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G'day Eastern Vic

Thanks for taking the time to open my monthly update for September.

It was an honour to be elected from the grassroots of the Victorian ALP to represent members at this year's National Conference in Brisbane.

I loved being amongst the policy discussion and debate that saw the national policy platform adopted.

I wanted to start with some thoughts on the key issues impacting Eastern Victoria. I see this as emissions reduction and the transition surrounding this, housing, and constitutional recognition of Australia's First People.

We are making all the right moves on emissions reduction particularly with renewable energy. The targets are there, the investment is there, the engagement is there.

I continue to meet with renewable developers and unions to hear about what is needed to ensure this transition delivers the power and the jobs that we need.

This month I toured the new battery in Hazelwood and it is fascinating to learn that in a matter of micro seconds this 150MW battery can step in to supply power. This is the type of response we need from energy storage to soak up cheap renewables and dispatch at critical moments to ensure power supply.

On housing I am continuing to advocate for more affordable housing, including at the ALP National Conference that I attended this month and organising meetings for key stakeholders with the Minister for Housing Collin Brooks.

The government is gearing up for a major policy announcement to support housing affordability through a housing statement later this year.

On Voice I am out speaking with community members.

This is a referendum that we must win if we are to respect the true history of our country, give reconciliation a decent shot, and work to close the gap.

Door knocking is underway on the Mornington Peninsula and I've been lending a hand. I have met with groups in Gippsland and am keen to get on the ground with them and help too.

I encourage people to check out the Yes 23 website and read up, talk to their friends, and consider getting involved in this once in a lifetime opportunity to improve our country on 14 October.

Yes 23 Doorknocking

VOTE YES!
VOTE YES!
VOTE YES!

Yes 23 volunteers have been out door knocking with a simple message that a group to give advice to Government is nothing to fear!

Yes events are popping up including Noel Pearson in Warragul on the evening of Monday 4 September.

I have also spoken about the Voice in parliament, including asking Victoria's Minister for First People Gabrielle Williams how Victoria is implementing the Uluru Statement – despite the best efforts of the opposition to say this was not a matter of interest to the people of Eastern Victoria and should not be allowed!

MORNINGTON
Yes
PENINSULA

Matilda’s Success

Sharing the excitement with colleagues including Victorian Sports Minister Steve Dimopoulos MP ahead of the big world cup game!

This government has backed women’s sport and equality in general since day 1.

It was incredible to see the women get the recognition and respect that they deserve, and I hope it only continues to build from here.

Mornington Peninsula Shire Showcase

UNLOCK the potential
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
A thriving arts and culture economy
A Peninsula performing arts

Mornington Peninsula Shire put on an incredible showcase of the Peninsula and it's potential in Parliament in early August.

I was happy to help promote the event and will continue advocacy for their key projects, including affordable housing.

Consulate General of Indonesia Kuncoro Giri Waseso

Victoria has a strong and beneficial relationship with Indonesia which generates over $1 billion for the local economy through education, food and fibre, and tourism.

The Consul General Kuncoro Giri Waseso and I discussed plans to build this, including in Eastern Victoria.

Having some Bahasa Indonesian I am committed to furthering this relationship with our biggest neighbour of a quarter of a Billion people.

Mornington Peninsula

Vinnies Kitchen Rosebud

Everyone should have a meal when they need it and it's incredible that the Vinnies volunteers have done it here in Rosebud for 30 years.

If you would like to donate to the team at Rosebud Vinnies, you can do so at:

Account Name: Vinnies Kitchen
BSB: 633000
Account No: 126418425

Veterans Card
– Victoria

Minister Suleyman Veterans Card Launch at Mornington RSL

Minister Suleyman and I hosted an event at the Mornington RSL to help sign up local veterans to the new Veterans Card - Victoria.

All veterans in Victoria who have served or are currently serving in the Australian Defence Force are eligible for the card which will save hundreds of dollars every year including.

I look forward to promoting the card at more RSLs in person and I encourage all Victorian veterans to sign up and save via:

https://service.vic.gov.au/services/veterans-card-victoria

Peninsula Health Visit

Health and Community Services Union members working in mental health at Peninsula Health in Frankston told me about their life-saving work, and what can done to support them with in their work supporting our community.

Brotherhood of St Laurence Visit

Brotherhood of St Laurence work across youth, NDIS, and aged care, I heard from their Frankston team about the important work they are doing.

