

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No 124 — Tuesday 20 May 2025

The House started at 12.00 noon.

- 1 The Speaker took the Chair, read the Prayer and made an Acknowledgement of Country.
- 2 **QUESTION TIME.**
- 3 **CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS.**
- 4 **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025** — Danny Pearson introduced ‘A Bill for an Act to amend the *Financial Management Act 1994*, the *Constitution Act 1975* and the *Local Government Act 1989* and for other purposes’; and, after debate, the Bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time tomorrow.
- 5 **STATE TAXATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL 2025** — Danny Pearson introduced ‘A Bill for an Act to amend the *Commercial and Industrial Property Tax Reform Act 2024*, the *Duties Act 2000*, the *First Home Owner Grant and Home Buyer Schemes Act 2000*, the *Land Tax Act 2005*, the *Payroll Tax Act 2007*, the *Taxation Administration Act 1997*, the *Unclaimed Money Act 2008* and the *Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972* and for other purposes’; and, after debate, the Bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time tomorrow.
- 6 **PETITIONS** — The Clerk announced that the following petitions had been lodged for presentation:

Ballantine Solar Farm at 280 Bengworden Road, Bairnsdale — Requesting that the Legislative Assembly provides an opportunity for the community to raise its concerns in relation to the Ballantine Solar Farm and the Minister provides an avenue to have these matters addressed before approval of the project, bearing 706 signatures (*Tim Bull*)

Reduce the speed limit on the main street of Heywood — Requesting that the Legislative Assembly calls on the Government to reduce the speed limit to 40 km/h in the main street of Heywood, bearing 35 signatures (*Roma Britnell*).

Ordered to be tabled.
- 7 **PETITION — BALLANTINE SOLAR FARM AT 280 BENGWORDEN ROAD, BAIRNSDALE** — Motion made and question — That the petition presented by the Member for Gippsland East be taken into consideration tomorrow (*Tim Bull*) — put and agreed to.

- 8 **PETITION — REDUCE THE SPEED LIMIT ON THE MAIN STREET OF HEYWOOD** — Motion made and question — That the petition presented by the Member for South-West Coast be taken into consideration tomorrow (*Roma Britnell*) — put and agreed to.

9 **DOCUMENTS**

BUDGET PAPERS 2025–26 —

2025–26 Budget Paper No 1 — Treasurer’s Speech
2025–26 Budget Paper No 4 — State Capital Program
2025–26 Budget Overview

tabled by leave (*Danny Pearson*).

DOCUMENTS TABLED UNDER AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT — The Clerk tabled:

Financial Management Act 1994:

2025–26 Budget Paper No 2 — Strategy and Outlook
2025–26 Budget Paper No 3 — Service Delivery
2025–26 Budget Paper No 5 — Statement of Finances (incorporating Quarterly Financial Report No 3)
2025–26 Budget Information Paper — Gender Equality Budget Statement
2025–26 Department Performance Statement.

- 10 **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL** — Agreeing to the Fire Services Property Amendment (Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund) Bill 2025 including the amendments made by the Legislative Assembly on the suggestion of the Legislative Council without further amendment.

- 11 **MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL** — Agreeing to the Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2025 without amendment.

- 12 **MESSAGE FROM THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR — ASSENT TO BILLS** — Informing the Legislative Assembly that he had, today, given the royal assent to the following bills, presented to him by the Clerk of the Parliaments:

Energy and Land Legislation Amendment (Energy Safety) Bill 2025
Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2025
Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Amendment (Energy Upgrades for the Future) Bill 2025.

- 13 **MESSAGE FROM THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR** — Recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Appropriation (2025–2026) Bill 2025, and accompanying Estimates of Expenditure requiring annual appropriation in the financial year 2025/2026.

Estimates ordered to be tabled.

- 14 **APPROPRIATION (2025–2026) BILL 2025** — Danny Pearson introduced ‘*A Bill for an Act for the appropriation of certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund for the ordinary annual services of the Government for the financial year 2025/2026 and for other purposes*’; and the Bill was read a first time. In accordance with SO 61(3)(a), the House proceeded immediately to the second reading.

Danny Pearson tabled a statement of compatibility in accordance with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Motion made and question proposed — That this Bill be now read a second time (*Danny Pearson*).

In accordance with the resolution of the House on 15 May 2015, the Serjeant-at-Arms admitted the Treasurer, Jaclyn Symes, into the Chamber.

Jaclyn Symes delivered a speech in relation to the Bill.

The Serjeant-at-Arms escorted Jaclyn Symes from the Chamber.

Motion made and question — That the debate be now adjourned (*James Newbury*) — put and agreed to.

Ordered — That the debate be adjourned until tomorrow. Debate adjourned until 21 May 2023.

- 15 **MESSAGE FROM THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR** — Recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Appropriation (Parliament 2025–2026) Bill 2025, and accompanying Estimates of Expenditure for Parliament requiring annual appropriation in the financial year 2025/2026.

Estimates ordered to be tabled.

- 16 **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT 2025–2026) BILL 2025** — Mary-Anne Thomas introduced ‘*A Bill for an Act for the appropriation of certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund for the Parliament in respect of the financial year 2025/2026 and for other purposes*’; and, after debate, the Bill was read a first time. In accordance with SO 61(3)(a), the House proceeded immediately to the second reading.

Mary-Anne Thomas tabled a statement of compatibility in accordance with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Motion made and question proposed — That this Bill be now read a second time (*Mary-Anne Thomas*).

The second reading speech was incorporated into Hansard.

