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Victorian Labor

G'day Eastern Vic,

Hope you've had a great Easter break – and thanks for taking the time to read my review of March.

March was an important month in Parliament for the state government. We enshrined the SEC into the state constitution, and legislated targets of 95% renewables by 2035 and Net Zero emissions by 2045 making us again a leading jurisdiction around the world.

After a whole lot of negativity, the opposition came onboard - however Eastern Victoria Liberal MP Renee Heath voted against them.

We're already on track for these targets – we nearly reached 40% renewables in Victoria in 2023.

Nuclear Campaign

Labor
NO Nuclear in Gippsland

I'm receiving a really strong response to my campaign against nuclear reactors. The Federal Liberals are saying they want them in Anglesea and the Latrobe Valley, and will pick more towns by May.

Locals have signed my petition and emphasised to me in-person on street stalls, including last weekend at Farm World, just how much they don't want to see nuclear imposed on their local communities.

The economics, environmental and social impacts make it clear we shouldn't build nuclear reactors. Add your voice below!

Say No to Nuclear Reactors

Massive School Upgrades Open

Pictured: Deputy Premier and Education Minister Ben Carroll with Korumburra Secondary College Principal John Wilson, school captains, and Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh.

This month I was incredibly privileged to open two major upgrades to local secondary schools. These two upgrades represent over $22 million invested into our young people and the events were a testament to both schools, their students, and the local communities.

Deputy Premier and Education Minister Ben Carroll joined me on site to open our major upgrades at Korumburra Secondary College.

Later in the month at Rosebud Secondary College I opened two brand new buildings.

Students have been using them since the beginning of the year, and I was able to speak briefly to a classroom of students - who told me they were studying coastal adaptation and the effects of climate change.

Thanks to school captains Ella, Riley, and Ivy for such an informative tour!

Details about these upgrades and the dozens of other upgrades we are making in the region are available at the Victorian School Building Authority website.

Jodie Belyea Wins Dunkley

A strong
Jodie Belyea
bor for Dunkley
Labor

A big congratulations to Jodie Belyea who is the new Federal Member for Dunkley, after winning the March by-election.

This month the Federal Parliament welcomed her into the fold, and she delivered her maiden speech just last week where she spoke about the late Peta Murphy, and the issues that matter to her.

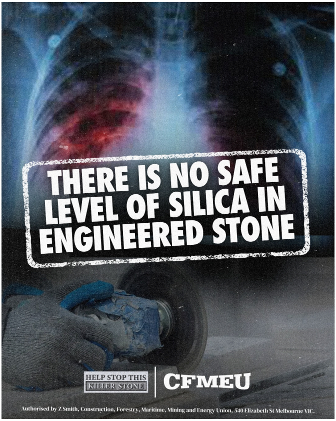
Latrobe Regional Hospital Expansion Officially Open

Latrobe Regional Hospital's massive $223 million development is now open! Premier Jacinta Allan, Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas, and Minister Harriet Shing visited the site to open the upgrades.

The hospital's maternity ward is also bigger, and there's a new hub for mental health and alcohol and other drugs.

There are huge investments in health happening across the region which you can check the details for on the Victorian Health Building Authority's website.

Protecting Workers


THERE IS NO SAFE LEVEL OF SILICA IN ENGINEERED STONE
HELP STOP THIS KILLER STONE
CFMEU
Authorised by Z Smith, Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union, 540 Elizabeth St Melbourne VIC.

The Victorian Minister for Worksafe and the TAC Danny Pearson met with Ministers from other states to progress a national ban on engineered stone.

Silica dust is dangerous, and this collaboration means that not only Victorian workers, but all Australian tradies will be protected.

The union movement have led the way with this campaign especially the CFMEU, continuing their crucial role protecting workers safety and wellbeing.

Renewables Planning

38% of Victoria's energy is already renewable, and in just 11 years 95% will be.
Let's keep moving *forward*.

This month we took another important step towards speeding up our renewables journey. Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio announced that renewables projects would be assessed under the Development Facilitation Program.

