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G'day Eastern Vic,

Welcome to spring!

This week in Parliament I raised the cost-of-living impacts from climate change, particularly the impacts on insurance and grocery bills.

Recent weeks have seen unseasonal weather, while this year; the south west of our state has received record low rain, snowfields have received half their usual snow, and we know that last year the average global temperature was nearly 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial 1850 levels.

I again confirmed my and Labor's commitment to Net Zero Emissions, and called on the Coalition to stop its denial and delay.

We know that the Liberals' energy fantasy of nuclear is nothing but a delay tactic, and in recent weeks there have been earthquakes right near the Liddell Power Station in the Hunter Valley, and another one near the Latrobe Valley and Loy Yang - the same locations where Peter Dutton has proposed nuclear reactors.

I made further comments in Parliament about the need to stay the course in our transition to renewables, during a motion for an Inquiry into gas and oil decommissioning.

Industry's responsibility to decommission is a massive employment opportunity, alongside the tens of Billions of dollars of investment, and generational jobs in offshore wind.

Tell Dutton No

Victorian Treaty Talks

With First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria Co-Chairs Rueben Berg and Ngarra Murray, and Geelong MP Christine Couzens.

The First People's Assembly are continuing to engage community as we walk towards Treaty in Victoria.

Thanks to Co-Chairs Rueben Berg and Ngarra Murray for your time and talking through how Victoria is progressing towards its soon-to-be nation-leading Treaty with First Nations people.

Youth Justice Bill Passes

During Parliament this month we passed a critical piece of legislation: the Youth Justice Bill 2024.

We became the first state in Australia to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12.

The most recent change to this was nearly 40 years ago when it was raised from a shocking 8 years old.

Separately, the Bill also provides for bail restrictions for serious offences like aggravated burglary or carjacking.

Peninsula

New Tankers For Moorooduc CFA!

MOOROODUC
COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY

On left truck Geoff Goding, then from L to R, Tom Winkle, Ex Captain Nev Jones, 1st Lt Justin Newson, and then standing on the truck on the right is Megan McDonald.

Two brand new tankers for the Moorooduc CFA!

The new 10,000 litre ultra-heavy and 4,000 litre heavy tankers are an asset for the brigade and the Peninsula.

The pictured station was built by locals in the 90's, and is a great home for these two trucks and the brigade's big team of volunteers.

I was pleased to acknowledge the brigade during a Member's Statement in Parliament.

Low-fee Schools Funded!

With Our Lady of Fatima Primary School Principal Sarah McDermott, students, and Buddy!

Our Lady of Fatima Primary, Rosebud, and St Joseph's College in Sorrento have both received more than two million dollars, joining the many schools in Eastern Victoria that we are making multi-million dollar investments in.

These funds will mean new rooms, amenities, and extended learning areas for local students and teachers.

Sorrento Cricket Club Visit

Bendigo Bank
Peninsula Sotheby's
THE CASPAR DECK
Home of the Mighty Sorrento Sharks
Peninsula Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

With Sorrento Cricket Club President Ben McDonald.

Sorrento Sharks Cricket Club is about to get a women's team for the first time!

I visited their oval and heard about their recent grant for $5,000 to boost women & girls participation.

Well done to Ben & everyone who is working to achieve this.

Whitecliffs Foreshore Reserve

With Whitecliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management Foreshore Manager Max Patton.

The Whitecliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Reserve Committee of Management do an outstanding job taking care of the 6km stretch between Rye and Blairgowrie.

Great to meet with their Foreshore Manager Max to hear about how their staff and volunteers ensure this local gem of beach, bush, community spaces, and campgrounds are maintained and protected now and into the future.

Southern Peninsula Basketball

Over 2800 players are hitting the courts each week through the Southern Peninsula Basketball Association.

Great to discuss future plans with General Manager Ben White, see the courts in action, and talk about how we can cater for the massive demand to play basketball in the region.

Visiting TAFE

Committee for Mornington Peninsula & Frankston, and Rosebud Chisholm TAFE held a discussion for community leaders about what local students and industry need in the space.

