability in outer suburban Melbourne; community cohesion; livability and the environment; medical, health and support services; state planning policy framework; and a whole range of matters which clearly affect those who live in outer Melbourne. I understand that the Acting President may be in that situation, as indeed am I and the many thousands — a number that is increasing — of people who are finding themselves in that situation as well.

I have lived in the city of Hume

for many years. I used to live in the former city of Broadmeadows before the changes in council boundaries and the amalgamations, and I recall when I was first elected to the seat of Tullamarine back in 1992 that I was the only member of Parliament representing that area who actually lived within the city of Broadmeadows, which tells you a lot about the representation by the Labor Party in that area even back then.

Unfortunately, very little has changed in that regard.

I live out there and I well recall the old Shire of Bulla of which Sunbury was, I suppose, the capital. The Shire of Bulla had the slogan City Living, Country Style, and I think that is something that appeals to people who live in that part of the world because we live in the country. I live in Bulla now and we very much live in the country, but at the same time I can be in the car park at Etihad Stadium in 15 minutes if I really need to be, although it would probably take me a little bit longer if I slowed down a little.

The joys of living in that area are something I hold very close to my heart, and it is of particular interest to me that the government has this last week announced that Sunbury will be given the option of forming its own municipality. This is something that has been pushed within the Sunbury community for many years.

It is a promise that was made by the former Labor government back in 1999. The then member who was running for the seat of Tullamarine made that promise back in 1999 and is interesting to note that 14 years later it is the coalition government that has actually come to the party.

I would like to congratulate Mrs Petrovich, who I know has been working very hard on this matter. I know she takes a particular interest in what happens in Sunbury and in Bulla and we appreciate the work she puts in and give her thanks in anticipation of the work she will do as the federal member for McEwen later this year. I am particularly looking forward to having her as my federal representative in the national capital; I think she will do a fantastic job. She has done a great job as a member for Northern Victorian Region and I am sure that work will continue in Canberra.

As I said, this is a sensational report which is well worth a read, and when members are not reading it they can use it to keep the door open.

COUNCIL
30 May 2013

Budget Papers 2013-14

Debate resumed from 28 May; motion of Hon. P. R. HALL (Minister for Higher Education and Skills):

That the Council take note of the budget papers 2013-14.

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise to, firstly, congratulate the Treasurer, Michael O'Brien, on his first budget. From the point of view of somebody who represents the western suburbs, it is sensational. It is a great budget; in fact, as I have discussed with my friend and colleague Mr Elsbury, this is the best budget the western suburbs of Melbourne have ever had in the history of Victoria. After years and years of neglect, it is exciting. After generations of neglect by Labor, of its own turf in particular — or what its members like to think of as their own turf, anyway — it is wonderful that a Liberal government is delivering for the west of Melbourne.

That is something that the people of the west appreciate and are a little bit surprised about, I have to say. I know because they are telling me they are thrilled with and very much appreciate what the Liberal government is doing for the west. At long last the years of neglect are over, and that neglect has been ended by the Napthine Liberal government.

I am sure that is something that a lot of people in the western suburbs will remember when they wander into a polling booth at the next election.

Of course there are some you just cannot please. The mayor of the City of Wyndham was asked what she thought about the state budget, and she said, 'We were duded'. Cr Marcus is a lovely woman, but she is confused. She obviously thought that the question was about the federal budget, because that is what duded the west — the federal government. The western suburbs of Melbourne got nothing out of federal Treasurer Wayne Swan's final budget as Treasurer. We got nothing, and it is absolutely pathetic that people like federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations Bill Shorten, Mr Glass Jaw himself, get on the front page of newspapers and get up at public events to talk up what the federal government is going to contribute to — for example, the St Albans level crossing problem

— but deliver absolutely nothing and then spread stories that the state government has rejected the federal government's offer. We would be delighted to accept the federal government's offer if there was one. We would be delighted to accept the federal government's money for just about anything if it would like to actually offer it to us.

I am a bit concerned about people like Mr Shorten, who seek to deceive the electorate in that way, but I suppose when you consider that Mr Shorten is partly responsible for putting in place the most dishonest Prime Minister in this country's history, it should not be surprising that he would go down the same path himself.

I do not want to concentrate too much on areas that I am sure Mr Elsbury will cover in his contribution, because I know he has been very involved in getting funding for schools, particularly in the Werribee area, and I note that he has done a great job in putting in place a program to re-establish the dental health service in the west. I remember visiting the western dental health service back when we were in opposition and seeing the dilapidated state of the place, which was the norm under the Labor government. They told me, 'They take us for granted! Mind you, that is not surprising, because in the west Labor took everybody for granted. I emphasise the word 'took', because I think at long, long last the people of the western suburbs are saying to Labor, as did people in the Northern Territory not all that long ago, 'We are sick of the way you have treated us for so many years. We are sick of it, and we are not going to give you unbridled loyalty anymore. It is not going to happen anymore.' That is a great thing for the western suburbs, and Labor just might actually have to wake up and realise that the people of the west — —

Mr Elsbury interjected.

Mr FINN — Mr Elsbury, I have to say there are some on the Labor side who are not entirely stupid — granted not many, but there are some — and I am sure they will work out exactly what is going on out in the western suburbs before too long.

I mention briefly the mental health service, which has been given a huge and much-needed boost in funding out in the west. People have long been waiting for the intensive care unit at Sunshine Hospital, so no more episodes of Cop Shop — or whatever shows they may be — will be filmed

there. Cop Shop is probably going back a little bit. The area set aside for the intensive care unit will be used as an intensive care unit. It has to be said it is a novel approach, but under this government that sort of novelty will become the norm.

Then we have funding for the Werribee East precinct, in which the Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, has taken a particular interest. I am very much looking forward to the opening of the much-needed Sneydes Road interchange, much-needed particularly by the people of Point Cook. I know those people are showing their gratitude in very large numbers for this further development, and I would like to put on record my gratitude to Minister Guy for his support in reaching out to the people of Point Cook and trying to rectify Labor's neglect of Point Cook for the best part of a decade.

It is extraordinary that the Labor Party would take so much money from the people of Point Cook and give them nothing in return. As a representative of the people of Point Cook I find it gratifying that we in this government are giving back in a way that Labor would never have even thought a possibility, and that will continue. I know Mr Elsbury joins me in saying to the people of Point Cook that we are working in their interests.

We are working for those areas that have been denied for so long, and we will deliver. I am sure that what we have delivered to this point has surprised those people, but we know there is so much more, and we will deliver what people need in Point Cook. We will overcome Point Cook's neglect by the Labor Party.

There is one part of this budget of which I am particularly proud — that is, the announcement that the Western Autistic School at Laverton will be fully funded.

Mr Elsbury — Good work, mate!

Mr FINN — Thank you, Mr Elsbury. I have taken a particular interest in this project for five years, I suppose. As members would be aware I have a personal interest in the area of autism and particularly autism education.

It came to my attention shortly after I was elected to this place in 2006 that children with autism in the west were getting a very raw deal, as were their families.