Communities will still be able to voice their concerns around projects – but projects won't be held back by years of delays any more.

Mornington Coastal Roundtable

Pictured: Mornington Peninsula Shire Cr Sarah Race, South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor Cr Clare Williams, East Gippsland Shire Council Mayor Cr Tom Crooks, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Mayor Cr Simon Brooks, Wellington Shire Council Mayor Cr Ian Bye.

With climate change, our coast is changing too. Mornington Peninsula Council led by Cr Sarah Race put together a coastal roundtable about sea level rise, severe weather events, and coastal adaptation.

Coastal councils from right along the Victorian coast attended to be a part of this incredibly important conversation. Whilst there I had a chance to catch up with all of the Eastern Victoria mayors from coastal councils.

I spoke about the day in Parliament and asked the Minister for Planning how we are dealing with these issues.

Question to the Minister for Planning about coastal adaptation.

Dallas Brooks Reserve Upgrades

Dallas Brooks Reserve now has a new surface, with the Victorian Government investing more than $600,000. It's a big plus for Beleura Junior Sports Club who uses it for footy and AusKick.

Previously the club had to stop playing in winter months, because of the muddy surface - now they're able to play all year round!

Frankston Hospital Smoking Ceremony

I was proud to be at the smoking ceremony for the new Frankston Hospital, with my colleague Paul Mercurio.

It's incredible to be a part of such deep respect for the worlds oldest continual culture, our nation's First People and Traditional Owners.
We heard how the custom welcomes visitors and allows division to be put aside.

Thanks again to the CFMEU, who hosted the event, and who have for years incorporated smoking ceremonies into major projects.

Rye Bowls Club

Thanks to all of you who came out on St Paddy's Day to the Rye Bowls Green for a BBQ, bowl, and a chat.

We had the chance to play some bowls – but I also got to hear your concerns face-to-face. Thanks again for taking the time to come along!

Rye Yacht Club

Rye Yacht Club have hundreds of members doing things like kayaking, sailing, windsurfing, stand-up paddleboarding, and wind-foiling.

I went for a tour of their facilities – from the fantastic views on the level 2 deck, to the observation deck on level 3 – which plays a huge role in keeping the community safe.

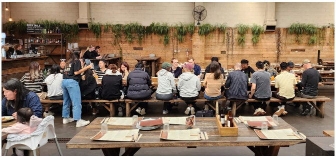
RPPFM

RPP FM on the Peninsula invited me to their studios for a chat where I got to update their listeners about the Labor victory in Dunkley, opening Rosebud Secondary, visiting Frankston Hospital's development, and our campaign against nuclear reactors on the Peninsula.

Melissa Goffin Red Gum BBQ & Women in Business Peninsula

Melissa Goffin was one of the winners of Mornington Peninsula Business of the Year in 2023!

Melissa is also on the board of Women in Business for the Peninsula, we chatted about the challenges facing local businesses in 2024. Her Red Gum BBQ business gets 10,000 visitors each month which is an incredible achievement and benefit to the local economy.



Women's Shelter

Southern Peninsula
Community Support & Information Centre Inc.
Phone 5986 1285
878 POINT NEPEAN ROAD
COMMUNITY INFORMATION
WE PROVIDE

I met with representatives from the women's community shelter to discuss the work they do in ensuring women are safe, secure, supported and equal and what more we can do on the Mornington Peninsula to support this.

Rosebud Hearts Soccer Club

Rosebud Hearts Soccer Club are looking to increase membership - especially for women and girls. They told me all about their efforts to raise female participation, especially after the Matilda's fantastic success on home soil last year.

Mt Martha Tennis Club

The Mount Martha Tennis Club new courts are also coming along - I dropped by last week to see the construction.

PACE

Paul Mercurio and I met with Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders again to follow up on their advocacy about elder abuse on the Peninsula and how together we can address it.

