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TOKEN P4
HUNGRY HIPPOS TODAY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016

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Herald Sun



HORROR WORLD TEARS FOR LOST LOVES



REPORTS PAGES 6-9

MINISTER'S DOG ACT

EXCLUSIVE: Labor MP caught using taxpayer-funded chauffeur to regularly ferry pooches 120km

A LABOR minister has been caught out ordering his driver to chauffeur his dogs 120km between his Parkdale home and country house.

Corrections Minister Steve Herbert was last night forced to issue a grovelling apology for using his taxpayer-funded car as a taxi service for the pooches.

The bizarre arrangement would see Patch and Ted ferried around by an official government driver while Mr Herbert was at work.

When approached by the *Herald Sun* yesterday, Mr Herbert initially justified the two-hour trips, saying "it suited the driver occasionally to pick up the dogs when she was doing nothing".

"Quite frankly, there was absolutely no issue and if she didn't want to do it, she didn't have to," the minister, whose salary package is worth more than \$320,000, said.

Asked how many times it had happened, he said: "No idea, not the foggiest."

But just hours later, Premier Daniel

TOM MINEAR AND JAMES CAMPBELL

Andrews's government went into damage control and Mr Herbert apologised, admitting that the trips might have been beyond the pale.

"On reflection, this use of the ministerial car does not meet community expectations and I apologise," he said.

The *Herald Sun* can reveal the chauffeur would take the dogs from Parkdale to Trentham, before returning to the city to pick up Mr Herbert and take him to his "cute little" pets.

On one occasion, a driver was even asked to take the dogs for a walk.

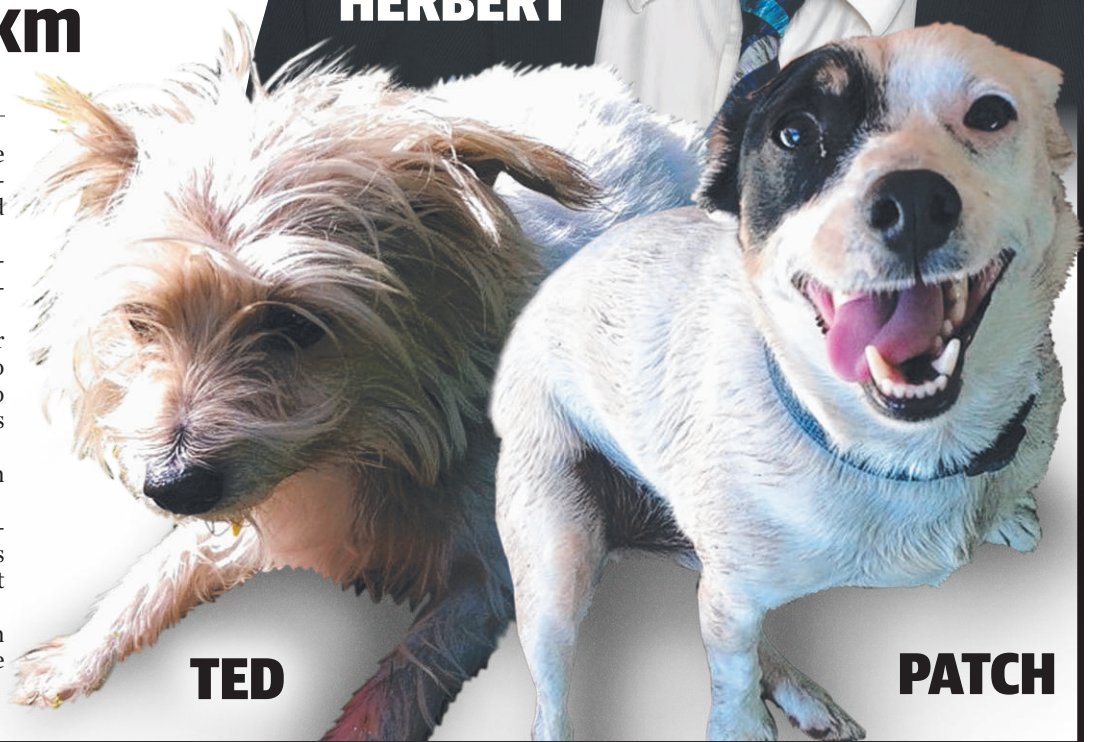
It comes as we can reveal that Mr Herbert's third driver in less than two years has made a complaint to her superiors about his behaviour.