Children with autism in the east, in the north and in the south had 12 years of education available to them, but in the west children with autism had four years of education and then they were basically thrown

onto the scrap heap. They either went to a mainstream school, to a special school or fell between the cracks completely, and this was happening on an all-too-regular basis. It was absolutely intolerable to have a situation in the 21st century where children with a disability were openly discriminated against based purely on where they lived. I could not understand, and I still do not understand, how this situation was allowed to continue for as long it did.

At a function about five years ago I well remember the father of a child with autism sitting with me at a table and crying as he tried to describe to me how he felt about his child not having anywhere to go to school the following year. He asked me, 'What am I going to do? Where is my boy going to go to school next year?'. At that point I had to say that I did not know, because there was nowhere to go.

In the west we have had a particular social experiment, I suppose — education experiment; call it what you will — that has failed.

It has failed many children and many families. I am delighted to say that this government has turned that around, and very soon — next year — phase 1 of the Western Autistic School project will open, which is very exciting indeed. It is about much more than education; it is about social justice. We hear a lot from members opposite about their social justice concerns, but in this area they did nothing to right a wrong and they did nothing to right an injustice. I am delighted to say that now the Napthine Liberal government has provided for those children and their families the sort of support they have long needed.

I cannot tell the house how much I am looking forward to attending the opening of that school next year, and I will be keeping a very close eye on the development of that school. I believe if we go the right way, we can provide an education not just for children with autism in that particular location but as a part of outreach programs to children with autism right across the western suburbs of Melbourne.

This will be a model that Victoria can be incredibly proud of. This will be a model which will be not just world standard but leading the world. It will be a model that people will come from overseas to see and copy, and they are welcome to copy it.

This is something that excites me beyond words — and that is not something that happens too often. It

excites me to know we are going to have an education system for children with autism in the western suburbs of Melbourne that is the best bar none. I am thrilled that it will be happening. I could go on to talk about the impact it will have on families.

Mr Ondarchie — You did this.

Mr FINN — I do not want to go into that. The fact of the matter is that we have reversed an injustice, and that is a very good thing indeed.

I stand here today feeling particularly proud of representing the western suburbs of Melbourne and proud to be a member of the Napthine coalition government. I think to myself how far the western suburbs have come in just two short years. We have to remember that under Labor, state and federal, the west got nothing. Labor did not want to know about us. The western suburbs now have a government that cares about them. The government is concerned about people in the western suburbs and their families, their education, their health services and their transport needs. This government is delivering and is providing. I am sure that I speak for Mr Elsbury when I say we are very proud to do this for the west.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
30 May 2013**

Rail: St Albans level crossing

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Public Transport. It concerns the ongoing issue of the St Albans railway crossing in the western suburbs and the solution to this particular problem. As Mr Melhem said yesterday, this should be a matter that both sides of politics agree on, and it should be resolved as quickly as possible. I will not go through the history of this issue, but it goes back some decades. Needless to say, lives have been lost at this railway crossing. I am confident that we as a government will begin work on the project within the next 12 months, so that is something we will be looking forward to very much indeed.

The matter I wish to raise with the minister tonight has had some confusion surrounding it in recent times following the intrusion of the federal member for Maribyrnong, Bill Shorten, who has on a number of occasions now made some suggestions that federal funding

would be available for this project, only to back away at a significant rate of knots when he has been called on it. Following a recent visit to the —

The PRESIDENT — Order! Can Mr Finn assure me that he has not raised this same matter previously on the adjournment debate?

Mr FINN — It is similar, but it is different.

The PRESIDENT — Order! So long as I am assured it is a different matter.

Mr FINN — Yes, it is.

The federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, visited recently and said that he would write to the Prime Minister.

He gave the local community some hope that money would be coming from the federal government for this project, but when the federal budget came out there was not a cracker. Again, that belief that federal government funds would be coming was ill founded.

The belief is being promoted as part of an ongoing campaign of misinformation and what I believe is clearly an attempt to mislead and confuse local people. We should not get it wrong. I have no doubt we are very happy to accept federal money for this project if — and it is a very large 'if' — that ever becomes available.

The reason I raise this matter tonight is to ask the minister to clarify for the benefit of the St Albans community and the surrounding areas the exact facts surrounding the funding of this project, particularly if the federal government has offered any funding, and what is or would be the Victorian state government's attitude if such funding was offered. I also ask the minister to reassure the local communities that if the federal government will not come to the party, then the Victorian government will indeed go it alone with this project.

COUNCIL | Questions without Notice
11 June 2013

Housing: Northern Metropolitan Region

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Housing,

and I ask: can the minister advise the house of any recent funding announcements to support public housing communities in Melbourne's Northern Metropolitan Region?

Hon. W. A. LOVELL (Minister for Housing) — I thank the member for his question and his ongoing interest in public housing tenants in Victoria. Last week I was fortunate enough to attend a morning tea for recent graduates of the East Reservoir neighbourhood renewal pathways support project.

At that program I was joined by Steve Maillet from Melbourne City Mission; David Redfearn, the recently appointed chair of Preston Reservoir adult community education; Cheryle Michael, the secretary and former chair of Preston Reservoir adult community education; and also Sue Silk, the neighbourhood renewal coordinator from the Reservoir area.

At that morning tea I was fortunate enough to meet some participants in the pathway support project, including Mojtaba Rezai, who is a young Afghan boy who is very impressive, Jian Xiao, Maria Briggs, Ronnie Spyker, Corina Walford and Mary Holdsworth. They all told me of the value of that program and what it has provided for them.

Whilst we were there we were also fortunate enough to make another funding announcement for the region. We announced \$92 000 in funding for three projects.

These three projects will enable the neighbourhood renewal coordinator, Sue Silk, to remain in her position on a part-time basis, which was really welcomed by the local residents.

We announced \$30 000 for the family violence prevention and community empowerment playgroup. That involves 10 local agencies working together to deliver a coordinated approach to prevent family violence in East Reservoir. The program consists of a play and educational session for children aged up to four. The program also works with vulnerable parents and carers to provide them with information and resources to prevent family violence.

We also announced \$32 000 for a work and learning 3073 project. This will be run by Melbourne Citymission and E-Focus and will assist residents to access jobs and training opportunities. We announced \$30 000 for the road to independence project. This is supported by Darebin City Council. It will encourage local families and young children to work together at the East Reservoir

community garden and promote healthy eating.

These three new projects provide support to the East Reservoir area as it moves to a future beyond the neighbourhood renewal program, as it is now going into a mainstream phase.

I wish all the participants well in their work and look forward to hearing about the positive outcomes of these projects.

COUNCIL | Papers
12 June 2013

Accident Compensation Legislation (Fair Protection for Firefighters) Bill 2011

Mrs COOTE (Southern Metropolitan) presented report, including appendices, together with transcripts of evidence.

Laid on table.

Ordered that report be printed.

Mrs COOTE (Southern Metropolitan) — I move:

That the Council take note of the report.