Street Stalls

NO Nuclear on the Peninsula
The Liberals want Nuclear - and it's high cost, high risk, and long delays
CAUTION

Local volunteers are holding street stalls to discuss the important work the Allan Labor government is doing. We're always on the lookout for more volunteers - head to my website if you're interested.

Gippsland

Farm World

TAFE GIPPSLAND

This year's Farm World event at Lardner Park saw thousands of locals from Gippsland and further afield through the gates.

I loved chatting with farmers and industry, building relationships and hearing about what is happening in Victorian agriculture. I caught up with TAFE Gippsland too who were there promoting their programs to train the next generation of agriculture skills in the region.

South Gippsland Specialist School

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SPECIALIST SCHOOL
Together we Grow
BE A LEARNER • RESPECTFUL • SAFE • FRIENDL
WELCOME
MINISTER
All visitors please report to the office 5662

Pictured: Deputy Premier and Education Minister Ben Carroll, with South Gippsland Specialist School Principal Heather Braden, School Captains, and Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh.

Deputy Premier and Education Minister Ben Carroll came along to meet the wonderful staff and students at South Gippsland Specialist School in Leongatha.

The school is undergoing a $3.6 million upgrade to build new classrooms.

Mirboo North CFA

Senior firefighter Alan Schafer met me at the Mirboo North CFA. We discussed what is happening with the brigade, the development of a new CFA shed in Mirboo North, and the recovery efforts following the recent storms.

Parliament

Landcare

I met with Landcare Victoria CEO Claire Hetzel and Chair Jane Carney in Parliament to discuss the program and the amazing benefits to Victorian farmers, produce, communities and the environment.

East Gippsland Advocacy

East Gippsland Shire Mayor Tom Crook met with me in Parliament to discuss issues specific to East Gippsland

Committees

I'm currently sitting on a number of committees on a variety of issues.

During March there were a series of regional sittings and in April the Legislative Council will meet in Echuca.

Constituency Questions

- Question to the Minister for Planning about coastal adaptation
- Question to the Minister for Community Sport about support for Victorian Football and Netball Clubs
- Question to the Minister for Jobs and Industry about Victorian jobs

Member’s Statements

- No nuclear reactors in Frankston
- Korumburra investments
- Rye Bowls Club

In the News

Me and my team make a big effort to promote the work the government is doing and local issues. Here are some of the local media stories published covering this month:

- Wellington Toy Library Boost – Gippsland Times (print only)
- Upgrades set for local cemetery – Gippsland Times (print only)
- Boosting Benambra Men’s Shed – Bairnsdale Advertiser (print only)
- Men's Sheds in Venus Bay and Leongatha receive government grants – Sentinel Times
- Gippsland Sports Upgrades – TRFM
- Easter Adventure Awaits At Newly Re-opened Buchan Caves Reserve In Victoria - Travel and Tour World

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

- Radio East Gippsland
- ABC Gippsland Breakfast with Mim Hook
- RPPFM Mornington

Media Releases

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

- OPENING ROSEBUD SECONDARY'S NEW BUILDINGS
- BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EAST GIPPSLAND TIMBER WORKERS
- NEW HYDROTHERAPY POOL FOR EAST GIPPSLAND SPECIALIST SCHOOL
- REPAIRING FLOOD DAMAGED ROADS IN GIPPSLAND
- BOOSTING MIRBOO NORTH'S RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE
- VISITORS RETURN TO FLOOD-HIT BUCHAN CAVES AHEAD OF EASTER
- SPORTS INVESTMENT SHOOTS AND SCORES IN GIPPSLAND
- MAJOR UPGRADES OPEN AT KORUMBURRA SECONDARY
- SUPPORTING STRATFORD CEMETERY'S MAINTENANCE
- MORE TOYS FOR MORE FAMILIES ON THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA
- TAKING MORE LOCAL PRODUCTIONS TO SOUTH GIPPSLAND
- MORE TOYS FOR MORE FAMILIES IN SALE
- BOOSTING SOUTH GIPPSLAND MEN'S SHEDS VIA FUNDING
- BOOSTING BENAMBRA MEN'S SHED VIA FUNDING

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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