

Lake Macquarie Matters

NEW SPORT AND REC HUB FOR MORISSET IT'S GAME ON



After a long and frustrating fight I was able to confirm recently that we're going to get a replacement for the old Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre built at Morisset.

You may remember that the government announced a new site for the sport and rec facility at Eraring last year, but that site proved less than ideal.



I went back to the government and agencies with a rough plan for a site at Morisset, and I'm pleased to say that site is now locked in and plans are progressing.

The new site is on Silky Oak Drive, off Morisset Park Rd at Morisset Park. Long-time locals will remember it as the old piggery which adjoined the Morisset Hospital lands.

I can now report that a funding deal between the NSW Office of Sport and Origin Energy is almost complete (Origin agreed to fund the new centre given that its ash dam wall was the reason for Myuna Bay's forced closure).

In great news, I can also confirm that the new hub and all of its facilities will be open to the broader community. It will not be like the traditional centre in that this one will be built for the 21st century and designed for full community use.

Continued on Page 2...

Welcome

Hello and welcome to my mid-year update.

We've had a huge amount happening locally over the past few months so there's plenty to update you on.

In good news, we've secured a major injection of road funding for Morisset. It's not going to solve all of our road woes, but it's a major step in the right direction.

We've also had a lot happening in parliament with the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill passing the Upper House last month.

I've also been doing a lot of work to get better health and GP services in the southlakes area.

In other big news, Origin Energy has announced plans to close Eraring Power Station much earlier than anticipated. This creates some big challenges for us in the coming years.

More details on these issues are inside.

I hope this update finds you and your family well.



Inside

- Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill passes – pg2
- Air Race coming to Lake Macquarie – pg3
- \$90m for Morisset roads – pg4
- Spotlight on Speers Pt roundabout – pg5
- Our Covid fightback continues – pg6
- Eraring Power Station closure – pg7
- Our Woman of the Year – pg7
- New push for more health services – pg8
- Time is running out on vouchers – pg8

Sport and Rec Centre

Continued from page 1...

The Office of Sport is currently recruiting a full-time project director for the Morisset centre, and detailed plans for the site will be available around October when the project enters a public consultation phase. That will be your chance to have your say on what's included there.

At this stage, we know the site will house sporting fields (both rectangular and oval), an indoor sports complex, boat sheds, walking and cycling tracks and facilities traditionally found in the sport and rec centres, but final designs won't be determined until the local community, local sporting clubs, and stakeholders such as the council and PCYC have had a chance to have input.

My views on the Myuna closure are well known and haven't changed, but we've been able to secure something I know the community will get enormous use out of.

As I mentioned earlier, Origin remains committed to funding the bulk of the new centre's construction cost. Origin is also providing the required funds to compensate the Office of Sport for lost income, for expenses incurred since, and for the demolition of the old centre and revegetation of the site which will be returned to Crown land (it cannot be sold or developed).

I'll let you know when the new plan is open for public consultation, but at this stage it should be around September-October.

Easy way to find cheaper petrol



With fuel prices skyrocketing over the past month, there's never been a better time to start using the government's FuelCheck app and website. The free service has been operating for more than a year now. By simply putting in your location, or the route to your destination, you can check the 'real time' price of fuel at all service stations in a certain area. So, if you're travelling from Morisset to Sydney and need to fill up, you can check where the cheapest fuel is along the way. You can download the FuelCheck app to any smartphone, but if you're not familiar with how to use apps, then simply use the website www.fuelcheck.nsw.gov.au.

Parliament backs Voluntary Assisted Dying bill CHOICE IS YOURS



I'm very pleased to report that the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill which I co-sponsored has been passed by the NSW Parliament.

This historic piece of legislation will finally deliver a choice to people with a terminal illness. It will allow those people the opportunity to die with dignity, on their own terms, without the need to endure a level of intolerable suffering that often comes in the final days of many terminal conditions.

I have spent many years campaigning for this reform, and some have spent decades, but I was completely overwhelmed by the level of support I received not just within the Lake Macquarie community but statewide.

My independent colleague and Member for Sydney Alex Greenwich did an extraordinary job of leading this legislation through the parliament, along with our staff. Then there



were the likes of Dying With Dignity NSW and Andrew Denton's Go Gentle Australia who provided tremendous support, along with the other co-sponsors of the bill.

Sadly, there are times when palliative care cannot relieve the suffering of all people in the final days of terminal illness. I'm very grateful that our current Premier has agreed to add record amounts of money into improving palliative care, especially in regions like ours.