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise to support the Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee report on the Accident Compensation Legislation (Fair Protection for Firefighters) Bill 2011 that Mrs Coote spoke to extremely well this morning. I commend her on her chairmanship of the committee and also the deputy, Ms Pulford, and the other members of the committee, who were as one in seeking a reasonable, sensible response to the issue placed before us, and we have produced just that. I would also like to put on the record my thanks to the committee staff for doing a sensational job.

As members would know, for some time I have shown considerable interest in the role of the Legislative Council as a house of this Parliament. Without canvassing too much the issues of where we should be going as a house, or indeed perhaps a name change, it is worth looking at this report not just as a consideration of the constitutionality of a piece of proposed legislation put forward by Ms Hartland but as setting a new

standard for this house in the state of Victoria. We consulted widely with constitutional experts, including those from the Australian Senate, and I believe if the report is adopted by the Council, it will add to the relevance of this house, which will be given a new lease of life.

It is a very exciting report. I never thought it would be an exciting report; I never thought that when we considered section 62 of the constitution that the word 'exciting' would come into it in any way, shape or form. However, I believe that when history is written this report will go down as a point where the past was turned around for the better.

COUNCIL
12 June 2013

Production Of Documents

Mr BARBER (Northern Metropolitan) — I move:

That this house —

(1) notes that the documents relating to the east-west link, ordered by the resolution of the Council on 17 April 2013 to be tabled in the Council by 7 May 2013, have not been received by the Council;

(2) notes the letter of 7 May 2013 from the Minister for Public Transport in response to the Council's resolution;

(3) affirms the privileges, immunities and powers conferred on the Council pursuant to section 19 of the Constitution Act 1975;

(4) affirms the need to protect the high standing of Parliament and to ensure that the Council may properly discharge its duties and responsibilities; and

(5) requires the Leader of the Government to table by Tuesday, 25 June 2013, a copy of —

(a) all documents relating to the 'Route alignments peer reviewed and short-listed' and 'Communications and engagement strategy finalised' referred to on page 3 of 'East-west link reform and investment framework — stages 1 to 6, August 2012', which formed part of the east-west link submission to Infrastructure Australia;

(b) the agenda, minutes, any attachments to the minutes and any presentations or materials tabled in relation to each meeting of the department of transport's east-west steering committee to date;

(c) all documents (including invitees list, agenda, minutes where they exist and the Microsoft PowerPoint presentation used) relating to a briefing, held on 17 July 2012 at the Treasury building, on the development of a business case for the east-west link; and

(d) all minutes and other documentation of meetings held with over 40 entities by the Minister for Roads and/or department of transport representatives relating to the proposed east-west tunnel infrastructure project, which are referenced in the media release 'East-west link is declared under major transport projects act'.

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I have sat here for the last hour or so, and I can fully understand why the benches opposite are empty. I can fully understand why there is only one member of the Labor Party and one member of the Greens in this chamber. Two-thirds of the Greens have abandoned the chamber altogether, and all but one member of the Labor Party has gone as well. I can understand why. It was a toss of the coin. Members could listen either to the lunacy that was being spewed by Mr Barber earlier, which had to be heard to be believed, or they had the prospect of listening to Mr Tee. I can fully understand how the prospect of listening to Mr Tee would clear the chamber; he would clear the benches.

I say to Mr Tee in all sincerity that the greatest contribution he could make — indeed the greatest contribution that I am going to suggest that he makes — to this project would be to actually dig the tunnel himself because I reckon he could bore through anything! He has done so again this afternoon. It was absolutely extraordinary.

A friend of my wife, who is a nurse, made the mistake of telling my wife one day at work that she voted for the Greens at the last election.

Hon. M. J. Guy — Don't tell your daughter.

Mr FINN — I would not tell any of the daughters. That would not be a good idea at all. Since that time my wife has taken it upon herself to educate this particular young lady about exactly what the Greens stand for.

This young lady was under the impression that the Greens stand for planting trees and mowing grass or something — whatever people think Greens are supposed to do — but my wife has taken it upon herself to educate this particular lass about what the Greens really stand for. I will tell you what I am going to do:

when today's Hansard is produced I am going to photocopy it and give my wife a copy of Mr Barber's speech. She can then give it to this young lady

— —

Mr Tee — Are you going to get it autographed?

Mr FINN — We might get it autographed. My wife will be able to give this young lady, chapter and verse, evidence of exactly what the Greens stand for. I thought I was listening to Uncle Joe Stalin. What an extraordinary feat by Mr Barber. I thought that sort of thinking came down with the Berlin Wall. But no, not here in Victoria; we have the Greens.

Of course we also have Mr Tee over there spouting the same sort of thing, except nobody actually stayed awake long enough to hear it. Mr Barber would like to have us all living in trees, but only if that did not harm the trees. As we know, the Greens have a much higher regard for trees than they do for human beings.

I ask the question: why do we have to do this every week? How long is this going to go on for? Every week we have a beer on a Friday night, footy on a Saturday, roast dinner on a Sunday, and on Wednesday it is fairytales with Uncle Greg. Every week he speaks on the east-west link. If I am sick of it, I am quite sure that a lot of other people are getting pretty sick of it.

Mr Ondarchie — It is like Remember When.

Mr FINN — It is like Remember When.

Perhaps next time we have a vacancy on the other side of the chamber Bruce or Phil could fill in. It could be absolutely sensational for the cause. Why do we have to go through this every week? It has been my view for a very long time that there are a number of dreadful sins in this life. I know Mr Barber does not believe in that sort of thing, so I will not push it with him. Of all the great sins in this world there is one that I believe tops the list and that is the sin of waste. Once you have wasted something, there is no way to get it back.

Mr Ondarchie interjected.

Mr FINN — As Mr Ondarchie suggests, this particularly applies to time. Today we have again wasted an inordinate amount of time debating something that we debated two weeks ago and two weeks before that. Do we have to do this? Why could Mr Barber not just get up and incorporate in Hansard the speech that he gave two weeks ago?

I am going to give much the same

speech that I gave two weeks ago, and I can tell members that —

Mr Tee interjected.

Mr FINN — I advise Mr Tee that nobody would know or care about the speech he gave two weeks ago — or at any time, for that matter. You just switch on Captain Snooze and we are all off to sleep. I wonder what on God's earth the Greens have in mind with regard to the east-west link. Certainly it is a vitally important project for the future of Melbourne and Victoria. It is most certainly vitally important for the future of Melbourne's west. It is going to happen. Is it the Greens' strategy to try to talk this thing out until such time as we all give up and walk away? That is not going to happen. If that is Mr Barber's strategy — if he thinks he can bore us into submission — that is not going to happen.

