

Lake Macquarie Matters

An extraordinary four years of success

THANK YOU



What an extraordinary four years it's been for us in Lake Macquarie! As the curtain comes down on the 57th NSW Parliament, I wanted to thank you for all that we've achieved together over the past term, and in doing so take a quick look back at the highlights. There's always more to be done, but I think it's important to take the time to celebrate our achievements and prepare for new challenges.

In more recent months, we steered historic legislative change in the parliament including the Voluntary Assisted Dying laws which provide compassionate end-of-life options for people with a terminal illness.

We also created a pathway to unshackle the Port of Newcastle from the restrictions placed on it almost a decade ago. This will attract billions in private investment and create thousands of new jobs.

Locally we're getting more State investment than ever before.

More than \$150m has been committed to major local road projects, we have two new police stations, two major school upgrades, and seven new jetties including major upgrades at Wangi and Speers Pt.

We won the fight to get a replacement for Myuna Bay Sport and Rec Centre with a new sport and community hub now set for Morisset.

We finally brought Costco to Boolaroo while the toxic mess left behind by Pasmenco is now under State control.

We secured millions for new and expanded arts, cultural and sporting facilities.

Together, we fought off plans for high-rise on the publicly-owned waterfront at Toronto, we successfully fought off plans to put 62,000 coal trucks on local roads, we won the fight to get more GPs working locally, we won the fight to be included in the renewable energy zone, and we won a Service NSW centre for Toronto.

They're just some of our biggest achievements over the past four years and I couldn't have achieved any of them without your support.

There's more to be done but they are challenges I know we can meet.

My thanks to everyone who has worked with me to get these outcomes. I'm extremely proud of what we've been able to achieve together over the past term. Here's to many more successes!

Best regards,





Found a couple of stray reindeer at the Bikers For Kids toy run.



Rallying for better forestry management and koala protections.



Mr Speaker, we have visitors from Lake Macquarie High!



New tankers for Cooranbong and Wyee Point RFS units.



The bill that will unshackle the port and create thousands of jobs.

■ \$150m for major road upgrades

More than \$150m has been secured to improve local roads. Among those wins was \$35m to widen Hillsborough Road at Hillsborough, \$76m in State and Federal funds for Mandalong Rd between the M1 interchange and Wyee Rd, \$5m to improve Speers Point roundabout, \$5m to rebuild the intersection of Alton Rd and Freemans Drive at Cooranbong and \$3.3m to upgrade and signalise the Fishery Point Road intersection at Morisset.

■ Two major school upgrades

Both Wangi Wangi and Speers Point public schools have had major upgrades worth more than \$20m. Other schools are also in line for major upgrades, but I've been pushing for significant investment in our three local high schools at Morisset, Toronto and Booragul (Lake Macquarie High).

■ More police and new stations

Our local police now have the facilities they deserve with upgraded stations at Morisset and Toronto, with Morisset home to a Highway Patrol hub and a base for the Transit Police. While we would like more police, we now have more police assigned to the Lake Macquarie command than ever before.

■ Millions for new jetties

We now have an array of new jetties on our side of the lake with the State granting several million dollars from the Boating Now fund to build major jetties at Wangi and Speers Point and install a new pontoon recently at Balcolyn. In fact, we've been able to get seven jetties replaced or built on the lake over the past five years.

■ Abortion decriminalised

Getting appropriate health care should not be a criminal offence, and that's why I was at the forefront of decriminalising abortion. I joined my independent colleague Alex Greenwich in successfully getting new legislation through the Parliament which regulates pregnancy terminations as a health care procedure and not a crime.

■ Commuter car parks and station upgrades

Wyee Station finally got new lifts installed in an \$11m makeover which we spent many years calling for. Commuter carparks at Cardiff, Morisset and Fassifern stations are also set for a boost after we were successful in getting more than \$2.2m for initial design and planning studies on multi-deck carparks.

■ Millions for new sporting facilities

We've been able to secure millions in State funds to improve local sporting facilities over the past four years. That includes \$2.25m to upgrade the Regional Football Facility at Speers Point, and \$25m for the planned basketball stadium.

■ New RFS tankers and fire stations

Our local volunteer firefighters are worth every investment we can make. In recent times, new tankers were obtained for RFS crews at Wyee Pt and Cooranbong, and a new station was built at Wyee. Several million dollars has also been invested in the new Public Safety Network in the local area, providing a state-of-the-art communications network for our emergency services.

■ Millions for social and Aboriginal housing

Housing has become a major issue in the local area but we've been able to attract some significant investment from the State and private sector. In recent years, the State has invested more than \$10m in social housing maintenance and new Aboriginal housing projects locally. In addition, 94 new affordable social homes were recently opened at Cardiff under a government partnership with St Vincent de Paul.

■ \$3m for lead legacy fund at Boolaroo

Almost \$3m has been locked in to better manage the lead legacy issues in the Boolaroo area. This will include a financial assistance fund which private property owners can draw from to manage or remove lead from their properties. That fund will hopefully be in place early next year.

■ A win for end-of-life compassion

A major win for compassion was realised when the Parliament passed Voluntary Assisted Dying laws last year. I was co-sponsor of the Bill which provides compassionate options for people in the final days of a terminal illness. I'm immensely proud of this Bill. It was an historic reform which required a lot of work from my independent colleague Alex Greenwich and myself, my staff and many in the local community.

■ A new way forward for the Port

The Port of Newcastle can now be released from the unfair restrictions placed on it by bad privatisation deals. My Bill, passed by both Houses of Parliament last year, allows the local port to diversify its operations into container trade under certain conditions, and that will attract billions of dollars' worth of private investment and create thousands of new jobs.

