

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION**

**Wednesday, 27 February 2008
(Extract from book 2)**

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Lim, Mr Muy Hong	Clayton	ALP	Wynne, Mr Richard William	Richmond	ALP

¹ Resigned 6 August 2007

² Elected 15 September 2007

³ Resigned 6 August 2007

⁴ Elected 15 September 2007

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MEMBERS STATEMENTS

Water: government policy

Ms ASHER (Brighton) — I draw to the attention of the house that over the past five years the Labor government has announced 14 water plans but has still not been able to secure any additional water supplies. People want water supply now, not plans, stunts, announcements, press releases and booklets. I refer to the fact that the government has had the green paper, the white paper, the next stage of the government's water plan, central region plans and so on.

However, it is in the area of industry plans that we have now seen high farce. In April 2003 the government announced that it would invite the top 200 industrial water users to write a plan, which they were to be given three years to complete. The government announced in June 2004 that the top 1500 industry users would do plans when the top 200 plans were completed.

In February 2007 the government announced that the top 1500 users would start their plans. In July 2007 the government announced that the top 2100 users would write water management plans and be required to register their intention to submit a plan by 14 September. They were then given a deadline of 31 December 2007. In the area of industry plans there has been a total of four years and eight months for industry to write plans. What the public wants is no more plans. The public wants an augmentation of water supply.

Knox: skate bowl

Mr MERLINO (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs) — I rise to congratulate David Lalama of Save Knox Bowl and his hundreds of supporters who have campaigned strongly to save the Lewis Park skate bowl in Knox. This has been a major issue for young people in the area since Knox City Council recently opened a new skate facility 5 kilometres away at Gilbert Park and planned to close the old bowl in Lewis Road.

Last Friday night I saw both facilities in action, and I have much sympathy for the position of the Save Knox Bowl group. Each facility was as busy as the other, and while Gilbert Park is magnificent, with amazing architectural and design features, I was convinced by the Save Knox Bowl group that this new facility is more suited to those with a bit of experience and is not really for beginners and young children. The much-loved older facility at Lewis Park is also better suited for BMX riders. I am really pleased that Knox

council last night reconsidered its position and agreed to keep the Lewis Road park open. Both Save Knox Bowl and Knox council should be commended on this outcome.

Girls Together: positive body image grant

Mr MERLINO — I would also like to congratulate the group of eight Ferntree Gully and Upper Ferntree Gully students who run Girls Together workshops promoting positive body image among their peers. This group is based in and supported out of Coonara community house. With the help of a Brumby government positive body image grant the group's work has attracted attention both interstate and overseas.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Brumby government has committed a further \$2000 to enable the girls to create a DVD which will help other organisations conduct similar initiatives. The commitment of these young women to helping others overcome negative — —

The SPEAKER — Order! The member's time has expired.

Rail: north-eastern Victoria

Mr JASPER (Murray Valley) — I again bring to the attention of the house the deplorable passenger rail services being provided to people living in north-eastern Victoria. As a strong supporter of passenger rail I have been advocating a major upgrading of the service for many years. What is required is a huge injection of capital by the state government, similar to the amount spent on the Ballarat and Bendigo lines to Melbourne, for rolling stock and line maintenance. Despite the substandard service we are receiving, people continue to utilise the train service, partly due to the 50 per cent reduction in fares. However, the service has gone from bad to worse with the introduction of a bus service for passengers from Albury-Wodonga to Wangaratta to join the train due to the urgent need for track maintenance.

V/Line management and staff are in an invidious position, being a statutory corporation seeking to provide a service with rolling stock that is over 35 years old and rail track that has deteriorated, in some sections being almost unusable due to lack of maintenance. The massive representation I continue to receive from constituents relates to issues of air conditioners not working, toilets overflowing or not operating, water fountains not operating, canteens not open or not properly stocked, dirty carriages, engine breakdowns