After listening to his contribution this afternoon I have to say it was remarkable to say the very least. Mr Barber took us to Los Angeles (LA). He took us through various parts of California on the freeway system. Having recently travelled on the freeway system in LA I had some sympathy with what he was saying, because clearly not a cent has been spent on those freeways for many a long year. That would be because California is broke, and why is California broke? It is because they have all the green policies in California, and you cannot afford to turn the electricity on over there. That is why California is broke: it is because they let the Greens run the show. When Mr Barber gets up here and starts to lecture us about LA and what is happening in California, he is the one in this place who should be taking responsibility for why California is broke and why California cannot afford to fix its freeways.

It is the Greens, the green policies and people like Al Gore, Ralph Nader and all those sorts of nut cases we have seen over decades in the United States who have forced the people of California into the financial strife they are in today, where they cannot afford to fix their roads.

We were taken from LA in California to heaven. He took us to heaven. I did not think I would ever see the day when I would hear Greg Barber and heaven mentioned in the same sentence, but here we have the day when Mr Barber took us to heaven and back. What a load of nonsense that was. He then tried to explain the concept of an onion, la Shrek style — there were layers upon layers — and by that stage I was seriously thinking

about going outside for a drink. Quite frankly, even though coming up on either 11 or 15 August it will be five years since I gave up smoking, I very seriously thought about taking it up again while listening to this bloke this afternoon. Fair dinkum, he would drive a Jehovah's Witness to drink!

What we have heard from this bloke here this afternoon was absolutely extraordinary. Is it any wonder that the Greens are on the way out? Is it any wonder that this bloke over here is going to lose his seat at the next election?

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Elasmarr) — Order! Mr Finn will address the member by using the word 'member' or the member's name.

Mr FINN — I have been doing so, Acting President. I did not call him Shrek; I said he was talking about Shrek. There are a number of people around here that I could refer to as Shrek, but I would never refer to Mr Barber as Shrek, because he is not a green; as we all know, in fact he is a red. That is the bottom line of Mr Barber's contribution this afternoon. He and the Greens showed their true colours today. They are not Greens; they are reds. That is what they are: they are reds. Some of the nonsense that came out of Mr Barber's mouth was straight out of the manifesto of the Communist Party of Australia circa 1953.

Where has he been for the last 60 years? He still actually believes this nonsense. He still actually believes it is the evil Liberals who are going to lead us all to rack and ruin, and it is the nasty capitalists who are going to eat our children in bed at night. I mean, this man needs help. He honestly needs help. It is just the most extraordinary nonsense that he came out with today, and I almost feel sorry for him.

As Mr Ondarchie knows, I am a compassionate man, and I see this poor individual, Mr Barber, over there jabbering on with some nonsense from the middle of last century; it is rampaging paranoia at full pace. In fact I would go as far as to say that Mr Barber's paranoia could give Black Caviar a run for its money; that is how well it is galloping. He gave us a tirade about the evils of capitalism, the evils of investment — and of merchant bankers. Apparently he seems to think that all evil comes from merchant bankers. I have to say I do not know a huge number of merchant bankers.

Mr Elsbury tells me he does not know many merchant bankers either.

As for Mr Ondarchie, I do not know; he might know a few more. We may canvass that a little bit later on, but the bottom line is that if you do not have people investing money, the world does not go around. The whole show just comes to a screeching halt.

We had Mr Barber coming here today attempting la what happened in the City Square to occupy Spring Street. That is what he was attempting to do here today. I am surprised that he did not pull out a sleeping bag and a tent. That was his effort here today: to give us the whole left tirade, the old nonsense we have heard from the left for so long. Ever since I was a kid we have heard the same thing over and over again, and here today we had it from Mr Barber.

You would have thought that the man was a sophisticated, educated and learned man.

Mr Ondarchie interjected.

Mr FINN — Yes, that is what I thought. A bit over the odds, Mr Ondarchie; that is a fair point. This man is a former Yarra City councillor. I mean, he has reached the heights. You cannot get much better than being a Yarra councillor, but he has come in here today with this nonsense that I find absolutely astonishing.

I will not go on much longer, because I know that Mr Elsbury wants to say a few words. The big question that Mr Barber wanted answered was: why are we going ahead with this project? Why are we going ahead with the east-west link? I say to Mr Barber, through you, Acting President, we are going through with this project because it is good for Victoria. We are going through with this project because it is good for Victorians.

Mr Barber made a prediction. He actually got something right, so it is a red-letter day in a lot of ways. He got this right. He made a prediction. He said that I would come in here and I would represent — I think he referred to them as — the 'little man.' That is his reference to, I presume —

Mr Barber — The battler.

Mr FINN — The battler, if he now wishes to refer to them as the battlers. He said that I would represent the little man, and yes, I will.

Hon. M. J. Guy — He doesn't represent me!

Mr FINN — Not that little, Mr Guy, not that little; so you can relax.

Hon. M. J. Guy — I'm only 5 feet 7, and he doesn't represent me!

Mr FINN — The only man I know who Steve Price looks up to, and that's a good thing, too.

Mr Barber came in here and correctly said that I would talk about people in my electorate, I would talk about those people who actually work for a living — those people who get up in the morning, go to work, do their day's work and get back in their car and go home in the hope that they will see their family that night.

It is interesting that Mr Barber could not actually come to use the word 'family', because that of course is something that the Greens are totally opposed to. Children are the great enemy of the environment, apparently, according to this mob over here. One should not encourage them and one should actively discourage them, if not just kill them altogether, as we have heard in previous debates in this house.

But that was from Mr Barber, who said that I would represent the little man, and he is right. Because I have been in the situation where I have had to drive extensive distances to go to work, I have put in my 8, 9, 10 or 11-hour days, I have been paid and paid tax at the end of the week or fortnight, and at the end of each day I have had to get back into my car and drive another 11/2 hours or 2 hours to get home. I know what a difference, for example, the EastLink project would have made to my day when I was working at Wantirna and living in Sunbury.

Instead of it taking me 2 hours to get there and 2 hours to get back, that time would have been cut in half. It would have made a huge difference.

I feel for those people who right now — at 25 past 5 — are stuck on the West Gate Freeway, those people who are stuck on the Tullamarine Freeway, those people who are stuck on the Eastern Freeway. All they want to do is go home and see their husbands or their wives, or go home and see their kids. All they want to do is what families have done for generations, and many generations before them. They have had their day at work. They have put in their 8 hours. They now just want to go home and enjoy what they work for. They want to go home, put their feet up, watch the telly, maybe have a beer, or a scotch perhaps, play with the kids, go to bed, get up and do it all again tomorrow. But what this crowd over here will tell you is that they cannot do that, not until they have run the gauntlet of the Greens anti-road policies. Because that is what it is all about. The Labor Party and the Greens hate freeways.

In years gone by I have gone into extensive detail about John Cain, a former Premier of this state.

Mr Ondarchie interjected.

Mr FINN — John Cain, Jr. I think John Cain, Sr was probably a man who had a lot more common sense than his son, which is not saying a great deal, but he probably did. I recall the stories of John Cain, Sr ordering his driver not to travel on freeways.

Hon. M. J. Guy — John Cain, Jr.

Mr FINN — John Cain, Jr. I do apologise, Mr Guy. I recall John Cain, Jr ordering his driver not to travel on freeways.

