



Community Newsletter
End of Year Edition 2017

JILL HENNESSY

Member for Altona District

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A STRONG VOICE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A MESSAGE FROM JILL HENNESSY

2017 has been a year full of positive change and growth for Victoria. We're the fastest growing economy, with more than 280,000 new jobs created since November 2014.

The State Government is delivering on its election promises and commitments and is investing in the things that matter to us as Victorians.

Across Victoria, the 50 most dangerous level crossings that clog our streets and put lives at risk are being removed, like the dangerous and congested Aviation Road in Laverton.

Our police are being given the resources and powers they need to keep Victorians safe with the biggest ever boost to Victoria Police in its 165 year history.

The Metro Tunnel has been given the green light after the former Government abandoned it. And our TAFE system is being restored after they gutted it.

Our community in Melbourne's west is growing at one of the fastest rates in the country and these investments and reforms mean we can continue to thrive and support each other well into the future.

We have faced a tough challenge as a community with the closure of Toyota in Altona earlier this year. But we stand as one in Melbourne's west. I thank and salute the employees of Toyota. They are giants in our history.

As 2017 comes to a close, let's take a look at some of the fantastic achievements of our community and at some of the exciting new projects and initiatives both locally and across Victoria.

Merry Christmas to all and keep safe this summer.

HEALTH NEWS

Werribee Mercy Upgrade

More patients in the west will soon get the care and surgeries they need faster with construction now underway on the State Government's \$85 million redevelopment of Werribee Mercy Hospital.

The project will see four more levels built on top of the existing Catherine McAuley Centre. When complete, it will deliver an extra 64 inpatient beds, which includes eight new critical care beds, as well as six new operating theatres. The hospital will also get a new 370-space multi-level car park.

This will take the total number of beds to 298 and create 300 jobs.



Ambulance Response Times

Ambulances are responding faster to life threatening medical emergencies in Wyndham and Hobsons Bay despite massive demand from one of Victoria's worst-ever flu seasons, with the best quarter one response times in eight years across Victoria.

Performance data released in September shows the State Government's ambulance reforms and funding boosts are delivering record results for Victorians.

In Wyndham, response times are improving, with 79.7 per cent of ambulances now arriving within 15 minutes for Code One emergencies, up from 66.5% per cent under the previous government's last full quarter.

This year's flu season put significant pressure on our hospitals, with respiratory presentations to our emergency departments almost 20 per cent higher than for the same time last year.

STATE GOVERNMENT UPDATE

Making renting fair

One in four Victorians rent – whether or not you own your own home shouldn't determine how safe and secure your housing is. Renters can now look forward to a fairer rental system here in Victoria.

The State Government's rental fairness package gives tenants more rights. The package includes:

- Introduction of long-term leases
- new restrictions on ending leases without a reason
- making bonds smaller and fairer
- more flexibility for alterations and pets

The rental fairness package cracks down on dodgy landlords. By providing would-be tenants with a blacklist of landlords and agents who have done the wrong thing and the introduction of a Commissioner of Rental

Tenancies, the rights of renters in Victoria will be protected.

Renting is a long-term reality for millions of Victorians. They deserve fairness and security, and the ability to make their rental house a home.



Protecting TAFE

TAFEs across Melbourne's west will once again be forced to bear the brunt of cuts with the opposition's plan for a cost audit.

The State Opposition has proposed a Commission of Audit that will once again see funding ripped out of TAFEs and educational support services.

In stark contrast, the Andrews Government will always put people first in Melbourne's west and make the investments needed to deliver the world class education system we need.

Support for long-term job-seekers

JobsBank is new Jobs Victoria initiative that will provide intensive support to long-term jobseekers with complex needs, and to the businesses who pledge jobs for them.

Jobseekers participating in this initiative will be drawn from groups in our community most at risk of being left behind. JobsBank will see government and business working together to support these Victorians into work.

We are making things fair for all jobseekers facing barriers to employment by connecting them to the right services.

ALTONA DISTRICT NEWS

Investing in Altona District Police

The State Government's record investment in officers, resources and technology is helping Victoria Police crackdown on crime in Melbourne's west.

The first 300 of 3135 new police have already been allocated to growth areas across Victoria, including 27 new police allocated to the Wyndham Police Service Area.

On top of this, Wyndham PSOs and Transit Police were the first in the state to be equipped with almost 60 iPad minis and iPhones to give them faster access to the information they need.

This will ensure our PSOs have even faster access to the best information and intelligence available, especially when they're out patrolling a train platform and are away from a computer.

We'll continue to give Victoria Police the powers and resources it needs to protect local families.

I thank hard working Police in the Altona District and across Victoria for their tireless work tackling crime and protecting our community.



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ALTONA DISTRICT NEWS

Local School upgrades

Students at Altona P-9 College are a step closer to having the facilities they deserve, with construction on a \$386,500 upgrade due to get underway shortly.

The \$386,500 project includes the resurfacing of the driveway, repainting corridor walls and ceilings and installing new lights. I'm so pleased for Altona P-9 students, teachers and the wider school community.

Altona Primary School is benefitting from the State Government's \$155 million program to replace school buildings containing asbestos with new modular facilities, securing \$600,000 in funding which will see the old, asbestos riddled library completely demolished and replaced with a modern, permanent modular building.

The safety of school staff and students at Altona Primary is a priority and the use of these modular buildings allows us to remove dangerous asbestos with less disruption to students and staff.

Aviation Road Level Crossing

The Aviation road level crossing removal has been brought forward with construction to remove this dangerous and congested level crossing to commence late next year.

Throughout November this year, the Level Crossing Removal Authority held community sessions for locals to get a chance to look at designs and time lines of the project.

Keep an eye out for further updates and information about this project by heading to the LXRA's website, or by checking out my Facebook page www.facebook.com/JillHennessyMLA.



Community biodiversity grants

I know that there are many in Melbourne's west who are deeply committed to protecting our community's unique biodiversity.

Two fantastic local projects have secured funding through the State Government to keep up their important work. Australasian Native Orchid Society has secured a \$23,250 grant from the Victorian Government for its project "Passionately protecting Plains Grassland".

Friends of Skeleton Creek has secured an \$8000 grant for its project "Emu Foot Grassland Conservation signage".

This funding is part of a broader \$25.7 million State Government package to support our native species through community action grants, support programs and regional partnerships.

I wish to commend both the Australasian Native Orchid Society and the Friends of Skeleton Creek for their commitment to our environment.

Connect with Jill Hennessy

Ph: 93950221

Email: jill.hennessy@parliament.vic.gov.au



www.jillhennessy.com.au



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