Motion made and question — That the debate be now adjourned (*Bridget Vallenge*) — put and agreed to.

Ordered — That the debate be adjourned until tomorrow. Debate adjourned until 21 May 2023.

- 17 **CONCURRENT DEBATE** — Motion made, by leave, and question — That this House authorises and requires the Speaker to permit the second reading and subsequent stages of the Appropriation (2025–2026) Bill 2025 and the Appropriation (Parliament 2025–2026) Bill 2025 to be moved and debated concurrently (*Mary-Anne Thomas*) — put and agreed to.
- 18 **SITTING OF THE HOUSE** — Motion made and question — That the House, at its rising, adjourns until 27 May 2025 (*Mary-Anne Thomas*) — put and agreed to.
- 19 **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PROGRAM** — Motion made and question — That, under SO 94(2), the Order of the Day, Government Business, relating to the Gambling Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 be considered and completed by 7.00 pm today (*Mary-Anne Thomas*) — after debate, put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Maree Edwards, in the Chair) —

AYES 53

Juliana Addison; Jacinta Allan; Colin Brooks; Josh Bull; Anthony Carbines; Ben Carroll; Darren Cheeseman; Anthony Cianflone; Sarah Connolly; Chris Couzens; Jordan Crugnale; Lily D'Ambrosio; Daniela De Martino; Steve Dimopoulos; Paul Edbrooke; Eden Foster; Matt Fregon; Ella George; Luba Grigorovitch; Bronwyn Halfpenny; Katie Hall; Paul Hamer; Mathew Hilakari; Melissa Horne; Natalie Hutchins; Lauren Kathage; Sonya Kilkenny; Nathan Lambert; John Lister; Gary Maas; Alison Marchant; Kathleen Matthews-Ward; Steve McGhie; Paul Mercurio; John Mullahy; Danny Pearson; Pauline Richards; Tim Richardson; Michaela Settle; Ros Spence; Nick Staikos; Natalie Suleyman; Meng Heang Tak; Jackson Taylor; Nina Taylor; Kat Theophanous; Mary-Anne Thomas; Emma Vulin; Iwan Walters; Vicki Ward; Dylan Wight; Gabrielle Williams; Belinda Wilson.

NOES 28

Brad Battin; Jade Benham; Roma Britnell; Tim Bull; Martin Cameron; Annabelle Cleeland; Chris Crewther; Wayne Farnham; Sam Groth; Matthew Guy; David Hodgett; Emma Kealy; Tim McCurdy; Cindy McLeish; James Newbury; Danny O'Brien; Kim O'Keeffe; John Pesutto; Richard Riordan; Brad Rowswell; David Southwick; Bill Tilley; Bridget Vallence; Peter Walsh; Kim Wells; Nicole Werner; Rachel Westaway; Jess Wilson.

Question agreed to.

- 20 **STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS** — Members made statements.
- 21 **ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE STANDING COMMITTEE** — Motion made and question — That this House refers an inquiry into how students can be better supported with advice and pathways for jobs in in-demand industries, including through TAFE and other vocational routes to the Economy and Infrastructure Standing Committee for consideration and report no later than 30 September 2026 (*Mary-Anne Thomas*) — put and agreed to.
- 22 **GAMBLING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025** — Order read for resuming debate on question — That this Bill be now read a second time; debate resumed.

Allocation of time — The Speaker advised that the time allocated for consideration of bills under the resolution of the House today had expired.

Question — That this bill be now read a second time — put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Maree Edwards, in the Chair) —

AYES 51

Juliana Addison; Jacinta Allan; Colin Brooks; Josh Bull; Anthony Carbines; Ben Carroll; Anthony Cianflone; Sarah Connolly; Chris Couzens; Jordan Crugnale; Lily D'Ambrosio; Daniela De Martino; Steve Dimopoulos; Paul Edbrooke; Eden Foster; Matt Fregon; Ella George; Luba Grigorovitch; Bronwyn Halfpenny; Katie Hall; Paul Hamer; Mathew Hilakari; Melissa Horne; Natalie Hutchins; Lauren Kathage; Sonya Kilkenny; Nathan Lambert; John Lister; Gary Maas; Alison Marchant; Kathleen Matthews-Ward; Steve McGhie; Paul Mercurio; John Mullahy; Danny Pearson; Tim Read; Pauline Richards; Tim Richardson; Ellen Sandell; Michaela Settle; Ros Spence; Nick Staikos; Natalie Suleyman; Meng Heang Tak; Nina Taylor; Kat Theophanous; Mary-Anne Thomas; Iwan Walters; Vicki Ward; Dylan Wight; Belinda Wilson.

NOES 25

Brad Battin; Jade Benham; Roma Britnell; Tim Bull; Martin Cameron; Annabelle Cleeland; Chris Crewther; Wayne Farnham; Sam Groth; David Hodgett; Tim McCurdy; Cindy McLeish; James Newbury; Danny O'Brien; Michael O'Brien; Kim O'Keeffe; John Pesutto; Richard Riordan; Brad Rowswell; David Southwick; Bridget Vallence; Peter Walsh; Kim Wells; Rachel Westaway; Jess Wilson.

Question agreed to.

Question — That this Bill be now read a third time — put and agreed to.

Bill sent to the Legislative Council and their agreement requested.

Business interrupted at 7.05 pm under sessional orders.

- 23 **ADJOURNMENT** — The Speaker announced that the time for the adjournment of the House had arrived and, after debate, the Deputy Speaker left the Chair at 7.35 pm.

BRIDGET NOONAN
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

MAREE EDWARDS MP
Speaker