She has since quit working for him, with Mr Herbert saying she was concerned he had "raised (his) voice" at her.

CONTINUED PAGE 4



STEVE HERBERT



TED

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WEATHER P42

TODAY
MIN 10
MAX 17
 Partly cloudy.
 Slight chance of morning showers

TOMORROW
MAX 19
 Mostly sunny

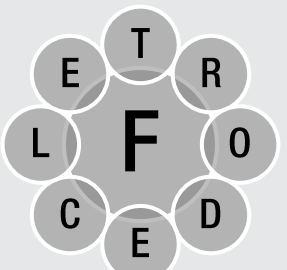
SATURDAY
MAX 24
 Mostly sunny

SUNDAY
MAX 23
 Showers



OZ LOTTO: Draw 1184
 20, 8, 37, 33, 5, 34, 36. Supps: 40, 17.
 Div 1: Jackpot \$5million Div 2: \$19,246.20 Div 3: \$4,528.50
 Div 4: \$397.65 Div 5: \$54.15
 Div 6: \$24.15 Div 7: \$14.90.
 Wednesday Lotto results may be missing from some papers due to the draw being later during daylight saving. For full results, go to tatts.com/tattersalls

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In making a word each letter may be used only once, and the centre letter must be included. No slang, hyphens, apostrophes or plurals ending in 's'. Minimum four letters.
Good 24, Very good 34, Excellent 40

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WITH TOMORROW'S

Herald Sun

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Patch and Ted's extravagant adventure

Minister caught in dog act

FROM PAGE 1

A source said the Northern Victoria MP was regarded among parliamentary drivers as "very difficult to work with".

The revelations place pressure on Mr Andrews to investigate Mr Herbert's actions after he forced Adem Somyurek out of Cabinet over his treatment of his chief of staff.

At the time, the Premier said: "As a government we have set the standard on these issues and, be in no doubt, every member of my team will meet those standards."

Opposition Leader Matthew Guy said last night: "If Daniel Andrews practised what he preached, he'd sack this minister without delay."

He said Mr Herbert's use of his ministerial car was "arrogant and totally out of touch".

Mr Herbert initially tried to explain the pet transport service away, saying: "I have a house in the country and in the city and it suited the driver occasionally to pick up the dogs when she was doing nothing, rather than go home and then come back again."