I know there are a small number of people who oppose this bill, predominantly on religious grounds, and I thank them too for the respectful debate we've had.

What I can assure everyone is that this bill has robust safeguards against abuse and allows for the conscientious objection by doctors, nurses and even faith-based aged care organisations (although they cannot deny access to a legal resident wanting to access VAD services).

Thank you to everyone who has supported Alex and myself on this issue. It has been a very long and difficult fight, but very soon people with a terminal illness will no longer need to endure their final days in the type of intolerable suffering they do now. They now have a choice to go out on their own terms.

Dianne leaps into a busy retirement

Many of you would be familiar with Dianne Sykes who has worked in my electorate office at Toronto for 15 years.

After a long career Dianne has retired to allow more time with her family and grandchildren.

There are literally thousands of local people who have been assisted by Dianne over the past 15 years. She was unrelenting in pursuing the best outcomes for people who had for whatever reason been caught in a difficult situation and particularly where the bureaucratic system was being unfair.

I first met Dianne when she took a lead role with the community in fighting against a proposed open-cut mine that would have run roughly between Cooranbong and Awaba.



We won that battle, and the election, and that's why mining in Lake Macquarie only happens underground these days.

Dianne is not just a friend and colleague to me, she is a friend and dogged champion of the local community. I know you will join me in again wishing her well.



Top Guns are coming

In a major tourism coup for Lake Macquarie, a round of the World Championship Air Race will be staged over the lake this November.

The State Government is contributing \$2.5m towards staging the event locally. The money has come from a fund which was set up specifically to get tourists back into regional areas like ours in the post-Covid era.

Many will know the event as the Red Bull Air Race where some of the world's best pilots navigate a race circuit pegged out with huge inflatable air gates.

Among those pilots is one of our best known locals, Matt Hall, who is based at Belmont Airport and is the reigning world champion.

The event is expected to generate about \$8m in economic activity for the area, and attract about 157,000 spectators. It's also broadcast in 187 countries to many millions of viewers.

The exact location of the race is yet to be determined as organisers still have to scope a number of areas to make sure they're suitable for spectators and racers, but the race date has been locked in for November 18-20.

Anzac traditions alive and well

It was so pleasing to see local Anzac Day services return to normal this year with big crowds attending local commemorations after two years of Covid-related restrictions.

Unfortunately, I couldn't attend local services personally this year as I was in isolation with Covid. Can't take a trick!

Nevertheless, my staff, my wife Lyn and even my granddaughter Leanna filled in for me and they all reported that the marches, crowds and services were back to what they were pre-Covid.

It's great to see this tradition growing stronger every year, especially among younger people.

This year actually marks a number of milestone anniversaries, including the 80th anniversary of the Battle for Kokoda, the bombing of Darwin and the fall of Singapore in which thousands of Australians fought for our freedom, identity and security, with many sadly losing their lives abroad. We will always remember them. Lest We Forget.



Love was in the air for John Paul Young



It was great to see John Paul Young honoured for his community efforts last month when he was made an Honorary Life Member of Toronto Men's Shed.

John does a huge amount for the local community without a lot of fuss and is a patron of the Men's Shed organisation.

I've been working with him for some years now to have LT Creek at Fassifern dredged. The creek has been significantly degraded with large amounts of sludge and contaminants which accumulated over years of mining in the area, but we remain hopeful that we'll get a win on that issue soon.

My congrats also to Terry Woolard, Peter Dowling, John Clark and all the guys at Toronto Men's Shed who run a fantastic operation for the local community.

Service medals for our RFS volunteers



As a community I believe we take great pride in the service provided by volunteers in our emergency services organisations.

Second to none is that provided by our Rural Fire Service volunteers.

I was so proud to see them all honoured at a ceremony in April to present them with National Emergency Medals. The medals were presented to all RFS members who performed sustained service throughout the dreadful 2019-20 bushfire season. As always, I acknowledge and thank all of those tremendous volunteers.

■ Dora Street Morisset

While traffic flow to the west of Morisset will be improved by major road upgrades, there is currently no design for addressing congestion in the town centre. Many people believe there had been plans for a bypass but that is not correct other than that such a possibility was discussed in planning workshops of the council many years ago. There are measures that can be taken relatively soon and cheaply and I continue to call on Transport for NSW to get moving on those plans.