■ New sport and rec hub for Morisset

We lost the fight to save the old Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre but we're winning the war to get a replacement! A brand-new sport and recreation hub will be built at Morisset after our successful community campaign and my petition which was signed by more than 20,000 people.

■ Service NSW opens at Toronto

It took a huge community effort and countless meetings with the Government but we finally got a Service NSW centre at Toronto after the closure of the former Motor Registry. We now have two centres in the local electorate with the other at Warners Bay, and they each provide full access to registry services and information on all State Government rebates you may be entitled to.

■ Costco secured for Boolaroo revival

We finally brought Costco and 250 new jobs to Boolaroo! After years of stalemate on the former Pasmenco site, we convinced the Government to compulsorily acquire the site from the administrators and got things moving. The effort required special legislation to be passed by the Parliament, but we got there and we're finally shaking off the toxic legacy left behind by Pasmenco.

■ Reclassification to bring more GPs

The GP shortage in our district is finally starting to ease after we were able to get the Federal Government to reclassify our area under the restrictive Medicare eligibility rules. Our collective push for better health services in the southlakes area will continue, particularly regarding health services in the Morisset area.

■ Millions for new cultural facilities

More than \$2m worth of State funds were secured to help expand Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery and construct the new Multi Arts Space in Speers Point Park. A similar amount was obtained for localised art and culture projects including the significant refurbishment of Rathmines Theatre.

■ \$36m Wyee sewer project completed

It took more than a decade but the Wyee township and its new residential housing estates are now connected to a 21st century sewerage network. We secured more than \$36m in State funds for the project which is now completed. Combined with the upgraded rail station, the new RFS station and the new shopping village, Wyee's future now looks a whole lot brighter.

■ Lake Mac included in Renewable Energy Zone

The transition away from coal-fired power will have a significant impact on our area so I was pleased to get Lake Macquarie added to the State's list of Renewable Energy Zones. The REZ will provide State incentives for private investment to drive renewable energy projects and jobs in the local area.

■ \$5m to fix Speers Pt roundabout

We should see plans to fix the traffic bank-ups at Speers Point roundabout early next year after I secured \$5m towards fixing the peak-hour snarls. Transport for NSW is currently working on designs for the project.



Winning the fight for VAD laws with long-time campaigner Andrew Denton.



NAIDOC Week celebrations get under way at Toronto.



Someone friendly getting in my ear at Morisset Markets.



My award for Scone of the Year goes to the students at Morisset High!



\$5m secured to improve traffic flows on Speers Point roundabout.

Community Campaigns - Fighting the good fight



Backing our nurses and midwives in their fight for better pay and conditions.



We got Service NSW open at Toronto, and these fantastic staff came with the deal!



On the long campaign trail for compassionate end-of-life care laws.



Pro choice, I co-sponsored the bill to make abortion a health issue and not a criminal one.



At Wangi with the selfless volunteers during the 2020 bushfires.

■ No high-rise on Toronto waterfront

We opposed Lake Macquarie City Council's plans for six-storey apartment buildings on the Toronto waterfront and finally they listened. There is a place for high-rise apartments, but it's not on the last vacant waterfront site in Bath Street at Toronto. We called on the council to extend the public waterfront upgrade all the way to the yacht club, and that's the plan they're now working on. A great community win!

■ Seniors travel card extended

After being left out of the initial rollout, seniors in Lake Macquarie are now eligible for the annual \$250 Regional Seniors Travel Card after we took our fight for eligibility to the Government. The popular scheme was recently extended for another two years.

■ Better public health services for Morisset

Our push for better health services and a hospital in the Morisset area has ramped up and that will continue this year. We need basic health services and they need to be far more accessible than they are at John Hunter and Wyong. Given the rapid growth of the southlakes population, proper planning for better local health services is long overdue.

■ Energy transition and jobs

Our region faces many challenges as coal-fired energy production transitions to renewables. We're now at the forefront of calls for a transition authority which will steer our region through this enormous change and create the new industry and jobs we need. We're also leading the charge to make sure that the millions of tonnes of fly ash stored in dams like that at Eraring are recycled so we're not left with the toxic legacies of the past 50 years.

■ 62,000 coal trucks off local roads

When Centennial Coal announced a plan to truck a million tonnes of coal every year by road between Wangi and Awaba, the community was rightly concerned. To its credit, Centennial listened and responded to our campaign and found a better solution. That successful campaign stopped 62,000 coal truck movements annually on Wangi and Wilton roads.

■ Air quality properly monitored

It took many years to get an independently operated air quality monitor installed in the local district, but we finally got a breakthrough last year. The new monitor is now operating at Mirrabooka and gives us real-time data on air quality in the southlakes area.

■ Myuna Bay site to stay in public hands

When Myuna Bay sport and rec centre was closed almost four years ago, many were suspicious of future plans for the site. Following my petition and the successful campaign to build a new community sport hub at Morisset, I have now ensured that the old site will remain in public hands.

NSW STATE ELECTION ALERT

The NSW State election will be held on Saturday March 25. Voting is compulsory. Enrol to vote at www.aec.gov.au/enrol or call 13 23 26.

There is no online iVote available for this election.

To register for a postal vote, please contact my office on 4959-3200 or email lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.

Greg Piper MP

Independent Member for the State Electorate of Lake Macquarie

If you need help with any State Government matter, contact my office.

Address: 126A Cary St, Toronto 2283

Hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm

Phone: (02) 4959 3200

