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Victorian Labor

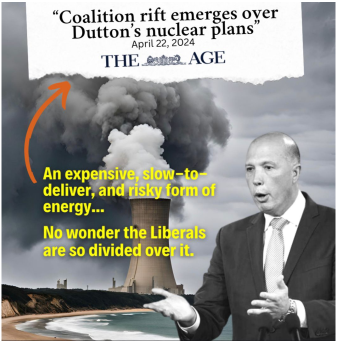
G'day Eastern Vic,

I hope you kept well through the month of April.

I took the opportunity to get out and around the electorate; including a Future Forum in Frankston, a number of visits in East Gippsland, as well as street stalls on the Peninsula, and chairing the Lilydale Revitalisation Board.

The Legislative Council sat in Echuca for a regional sitting as a way of engaging directly with communities impacted by the October 2022 flood disaster.

Ongoing Nuclear Campaign


"Coalition rift emerges over Dutton's nuclear plans"
April 22, 2024
THE AGE
An expensive, slow-to-deliver, and risky form of energy...
No wonder the Liberals are so divided over it.

My petition against nuclear reactors in our communities continues to gain traction.

We're now up above 360 signatures - thanks to everyone who has signed so far.

Peter Dutton is still hellbent on the plan - even though lots of state and federal Liberal members are saying outright no to nuclear, or no nuclear near them.

The Liberals own polling showed Latrobe Valley locals are against the idea.

You can sign my petition to tell them a definite no.

Say No to Nuclear Reactors

Regional Sitting In Echuca

The Legislative Council held its first regional sitting for several years in April. We sat for one day in Echuca – following multiple floods in Northern Victoria over a handful of years.

I took the opportunity to celebrate regional Victoria - whether that's Eastern Victoria or Northern Victoria - in a Member's Statement. You can see that on my Facebook page.

I also asked a Question to the Minister for Skills and TAFE about apprenticeships and how we are investing to train the next generation of skilled Victorians for the next generation of jobs.

Welcoming Our Newest Citizens in Sale

A big congratulations to our 24 newest Australians who became citizens at the Wellington Shire citizenship ceremony in Sale.

Our new citizens come from 10 different countries - New Zealand, China, South Africa, Poland, the USA, the UK, Thailand, Cambodia, and Pakistan. I was pleased to join local government leaders in helping run the service.

Lilydale Revitalisation Board

I chaired my second meeting of the Lilydale Revitalisation Board this month. The board was established in 2021, and since then has enabled the Labor Government to invest millions of dollars into Lilydale.

Lilydale Box Hill Institute hosted the meeting and then took me for a tour including their massive trades apprentice training facility - amazing compared to my TAFE facilities 20+ years ago!

It’s wonderful to see the next generation of tradespeople learning their skills right here at TAFE.

Worker Deaths Memorial Day

This week we gathered at Trades Hall to mark the deaths of 54 Victorian workers in workplace-related deaths this year.

Each worker's families, colleagues, and friends make up the thousands of Victorians grieving their death.

One death at work is too many.

Gippsland

Orbost Community College Officially Open!

Orbost Community College is a fantastic new facility that has now officially opened.

The new school has been formed as a result of three local schools combining into a modern fit-for-purpose facility for 400 students, supported by an $8.7m upgrade funded by the state government.

The day was a great celebration of the Orbost community, and I have to thank school captains Mel and Hugh for showing me around, and Principal Peter Seal for his hard work.

Sailors Grave Dunetown Development

Gab from the hugely popular Sailors Grave Brewing showed me around their new ‘Dunetown’ site in Marlo, south of Orbost.

Supported by a $2.35m state government grant, the Dunetown brewery will include a new cellar door and tap room beer garden.

Princes Highway East Upgrade Opens

Drivers can now travel under the Kilmany Rail Bridge on a newly opened section of the Princes Highway.

More sections of the highway will open in coming months, which will mean a consistent two lane highway in both directions between Sale and Traralgon.

It's a massive outcome for as many as 15,000 daily drivers on that part of the highway.

Royal Flying Doctor Service

Royal Flying
Doctor Service

The Royal Flying Doctor Service provides a fantastic assistance service to eligible over-65s for their medical appointments.

They have teams of volunteers in Sale, Lakes Entrance, and Foster. With the Sale team I met a Maffra local, Tom, who told me they've been a big help for him!

East Gippsland Health Upgrades

The Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas made a trip to East Gippsland to announce a number of investments in local health services through the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund.

In the latest round Gippsland Lakes Complete Health will receive $544,000 towards a new roof and better ventilating and air-conditioning, and Orbost Regional Health will receive $2.1 million for a new endoscopy suite.

The Regional Health Infrastructure Fund (RHIF) provides vital government funding to rural and regional health services and agencies across Victoria. This ensures these services can continue to provide safe and efficient care to local communities.

Established in 2016, the $790 million fund is the largest program of its type in Victoria and was created to improve:

- safety and quality of services
- enhance service capacity
- efficient models of care
- patient and staff amenity
- service efficiency
- regional communities and economies.

Eastern Victoria has had many projects funded through the scheme, more details can be found on the Victorian Health Building Authority website.

https://www.vhba.vic.gov.au/health/regional-facilities/regional-health-infrastructure-fund

East Gippsland Winter Festival

Minister for Sports, Tourism, and Major Events, Steve Dimopolous announced the East Gippsland Winter Festival would be back for another year!

The festival will have more than 100 events between June 21st to July 21st, including lantern parades, a Winter Solstice swim, and the opening party in Lakes Entrance.

The Allan Labor Government is continuing to support the festival in 2024 through the Regional Events Fund.

Radio East Gippsland

ALL ABOUT EAST GIPPSLAND
REGFM
90.7 & 105.5

I dropped into Radio East Gippsland and TRFM to speak about the work the Labor government are doing in Gippsland.