Clothes4U At Rosebud

With Clothes 4U Rosebud volunteers.

If you want to look this good for $10, you can head to Clothes4U in Rosebud!

They have Men and Women's shops so you can affordably get dressed for any event.

I want to thank their amazing volunteers.

New Primary School Bathrooms

Mornington Park Primary School and Mount Eliza North Primary School have new bathrooms through the Minor Capital Works fund.

Other Meetings

I also got out this month and met with Peninsula Trail, Mornington Rotary, Mt Eliza North Primary, Committee for Frankston and Mornington Peninsula, Dromana Football Club, Rosebud West Bowls Club, and Mornington Peninsula Shire, as well as attending Mornington Community Support's Housing Film Launch, and caught up with Southern Peninsula U3A.

Gippsland

Early Learning Centres Open!

Opening Karmai Children's Centre kinder in Korumburra.

Korumburra and Yarram's 132 new kinder spaces are officially open!

Both towns have received new modular two room buildings, meaning an extra 66 places each.

Investing in early education is good for kids, good for parents and good for our communities.

I'm proud of our government's investment in young families and the little ones who will be our future workforce for generations to come.

Reading 'The Very Noisy Bear' to Karmai Children's Centre kinder students.

Yarram Early Learning Centre kinder students Emilia Cutts and Lilly McKenzie with Wellington Shire Cr Garry Stephens, Cr Carmel Ripper and Cr Marcus McKenzie, Yarram ELC Committee of Management Members Rebekah Muir, Anne Morris and Helen Dwyer, and Yarram ELC Manager Sarah Gregory.

Great Southern Rail Trail Expansion Open!

www.gsrt.com.au

From left, Wellington Shire Cr Carmel Ripper, Cr Marcus McKenzie, Rail Trails Australia President Damian McCrohan, South Gippsland Shire Cr John Schelling, Wellington Shire Cr Garry Stephens, Member for South Gippsland Danny O'Brien, and Judy Kennedy, a member of the original Tarra Trail committee.

The Great Southern Rail Trail between Welshpool and Alberton is open!

A $6m State Government investment made this possible - and means the trail is now one of the longest in Australia at 131km from Nyora and Yarram.

Spirit of ANZAC Prize

With Gippsland Grammar Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize winner Carys Murray, and Mum Peta Murray.

Gippsland Grammar student Carys Murray is one of 12 Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize winners!

She joined the 12 students at Parliament to meet with Veterans Minister Natalie Suleyman, ahead of her trip to Gallipoli - where she'll retrace the steps of our Anzacs.

Burra Foods Visit

With Steve Loader from Burra Foods.

Burra Foods is expanding the capacity of its 170+ team with an upgrade of the cream cheese manufacturing equipment.

This investment will support jobs in the region and the export of our world class dairy products.

Thanks to Steve for the tour and congratulations to all involved in innovating Victorian dairy at Burra Foods Australia

The Burra Foods site in Korumburra.

Macalister Demonstration Farm

With Macalister Demonstration Farm Board Member & vet Katherine Snell, MDF Manager Jasmine Kneebone, and MDF Board Member Shayne Hyman

Macalister Demonstration Farm was set up to innovate irrigation & dairy practices, and save farmers money.

Katherine, Jasmine, and Shayne showed me around and discussed future plans.

Tiny Towns Grants Now Open

We've just opened the next round of grants for our Tiny Towns Fund.

Grants of between $5000 and $50,000 are open for towns of less than 5000 people - and I encourage any towns who missed out to apply.

Last round of the fund saw funding go to groups in Buchan, Swifts Creek, Korumburra, Strzlecki, and many more beautiful towns in Eastern Victoria.

If you're hoping to apply, please get in touch with my office.

Mirboo North Visits

It's now been six months since Mirboo North was hit hard by an extreme storm event.

I took a couple of days for on-the-ground meetings with the local council, the Delburn Wind Farm, the Mirboo North Community Foundation, and a big thanks to Ian Starkey, Marg Thomas, Wendy Castles, and Julie Price for giving me a tour of the local forests, and joining me afterwards for an online meeting with our Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos.