■ Hillsborough Road

Just a quick update on the Hillsborough Road widening project. You'd remember that we secured \$35m in last year's budget to widen Hillsborough Rd between the Charlestown bypass and Crockett St. As frustrating as the delays have been, I've been assured that initial planning is almost complete and designs will go out for public consultation later this year.

\$80M TO UPGRADE

Planning has started on a major upgrade of Mandalong Road at Morisset after almost \$80m in federal, state and local funding was recently secured.

The upgrade will essentially widen Mandalong Road to dual carriageway between the M1 interchange and the Wyee Road/Freemans Drive roundabout.



Traffic lights will replace the roundabouts which currently exist near the former golf course, and also at Gateway Blvd which goes into the industrial estate.

Dedicated turning lanes will also be added at those intersections.

It's an expensive piece of road, complicated by the need to relocate existing utilities such as electricity, water, fibre optic cables and gas.

Additionally, the Gateway Blvd intersection will need a major upgrade to serve the new retail development going in opposite the existing industrial estate (a new Bunnings, Aldi supermarket, Hungry Jack's and some bulky goods retailers are going in there, with preliminary construction already started).

Of course, this road will also serve the traffic coming from the M1 to the new Cedar Mill leisure and event centre on the former golf course site.

None of the money committed to this project is contingent on election outcomes. In total, \$56m is now in the federal budget, \$20m is in the state budget, with the remainder committed by Lake Macquarie City Council via developer contributions.

Obviously, this project is not going to solve all of the traffic problems through Morisset but it's a major step in the right direction that will free up traffic going to and from the M1, as well as traffic going to and from Wyee and Cooranbong.

Continued next page...

The weed fight on Muddy Lake continues

The battle against the extensive weed outbreak on Muddy Lake near Dora Creek is continuing, but unfortunately the weed is still winning.

Muddy Lake is that small freshwater lake between Dora Creek and Eraring and anyone who drives along Wangi Road would remember the beautiful waterbirds and aquatic life which used it before it was taken over by the salvinia weed.

Crown Lands, Lake Macquarie council and a team from the University of Wollongong are working on the issue.

Traditionally, a bug known as 'salvinia weevil' has been used to treat infestations, but despite four releases the weed is regenerating quicker than the weevils can eat it.

I'm told that other options are extremely limited. Physically removing the weed is difficult, expensive and would not fully address the problem.

Spraying herbicide from drones has also been considered, but that will have dire consequences for any remaining aquatic life, including the endangered green and golden bell frogs which live there.



The other possible option is to get more salt water in there because salvinia won't survive in salt water. A number of government agencies are currently looking at that option, including the departments of Fisheries, Planning and Environment.

It's a difficult problem, and the answer may be a combination of all those responses. I'll keep you posted on any outcomes, but here's hoping we can save what was a beautiful natural habitat for so many birds and aquatic species.

MAJOR BOTTLENECK



From previous page...

It's taken a lot of work to get to this stage, but I'm really happy about getting this level of investment in local roads, especially in the booming Morisset area.

Preliminary design work has started and the project will go through a community consultation phase. I'll keep you up to date via my newsletters, website and social media.

Lights possible for Speers Pt roundabout

I doubt there's any regular user of Five Islands Road who isn't frustrated by the growing traffic congestion at the Speers Point roundabout.

I've been raised this growing problem with the government for some years, particularly with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and asking for work to start on finding a solution to the peak-hour snarls.

In my latest meetings with them I was told that TfNSW had done some initial studies on possible solutions, with the most likely being the installation of 'traffic metering lights'.

Such lights would go a long way towards controlling those northbound peaks in



the morning and southbound peaks in the afternoon and would give priority flows onto the roundabout.

Funding requests were included in my pre-Budget submission to the Government, and has been the subject of further talks I've had with them.

New Weir Bridge nears completion



Construction of the new dual-lane bridge over Cockle Creek near Barnsley is nearing completion and should be open within the next month or two.

Known locally as the 'Weir Bridge', the new section will reconnect Teralba with Barnsley and eliminate the need to travel over the century-old weir which frequently flooded.

Funded predominantly by a \$4.7m federal grant and constructed by Lake Macquarie City Council, the new bridge also includes a 3m-wide pathway for pedestrians and cyclists.

For those interested, the old weir will remain in place, although it was somewhat damaged by severe flooding last year. It remains an important barrier between the freshwater and saltwater habitats and ecosystems which exist in that vicinity.

Greg Piper MP

A year's worth of rain in just five months



We certainly are a country of drought and flooding rains.

