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Victorian Labor

G'day Eastern Vic,

I hope you're keeping well.

In May the State Government handed down the 2024-25 budget, setting our priorities for the next year.

The Parliament also sat for three weeks with lots of issues debated and important legislation passed, notably moving forward in addressing climate change. The Federal Government issued several feasibility licenses for offshore wind development in Bass Strait off Gippsland, the first region to get to this stage of project development.

Eastern Victoria Wins From The Budget

PAYNESVILLE BOWLING CLUB
$330,000
IN THE BUDGET
FUNDED

Treasurer Tim Pallas handed down the 2024-25 State Budget in May. It was a good budget for Eastern Victoria, with funding for schools, transport, and our great sporting clubs.

Our budget commitments included $500,000 to rebuild the Fish Creek Football Netball Club clubrooms, $4.4m to Paynesville Primary School, $9.5m for Eastbourne Primary modernisation, and $330,000 to Paynesville Bowling Club.

We also announced $3.3m to protect 90 Mile Beach from coastal erosion, and $10.9m for a roundabout at the Maffra-Sale Rd and Fulham-Myrtlebank Rd intersection.

I made two major announcements in Korumburra; $300,000 for the upgrades of the Rec Reserve for cricket and soccer, and I informed local clubs that we'd be bringing back the important Get Active Kids Voucher - a $200 voucher to kids from eligible families, to go towards uniform and registration costs for their sports.

Finally, we had multiple announcements around public transport.

The Yarram to Leongatha V/Line coach service will get more frequent services, and I joined Labor colleagues Paul Mercurio MP, and Public Transport Minister Gabrielle

Williams in Hastings to announce that we're rolling out new bus infrastructure - getting a step closer towards our cross-Peninsula bus plans.

SH CREEK HOTE
C492
Sale
MYRTLEBANK ROAD
MYRTLEBANK FULHAM RD

(Clockwise from top left) Tom McIntosh MP with Fish Creek FNC officials, with supporters of the Maffra-Sale Rd Roundabout, with Korumburra FNC officials & juniors.

Supporting Emma Vulin's Fight With MND

(Left) The Legislative Assembly wearing beanies to support MND fundraising & awareness. (Right) Tom McIntosh MP with Emma Vulin MP.

Many of you would know that Pakenham MP Emma Vulin has been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease.

Emma is one of the most beautiful people you could meet, always thinking of others, and on May 15th she invited Neale Daniher, his family, and the Motor Neurone Disease Foundation of Victoria, to Parliament to raise awareness and funds.

Both houses joined to hear from Emma and to show our support for her and others with MND.

Tell The Telcos

Three times since 2021, severe weather events have caused prolonged outages across Eastern Victoria, by bringing down tens of thousands of trees.

This meant tens of thousands of people couldn't make phone calls or receive data - and many of them couldn't even call Triple 0.

Following the lead of our fantastic Member for Monbulk, Daniela De Martino, who did so much for her community during the storms, I've launched a petition calling for Telstra, Optus, TPG and Vodaphone to:

1. Improve mobile coverage across Eastern Victoria and eliminate 'blackspots'.
2. Take steps to deliver more resilient infrastructure to ensure that mobile telecommunications are maintained during prolonged power outage periods and restore coverage faster when it's lost.
3. Ensure access to Triple Zero is maintained.

Please sign on to the petition to ensure this essential service is delivered to the standard we deserve.

Here's my question to the Minister for Consumer affairs.

Tell The Telcos

LNP Opposes First Nations Input

I was shocked to see the Liberals' Shadow Energy Minister David Davis come out and argue against First Nations compensation from new energy projects on their land.

We need to take steps towards securing our energy future and the way to do that is to engage with local communities including farmers and Traditional Owners.

The Liberals failed in their attempt to dismiss Traditional Owners and rule out compensation for the people who were first on this land.

No Nuclear in Our Communities

We know our community doesn't want nuclear. Polling keeps showing that it's unpopular, and the science says it's costly and slow to build.

Following Peter Dutton doubling down on nuclear in his budget reply, I penned an editorial explaining why I'm opposed to the idea, which you can read here.

My petition is still active with hundreds of signatures and climbing - you can sign via the button below.

Say No To Nuclear Reactors

Deakin University Battery Manufacturing

With AMWU Assistant State Secretary Tony Piccolo, Professor Patrick Howlett, Assistant Professor Robert Kerr, Dr Tim Khoo.

I visited Deakin University's campus in Burwood, where I saw the Battery Research & Innovation Hub, where some world-leading Victorian research is taking place.