Other Meetings

Koonwarra Leongatha RSL Cricket Club, Business Roundtable in Leongatha, and I had a number of meeting days on the Economics and Infrastructure, and other committees.

Parliament

With Member for Ashwood Matt Fregon at Parliament.

Collingwood FC Visit!

With Collingwood AFLW Vice-Captain Britt Bonnici & Collingwood AFL Player Nathan Murphy.

In very important news, I am Secretary of the newly-created Parliamentary Friends of Collingwood Football Club.

I was pleased to welcome some Collingwood players - and the 16th Premiership Cup - to Parliament this month!

Along with champions Nathan Murphy and Britt Bonnici, the lunch break was a packed house, with MPs and Parliament staff showing how big the Black and White army is at Spring Street.

With Lara MP Ella George & Northern Metropolitan MP Enver Erdogan.

Below are some of my Parliamentary contributions

Debates

- We need to continue our renewables transition
- This government has helped Victorians get financial counselling

Member’s Statements

- Congratulations to all our funded Orbost projects
- I handed over the new Moorooduc tankers keys!
- Our focus is on cost of living

Constituency Questions

- Question to the Education Minister, on school breakfasts
- Question to the Minister for Economic Growth, on trade opportunities

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:

- Grants For Schools - TRFM
- Ensuring bushfire preparedness - Gippsland Times
- Celebrating the Great Southern Rail Trail - Gippsland Times
- Softwood plantations program underway - Gippsland Times (print only)
- Five grants for bushfire readiness - MP News, Southern Peninsula News, Western Port News
- Snowy River Rail Bridge supported - Snowy River Mail
- Millions of softwood seedlings planted in Gippsland - Latrobe Valley Express
- Schools prepare - Bairnsdale Advertiser, Lakes Post
- New fire station needed - Bairnsdale Advertiser
- Schools preparing for bushfires - Snowy River Mail
- Transitioning Vic’s energy workforce - Utility Magazine
- Minister visit - South Gippsland Sentinel Times (print only)
- Labor’s Sunday Soirée - MP News
- Deserved healthcare - Bairnsdale Advertiser
- New tankers for brigade - MP News, Western Port News
- Great Southern Rail Trail extension launch in Alberton this Friday - Gippsland Times
- Spirit of ANZAC Prize awarded - Gippsland Times
- Expansion completed as Yarram Early Learning Centre opens - Gippsland Times
- School maintenance boost - Lakes Post (print only)
- Maintenance boost for Meeniyan Primary School - South Gippsland Sentinel Times (print only)
- More support for South Gippsland’s tiniest towns - South Gippsland Sentinel Times (print only)

Media Releases

Here is a list of media releases I’ve sent this month. These are also available from my website.

- NEW FIRE TRUCKS FOR MOOROODUC
- SUPPORTING WORKERS AS WE BUILD VICTORIA'S ENERGY FUTURE
- MAINTENANCE BOOST FOR EAST GIPPSLAND SCHOOLS
- SPIRIT OF ANZAC PRIZE STUDENT WINNERS ANNOUNCED
- RIDE EVEN FURTHER ON THE GREAT SOUTHERN RAIL TRAIL
- CONSULTATION GETS UNDER WAY FOR NEW CROSS-PENINSULA BUS SERVICE
- MAINTENANCE BOOST FOR MEENIYAN PRIMARY SCHOOL
- BUILDING THE SKILLS FOR OUR CLEAN ECONOMY WORKFORCE
- DELIVERING NEW KINDER PLACES AT SWIFTS CREEK
- MORE SUPPORT FOR SOUTH GIPPSLAND'S TINIEST TOWNS
- MORE SUPPORT FOR EAST GIPPSLAND’S TINIEST TOWNS
- PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF PORT PHILLIP BAY
- BRINGING SOUTH GIPPSLAND’S NEXT TOURISM WONDER TO LIFE

Wrap-up

Thanks for reading my monthly update.

Follow me on social media - either 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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