We had a situation where the Premier of the state would be travelling up hills and down dales and up side streets and down back alleys to avoid travelling on a freeway because he had some philosophical objection to travelling on a freeway. That is what gave us the south-eastern car park. We all remember what a debacle that was.

That is the thing, I have to say, that I have never been able to understand about the Greens. They oppose freeways and they oppose ways of getting cars from one dot to the other. They oppose that, but they are more than happy for those cars to sit spewing out emissions, spewing out carbon dioxide, into the atmosphere. They are happy with that. I would have thought that if there was any logic on that side of the house at all, if there was any logic from the Greens at all, they would support freeways, they would support tunnels, they would support things which allowed cars to get from A to B as quickly as possible, that would cut the emissions and would stop that dreadful CO2 stuff that the trees breathe and die without. All that would be stopped if cars were given the opportunity to get from one place to the other as quickly as possible. I would have thought that that was logical, but, as we know, logic and the Greens are mutually exclusive, and particularly on this subject.

There is no sense that has come from Mr Barber this afternoon. I can assure him and Ms Hartland, and Ms Pennicuik for that matter, that I will make it my solemn duty to inform the people of Werribee, to inform the people of Point Cook and to inform the people of Caroline Springs and the other outlying areas in the western suburbs that it was the Greens who did everything they could to stop the east-west link. This is something that they will wear like a crown of thorns come the next election. They will wear that, because the people of the outer west want the east-west link more

than they want anything else.

They want to be able to get to work and to get home and see their families in a way that they should, in a way that is only reasonable. In this day and age it is a nonsense that people should be stuck for literally hours, in some instances, just trying to go about their daily routine. I will leave it at that. I will certainly not be supporting this motion, and I urge the house to likewise oppose it.

**COUNCIL | Statements on Reports
12 June 2013**

Outer Suburban/ Interface Services and Development Committee: livability options in outer suburban Melbourne

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise this afternoon to make a few comments on the report of the Outer Suburban Interface Services and Development Committee inquiry into livability options in outer suburban Melbourne, which, as I have mentioned previously, is quite a mouthful. But it is a very good report, and, as Mr O'Brien mentioned earlier, makes quite a significant contribution to the future of the state and particularly those areas of the outer suburban area that I represent —

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Ramsay) — Order! There are six or seven conversations happening in the chamber. I ask those who want to converse to do so outside the chamber.

Mr FINN — I am staggered that they would have spoken over you, Acting President. I am very pleased to speak on this report. I have commended Mrs Kronberg in the past for her role as chair of this committee. The report has in fact been referred to by some, irreverently, as the Book of Jan. We will have a reading of that at some future date, but I particularly want to make reference this evening to the part of the report which refers to planning for livability.

I am particularly pleased, when I am referring to 'planning for livability', that the Minister for Planning, Mr Guy, is in the chamber, because Mr Guy has taken a great deal of

interest in housing diversification. He has taken a great deal of interest in ensuring that one size fits all is no longer the case. Not so long ago we had a minister for planning who made quite a name himself; that was Mr Madden, according to my recollection, but I have no idea whatever happened to him — one day he was in here and then we never saw him again.

He made quite a name for himself by insulting his own constituents in places such as Caroline Springs and Tarneit by referring to homes of some substance as 'McMansions'. I am sure members of the house will remember that.

This is something that we as a government have made a thing of the past; we have made that very clear. I am delighted to say that this is a report that also supports the premise that people have a right to choose what sort of house they live in. What people can afford and what their needs are should dictate what sort of house they live in. It should not be dictated by some bureaucrat or some minister sitting in Spring Street.

I am delighted to say that Mr Guy has also taken that view, and he supports the diversification of housing, not just in the outer suburbs but also in some of the older, more established areas such as Footscray.

We are seeing I think a rebirth of Footscray as a result of Mr Guy's efforts, and I was down there just last Friday having a look around with Mr Elsbury; the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Wells; and a number of Victoria's finest. There were a number of discussions and a number of comments made regarding the new developments that will transform Footscray from what it has been over a long period of time to a new and vibrant city — almost a capital city of its own — in the inner west. That is almost entirely as a result of the efforts of Mr Guy, and I take the opportunity whilst he is in the chamber this evening to thank him for that.

Talking about high-density and low-density housing in the outer suburbs is very important, because while some people can afford a substantial building, there are others who of course cannot. They should be given the opportunity to buy a townhouse or maybe a unit of some kind — something that is much smaller and appropriate to their needs. Those who may not have a family just yet or those who may be living on their own would be open to that diversification of housing.

I congratulate Mrs Kronberg, and I commend this report to the house and indeed to the minister.

COUNCIL | Members Statements
13 June 2013

City of Wyndham: federal election

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — This house is no doubt aware that the city of Wyndham is the fastest growing municipality in Australia. Apart from the area being a great place for young families, I doubt that much thought has hitherto been given to why this growth is occurring at such a phenomenal rate. After extensive discussions with locals, many of them new residents, I can now disclose the key to the population explosion in this part of Melbourne's west.

Thousands of people continue to move into Wyndham, drawn by the prospect of voting against the local federal member, Julia Gillard. People elsewhere have to settle for voting against some other Labor dud, but residency in Werribee, Hoppers Crossing or Point Cook gives voters the chance to kick the worst Prime Minister in this nation's history to the kerb.

Men and women are moving from all over the state and beyond for the chance to personally vote against the most incompetent, divisive, hate-filled leader Australia has ever had the misfortune to be afflicted with. Some have decided to stay in the federal seat of Maribyrnong to give the man who put Ms Gillard in the Lodge his just desserts, but even so the flood of humanity continues into Lalor.

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Kim Wells, must give urgent consideration to providing extra officers for this area on election eve. Crowd control will be a big issue as we anticipate that thousands will sleep outside polling booths in the hope of being the very first to cast a vote against their wretched member. This will be nothing compared to the myriad street parties erupting if local voters are successful in their electoral lynching — presumably using a blue tie! Ms Gillard is fond of saying she is not going anywhere.

Come the second weekend in September the people of Lalor will join millions of Australians in giving her a very different message. Bring it on.

COUNCIL | Second Reading
13 June 2013

Energy Legislation Amendment (Feed-In Tariffs And Other Matters) Bill 2013

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — How appropriate it is that we debate this bill today, a day on which we should celebrate the prophet of climate change in this country, Professor Tim 'Sandbags' Flannery — the man who told us it would never rain again.

If you want to know how a bloke can get a part-time job earning \$180 000 a year to get it so totally, 100 per cent wrong on every occasion, then talk to Julia Gillard, because she is the one who has done it. If anybody wants to know how wrong 'Sandbags' Flannery got it, then all they need do is walk down Bourke Street. They will be drenched by the time they get to Exhibition Street. It is pelting down today, it was pelting down yesterday and I understand it will be pelting down tomorrow. Gippsland is about to go under water for the third time. That is what we have come to expect from the professional green fearmongers in this country; they come up with the greatest load of tosh — I nearly said something else — that you have ever heard in your life.