We know our world is moving towards Net Zero, and hubs like this mean we can develop, trial, and manufacture batteries to get us there.

The Victorian Government invested $5.2m to build this hub so we have the capabilities and skills we need in a rapidly emerging market.

ALP State Conference

With HACSU State Secretary Paul Healey at ALP State Conference.

The Victorian Labor Party held its annual State Conference at Moonee Valley Racecourse this month.

The annual event allows delegates from unions and rank and file membership to raise issues and set the direction for the Victorian ALP. It is also an opportunity to hear from Ministers, the Premier and the Prime Minister.

Officer Sports Club Social Rooms

With Cardinia Shire Mayor Jack Kowarzik & local club officials.

I opened the Officer Sports Club new social rooms, on behalf of Emma Vulin MP.

The state government gave $182,000 to the project for new social rooms, which will benefit both the football netball club, and the wider community who regularly uses the Rec Reserve.

Gippsland

Announcing Get Active Kids Vouchers!

With Korumburra Secondary College Principal John Wilson, Korumburra Basketball Association President Bill Jeffs, Korumburra Bena FNC representatives, Korumburra City Soccer Club Secretary Tony Gardner & players from the local sports clubs.

Since being introduced, the Get Active Kids Vouchers have been a huge success - giving as much as $200 back in the pockets of parents so they can afford registration, uniforms, and equipment for kids sport.

I met with basketball, football, netball, and soccer clubs at Korumburra Secondary College to make the big announcement that millions of dollars more were in this year's budget for Victorian families.

Forum On Family Violence

GIPPSLAND WOMEN'S HEALTH
Shaping Equality & Respect
gwhealth.asn.au

With Latrobe Valley Authority CEO Chris Buckingham, Gippsland Solar Founder Andy McCarthy, Gippsland Women's Health CEO Kate Graham, Food and Fibre Gippsland Chair Barry Rogers, GippSport CEO Dan Poynton, Food and Fibre Gippsland CEO Ben Gebert.

25 men in leadership positions across Gippsland met to discuss gender equality and family violence.

This first meeting led by Kate Graham from Gippsland Women's Health and Chris Buckingham from the Latrobe Valley Authority called in men who are leaders in our communities to lead change.

Thanks to everyone who brought this together and I look forward to continuing our work.

Big Upgrades For Hoddinott Reserve!

GRADE 6
2024

With East Gippsland Shire Mayor Tom Crook, East Gippsland Community Hub's Lisa Lightowler and Nellie Hameeteman.

We're announced $300,000 for upgrades at Hoddinott Reserve in East Bairnsdale!

The community advocated hard to get these upgrades, which will include new paths, landscaping, boulder play, play equipment, and a nature-based play area.

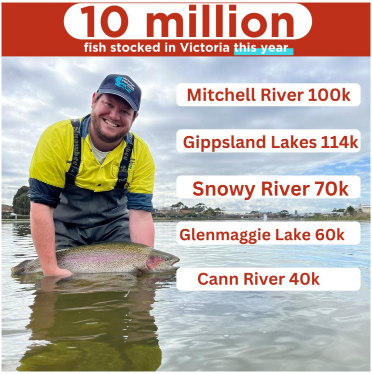
West Bairnsdale Oval Redevelopment

With East Gippsland Shire Mayor Tom Crook.

We're a step closer to West Bairnsdale Oval's redevelopment, with the state government committing $40,000 towards the detailed design.

It's great news for current and future user groups including East Gippsland United Football Club!

Fish Stocking



10 million fish have been stocked in Victoria in 2023-24!

We know that anglers, locals, and tourists alike love heading to our fantastic waterways, and we want to make it as easy as possible to take to the outdoors.

We'll continue to stock thousands of fish, from many species, across Eastern Victoria.

Peninsula

$9.5m For Eastbourne Primary!

Eastbourne Primary
FUNDED IN THE BUDGET
$9.5m for modernisation.

I visited Eastbourne Primary School in Budget Week to tell them the fantastic news that the school will be given $9.5 million for modernisation!

This is massive news for the local community - and an announcement I'm really proud that this government could deliver.

Better Peninsula Bus Services

With Hastings MP Paul Mercurio & Public and Active Transport Minister Gabrielle Williams.

Public and Active Transport Minister Gabrielle Williams joined Paul Mercurio MP and myself on the Peninsula to announce that the cross-Peninsula bus service is one step closer!

We're speeding up the current bus routes 784 and 785, and getting on with delivering the cross-Peninsula bus service.

