

Your Federal Member for Macarthur

# Dr Mike Frelander MP

Community News November 2019



# UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH



**South West Sydney, and specifically Macarthur, is experiencing exponential population growth and development, and yet infrastructure is not being provided at a rate commensurate with growth. In fact, our region is quite simply bursting at the seams. Our roads are overly congested, our hospitals are at capacity, and our schools are overcrowded.**

The new suburbs in my electorate, particularly within the Camden Local Government Area are virtually inaccessible by public transport, and yet state and federal Liberal National Governments are content with continually allowing development to occur.

In fact, by 2031 it is projected that the Camden LGA will experience growth of around 130%, with a further 30% of population growth projected for both the Campbelltown and

Wollondilly LGAs. This growth has been predicted for some time, and the present and future needs of the South-West are continuously ignored.

Infrastructure cannot be retrofitted easily and successfully once development has occurred. The people living in the South-West, investing in our communities and often paying thousands of dollars in stamp duty to the State deserve to be given access to first-class public transport, roads, hospitals and schools.

## Message from Mike

**This is my first newsletter since my re-election as the Member for Macarthur and I would like to thank you for putting your trust in me again. I will not let you down.**

It has been a very busy time and I have been very pleased to attend a number of Year 12 graduation ceremonies at local schools. I am incredibly impressed by the quality of our local students and I know our future is in good hands.

I have also been to a number of preschools for Early Childhood Education Week celebrations and I love to see how much our early childhood educators are giving our pre-schoolers a great start to their education.

I really enjoyed my time with the Royal Australian Navy as part of the ADF Parliamentary program. I learnt many things and I found our ADF personnel to be highly professional, intelligent and incredibly well trained. They are a credit to our country and I thank them for their service.

I continue to advocate for improved public transport, particularly rail for the area, including completing the Leppington to Western Sydney Airport link, and improved hospital services and investment in our schools.

Please let me know if there is anything you would like me to advocate for our community!

**Dr Mike Frelander MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACARTHUR



# BIOTECH AT JOHN TERRY

**It was my pleasure to join the students and staff of John Terry Catholic High School, Rosemeadow, for an Amgen Biotech Experience!**

The program, operated in partnership with Amgen and the University of Sydney, is an innovative science education program that empowers teachers to bring biotechnology to their classrooms. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience (as did I), and it was fantastic to see so many enthusiastic young people engaging in the STEM fields!

Programs such as these are inspiring the scientists of tomorrow, and I thank the students for sharing their invaluable experience with me.



# PIED PIPER KINDERGARTEN



**I recently attended Pied Piper Kindergarten in Blair Athol for Book Week and again for Early Learning Matters Week!**

The staff at Pied Piper are dedicated professionals, who provide a first-class early education to the next generation of Macarthur residents.

It was a pleasure to join the students, reading them a short story during Book Week and then again returning for some fun hands-on arts and craft.

Thank you for having me!

# Could you be the next LOCAL SPORTING CHAMPION?

## LOCAL SPORTING CHAMPIONS

**It is a pleasure, as always, to support Macarthur's budding young sports stars through our Local Sporting Champions program.**

The grants, facilitated through the Australian Institute of Sport, provide financial assistance for coaches, officials and competitors aged 12-18 participating in state, national or international championships.

Our region has a proud history of sporting prowess and it is my distinct pleasure to support the

next generation of Macarthur's sport stars through these grants.

I had the pleasure of hosting Macarthur's latest recipients of the grants in my office recently, and I look forward to catching up with the next round of successful applicants in the coming months!

Keep an eye on my Facebook page for further information about when the next round of Macarthur's Local Sporting Champions grants are open for applications!

## CAMPBELLTOWN'S KOALAS

**I recently met with the Hon. Matt Kean, NSW Minister for Energy and Environment.**

I was very glad that Minister Kean took up my invitation to meet me at Appin to discuss the development at Mt Gilead as, in spite of much talk over the last 5 years, little has been done to protect our iconic wildlife including the Macarthur koala colony.

I have been asking for a halt to further development until exclusion fencing and wildlife corridors are put across Appin Road and a proposed National Park be developed to protect the wonderful flora, fauna and heritage of the area.



## PASSFIELD PARK UPDATE



**I have continued my battle with the NSW Government to urgently address the shocking state of Passfield Park School in Minto.**

As many Macarthur residents are now aware, the buildings on the school ground are no longer fit for purpose. The school is rife with mould and some parts of the school are shockingly inaccessible for many students.

Instead of receiving the work it requires, the school over the years has merely received touch-up jobs. Some visible mould has been removed from time to time, and minor paint jobs have been undertaken. But, from firsthand experience and exposure to the school, I can tell you that the

school needs much more than that to bring it up to an appropriate standard.

Time and time again, the concerns of our community have fallen on deaf ears.

The NSW Government has finally responded to my concerns about the school, conceding that they cannot ignore our community any longer. They have assured me that a "full upgrade" of the school is now in the early planning stages, and I will continue to advocate for this as a matter of urgency.

The students of this school deserve a first-class education in a first-class facility, and I will not stop fighting until they get it!



# NURSES AND MIDWIVES

**It was my pleasure to join forces with the staff of Campbelltown Hospital at a rally in Park Central.**

Staffing levels at Campbelltown Hospital have reached crisis point; particularly in maternity services.

There are presently 45 full-time equivalent vacancies at the

Hospital, and staff are rightly concerned about the hospital's ability to adequately care for and service our growing community.

Hospital staff are having to work harder than ever to meet up this shortfall in staff.

I've penned an open letter to the NSW Health Minister and outlined the steps that I believe the Liberal

Government should take to address this crisis.

As a former employee, and present volunteer at the hospital, I will continue to fight to ensure that our Hospital is adequately resourced.

Thank you to the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association for their advocacy on this issue.

# RAISE THE RATE

**Social security exists to provide support to some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Time and time again, people accessing our social security have been vilified and made to feel like criminals by the current Government.**

I firmly believe that Newstart is too low - \$40 a day is not enough to live on, especially considering the rising cost of living.

That is why I have been championing this issue to raise Newstart. It has been clear to me for some time that the current

rate of Newstart is so low that it is stopping people from getting work.

I have met with numerous local residents who are wishing to find work, many of whom are in the later stages of their working lives and relying on Centrelink for the first time - these people are struggling

to pay for rent, electricity, servicing mortgages and to put food on the table for their families.

The Treasurer himself has conceded that raising Newstart would be good for our floundering economy - it is time that we get this done.



**ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HELP**

As your local MP, I can help you and your family with enquiries or problems with Commonwealth Government departments including the Family Assistance Office, Medicare, Pharmaceutical Benefits, Superannuation, Taxation, Workplace Relations, Veterans Affairs, Citizenship, Passports, Centrelink, Immigration, Defence, Science, Sport and the Arts. **Dr Mike Freeland MP** FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACARTHUR