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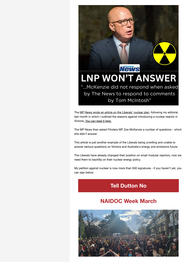
G'day Eastern Vic,

Parliament has returned this week after the winter break.

I spent the parliamentary break out in the community meeting with local groups, industry, community, schools, and health services to hear about the issues impacting them.

I thank you once my update and please remember you can always contact me on the below and I'll be in touch with answers.

Dutton's Liberals Missing on Nuclear



The [MP News article](#) on the Liberals' nuclear plan, following my editorial response to the Liberals' attempts to smear my character by creating a nuclear waste in Victoria. [Re-read last week.](#)

The MP News then asked Flinders MP Zoe McKenzie a number of questions - which she didn't answer.

This article is just another example of the Liberals' ongoing and unable to answer serious questions on Victoria and Australia's energy and emissions future.

The Liberals have already changed their position on small modular reactors, now we need them to backflip on their nuclear energy.

My upfront against nuclear is now more than 500 signatures - if you haven't yet, you can [sign below](#).

Tell Dutton No

NAIDOC Week March

I joined the Melbourne march. There was a huge turnout to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2024 and support this year's theme: 'Keep The Fire Burning'.

Engineered Stone Ban

This time a month ago, the legislated ban on engineered stone came into effect.

I know how hard many people have worked to make this happen. This change will keep Victorian workers safe.

Peninsula

Mt Martha Tennis Courts Opening!

MP Morrison Peninsula Sport & Fitness Mayor Simon Brooks, Mt Martha Tennis Club President Steve, Jack Tweedie Sharyn Ferguson, and others.

The brand-new Mount Martha tennis courts are officially open!

More than 500 players will use the four courts and they will be an incredible community asset for decades to come.

The club, Mornington Peninsula Shire, and State Government all helped fund this project.

Congratulations to Kurt and the club committees for all their work to make this project possible.

I look forward to incredible junior, fighting, and gee-security cards to emulate court access, come to me.

Leslie Moorhead Winning!

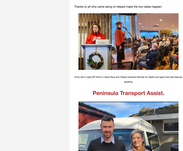
MP Josh Morrison Emergency Vic Premier Nicole Bruce, and Ashes

Leslie Moorhead Hockeyplex in Mornington is receiving $199,000 to upgrades!

Clubrooms, new facilities, and five accessible showers, will benefit from additional female participation in sport. Leslie Moorhead Hockeyplex is a fantastic facility that can host a community forum with Peninsula residents at Dromana Bay Life Saving Club.

I'm excited about issues on the ground and the steps taken at a Federal level to improve Medicare and GP access.

Thanks to all who came along or helped make the key ladies happen.



2024 Mornington Peninsula Girls 12 Asset Netball champions.

There was a wonderful Christmas in July event for Dunkley and Flinders as we head towards the next federal election.

Federal Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney, and Federal Minister for Health Mark Butler, and Federal Minister for Aged Care Anika Wells have joined a community forum with Peninsula residents at Dromana Bay Life Saving Club.

We talked about issues on the ground and the steps taken at a Federal level to improve Medicare and GP access.

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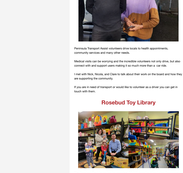
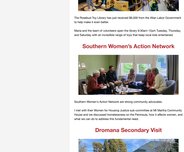


(From left to right) MP Chris O'Keefe (Flinders) Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney (Dunkley)

Peninsula Transport Assist.



Peninsula Transport Assist volunteers drive locals to health appointments, shopping, transport and social activities.

Medical visits can be worrying and the incredible volunteers can only drive, but also connect with and support users making it so much more than a car ride.

I met with Nick, Nicola, and Claire to talk about their work on the board and how they are supporting the community.

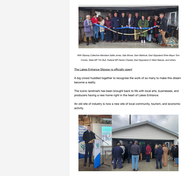
If you are in need of transport or would like to volunteer as a driver you can get in touch with them.

Rosebud Toy Library

The Rosebud Toy Library has just received $9,000 from the Albert Laker Queenscliff Bowling Club Fund.

Nicola and a team of volunteers open the library 9.30am–12pm Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday with an incredible range of toys that keep local kids entertained.

Southern Women's Action Network



Southern Women's Action Network are strong community advocates.

I met with their Women for Housing Justice sub-committee at Mt Martha Community House to discuss housing affordability issues in the area, including how it affects women, and what we can do to address the homelessness crisis.

Dromana Secondary Visit

With Principal Dan Mair and Dromana Secondary College students.

Dromana College Year 11 students & Principal Dan Mair visited and talked me through the policies and their asked issues.

From maths to English, and arts to science, I got to visit classes right throughout the school.

In 2023 the Hayu Government invested $5.45 million in the school, and it has allowed them to get rid of an old building with asbestos and replace it with a permanent, modern, internal building.

Gippsland

Official Opening of the Lakes Entrance Slipway!

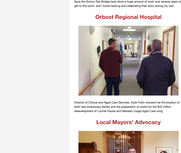
With Wayne Fidler(Victorian Maritime Public Union, Dan Mulvihill, Ryan Spackman(Ocean Master Port Corp), Darren Hill (Victorian Maritime Public Union) Shadow Minister Jeff Bourman, and others.

The Lakes Entrance Slipway is officially open!

A big crowd huddled together to recognise the work of so many to make this dream become a reality.

The iconic landmark has been brought back to life with local jobs, businesses, and producers having a new home right in the heart of Lakes Entrance.

All the talk of industry is now a new site of local community, tourism, and economic activity.



New Lights At Bairnsdale And Orbost Footy Clubs

Lucinda Flats Vicinal

Bairnsdale City Club's new upgrades are open!

New LED lights are up and running here, and at Lucinda Park in Orbost, which means they can host more matches and training sessions after dusk.

The Bairnsdale and Orbost Football Netball Clubs also received upgrades changerooms for women and girls at Bairnsdale City Oval, and the club surface has been levelled and expanded with a new irrigation system.

Snowy River Rail Bridge Restoration

With Dave Hine Snowy Rail Bridge members

The Snowy River Rail Bridge at Orbost is being restored!

The Stage 1 work will stabilise the structure as well as partially re-deck the top of the bridge.

The State Government committed $22.5 million to the project, and it will be an incredible local tourist asset, protect the heritage of the bridge, and be a stunning addition to the area.

Now the Snowy Rail Bridge have done a huge amount of work over several years to get to this point, and I loved hearing and celebrating all their work during my walk.

Orbost Regional Hospital

Director of Clinical and Aged Care Services, Kylie Fuller showed me the location of both new emergency facility and the preparation of works for the $45 million redevelopment of Orbost Hospital and Aged Care wing.

Local Mayors' Advocacy

With Wellington Shire Mayor Ian Bye, Gregg Whelan (CE Orbost), Michelle Stoop-Meeks, and Mayor of East Gippsland Arthur Allan Mears.

Wellington and East Gippsland Shire Mayors and CEOs came to Parliament and advocated for their communities, including the need for a new hospital in Orbost, Mallacoota, ahead of the huge of investments in renewable energy and offshore wind.

Dahlsens & Built QA

With Built Group Executive Graham Lee, Jeff Dahlsen, Scott Dahlsen, and Jonathan Dahlsen

Orbost building company Built Qld has partnered with Gippsland's lumber powerhouse Dahlsens for a brand-new build that's a Newcomb's dream.

The Dahlsen family have supported this great business to expand and employ workers from the forestry industry with a $400,000 EV grant.

Denmark is growing for both modular buildings and steel framing, and the Newcomb's plant is perfectly located for growing markets in upstate in Melbourne, Canberra, and Southern NSW.

The plant is promising more job at home for East Gippsland and all around Australia, and is the perfect complement for Built QA's existing modular building business.

Gippsland Composting

With Gippsland Water Managing Director Sarah Cumming & employees.

Another 70,000 tonnes of household organic waste will be turned into compost and building material at the Gippsland Water Dutson Downs property.

The State Government's contribution to the $12m investment, led by Water Minister Harriet Shing, will create jobs and make a valuable product from waste.

This is keeping water bills down, is driving emissions down, and demonstrating the common sense value of a circular economy.

I want to acknowledge the whole team at Gippsland Water and their massive contribution to ensuring we remove 80% of waste from landfill by 2030 in Victoria.

Gippsland TAFE Campuses

We know what outstanding work goes on at our TAFE campuses across Victoria.

I visited three amazing campuses with specialist equipment and expertise for local industries.

The Forestec campus, for courses in land management and conservation.

The Lakes Entrance Seamec site, where they deliver courses on commercial maritime and recreational boating.

And Bairnsdale TAFE, where you can learn mechanical technology, carpentry, horticulture, and plumbing among many other skills!

The Seamec campus.