Mount Eliza Visit with Peta Murphy MP

Mt Eliza is a wonderful area and even better because it's a part of Eastern Victoria that crosses over with the federal electorate of Dunkley with the fantastic Peta Murphy as the member.

Peta and I caught up to celebrate that Mt Eliza North Primary School is having a major upgrade funded by the state government.

We also checked out improvements going on at Mt Eliza Secondary College and Emil Madsen Reserve.

Living Culture

We work and live on land with a rich history and culture. It was a privilege to be shown what's really there when you look closely by Lionel Lauch of Living Culture on Bunurong Country.

There are native plants all around us that are medicinal, edible, bushfire retardant or in some other way significant and Lionel gave me a quick rundown – I have a lot to learn!

Power Saving Bonus

Thanks to all the volunteers including Barb and Marilyn who helped me letterbox Power Saving Bonus flyers in Mornington!

The bonus has saved people money when it really mattered.

Even better in my opinion is that the process has given clarity about offers from retailers and puts pressure on them to give Victorians a better deal.

Gippsland

Congratulations TAFE Gippsland!

TAFE Gippsland has been named Large Training Provider of the Year at the Victorian Training Awards, celebrating the TAFE's work to create more skills opportunities for regional students that are transitioning into new careers.

Backed by the Andrews Labor Government, TAFE Gippsland is making sure more students have greater choice when it comes to course delivery and student experience across its 13 campuses from Warragul to Lakes Entrance.

With courses from food and fibre, emerging industries through to maritime operations, more Gippsland students are getting the training they need for the job they want.

The Labor Government has invested $35.5 million for the redevelopment of TAFE Gippsland's Morwell campus, including the establishment of the Morwell Trade Skills Centre and a Health and Early Childhood Centre.

We've also invested $25 million to develop a new TAFE Gippsland campus at the Port of Sale and a $6.25 million contribution to the re-development of the TAFE Gippsland Warragul Campus.

TAFE Gippsland is also playing a key role in the Forestry transition and preparing

Gippslanders for the renewable energy boom, supported by a $5 million for TAFE Gippsland to create a Clean Energy Centre in Morwell.

South Gippsland ArtCubes in Mirboo North

I caught up with the spectacular ArtCubes and local artists Cheri Rose and Geoff Martin in Mirboo North.

The 3 converted shipping containers have been making the rounds in South Gippsland and will continue travelling to new towns soon!

Mirboo North Early Childcare Centre

HOUSE PLAYHOUSE

Celebrating that Mirboo North will receive $150,000 from the State Government to support the future development of Early Education in the town!

Hazelwood Battery and Mine Rehabilitation Visit

This new 150MW Hazelwood battery has capacity to power 75,000 homes during peak periods.

The Hazelwood Battery Energy Storage System (HBESS) is a collaboration between ENGIE, Eku Energy and Fluence.

The Battery is one part of the wider rehabilitation work at the mine that employs hundreds of people and is setting the area, and Victoria, up for the future.

In Parliament

Constituency Questions

- Minister for First People - Minister, how is Victoria implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart?
- Minister for Ambulance Services - Minister, can you provide an overview of the work that the government has done upgrading or building new ambulance stations in Eastern Victoria?
- Minister for Gambling - How will the state government ensure that Victoria has the strongest gambling harm preventions in the country?
- Minister for Small Business - Minister, can you please advise which other small business communities in the Eastern Victoria Region have received critical support as part of the mental wellbeing of business communities grants program?
- Minister for Climate Action - Minister, what is the government doing to support the increasing use of electric vehicles in Victoria, especially in rural and regional areas?

Debates

- Medically Supervised Injecting Facilities
- Liberals Motion on Taxation
- Budget

Members Statements

- Mornington RSL
- Mornington Peninsula Growers and Mornington Peninsula Economy
- Vinnies Kitchen
- Gumnuts Early Learning Centre

Bills

- Statute Law Amendment Bill
- Energy Legislation Amendment Bill 2023
- Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Authorising Pharmacists) Bill 2023
- ENERGY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (ENERGY SAFETY) BILL 2023

Economics and Infrastructure Committee

- The final report from the inquiry into Land Transfer Duty has been delivered
- An inquiry is kicking off into the industrial hemp industry

I have also been appointed to the Select Committee on the 2026 Commonwealth Games

That’s August!

That's it from me this month. Thanks for your continued feedback and support.

My office is always available to support you or your local community with assistance with State Government matters.

If you want to keep up to date more regularly then please come and follow my Facebook page here and my Instagram page here.

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On the Ground in Gippsland