Just two years ago we were enduring one of the worst droughts in the State's history, and the worst bushfires we have seen for many years, but it's the rain and floods which have had us all going a bit stir crazy this year.

So far this year, up to the end of May, we've had almost 1100mm of rain in the bureau's official gauge at Cooranbong, including an extraordinary 426mm in March alone.

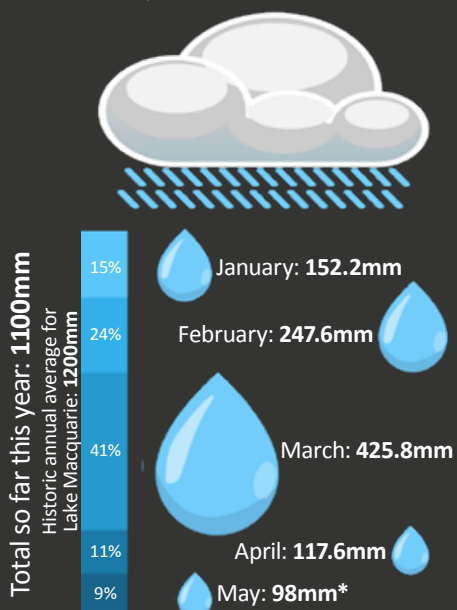
Incredible to believe that we've only had 56 days this year without rain – 16 in January, 10 in February, 9 in March, 12 in April and 9 in May.

Unfortunately, the bureau is also predicting a pretty wet June.

That has of course translated to hundreds of potholes in local roads, overgrown parks and verges and plenty of water which just won't drain away.

And then there's the problems at home with washing that won't dry, lawns too wet to mow, and pets that are permanently covered in mud! Hopefully we get a dry spell soon!

LAKE MACQUARIE RAINFALL THIS YEAR



■ Applications for CBD grants now open



More than \$400,000 in total is again available to community, sporting and cultural groups in my electorate under the Community Building Partnerships Scheme. These grants assist local groups with small infrastructure projects, new equipment etc. If you'd like more information on the CBP scheme, or other local grant programs, phone my office on 4959-3200.

■ Virginia's place in history preserved



At last, there's a carved marble bust of a woman in the Legislative Assembly chamber at Parliament House and it has strong connections to Lake Macquarie.

Now among the carved rows of old men with questionable beards and sideburns is none other than Virginia Chadwick who was the first female Presiding Officer of the Parliament. She was also our first female Education Minister.

Virginia lived at Bolton Point for some time and family members still reside there. She was educated at Newcastle Girls High School in the late 1960s.

Virginia sadly died in 2009 but was a trailblazer for women in politics.

The marble bust is the first created for the NSW Parliament in 107 years.

Remember that if you're wandering around Sydney any time, you can visit Parliament House and join a free tour, but make sure you see this fantastic tribute to an amazing local woman.

Premier's award for a thorough gentleman

I had the privilege of presenting Ian Lowe with the Premier's Community Service Award a few weeks ago.

Ian is a truly remarkable man, having served for 30 years as an SES operator and also as a former captain.

He has also been heavily involved in the Cooranbong Rural Fire Brigade where he served as captain for 20 years.

At 90 years of age, Ian remains dedicated to church and community activities and maintains an extensive community network.

Until recently he was cutting and splitting firewood and distributing it to the elderly. Yes, you read that right - amazing!



I again congratulate Ian on a very well-deserved award, and extend my sincere thanks to him for everything has done for the local community.

Covid cases top 60,000 in Lake Macquarie Time to recover



Lake Macquarie has now recorded more than 60,000 cases of Covid-19 and more than 55,000 of them have been recorded so far this year.

Fortunately, our high vaccination rate and the lower severity of the Omicron variants has resulted in our hospitalisation and death rates being kept reasonably low.

Remarkably, our LGA went 364 consecutive days without a single recorded case, but that ended last August when the new highly-transmittable strains began circulating.

Sadly, our region has now recorded more than 100 deaths.

At the time of writing this, our Covid numbers were falling and case numbers were back to

about 200-300 a day, but the Hunter-New England Health District has been recording the highest number of daily cases in the State for more than a month.

I might be dicing with fate again by saying this, but we are certainly well on our way out of what has been the worst and deadliest public health issue of our time.

More than 95% of Lake Macquarie residents have had two vaccinations, while the booster rate (the third shot) is sitting just below 70%.