Lakes Entrance Slipway

SLIPWAY
LAKES ENTRANCE

On the Lakes Entrance Foreshore, the Old Slipway site has been given a new lease of life as a prime waterfront location, supported with $562,000 from the Allan and Albanese Labor Government's Local Economic Recovery program.

The historic site will be used for events, dining, and recreation, with a multi-tiered deck built over the concrete slipway, new accessible toilets, and upgraded car parking.

Local businesses Sailors Grave Brewing, FLOAT, and Gippsland Jersey are taking full advantage of the redeveloped site trading right on the lake with fantastic facilities.

Future of Orbost Project

As part of the timber transition the Orbost & District Chamber of Commerce is undertaking the Future of Orbost Project.

I met with project lead Nicola Watts and governance group members Gary, Tabitha, and Heather to hear about their progress and how I can assist with the transition.

The Future of Orbost project has identified amazing opportunities but also has challenges, which this amazing group of volunteers are approaching head-on for the benefit of current and future generations of Orbost residents.

Peninsula

Future Forum In Frankston

The Committee for Frankston & Mornington Peninsula held their Future Forum - with a jam-packed list of speakers, including Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenny MP.

We discussed a wide range of policy areas, with housing the most prominent.

Well done to all involved.

Remembering The Anzacs

I went to Mornington Secondary College's service to lay a wreath to remember the ANZACs.

The service was really touching, with Mornington Secondary's Drum Corps and the Victoria Police Pipe Band taking part, with school Principal Linda Stanton also giving a moving speech.

It was an opportunity to remember and pay tribute to those who have given their lives to keep this country safe.

Street Stalls & Letterboxing

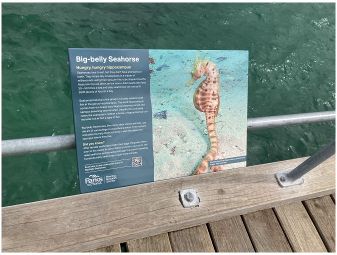
75 MAIN ST
PETER
YOUNG
SHOES

Our local volunteers held more street stalls this month. The team and I held multiple stalls in Rye, and at Red Hill, and Mornington.

Our brilliant volunteers also went letterboxing throughout Mornington. If you want to be visible and share the government's work, you can join via my website.

Labor
Labor
Labor Environment
NO Nuclear on the Peninsula
Tom McIntosh MP
Your voice in the Labor Government

Rye Pier

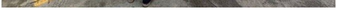


The newly rebuilt Rye Pier has some brand new signage - all about the sealife in the surrounding water.

Traditional Owners, Rye Primary School students, and marine scientists contributed to the signs. Well done to all involved.

Frankston Hospital Halfway Mark

No Pedestrian Access
STAFF



We reached another milestone for the Frankston Hospital in April, with the project now halfway complete, ahead of its 2025 opening.

Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas was on site for the update with a number of local Labor colleagues.

Parliament Committees

I'm currently sitting on a number of committees on a variety of issues including the Legislative Council Economics Infrastructure Committee.

Young New Media!

The boys from The Donkey Vote Podcast sat me down for an extended interview to discuss life before politics, clean energy, and how TAFE is a great learning path for school graduates. You can watch here.

Constituency Questions

- Question to the Minister for Skills and TAFE, about accessible TAFE in Victoria.
- Question to the Minister for Sport, Tourism and Major Events, on what the government is doing to support tourism.

Member's Statements

- Regional Victoria.

Debates

- Debate on Enabling Offshore Wind Energy Bill 2024.

In the News

My team and I make a huge effort to ensure locals hear about the work the government is doing. Here are some of the local media stories published covering this month:

- A Feast For The Senses In East Gippsland - Gippsland Times
- College 'World Class' - MP News (print only)
- Concern around Latrobe Valley nuclear – WIN News
- Funding for fishing clubs - TRFM
- Grants help create stronger fishing clubs - Bairnsdale Advertiser (print only)
- More support for communities to tackle pests - South Gippsland Sentinel Times
- New unit at ORH - Snowy River Times (print only)
- A feast for the senses - Lakes Post (print only)
- Funding For Network - TRFM
- $30k for road safety from TAC grants in South Gippsland - South Gippsland Sentinel Times (print only)
- Fair is Fare - Bairnsdale Advertiser (print only)
- Latrobe Valley projects to help reduce energy costs - Energy Magazine
- Power Plan B at Yarram Recreation Reserve - Gippsland Times

I also appear regularly on local radio programs, so keep an ear out:

- Radio East Gippsland
- TRFM
- ABC Gippsland
- RPPFM

Media Releases

Here is a list of media releases distributed during the month of April. These can also be found on my website:

- A FEAST FOR THE SENSES IN EAST GIPPSLAND THIS WINTER
- IMPORTANT UPGRADES FOR GIPPSLAND LAKES COMPLETE HEALTH

- NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART DIAGNOSTIC FACILITIES FOR ORBOST
- SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE AIR TRAVEL
- FAIRER FARES DELIVER HUGE SAVINGS FOR GIPPSLANDERS IN THE FIRST YEAR
- GRANTS HELP CREATE STRONGER EAST GIPPSLAND FISHING CLUBS
- FUNDING SO MORNINGTON PENINSULA LANDCARE CAN STOP PESTS
- FUNDING TO TACKLE PESTS IN SOUTH GIPPSLAND
- MAKING GIPPSLAND ROADS SAFER
- ORBOST COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES OFFICIAL OPENING
- LATROBE VALLEY INNOVATIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURE

Wrap-up

Thanks for reading my monthly update.

Follow me on Facebook or Instagram to stay up to date with everything I'm up to, and head to my website to volunteer, or to sign my petition.

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