



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

No. 27 — Wednesday, 14 August 2019

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- 1 The President took the Chair, read the Prayer and made an Acknowledgement of Country.
 - 2 **PAPERS PURSUANT TO STATUTE** — The following Papers, pursuant to the direction of an Act of Parliament, were laid on the Table by the Clerk:
Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Documents under section 15 in respect of Statutory Rule No. 66.
 - 3 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS** — Statements were made by Members pursuant to Standing Order 5.13.
 - 4 **DISABILITY PARKING PERMITS** — Dr Cumming moved, That this House calls on the Government to develop and launch a state-wide system for the administration, distribution and monitoring of Disability Parking Permits, that —
 - (1) complements the national Australian Disability Parking Scheme;
 - (2) is centralised and administrated entirely by VicRoads;
 - (3) is standardised to provide equal access to services regardless of where people live, relocate, or travel to;
 - (4) removes the excessively complicated administrative procedures currently in place;
 - (5) includes a standardised education and information program and service with the primary aims of improving access and compliance;
 - (6) reduces confusion within the community in relation to the local, state and federal government's expectations; and
 - (7) reduces fraud.Debate ensued.
Question — put and agreed to.
 - 5 **PET REGISTRATIONS** — Dr Cumming moved, That this House calls on the Government to develop and launch a state-wide system for the administration and distribution of pet registrations, and in doing so —
 - (1) consider —
 - (a) a centralised and standardised system to reduce confusion within the community in relation to the local, state and federal governments' expectations;
 - (b) the cost to owners;
 - (c) an education and information program that aims at improving access and compliance;
 - (d) the removal of excessively complicated administrative procedures that are currently in place;
 - (e) funding to local councils so that they may comply with duties under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*; and
 - (2) ensure that the system complies with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and complements the national microchipping registration process.

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

6 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REFERENCE — SOLAR HOMES PROGRAM — Mr Rich-Phillips moved, That this House requires the Environment and Planning Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by Wednesday, 13 November 2019, on the Solar Homes Program, and in particular, the Committee should consider —

- (1) the extent of the consultations conducted with the solar panel installation industry to determine the optimum design of the program, and to ascertain what the anticipated impacts of a pre-determined rebate cap would be on the industry;
- (2) the advice the Government received from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Sustainability Victoria and any other government department or agency, in relation to any anticipated impacts of a pre-determined rebate cap on the industry;
- (3) the consultations conducted with, and advice received from the Clean Energy Council in relation to the design and implementation of the Program;
- (4) the administration of the Program, including the probity of the rebate selection process;
- (5) the effectiveness of the face recognition application process and if the process breaches any privacy issues;
- (6) any adverse mental health impacts that have been experienced by solar installation business owners and employees as a result of closed businesses or retrenchment;
- (7) whether the program has increased or decreased the number of residential solar panel installations per month across Victoria; and
- (8) whether the design and implementation of the program has disadvantaged the solar panel installation industry in rural and regional Victoria compared to the industry in Melbourne.

Debate ensued.

Business having been interrupted at 12.00 noon pursuant to Sessional Orders —

7 QUESTIONS AND MINISTERS' STATEMENTS — Questions without notice were taken and Ministers' Statements were made pursuant to Sessional Order 13.

Answers to certain questions on notice were circulated pursuant to Standing Order 8.12.

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QUESTIONS DIRECTED FOR WRITTEN RESPONSE — The President directed written responses be provided to questions without notice pursuant to Standing Order 8.07 as follows:

- **Murray-Darling water trading** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Mr Bourman — response from Mr Jennings due Friday, 16 August 2019.
- **Building cladding** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Mr Hayes — response from Ms Symes due Friday, 16 August 2019.
- **Prisoner recidivism** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Mr Grimley — response from Ms Symes due Friday, 16 August 2019.

8 CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Constituency questions were taken pursuant to Standing Order 8.08.

9 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REFERENCE — SOLAR HOMES PROGRAM — Debate continued on the question, That this House requires the Environment and Planning Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by Wednesday, 13 November 2019, on the Solar Homes Program, and in particular, the Committee should consider —

- (1) the extent of the consultations conducted with the solar panel installation industry to determine the optimum design of the program, and to ascertain what the anticipated impacts of a pre-determined rebate cap would be on the industry;
- (2) the advice the Government received from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Sustainability Victoria and any other government department or agency, in relation to any anticipated impacts of a pre-determined rebate cap on the industry;
- (3) the consultations conducted with, and advice received from the Clean Energy Council in relation to the design and implementation of the Program;
- (4) the administration of the Program, including the probity of the rebate selection process;

- (5) the effectiveness of the face recognition application process and if the process breaches any privacy issues;
- (6) any adverse mental health impacts that have been experienced by solar installation business owners and employees as a result of closed businesses or retrenchment;
- (7) whether the program has increased or decreased the number of residential solar panel installations per month across Victoria; and
- (8) whether the design and implementation of the program has disadvantaged the solar panel installation industry in rural and regional Victoria compared to the industry in Melbourne.