Congrats to Paul Mercurio for all his advocacy to connect the Peninsula.

Dromana Pier

Dromana Pier
Designs under way
$10m for a rebuild.

Designs are now under way for the $10m rebuild of Dromana Pier!

The Labor State Government has invested more than $150 million into jetty repairs and upgrades since 2018, to make our local piers better for anglers, tourists, and locals alike.

Digital Drivers Licences Are Here!

EARLY BIRD'S CAFE
03 5906 5567
DIGITAL DRIVERS LICENCE COMING NEXT WEEK

With Hastings MP Paul Mercurio & Public and Active Transport Minister Gabrielle Williams.

Victoria has digital driver's licences!

This means that the Service Victoria and myVicRoads apps will have a copy of your licence, and means you won't need to carry around a physical copy anymore.

You'll be able to use the licence to prove your right to drive, enter licensed venues, and prove your identity when you need to.

Parliament

Committees

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

Constituency Questions

- Question to the Minister for Consumer Affairs, about renting support.
- Question to the Minister for Planning, about improving building industry oversight.
- Question to the Minister for Consumer Affairs, about telecommunications companies.
- Question to the Minister for Consumer Affairs, about financial counsellors.

Member's Statements

- Orbost Community College & Mornington Secondary.
- Paynesville Budget Commitments.
- Gippsland Women’s Health & Deakin Uni battery research.

Debates

- Production of Documents, Energy Policy
- Energy and Public Land Legislation Amendment (Enabling Offshore Wind Energy) Bill 2024
- Motion on Renewable Energy Infrastructure
- Debate on Estate Agents, Residential Tenancies and Other Acts Amendment (Funding) Bill 2024.
- Motion on Production of Documents, Middle East Conflict.
- Motion on Victoria’s gas plan.
- Motion on Production of Documents, Energy Policy.
- Motion on Government Accountability.
- Appropriation (Parliament) 2024-25 Bill.

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:

- College Opens - Snowy River Mail (print only)
- A feast for the senses at 2024 Winter Festival - Bairnsdale Advertiser (print only)
- Fish Creek footy club gets $500,000 for fire rebuild in state budget - South Gippsland Sentinel Times
- Korumburra soccer and cricket get $300,000 boost - South Gippsland Sentinel Times
  Regional budget: Latrobe hospital and public transport boost - South Gippsland Sentinel Times
- Cycle safety - Bairnsdale Advertiser (print only)
- Funding For Facilities - Gold 1242
- Kids’ sport participation help from State Government - South Gippsland Sentinel Times
- Free TAFE for 7500 Gippslanders STEM at Maffra Primary School - Gippsland Times
- Sport Vouchers - TRFM
- State pays to remove pests - Mornington News (print only)
- New social rooms ready to go - Pakenham News
- $500,000 for fire rebuild - Foster Mirror (print only)
- Helping More Kids Play The Sport They Love In Regional Victoria - Foster Mirror (print only)
- Bairnsdale stabling yard upgrades begin - Bairnsdale Advertiser (print only)
- Funding For RSL - Gold 1242
- Briagolong Log Cabin to benefit from Veterans Capital Works Program - Gippsland Times
- Kindergarten upgrade for Swifts Creek P-12 - Bairnsdale Advertiser (print only)

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

- Radio East Gippsland
- TRFM
- RPPFM
- Gippsland FM

Media Releases

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

- HELPING FAMILIES IN EASTERN VICTORIA
- HELPING MORE KIDS PLAY THE SPORT THEY LOVE IN REGIONAL VICTORIA
- WORKS BEGIN ON BAIRNSDALE STABLING YARD UPGRADE

- MAJOR UPGRADES TO HODDINOTT RESERVE IN EAST BAIRNSDALE
- PROTECTING THE LEGACY OF BRIAGOLONG VETERANS
- HELPING TIMBER WORKERS TRANSITION TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES
- NEW KINDER PLACES IN SWIFTS CREEK
- CHANGING THE GAME FOR BAIRNSDALE FNC
- CHANGING THE GAME FOR PENINSULA ATHLETES
- SUPPORTING GIPPSLAND WOMEN WORKING IN ENERGY
- DREAMTIME STARGAZING TO DAZZLE GIPPSLAND

Editorials

I'm working to write an editorial each month, to keep Eastern Vic across my thoughts on a number of issues. This month's was about nuclear power.

- DUTTON DOUBLES DOWN ON HIGH NUCLEAR POWER BILLS

The editorial was published in the Mornington News and Western Port News,

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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