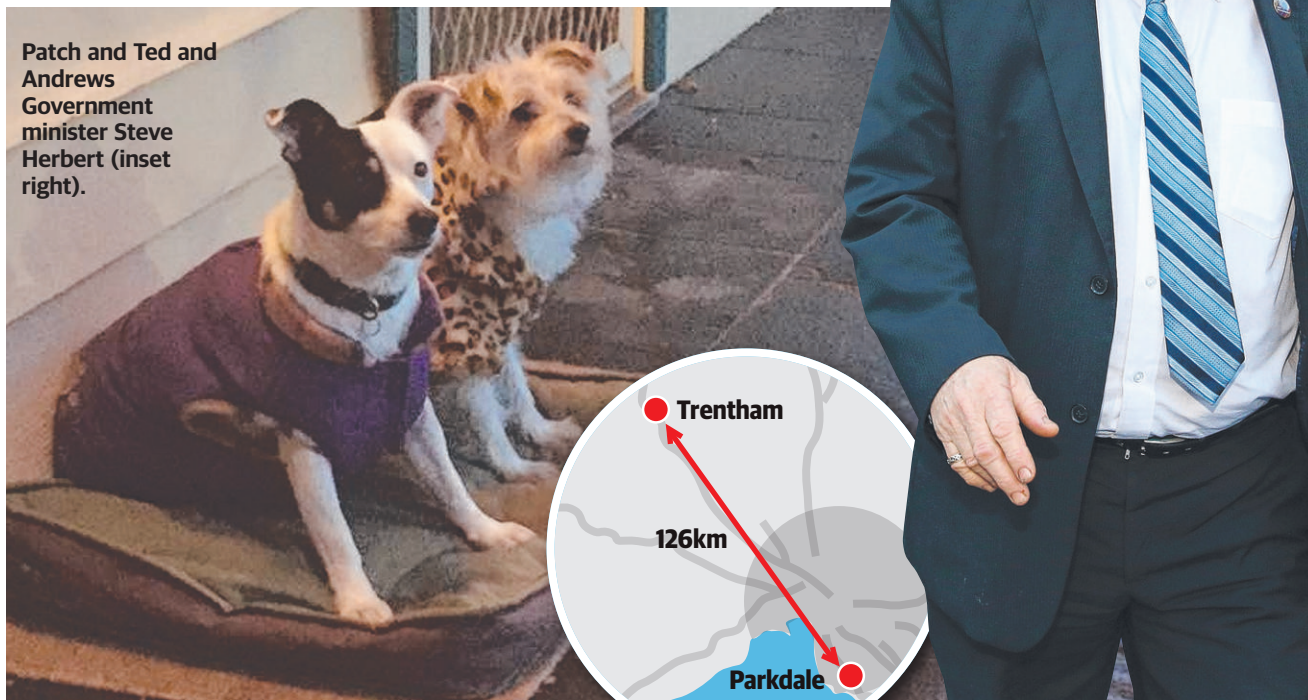
Asked if it was appropriate, he said: "They didn't have to. The alternative was that I could have gone home and then come back."

But the *Herald Sun* understands Mr Herbert was recently told to stop letting his dogs ride in the ministerial car.

Asked if he was aware of the complaint about his behaviour, Mr Herbert said: "I think (she) indicated that I raised my voice to her, I understand it was something like that, but I haven't seen anything like that and it's not the case," he said.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet said last night it had not received a complaint from a driver.

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Patch and Ted and Andrews Government minister Steve Herbert (inset right).



THE idea that politicians are entitled to a taxpayer-funded chauffeur is enough to make some voters barking mad.

But what about a politician ordering that chauffeur to ferry his dogs across the state?

Training, Skills and Corrections Minister Steve Herbert initially seemed blissfully unaware of a problem when he told the *Herald Sun* yesterday that his driver, when "doing nothing", was happy to pick up pooches Patch and Ted.

Wow.

A few hours later, as Premier Daniel Andrews's office

MATT JOHNSTON COMMENT

went into damage control, Herbert released a short statement saying that, on reflection, using a car paid for by taxpayers in this way was out of line with community expectations. The scrutiny is set to intensify today, owing to a complaint over his behaviour towards a chauffeur.

Approached by the *Herald Sun* about the complaint, Herbert conceded yesterday that one driver had been concerned that he had "raised (his) voice".

He vowed to defend himself against any accusations.

But the Premier will be under pressure to order a thorough investigation, given the standard he has set for ministers since former small business minister Adem Somyurek was stood down over allegations of inappropriate conduct.

Any investigation is likely to take some time to complete, of course.

And that's time during which Mr Andrews can hardly afford to be dogged by a Bronwyn Bishop-style saga over his minister's use of public money.

Remember the scandal of Bronny and Choppergate, in which it emerged that taxpayers were billed for flying the then Speaker of the House of Representatives to Victoria for a political fundraiser?

That saga dragged on for weeks, and caused both Bishop and the then prime minister, Tony Abbott, significant political damage.

At least in Bishop's case, she was the one inside the vehicle, taking the trip at taxpayers' expense.

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