The economic recovery from the Covid pandemic will be a long one. Our local businesses are still struggling and I encourage you to support them in any way you can by shopping and dining locally.

COVID CASES AND VAX RATES BY LOCAL POSTCODE

2259 (includes Wyee, Wyee Point, Wyong) <u>Population:</u> 65,036 <u>Total Cases:</u> 20,677 <u>Double Vax:</u> 95+%	2265 (includes Cooranbong, Martinsville) <u>Population:</u> 6419 <u>Total Cases:</u> 2292 <u>Double Vax:</u> 95+%	2278 (includes Killingworth, Barnsley) <u>Population:</u> 2690 <u>Total Cases:</u> 867 <u>Double Vax:</u> 95+%	2283 (includes Rathmines, Toronto) <u>Population:</u> 24,099 <u>Total Cases:</u> 6468 <u>Double Vax:</u> 95+%	2285 (includes Cardiff South and Macquarie Hills) <u>Population:</u> 32,974 <u>Total Cases:</u> 10,869 <u>Double Vax:</u> 95+%
2264 (includes Morisset, Morisset Peninsula) <u>Population:</u> 15,618 <u>Total Cases:</u> 4438 <u>Double Vax:</u> 95+%	2267 (includes Wangi) <u>Population:</u> 2789 <u>Total Cases:</u> 735 <u>Double Vax:</u> 95+%	2282 (includes Lakelands, Warners Bay) <u>Population:</u> 15,391 <u>Total Cases:</u> 4650 <u>Double Vax:</u> 95+%	2284 (includes Argenton, Boolaroo) <u>Population:</u> 10,935 <u>Total Cases:</u> 3,930 <u>Double Vax:</u> 95+%	2323 (includes Freemans Waterhole) <u>Population:</u> 27,188 <u>Total Cases:</u> 7802 <u>Double Vax:</u> 95+%

(Figures provided by NSW Health and current at 27th May 2022. Vax rates apply to all people aged 15+. Case numbers for period March 2020-May 2022)

Global energy shift hits home Eraring to close



Origin Energy's decision to bring forward the closure of Eraring Power Station to potentially as early as August 2025 will have far-reaching implications for our local area.

The closure is something we knew was coming as global energy production shifts away from fossil fuels, but this decision came seven years earlier than anticipated.

The power station employs about 450 full-time staff and contractors, but this rapid move away from coal-fired energy will impact on many more local jobs such as those in Centennial's mines at Mandalong and Myuna.

My position on coal has been very clear for a long time. We still have large export markets for coal and that's likely to continue at least for the next decade or two, even though the number of international buyers is falling. Coal-fired power generation in NSW, however, is fast approaching the end of its lifespan.

Sadly, successive governments have spent too much time arguing over climate change and wind turbines to realise how quickly world energy markets were changing, and we're starting our diversification from way behind where we should have been.

On a positive note, Origin has announced that it will be staying on its Eraring site which it hopes to transform into a renewable energy hub. That doesn't automatically mean it'll be turned over to solar and wind farms, but is capable of housing hydrogen or hydro operations, energy storage (batteries), and is obviously well placed to be putting power into the grid from other locations.

Finally, we have governments at the table talking about the new industry and the new jobs that can be established in Lake Macquarie.

Late last year, I was successful in having Lake Macquarie and the Hunter added to the State Government's renewable energy plan which sees us identified as a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). Such zones seek to attract the private investment needed to create new jobs and industry, and of course keep the lights on.

Private operators have already flagged more than \$100 billion worth of potential investment in renewable energy infrastructure in the local REZ. Not all of those plans will come to fruition, but it's a good sign that new industry and jobs will emerge.

Kerrin Rumore is our Woman of the Year

After 35 years of tireless voluntary work in the local community, it was about time that Kerrin Rumore was officially acknowledged as Lake Macquarie's Woman of the Year!

I've known Kerrin for many years and was honoured to join her at a function in Sydney in March where she was presented with her award.

Kerrin volunteers at a number of local charity stores and is one of the driving forces behind the Morisset-Lake Macquarie Agricultural Show. She was also instrumental in raising a mountain of donations for the 'Buy a Bale' and 'Rural Aid' programs during the 2018 drought.

She's been involved in countless other charitable efforts, but more than anything



she's been a true asset to our local community for almost four decades.

She's a highly deserving recipient of this year's Woman of the Year honours and I thank her again for all that she's done, and continues to do, for the local area.