Dr Ratnam moved, as an amendment, That after paragraph (6) **insert** “(7) how the Program can be restructured for greater and more cost-effective reductions in greenhouse emissions and energy poverty;”.

Debate ensued.

The Acting President advised that the total time allocated for debate, pursuant to Sessional Order 8, had elapsed —

Question — That the amendment moved by Dr Ratnam be agreed to — put and agreed to.

Question — That the motion, moved by Mr Rich-Phillips, amended as follows, be agreed to — That this House requires the Environment and Planning Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by Wednesday, 13 November 2019, on the Solar Homes Program, and in particular, the Committee should consider —

- (1) the extent of the consultations conducted with the solar panel installation industry to determine the optimum design of the program, and to ascertain what the anticipated impacts of a pre-determined rebate cap would be on the industry;
- (2) the advice the Government received from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Sustainability Victoria and any other government department or agency, in relation to any anticipated impacts of a pre-determined rebate cap on the industry;
- (3) the consultations conducted with, and advice received from the Clean Energy Council in relation to the design and implementation of the Program;
- (4) the administration of the Program, including the probity of the rebate selection process;
- (5) the effectiveness of the face recognition application process and if the process breaches any privacy issues;
- (6) any adverse mental health impacts that have been experienced by solar installation business owners and employees as a result of closed businesses or retrenchment;
- (7) how the Program can be restructured for greater and more cost-effective reductions in greenhouse emissions and energy poverty;
- (8) whether the program has increased or decreased the number of residential solar panel installations per month across Victoria; and
- (9) whether the design and implementation of the program has disadvantaged the solar panel installation industry in rural and regional Victoria compared to the industry in Melbourne

— put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 19

Mr Atkinson; Mr Barton; Ms Bath; Mr Bourman; Ms Crozier; Mr Davis; Mr Finn; Mr Grimley; Mr Hayes; Mr Limbrick; Ms Lovell; Ms Maxwell; Mrs McArthur; Mr O’Donohue; Mr Ondarchie; Mr Quilty; Dr Ratnam; Mr Rich-Phillips; Ms Wooldridge.

(Tellers: Mrs McArthur and Dr Ratnam)

NOES, 19

Dr Cumming; Mr Elasmarr; Ms Garrett; Mr Gepp; Mr Jennings; Dr Kieu; Mr Leane; Mr Meddick; Mr Melhem; Ms Mikakos; Ms Patten; Ms Pulford; Ms Shing; Mr Somyurek; Ms Stitt; Ms Symes; Ms Taylor; Ms Terpstra; Ms Vaghela.

(Tellers: Ms Garrett and Mr Gepp)

The Ayes and Noes being equal, the question was negatived.

10 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REFERENCE — NUCLEAR ENERGY —

Mr Limbrick moved, That this House requires the Environment and Planning Committee to inquire into, consider and report, within 12 months, on potential benefits to Victoria in removing prohibitions enacted by the *Nuclear Activities (Prohibitions) Act 1983*, and in particular, the Committee should —

- (1) investigate the potential for Victoria to contribute to global low carbon dioxide energy production through enabling exploration and production of uranium and thorium;
- (2) identify economic, environmental and social benefits for Victoria, including those related to medicine, scientific research, exploration and mining;
- (3) identify opportunities for Victoria to participate in the nuclear fuel cycle; and
- (4) identify any barriers to participation, including limitations caused by federal or local laws and regulations.

Debate ensued.

The Acting President advised that the total time allocated for debate, pursuant to Sessional Order 8, had elapsed —

Question — put and agreed to.

11 BUSINESS POSTPONED — Ordered — That the consideration of the remaining Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day, General Business, be postponed until the next day of meeting.**12 STATEMENTS ON REPORTS, PAPERS AND PETITIONS —** Statements on reports, papers and petitions were made by Members pursuant to Sessional Order 16.**13 ADJOURNMENT —** Ms Pulford moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued and responses to certain Adjournment matters were circulated pursuant to Standing Order 4.13.

And then the Council, at 5.31 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow.

ANDREW YOUNG
Clerk of the Legislative Council