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Whether it is the Metro Tunnel, the level crossing removal program or the infrastructure coming in north-east link and the West Gate tunnel, we have got the track record. We are going to make sure our disability sector, Aboriginal Victorians — everyone — gets to benefit. In our manufacturing sector — we will always be the heart of manufacturing — no matter what the Liberals do with the defence contracts, we will continue to support this sector and grow jobs.

### Taxi and hire car industry

**Mr HODGETT** (Croydon) (12:36) — My question is to the Minister for Public Transport. You botched compensation for taxi families and to this day refuse to even meet with them. Today family bus companies are here at Parliament because of your plans to steal their assets and destroy generational family businesses. Minister, will you show some courage and compassion and go out to the steps of Parliament to meet these families and justify your decision to seize their assets?

**Ms ALLAN** (Minister for Public Transport) (12:36) — I thank the shadow minister for roads for his question. Just as those opposite in the Liberal Party lied to the taxi industry, it appears that they are continuing their campaign of lies to the bus industry as well. The content of the question —

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**The SPEAKER** — Order! Members have been warned.

**Ms ALLAN** — The content of the shadow minister's question was wrong on many fronts, and I am very happy to correct the record so that he does not continue to spread misinformation. I am sure he would not, just like I am sure he would not continue to cuddle up to people who say terrible things online about members on this side. I am sure he would make sure he distances himself from that sort of behaviour.

We have been working very hard over the past —

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**The SPEAKER** — Order!

**Ms ALLAN** — I am wondering if the member for Lowan will stand up and defend me against this outrageous attack.

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**The SPEAKER** — Order!

**Ms ALLAN** — I have made the point. We have been working very hard over the past three and a half years with the bus industry. Do you know what we have been working hard on? Rolling out over —

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**Ms ALLAN** — To roll out over \$100 million in new bus services —

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**The SPEAKER** — Order! The member for Caulfield and the member for Kew are warned.

**Mr Hodgett** — On a point of order, Speaker, on relevance, the minister was asked: would she show some courage and compassion and go out and meet with them on the steps of Parliament — meet with these families — and justify the decision to seize their assets? I would ask you to bring the minister back to answering the question.

**The SPEAKER** — The minister was answering the question. The minister to continue.

**Ms ALLAN** — In answering the question, I am providing information to the member opposite that we have provided over \$100 million in rolling out new bus services right across suburban Melbourne and into regional Victoria. We are doing that because those opposite slashed bus routes when they were in government. They cut funding to bus services. What we have been doing over the past year or so is negotiating with the metropolitan bus owners on the new set of contracts that need to be put in place because the current contracts expire at the end of June.

What we have been determined to achieve is a better performance outcome for passengers. That is what we have been determined to achieve, and I am pleased to report to the house that so far over 75 per cent of the metropolitan bus network — the operators who operate that bus network — have signed up to these new arrangements. They support these new arrangements. They support that. The claims that those opposite are making about assets are wrong. They are plainly wrong. 12:40:00

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**Ms ALLAN** — They may want to continue to shout and scream, but the information is wrong. I have told the Bus Association Victoria that they are wrong, and the campaign of misinformation needs to stop.

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**The SPEAKER** — I warn the member for South-West Coast.

*Supplementary question*

**Mr HODGETT** (Croydon) (12:40) — Minister, given the massive impact of your plan to nationalise bus services and confiscate the assets of generational family businesses — a plan you told no-one about before the 2014 election — will you commit to the bus families who are here at Parliament today that you will delay signing any more of these contracts and take this unprecedented policy to the November state election?

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**The SPEAKER** — Order, with the assistance of the Premier and the Minister for Industry and Employment.

**Ms ALLAN** (Minister for Public Transport) (12:41) — I am pleased to inform the member that no-one was told that this was happening because it is not happening. What he is claiming is simply wrong. I have told representatives and I have told —

*Honourable members interjecting.*

**Ms ALLAN** — I hope you are not trying to intimidate and bully members on this side.

**The SPEAKER** (12:41) — Order! The minister will resume her seat. The member for Kew will leave the chamber for the period of 1 hour.

**Honourable member for Kew withdrew from chamber.**

**Ms ALLAN** — No operator is being asked to give up the assets that they currently hold. The bus industry have been clearly told this and understand this. As I said before, nearly 80 per cent of the operators in the current network in metropolitan Melbourne have signed up to these new arrangements because they also want to deliver better services. They want to put more bus services into local communities. They want an arrangement that gives them the flexibility to do that. We are determined to build a better bus network as opposed to those opposite who slashed and cut funding to bus services.

**Ministers statements: metropolitan road upgrades**

**Mr DONNELLAN** (Minister for Roads and Road Safety) (12:42) — I rise to update the house on this government's massive investments in suburban upgrades. I was with the Premier on Sunday

announcing a \$2.2 billion exercise — major arterial road upgrades, 13 of them in the north and the south-east of the city. As we know, for many Melburnians this is how they get to work and get home, and it is so important for local businesses.

In the north we are doing Craigieburn Road, and I know the member for Yuroke has been at me for a long period of time to get that done, and so she was overjoyed. There are many others, whether it is Sunbury Road, Bridge Inn Road, Epping Road, Fitzsimons Lane or Childs Road. In the south-east — great news for everybody — there is Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road, Narre Warren-Cranbourne Road, Lathams Road, Pound Road West, Hallam North Road, Golf Links Road and Thompsons Road.

Let us be very clear what the response has been to this — unadulterated joy, to put it mildly. Budget boogie dancing in the streets — I can see it everywhere. I noticed that the mayor of Whittlesea called it a 'road party'. 'I am very excited', the mayor said — a bit like Ken Bruce. 'The state government has delivered'. And you have only got to look at what the RACV, the Committee for Greater Frankston, the Committee for Dandenong and those people who drive in the outer suburbs each day have said.

This is very much an A-grade program, an A-grade list and an A-grade dance, but there are always the bad news Barrys who go out there and do the same old east-west dance and have nothing else to say. But I have received two emails from a member on the other side, because he is extremely excited about the upgrade of Golf Links Road — that is the member for Hastings. He is very desperate to get a briefing, because he knows this major project is a great project for his area, and it had to be delivered by a Labor government.

**Mr Clark** — On a point of order, Speaker, on 6 February this year I asked a series of questions on notice of the Minister for Health regarding various statements and commitments that she had made and given during the course of the debate on the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2017 and in relation to palliative care, including statements relating to inducements to lead members to vote for that legislation. The vast majority of the questions that I asked on that date have not yet been answered.

They are now well overdue, and I ask you to follow up with the minister and ask her to comply with the standing orders and provide a reply to those questions. 12:45:00

**The SPEAKER** — Thank you for that point of order. We will follow that matter up. If the member