Greg Piper MP

Jayden awarded 'deadly' scholarship



I had the pleasure of visiting Morisset High School recently to present the inaugural Member for Lake Macquarie Deadly Scholarship for indigenous students to Year 11 student Jayden Butler. Jayden aspires to go to university and study medicine. Also receiving an award was Year 12 student Amaya McPherson who aspires to study psychology at university. I congratulate Amaya and Jayden and wish them both all the best as they follow their chosen path to university.

Nurses & midwives deserve better



I've been actively supporting our nurses and midwives in their campaign for better pay and conditions, and I extend that support to those working in aged care. It's true that our health system has been under extreme stress during the Covid pandemic, but many of the problems we are seeing today existed long before Covid - staffing ratios and pay are foremost among them. The current situation is breaking many good people in the front line of our health system, many of whom are no strangers to 12- and 18-hour shifts. It needs to be fixed, and I will keep pushing for a fix. To our nurses, AINs, midwifery staff, ED staff, aged care and other allied health staff, I thank you again for all you're doing, especially over the past two years, and stand with you for a better deal.

Time running out on vouchers



Have you accessed the range of vouchers available to all NSW residents? Time is running out to use some of them.

The Dine and Discover vouchers worth \$25 each must be used by June 30 so you don't have long to use those.

Every NSW resident is also entitled to a \$50 'Stay NSW' voucher which can be used at participating hotels and tourist parks. You must use those before Oct 9.

Similarly, families who are eligible for the five \$50 'Parents NSW' vouchers (can be used for leisure and accommodation) must use them by October 9. Foster carers and full-time grandparent carers are eligible for these vouchers after a request by myself and many other MPs to change the eligibility rules.

Parents or carers of primary school-aged children are also eligible for a \$500 'Before and After School Care' voucher. You must apply before September 30.

There's also the \$100 'First Lap' voucher available for kids' learn-to-swim classes (available for kids who started kindergarten in 2021 or this year). Those vouchers are only valid until June 30.

'Active Kids' and 'Creative Kids' vouchers are also available, while seniors have until November 30 this year to claim their \$250 'Regional Seniors Travel Card' which can be used for travel, taxis or even petrol.

All of these vouchers are available through the Service NSW smart phone app. If you don't use the app, phone Service NSW on 13 77 88 or pop in to the Service NSW centres at Toronto or Warners Bay.

Contact

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

Renewed push for hospital at Morisset



If you've tried to get an appointment with a local GP lately, or if you've driven all the way to John Hunter or Wyong hospitals and waited for hours to see anyone, you'd know how desperate we are for better public health services in the Morisset area.

More than a decade ago, I supported a community push for a new public hospital at Morisset, but that campaign failed due to the complete lack of interest by consecutive Labor and Liberal governments.

What we said then, applies even more now. Given the rapid growth in the Morisset area, now is the time for the NSW Government to commit to a hospital and better health services in the area.

To its credit, the current government has invested significantly in John Hunter Hospital but it's incredibly frustrating to see that money building more and more on a site that is already among the busiest emergency departments in the State, on a site which is overloaded and difficult to access.

These services need to be provided where the people are, and where communities are growing. It's what our taxes pay for.

I've had a number of meetings with the Health Minister about this issue, and I've made budget submissions to the government every year for more than a decade, and our case is growing stronger.

At the very least, we need a sub-acute care hospital which could provide services such as outpatient care, chemotherapy, dialysis, X-ray, pathology, midwifery and maternity services, dental services, physiotherapy and things like mental health services, drug and alcohol counselling.

This would take a large amount of strain off the likes of John Hunter and Wyong. The most recent talks I've had with the government have been encouraging, but even if they started proper planning tomorrow it'd be some time before we'd see such a facility open. Regardless, that process needs to start now.

New tankers for RFS

Two new firefighting appliances have been delivered to our RFS brigades at Wyee Point and Cooranbong.

Covid had delayed the official handover and the hardworking Minister for Emergency Services Steph Cook had also been busy dealing with the floods up north, but it was great to finally have her in town for the official delivery.

The Cooranbong brigade has a new pumper while Wyee has a new Category 1 firefighting appliance.

It's all a bit wet for fires at the moment, but the amount of undergrowth building up in our area is something that's becoming a concern for our awesome RFS volunteers as we roll towards the next summer.



As always, I take the opportunity to thank our RFS volunteers for the incredible work they do when we need them. They deserve the very best and the very safest equipment we can give them.