

Lake Macquarie Matters



*Munibung extension *Retail giants in the mix

ALL SYSTEMS GO



A landmark deal which has seen the State Government take control of the former Pasmaenco site at Boolaroo is set to deliver thousands of new jobs and generate a \$1.8 billion economic boost to Lake Macquarie.

Having spent years tangled in a web of legal challenges, inaction and stalemate, the site is now out of the hands of the administrators and under the control of Hunter-Central Coast Development Corporation following special legislation which was passed through the Parliament unanimously in August.

In a further boost, work on the extension of Munibung Road is now under way and will connect the Cardiff industrial estate with the new roundabout at Bunnings Boolaroo.

Work on 730 new residential homes has also started, while work will soon begin on 40ha of job-generating commercial land.

It is well-known that retail giants Costco and

IKEA have long held an interest in establishing outlets on the site and I remain hopeful their plans will come to fruition.

The site has the capacity to create an estimated 2643 new jobs and generate \$1.826 billion in economic benefit for the region.

The 90-hectare site has been fully decontaminated, and the State Government will assume ongoing responsibility for the containment cell which holds toxic material removed from the site.

While this is tremendous news for our region, it doesn't fix the other legacy issues left behind by Pasmaenco, including the soil contamination in some of the surrounding residential and public areas. This issue remains a major focus for me as we try to clean up the mess we should never have been left with.

Welcome

Hello and welcome to my final update for 2019. I hope it finds you and your family well.

It's been quite a year for the Lake Macquarie electorate and things have been extremely busy since the March state election.



We still have a major fight on our hands to save Myuna Bay Sport and Rec Centre but I'm pleased to say we've got some positive things happening in the area.

We finally have things moving on the former Pasmaenco site at Boolaroo which is great news, and we have some major things happening around Morisset and Wyee with 2020 shaping up as a big year for both towns.

I hope you enjoy this update, and I hope you, your families and friends have a very merry Christmas and a happy 2020.

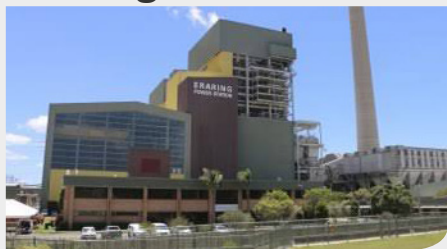
Best regards,



Inside

- Update on Myuna Bay
- Spotlight on Cedar Mill
- New mobile phone laws
- Water restrictions in force
- The war on plastics
- Commuter car parking
- Wyee's changing face

■ Insuring our future



The mining and power generation industries are an important part of our local economy.

We have Australia's largest power station producing 25% of the State's power in our backyard. We have a number of coal mines and a significant number of people working in the energy sector.

The industry is now facing very significant risks from global markets and we're at risk of severe economic impact and job losses in the long term. We must prepare for change.

My views on climate change are well known, but we need to put that argument aside for a moment because our climate is not the only thing under threat from a post-carbon global economy.

I've been lobbying the government to form a transition authority that could counter that economic impact and strengthen our economy against any changes in coal demand. Our coal industry will likely survive the short term, but traditional coal communities and economies will not survive the long term unless they are significantly diversified.

I recently made a detailed submission to the State's energy inquiry which is available on my website. I've had discussions with the Government about getting funding behind this transition authority. I'll keep you informed of any updates.

■ Right to farm



I supported the Government's 'Right to Farm' laws which were an initial response to the protesters who had been invading farms throughout the State, allowing livestock to escape and essentially terrorising many legitimate farming families on their own properties. Both Labor and the Greens expressed concern that the laws could limit someone's right to protest, but I don't believe this legislation does that. What it does do, rightfully, is prevent protesters from illegally trespassing on privately-owned farms and interfering with stock and machinery. There are better ways for these protesters to get their message across.

Water restrictions are now in force

With good rainfall continuing to miss our region, water restrictions remain in force throughout Lake Macquarie.

Level 1 restrictions have been in force since September. It's the first time in 25 years that our region has seen water restrictions which gives you an idea of how bad the State's drought has been.



Level 1 restrictions include:

- Outdoor watering is only allowed before 10am and after 4pm with a trigger nozzle hose
- All hand-held hoses must have trigger nozzles
- No hosing of hard surfaces such as paths or driveways
- All vehicles should be washed with a bucket, trigger hose or pressure cleaner
- No sprinklers at any time

An extraordinary history

They've saved countless homes from the ravages of bushfires over the past 59 years, but the Wyee RFS crew is renowned for something equally extraordinary.