East Gippsland Sports Clubs

I dropped into Bairnsdale Speedway, Orbost Bowls Club, and Bairnsdale Tennis Club who all invited me to hear about how they are going and to learn about their plans for the future.

Lakes Entrance Primary & Kinder

Lakes Entrance Primary School is getting an on-site kindergarten!

The State Government is also refurbishing the toilets, has built a new, and more inclusive playground - and on top of all this the plans for a multi million dollar set of new classrooms are under design.

Metung CFA

With CFA Member Tom Crombi, and Metung Fire Brigade Captain Dean Smith.

Fundraising efforts have secured this site as the Metung CFA's planned next home.

There's even a Container Deposit Scheme site there, where locals can donate cans as a way to raise funds.

Energy Australia's Yallourn Site

With Energy Australia Senior Site Leader David Burt.

I visited Yallourn Power Station to see the upgrades on the four generation units.

Yallourn can provide as much as 1480MW into the grid and this work supports unit reliability before their planned close in 2028, as Victoria's grid passes 50% renewables.

Thanks to all the workers on the site whose work powers Victoria.

Lakes Entrance Fire Brigade

Just eight months ago, we delivered Lakes Entrance Fire Brigade with its new truck.

I dropped by on the coldest of winter days to hear how it's going and to discuss the summer ahead.

Addressing Violence In Gippsland

This month I also took part in the ongoing forum addressing family and domestic violence in Gippsland. Violence is at an unacceptably high rate, and male leaders from across the region are coming together to discuss how to tackle it.

Thanks to TAFE Gippsland for facilitating the discussion at the Morwell campus.

Parliament

Both houses began sitting again on Tuesday, after the winter break.

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:

- Wellington wins in grant program - Gippsland Times (print only)
- Coal Creek railway delight with Tiny Towns' funding - South Gippsland Sentinel Times
- Tiny Towns boost for Nyora Football Netball Club - South Gippsland Sentinel Times
- Tiny towns get project boost - Snowy River Mail
- Wangun Amphitheatre – a new hub for culture and community - Bairnsdale Advertiser (print only)
- Supporting local community groups - Lakes Post
- Signs point to 'treasure' island - MP News
- Meeniyan Early Learning and Childcare Centre a step closer - South Gippsland Sentinel Times (print only)
- Liberals push for 'nuclear debate' - MP News
- Players back on court after revamp - MP News (print only)
- Campaign to ease 'alarming homelessness' - MP News (print only)
- Making a difference - Bairnsdale Advertiser
- Expansion for compost at Dutson Downs - Gippsland Times & Maffra Spectator
- Improving kindergarten - Lakes Post
- Slipway's official launch - Lakes Post
- Dutson Downs – Snowy River Mail (print only)
- Cyclists stay connected - Bairnsdale Advertiser
- Invest in tennis - Bairnsdale Advertiser
- Engaging with decision makers about homelessness - MP News (print only)

Also keep a listen out for regular appearances on local radio:

- TRFM
- Radio East Gippsland

Media Releases

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

- MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR MORNINGTON PENINSULA'S TINIEST TOWNS
- GRANTS TO IMPROVE AND REFURBISH MORNINGTON PENINSULA KINDERS
- IMPROVING KINDERGARTEN FOR EAST GIPPSLAND LOCALS
- IMPROVING KINDERGARTEN FOR POOWONG LOCALS
- MEENIYAN EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDHOOD CENTRE A STEP CLOSER
- ACE NEW COURTS IN MOUNT MARTHA
- PREPARING MORNINGTON PENINSULA SCHOOLS FOR BUSHFIRE SEASON
- PUBLIC TRANSPORT KEEPING EAST GIPPSLAND CYCLISTS CONNECTED
- MAJOR EXPANSION UNDERWAY TO BOOST COMPOSTING IN GIPPSLAND
- A NEW LIFE FOR THE OLD LAKES ENTRANCE SLIPWAY
- EAST GIPPSLAND FOOTY AND CRICKET SET TO SHINE BRIGHT
- PREPARING EAST GIPPSLAND SCHOOLS FOR BUSHFIRE SEASON
- MASSIVE BOOST FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ON THE PENINSULA
- PREPARING WELLINGTON SHIRE SCHOOLS FOR BUSHFIRE SEASON
- ONE MILLION TREES FOR GIPPSLAND TIMBER PLANTATIONS
- PREPARING SOUTH GIPPSLAND SCHOOLS FOR BUSHFIRE SEASON

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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