



Community Newsletter
Budget Edition 2017

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A STRONG VOICE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A MESSAGE FROM JILL HENNESSY

Hello and welcome to this special State Budget edition of the Altona District Community Newsletter.

The Victorian Budget 2017/18 has plenty of great news for Melbourne's west. We're investing in things our community cares about – our local schools, emergency services facilities, roads and public transport.

Importantly, this budget includes unprecedented funding to improve community safety with the biggest single investment in Victoria Police in this State's history, coupled with sweeping reforms to tackle Victoria's number one law and order issue, family violence.

On top of this, residents in Melbourne's west will benefit from improved interchange on our roads with the commencement of works on the West Gate Tunnel Project. Right now, bumper-to-bumper traffic on the West Gate Freeway is a common occurrence, with things only worsening if an incident occurs. This vital second river crossing will deliver quicker and safer travel options, with thousands of trucks removed from the West Gate Bridge.

Our community is growing at one of the fastest rates in the country and these projects ensure that Melbourne's west will have the social infrastructure it



needs to continue to thrive well into the future.

Join me in taking a closer look at some of these projects and how they will benefit our community.

STATE BUDGET ROUND UP



Family Violence

The 2017/18 State Budget brought in a record investment in family violence – \$1.9 billion. As a part of this, a massive overhaul of our courts and justice system will begin with \$269.4 million to implement five Specialist Family Violence Courts across the state and make the system more responsive to victims' needs.

Health

The Victorian Budget 2017/18 will also invest \$428.5 million in new hospital upgrades and equipment to give our hardworking doctors and

nurses the world-class facilities they deserve.

Law and Order

On top of that we've also provided Victoria Police with the biggest single investment in this State's history and we'll be putting more than 3100 extra police officers on the streets, giving them the resources, equipment and support they need to keep Victorians safe.

This is a budget that continues our strong investment in the things that matter to Victorians – schools, hospitals, roads and public transport, and creating jobs.



ALTONA DISTRICT NEWS

Schools

Families in Point Cook will benefit from the construction of two brand new schools – Sanctuary Lakes South Pg and Point Cook South Senior, thanks to the Andrews Government.

The \$13,806,000 investment for the new Sanctuary Lakes South Pg, delivered as part of the Victorian Budget 2017/18, will go towards making sure local kids get the best start in life.

Local students will also benefit from funding for the new Point Cook South Senior School with a \$1,000,000 investment to allow for architectural planning and for community

consultation processes. These two new schools will support our students to be socially engaged, happy and healthy while growing and learning with their peers.

Keeping the community safe

Victoria's SES will receive \$34.3 million to modernise their buildings and establish brand new units, including \$2 million for a new Point Cook SES Station.

Our dedicated volunteers in Melbourne's West do an incredible job keeping the community safe. They step up at any time of day or night to help people in their time of need.

This funding means that

they will have first-rate facilities to continue their outstanding work.

Wyndham City Library Point Cook

Wyndham City Council has secured \$750,000 in Victorian Government funding to refurbish Point Cook Library. This project will expand the existing library in the Town Centre and will include a larger children's area and a youth space.

These new spaces will enhance the library services and programs on offer – congratulations to Wyndham City Council for your commitment to delivering this project.

Level Crossing Removal

Contracts for the removal of a dozen level crossings (including five here in Melbourne's west) have been signed, worth more than \$1 billion combined.

Work will be fast-tracked to start this year, with the Kororoit Creek Road level crossing now expected to be gone by the end of 2018!

An Alliance led by McConnell Dowell, Arup and Mott McDonald will remove the Kororoit Creek Road level crossing in Williamstown North and duplicate part of the Altona Loop as part of the Western Program Alliance.

If the Alliance meets strict

performance measures in delivery of this project, it will retain the contract to then remove five more level crossings, including at Aviation Road in Laverton. crossings, including at Aviation Road in Laverton.

Altona Loop Services Restored

The Andrews Government will fully restore direct city services for passengers on the Altona Loop from August.

This means 37 daily services that currently stop at Newport will be extended to the city as part of a new metropolitan timetable that will start on 27 August this year.

These are the last of the

remaining shuttle services introduced by the former Liberal Government, which force passengers to transfer at Newport to get to the city, and to get back home at the end of the day.

I know Altona residents have been waiting a long time for these services to be restored, and how frustrating this has been for them. This long-awaited change will reduce travel time to the city for local passengers and remove the hassle of changing trains at Newport.

Congratulations to the Altona Loop Group and to the community who have campaigned long and hard for this.



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jillhennessymp

School Visits and Updates



Looking for artists 18 years and under.

Do you have a piece of artwork that you would like to share with your community?

The office of Jill Hennessy MP is seeking submissions of artwork from young creative people in the Altona District for a special project.

Submissions must include the name and age of the artist, name of the artist's parent or guardian, contact phone number and suburb.

All submissions will be kept so please make sure you keep a copy of your artwork!

Submissions can be sent in via post or email. Call our office for more information

Point Cook P-g College Stephanie Alexander kitchen and garden

Earlier this year I was welcomed by students at Point Cook P-g College to learn about their Stephanie Alexander kitchen and garden. Thanks to everyone involved in this very special visit.

Seaholme PS

I had a wonderful time chatting with the smart and witty students of Seaholme Primary School about government and politics. Thanks to Bec and the grade 5/6s for having me!

Featherbrook

Earlier this year I had the honour of visiting the new Featherbrook P-g College in Point Cook to celebrate its opening with staff and students. We were joined by the Victorian School Building Authority and Deputy Premier and Minister for Education James Merlino to be given a tour of the school by Principal

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Kerry and the very impressive young school leaders. I'd like to wish everyone there all the best and I look forward to visiting again and seeing the school grow!

The Inclusive Schools Fund

The Inclusive Schools Fund is helping government schools better support the social and educational needs of young people with a disability. Carranballac P-g College received \$200,000 from the fund which will be used on the construction of a sensory garden and rooms to implement a sensory diet program at Carranballac College.

It's always a pleasure to see the exciting things happening at our local schools and I continue to be blown away by the passion and pride the students have towards their work.



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