I was honoured to represent the Minister in opening the Wyee brigade's new station in

October, and it was the perfect opportunity to revisit a wonderful part of their history.

The story began as a bit of a throwaway line when the brigade was formed in 1960. At the time, most of the men worked in the nearby power stations.

One day in 1967, the women discussed who would fight the fires while the men were at work. There was a reply of "we'll put it out", and at that moment eight women formed the Wyee Ladies Brigade.

The men didn't take them too seriously until a fire broke out at the nearby Bethshan Mission. When the local postmistress ran outside and yelled "fire", the ladies bundled into the ex-Army AR160 truck and raced to the scene in whatever they were wearing. They held firm against the fire until their husbands and sons arrived from work.



It was only then that the blokes realised the women were not only serious, but very capable.

It's believed they became the first all-woman firefighting team in Australia and attracted media attention both at home and abroad. A short film was made about them and was shown in every English-speaking country around the world – it was somewhat sensationally called *The Fire-Eating Amazons of the Antipodes*.

I'm very pleased to say that a number of those women are still around and still involved with the Wyee brigade in some way.

I'm very proud to consider many in the Wyee brigade as friends. The camaraderie in this crew reflects the friendships and spirit that continues to thrive in the Wyee community, and I thank them all again for what they do.

Multi-deck commuter car parks needed

I continue to argue for new multi-level car parks at Morisset, Cardiff and Fassifern rail stations.

I met with Cardiff residents and business owners last month to discuss the ongoing problems in and around the Cardiff CBD, not just with commuter parking but also in regards to pedestrian issues in the town centre.

The problem has become particularly bad at Cardiff where rail commuters are parking out the suburban streets up to 500 metres



away from the station all day, every day. Similar problems exist at Morisset and Fassifern.

You might remember that I had concept plans drawn up for a multi-level car park at Morisset which

were well received by the Transport Minister. While there are a number of sites at Morisset which would be suitable, I've also identified a site at Cardiff.

I'm hopeful that we'll see some action from the Government soon. I'm certainly pushing for some funding in next year's State Budget.

Toronto's waterfront needs this, not high-rise buildings



While I'm pleased that Lake Macquarie City Council has put its plans for six-storey buildings on the Toronto waterfront on hold, I believe they should include the site in its overall plans for a high-value waterfront promenade and park.

The controversial development including two six-storey buildings was proposed for land the council owns in Bath Street next to the yacht club. Community pressure resulted in a backdown.

I believe it's important that this site now be included in the council's overall masterplan for the public waterfront reserve which could be extended from the existing park right through to the yacht club.

To generate community discussion and show what could be achieved, I commissioned a landscape architect to come up with some concept plans – some are shown here but more are on my website.

There's plenty of room for a waterfront



amphitheatre and public performance space, and perhaps cafes, pop-up markets, picnic areas and parking. Again, these are only concept designs but they show what can be done with that space.

Once it's developed with high-rise, it's gone forever. I personally believe we should be creating and protecting a waterfront space there for future generations.

It's great that the council has taken that first step, but I hope it follows up with a commitment to keeping the entire waterfront and Bath St site in public hands, and funding what could be a wonderful community asset.

Work under way on two major Wyee Projects

Great to see construction get under way at Wyee on two major projects that we've been pursuing for decades.

About 500 metres of pipeline has already been laid as part of the \$30m project to connect the residential areas to the main sewer network.

Hunter Water is now increasing the number of workers on the ground as the construction phase ramps up.

The project is still on schedule to be completed by the end of next year.



It's also been great to see the significant upgrade of Wyee station get under way.

The lift wells are now in place and renovation work is starting on platform amenities.

Construction should be completed by the middle of next year.

The installation of lifts will provide easy access to the platforms which currently can't be accessed by many people, including the frail aged and disabled, people with prams and luggage.

Greg Piper MP

War on plastics



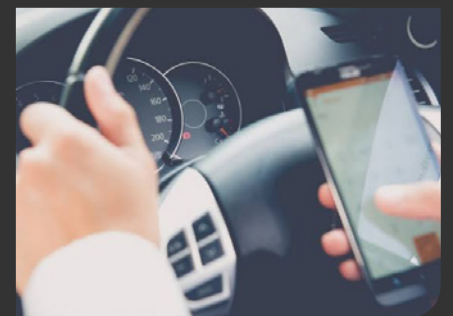
I supported a draft Bill posed by the Labor Opposition in Parliament which would have seen single-use plastic bags banned in NSW like they are in every other Australian State. It was disappointing that the Government opposed the proposed law.