Mr Ondarchie — Tish?

Mr FINN — It is tish, absolutely. It all comes from some extraordinary fear of carbon dioxide.

I do not know what it is; it must be something that happened in their childhoods or something. We heard from Mr Viney that he believes in the science — or some of the science he believes and some he leaves right alone. But he says that the science will tell us that without carbon dioxide all the trees will die. If all the trees die, what do these blokes have left to hug? We need the carbon dioxide to give these blokes something to wrap their arms around and do whatever they do to trees when I do not particularly want to look.

We have heard over a period of years now from the Labor Party in particular about the plight of working

families and about how difficult it is for working families. Of course you only hear from the Labor Party about working families come election time when they need the votes of working families. Once the election is over what does the Labor Party do to working families? It slaps a carbon tax on them; it brings in more green policies than you can poke a stick at.

Every time I get my electricity bill I see that it has climbed to \$800, \$900, \$1000 or \$1100. I have four children, and granted they do use a fair bit of electricity, but these power bills are extraordinary and they are hitting thousands and thousands of Victorians. A major contributing part of these increasing power bills are the green policies that are coming from Canberra and the green policies that were left over — indeed are left over — from the previous Labor government in Victoria. I am very hopeful that we will do something about that as a government in the not-too-distant future.

Labor Party members pretend to be concerned about working families. It is all political for them. They do not care about working families; they never have and they never will. It is all about getting into power and then doing whatever it takes to stay in power. You only have to look at that lunatic up there in Canberra at the moment and what she is up to. She would do just about anything to stay in power, and I think as time goes on she will do anything.

Mr Scheffer — On a point of order, Acting President, I ask the member to withdraw his description of the person who I assume to be the Prime Minister.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (Mr Elasmar) — Order! I ask Mr Finn to show some respect.

Mr FINN — The Labor Party has made it very clear that its concern for working families is purely political. Once the election is over they will not care. But that is one thing you cannot say about the Greens. At least they are honest. They do not give a stuff about working families and they never have. They do not like working families. They do not like any families. They do not like kids and they do not like people procreating. They see the increase in electricity prices as a tax on procreation, and that is the truth, because they see children as an attack on the environment and an attack on their future.

You just have to read some of the stuff that comes from the Greens and some of their more extraordinary

writings to know that what I am saying is absolutely true. I say to members of this house and to those people in the community who might happen to pick up the odd copy of Hansard at the hairdresser and flick through it that they should be aware of the danger the Greens pose to families in this state and this nation. This is just one example of how the Greens and their policies punish people for having families.

I have no hesitation in saying that I believe the Greens are a threat to a civilised society and to civilisation as we know it. I do not believe they are in any way compatible with civilisation, and I say that without hesitation. These people are not on the same planet as the rest of us, and if you do not believe me, ask Bob Brown, because he is certainly not on the same planet. The last I heard he was off in Tasmania talking to UFOs or something, and I fear to think what Mr Barber might get up to after dark.

I would like to go into the debate on man-made climate change, as Mr Viney has invited us to do, at far greater length. Unfortunately on this occasion my time has come to an end, but I welcome each and every opportunity I get and hope that next time I will have a lot longer to debate this particular matter.

Mr Ondarchie — You've still got 8 minutes.

Mr FINN — No, I have been told by the whip that, if I do not behave myself, he will cut me off at my knees, and that would not be a good thing. I very warmly welcome any debate the opposition or the Greens might want to have on the myth that is man-made climate change. The government will oppose the Greens amendments. I support this bill and sincerely hope the house gives it a speedy passage.

COUNCIL | Adjournment
13 June 2013

Buses: Sanctuary Lakes

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Public Transport, and in doing so I would like to thank the minister for the many new bus services that have been provided over the last month or so in and around Point Cook, Laverton and Williams Landing in conjunction with the opening of the new Williams Landing railway station. Those who have travelled down Princes Highway

of late would have to say that the railway station is a pretty impressive sight heading down towards Werribee or heading back from Werribee towards the city. It is a result of the attention of the Minister for Public Transport, and it is something that those in the local area can be very pleased with.

This area has missed out for many years.

The Point Cook area, as I have discussed in this house many times, was ignored and neglected by the previous government. One has only to visit there now and observe the clogged roads in particular to get an idea of just how badly the people of Point Cook and surrounding areas were treated by the previous government. It is good to see that the Napthine coalition government is taking the problems of the western suburbs seriously and is providing for Point Cook, areas around Williams Landing and a whole range of new developments and suburbs around the city of Wyndham growth corridor. It is encouraging for everybody who lives there, and those of us who represent that area no longer feel that we are knocking our heads against a brick wall asking for these services.

There is one area, however, that appears to have missed out, and it is the subject of my adjournment matter this evening. That area is Sanctuary Lakes, an area that I quite like. The housing there is of a very high standard. It is home to a wide variety of people, many of whom I would call friends.

I believe they are in need of a bus service, which to this point has been denied to them. I ask the minister to reinstate the bus service to Sanctuary Lakes. I believe it is necessary. At the moment there is a bus service to Sanctuary Lakes shopping centre, but the shopping centre is actually in Point Cook. The bus does not go near or into Sanctuary Lakes itself, so the people of Sanctuary Lakes miss out. I ask the minister to take this on board and give the people of Sanctuary Lakes a fair go on this matter.

COUNCIL | Adjournment (Reply)
13 June 2013

Mental health: women's facilities

Raised with the Minister for Mental Health on 16 April 2013

REPLY:

The Victorian government has

committed to making the safety, comfort and security of women in mental health care a priority. To ensure that women have safer facilities, the government allocated \$4 million in capital funding in the 2011-12 state budget fulfilling our election commitment to improve conditions for women in psychiatric facilities.

Women can feel vulnerable in mixed gender inpatient mental health services. Ensuring that services are sensitive to women's needs and their safety is important for the Victorian government. Women have the right to receive mental health treatment and care, free from fear of victimisation, violence, sexual assault and retraumatisation.

In 2011-12, more than \$2.5 million was made available for 13 capital projects to 11 inpatient mental health services to improve the safety and comfort of female consumers. Projects included: creating women-only bedroom corridor wings; installation of nurse call buzzers in bedrooms and bathroom; and developing female-only lounge rooms, quiet rooms, bathrooms and toilet areas.

The Victorian government recently invited submissions from Victorian mental health inpatient services for the second round of funding.

At the launch of the Victorian government's Gender Sensitive training module at the Alfred hospital, I was pleased to announce \$1.6 million of capital funding in 2012-13 for 34 projects at 11 health services under the Safety of women in mental health inpatient care initiative.

In the Western Metropolitan Region, Mercy Health (Werribee) received \$259 000 to install locks on bedroom doors. This will afford women and men improved safety (both day and night), and create a women's courtyard and sensory room in the low dependency area.