I have long campaigned against the massive growth in the use of single-use plastics which are having an enormous impact on our environment, and in particular our aquatic life.

The Government has indicated that it will introduce its own legislation to address the broader issue of single-use plastics, and I'm hoping we see that very soon.

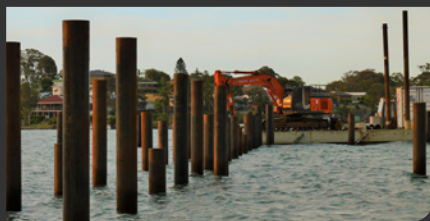
It is estimated that 130,000 tonnes of plastics go into Australian waterways every year. Every day, week, month or year that we delay, more wildlife will die unnecessarily. We must take immediate action.

New phone laws



I supported new laws to catch motorists using mobile phones while driving. Did you know that the rate of fatalities on Lake Macquarie roads is one-and-a-half-times the State average? Driver behaviour in this area is not good and must change. Local police say that mobile phone use is a major part of that problem. Under the new laws, cameras which can detect and photograph drivers using mobile phones will be rolled out across the State. Some will be fixed, others will be mobile. I rarely support so-called 'nanny state' laws, but we have a real problem getting drivers off mobile phones. We must own the problem and deal with it, and I think this new law will go a long way towards achieving that.

New jetty for Wangi



It's great to see work now well under way on the new Wangi jetty. As Wangi locals would know, the RSL club couldn't afford to maintain the old jetty which fell into disrepair and had to be closed. Ownership has now been transferred to the council which is carrying out the reconstruction project. I was really happy to have secured \$670,000 in State funding for the new jetty which will be among the best anywhere on the lake. Work should be completed early in the new year.

Top up your Opal

Opal card top-ups are now available at the new Service NSW centre on The Boulevard at Toronto. I was contacted by many public transport users in the Toronto area after the top-up centre at the newsagency was closed, so I was pleased to get another outlet open in the area. If you live in an area where Opal facilities are scarce, let my office know and I'll get Transport for NSW onto it.

Coup for Avondale



Lake Macquarie is a step closer to having its own fully-fledged university with Avondale College recently earning 'university college' status. It's a very significant milestone for the college, now known as Avondale University College, which has operated at Cooranbong for 122 years. It's now just a step away from full university status which would be a just reward for vice chancellor and college president Ray Roennfeldt and his team.

Contact

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

Address: 92 Victory Parade, Toronto 2283

Hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

Phone: 4959 3200 Fax: 4950 4076

Email: lakemacquarie@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Greg Piper Independent Member for the State Electorate of Lake Macquarie

Spotlight on Cedar Mill



I understand that the \$235m 'Cedar Mill' plans for the former Morisset Country Club site will go before Lake Macquarie council for decision in February.

As you're no doubt aware by now, the proposal includes five precincts.



The first is a \$5m refurbishment and extension of the existing clubhouse including cafes and public meeting spaces. It also includes a family water park and market area.

The second is a 28-hectare event space which is designed to host world-class concerts and accommodate crowds of about 30,000 people.

The third is a tourist accommodation area and camp ground while the fourth is a 25-hectare residential park.

The fifth area is a 20-hectare parcel of land set aside for future investigation.

I share the same concern as many in the community regarding the traffic that will be generated in the immediate area, especially on major event days, but I expect that issue to be addressed by the RMS in its submissions to the council.

No end to Myuna debate



The future of Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre remains unclear as frustration surrounding its closure continues.

At the time of writing this newsletter, we were still waiting on the second 'risk analysis report' from the State Government.

Meanwhile, the costs keep rising into the millions. Site security costs have topped \$300,000, at least 15 full-time staff have been off work on full pay for seven months, the centre has lost significant income, and not to mention reputational damage.

Origin Energy has said it

remains committed to fixing its wall and building a new sport and rec centre on a different site, but I understand that its own timeframes on the wall stabilisation have already blown out from two years to three years.

I'll continue pressuring the government for a result.

This facility has served local, regional and wider communities extremely well for many years and warrants being reopened or replaced as soon as possible. It's unfortunate that I'm not able to provide some clearer or better news at the moment, but I'll let you know as soon as I know.

No slowing down Enid

A quick congratulations to Enid Webster from Cooranbong who finished her fifth City to Surf this year, aged 98.

Absolutely extraordinary!

A vegetarian for 81 years, Enid puts her longevity and determination down to eating well and exercising.

She is an absolute treasure and an inspiration to us all.

Thank you Enid, and congratulations again!