Additionally, Melbourne Health will receive \$319 989 for five projects, of which \$134 302 will create a women's wing and lounge area at Sunshine Hospital Adult Acute Inpatient Service, as well as a women's-only corridor, sitting area and garden courtyard at Sunshine Hospital Aged Acute Service.

Mrs Donna Petrovich

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — As I travelled down the Tullamarine Freeway in the direction of Parliament House yesterday, I did so with very mixed emotions. It saddens me greatly that this is the last week I will share these benches with my friend and colleague Donna Petrovich. On the other hand, I am mightily excited that Mrs Petrovich will soon be my local member in the commonwealth Parliament. I am perhaps even more excited that Mrs Petrovich will be part of a team that will restore respect to our system, the Parliament and the office of Prime Minister, a team that will restore dignity and competence to our national government.

It is comforting to know Mrs Petrovich will not be sitting amid a rabble who hate each other more than words can say. She will not be sitting behind a Prime Minister who regards pitting Australian against Australian as some sort of great achievement and derides Australians if they happen to be male and wear a blue tie, a Prime Minister who has turned knitting into a national joke, even as she crochets the name 'Kevin Rudd' into a stuffed kangaroo, which is not surprising. After all, does she not stuff everything? Mrs Petrovich is set to be in a team that will make Australians proud again. She is one of the adults who will again soon be in charge of our nation.

As I said earlier, I will miss my neighbour in the upstairs corridor, but I know she will be a wonderful member of the House of Representatives. Donna Petrovich goes to the Parliament of Australia with my very best wishes and my active support — and, of course, she has my vote. Spring Street's loss will very much be Canberra's gain.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee: Effective decision making for successful delivery of significant infrastructure projects

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I rise this evening to say a few words on the government's response to the recommendations of the 112th report to the Parliament from the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC) on its inquiry into effective decision making for the successful delivery of significant infrastructure projects, dated December 2012. I particularly refer to the first recommendation of the response:

... government establish a new advisory body, the Victorian Infrastructure Council, with the roles and responsibilities set out in section 2.2.1 of this report.

Whilst that recommendation has not been supported by the government, the government responded as follows:

... the government agrees with PAEC that further action is required to improve skills and capability in infrastructure delivery across the Victorian public sector. To this end, the government will establish an expert advisory panel to provide advice to the government on public sector capability, training needs and issues in major project and infrastructure delivery. This includes providing advice on skills and capabilities required to deliver major projects, monitoring Victoria's public sector infrastructure capability and skills, identifying emerging issues and opportunities for improvement. The panel will also promote best practice for infrastructure delivery across the public sector and periodically review infrastructure guidelines and practices.

The expert advisory panel will report to the Treasurer with DTF providing secretariat support.

The government considers that establishing an expert advisory panel will better position government and its delivery agencies to appropriately identify, access and develop the skills needed to support the successful delivery of major infrastructure projects.

These are important points to make because, with regard to the delivery of any project and particularly significant infrastructure projects, we are talking about large sums of public money — money that is not ours. It is not the Parliament's money nor is it the Treasury's; in fact, it is the Victorian taxpayers money, and that is something we must keep in mind at all times.

Whilst reading the report and the government response to the report, it surprised me a little that one recommendation that seemed obvious to me was not made — that is, if you want decision making and the delivery of significant infrastructure projects to be handled properly, the first recommendation should be: do not give it to the Labor Party. Do not let the Labor Party anywhere near it, because it has shown time and again that it has not got a clue.

The Labor Party in this state and in this nation stands for incompetence, and it shows that time and again. It does not matter whether it is the desalination plant — it blew billions of dollars on a desal plant which we do not need. Labor Party members listened to Sandbags Flannery who said it would never rain again, so they put in a huge desal plant. Of course, when it did rain the desal plant flooded because it had been built on a flood plain, which in itself is quite extraordinary.

Then we got EastLink. Who could forget former Premier Bracks saying at the time that there would be no tolls, that it would be on time and that it would be on budget? That was before the election of 2002. Shortly thereafter — in fact, on my birthday — in 2003, he announced there would be tolls on EastLink, and the people of the eastern suburbs are still paying for that. I could go on to myki, and if you want to go to the federal government, we can talk about pink batts. Who gave us the pink batts? Who gave us that debacle? It was the former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, who quite frankly will probably be the next Prime Minister within the next hour or so. It does not matter whether you go to Spring Street, to Canberra, to Sydney or wherever you go; if you want incompetence and if you want things stuffed up, you give them to

the Labor Party, because it will screw them up for you every time; it always does. If you want something stuffed up, give it to the Labor Party; on that it will not let you down.

**COUNCIL | Questions without Notice
27 June 2013**

Paramedics: enterprise bargaining

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Health, and I ask: will the minister update the house on matters related to the paramedics enterprise bargaining agreement (EBA)?

Hon. D. M. DAVIS (Minister for Health) — I am very happy to provide the house and Mr Finn with an update on the paramedic EBA. Obviously EBA negotiations — —

Mr Lenders — On a point of order, President, I seek your guidance. When I have asked the Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession about EBA matters the house has been assured that it is illegal to speak of the EBA matters in this house. President, I seek your guidance as this is a serious matter.

I have been advised by a minister that it is illegal to speak on EBA matters that are live. The point of order I raise is: how can the Minister for Health speak of an EBA when the Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession said that it is illegal to do so?

Hon. D. M. DAVIS — On the point of order, President, it is clearly not something beyond the capacity of a minister in this house to refer to matters concerning a live EBA, but it may be the case that there are certain aspects that would not be referred to. I will make that point, if Mr Lenders could wait a moment, and I will explain the exact distinction for him.

Hon. P. R. Hall — On the point of order, President, it was suggested by the member making the point of order that I had put a position to the house that I was never able to speak about EBAs. Quite clearly what I have said is that I was not in a position to be able to speak about the detail of the EBA, but I constantly advised the house on process regarding EBAs. It is absolutely proper and in order for the minister to advise on process.

The PRESIDENT — Order! I thank

the member for his point of order. I concur essentially in my decision with the remarks of Mr Hall. Ministers are in a position to provide some advice to the house on process and the current status of certain agreements, including in this case obviously the EBA agreement, but I would think that ministers would not necessarily be in a position to go into matters of detail in some cases because they may not be the negotiating party. Invariably they are not the negotiating party, so they might not be able to go to matters of detail.

There may well be some confidentiality associated with those agreements. As we know, as part of the process those agreements need to go before the Fair Work Commission before they are ratified. It is certainly in line for a minister to provide a status report or to indicate process, but I accept the point of order in the sense that it is most unlikely that a minister would ever wish to go into the detail of those matters because they may well not be informed of that detail at the time, or it could be covered by the confidentiality of those negotiations.

Hon. D. M. DAVIS — I thank the President for his ruling. I will provide the house with an update on the EBA progress. Ambulance Victoria, which runs our ambulance service in this state, is prepared to negotiate with the ambulance union, and indeed an offer has been made of voluntary conciliation. That is a very sensible offer. It is the mechanism that was used to resolve the doctors EBA arrangements.

It was a negotiation conducted at Fair Work with an independent umpire, behind closed doors, where every party could put on the table the matters they wanted to put on the table and have those discussed in a sensible way. That is the offer that has been made to the ambulance union by Ambulance Victoria, and I support that offer. It is a very sensible and reasonable way to go.

As Mr Hall said, I am not going to go to the precise details of every part of the EBA. However, I am going to say that, as a matter of principle, I am encouraging Ambulance Victoria to look at some parts of the current EBA arrangements and to not replicate them.

In the 2009 agreement clause 67 headed 'Release of elected AEA-V representative to perform union functions' it states at 67.1:

Subject to operational requirements and prior notice an elected AEA-V representative will

be released from duty for such periods of paid time as may be reasonably necessary ...

Mr Lenders — On a point of order, President, and on the point of order I have raised before about ministers going to the detail of an agreement in question time, the minister has now quoted, and I am paraphrasing, clause 67.1. If starting to read a clause is not the detail of an enterprise bargaining agreement, then I am puzzled.

The guidance I seek from you, President, is that if this minister can go to clause 67.1 of an agreement, does that give me the liberty next time an EBA comes out to go to that level — not just a clause but a subclause — in asking questions of a minister?

Hon. D. M. DAVIS — On the point of order, President, this is a public document that I am quoting from. It is an EBA that is currently —

Mr Jennings — And you are negotiating it!

Hon. D. M. DAVIS — It was signed by Mr Jennings's government. I am going to indicate some policy questions on which I think the government can have a legitimate viewpoint.

The PRESIDENT — Order! The point of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition in the context of the previous point of order is an important one. I was surprised when the minister went to discussing a particular clause, notwithstanding it is in the EBA that is currently in place. The minister is saying he is recommending particular clauses to Ambulance Victoria, and he has certainly raised at this point that clause 67 ought be part of those negotiations, and the government's view would be that the particular clause ought not be continued in a new agreement. The minister is referring to an existing agreement rather than to the forthcoming one.

However, I think the minister is in very dangerous territory. I would argue that if he is prepared to raise a negotiating point on clause 67, then clauses 1 to 66 are now fair game as are any subsequent clauses.

The minister is now moving into an area where I would allow questions on matters of detail because this is a negotiating point within the agreement, and it goes to detail and well beyond the areas that Mr Hall canvassed when he was talking about the EBA for which he is responsible.

As I have said previously to ministers, if they take questions in some areas selectively, particularly if they are Dorothy Dixers, then

they open up opportunities for other members of the house to ask questions on matters relating to the same area. If the minister is to continue in terms of discussing specific clauses that might be part of the current negotiations, then the rest of the agreement is open to question.

Hon. D. M. DAVIS — The policy point that I am seeking to make here relates to the decision under the previous EBA, the EBA that is currently a public document, to second ambulance employees — highly qualified paramedics — to the union. I am going to suggest to Ambulance Victoria that as part of the EBA negotiations it seeks to bring those employees back and put them on the road. They will have the opportunity —

Mr Jennings — On a point of order, President, I seek your guidance, because clearly the minister is taking the opportunity provided to him by this question to provide the negotiating points that the government is putting to Ambulance Victoria to then negotiate with the ambulance union. If I intend to ask questions about the interests of paramedics and the interests of the ambulance union in future in relation to this EBA, would my question be ruled in order or out of order given this precedent?

The PRESIDENT — Order! Arguably it is not a point of order as such, but it does seek clarification. My previous response to Mr Lenders is the answer to Mr Jennings seeking that point of clarification. I would make the distinction, of course, that the minister is not negotiating himself and the government is not negotiating itself with the ambulance union. In fact Ambulance Victoria is a designated body, and that is the negotiating team for that. There is a bit of a distinction in that; it may or may not take on board the minister's suggestions in terms of policy parameters. Ultimately, the agreement, if Ambulance Victoria reaches an agreement, will come back to the government for a tick off before it goes to the Fair Work Commission for a final tick off, so the government does have a role in the process, but at this point it is not the negotiating party. As I said, if the minister is talking about those negotiations, or aspects of those negotiations, then it is valid that other questions might well be posed on that matter.

Hon. D. M. DAVIS — Let me be quite clear: I will not be involved in the micro negotiations, but I think it is entirely proper of me to be concerned

about ambulance resources. The government has a historic package in place to lift the number of ambulance officers in this state, going up 340 in total — 210 paramedics in the country, 30 patient transport officers and 100 paramedics in the city; 340 is the biggest increase of officers in the history of the ambulance service. It is a \$151 million package —

Mr Jennings — What is the net increase?

Hon. D. M. DAVIS — We are doing extremely well, Mr Jennings. We are going forward, and I can tell Mr Jennings that we are getting there. It is the biggest increase in the number of highly qualified paramedics in the service's history. But what we do not want to see is our paramedics diverted to union activities at the union offices. What we do not want to see is union officials who are paramedics being taken off the road and out of their ambulances and put behind desks. Fewer desk jockeys is my policy position, and more paramedics on the road. I am going to suggest to Ambulance Victoria that as part of its negotiations it reviews clause 67 —

The PRESIDENT — Order! Thank you, Minister.

**COUNCIL | Adjournment
27 June 2013**

Volunteer West: funding

Mr FINN (Western Metropolitan) — I wish to raise a matter on the adjournment this evening for the Minister for Community Services, Mary Wooldridge. I am sure we would all agree that without volunteers our society would cease to exist. Certainly in the western suburbs there is no exception to that rule. Recently I had a meeting with an organisation called Volunteer West, which is committed to supporting community groups in the western region of Melbourne. The organisation provides training on a variety of topics at low cost designed to assist organisations to effectively manage all aspects of their volunteering programs and reach their full potential. It is a very good organisation that provides a worthwhile service, including, for example, a number of workshops.

One workshop allows participants to examine in detail the steps involved in successfully recruiting volunteers, including considerations before recruitment, developing a

recruitment time line, choosing the target audience, attracting volunteers and creating effective promotional materials. In this instance participants also receive various templates that allow them to implement knowledge gained at the workshop in their particular area.

Volunteer West also involves itself in areas such as volunteer management essentials, planning and designing a volunteer program, volunteer screening and matching, volunteer orientation and training, volunteer supervision and support, volunteer recognition, volunteer evaluation

and diversifying a volunteer program to include recruiting and managing volunteers in the area of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

As we can see, Volunteer West has quite an impressive program. Unfortunately it does not have a very impressive resource base. That is the reason I raise this matter for the minister this evening. I ask the minister to facilitate with her department a meeting with Volunteer West to examine the needs of this organisation with a view to providing the support necessary to

ensure that the organisation not only continues but grows and thrives so it can provide the sort of service that will make the western suburbs of Melbourne an even better area than they are. I ask the minister to give this matter her urgent consideration. This organisation does a great job, and I believe it is deserving of our support.



FINN IN THE HOUSE

Speeches February to June 2013



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