

Gary Maas

State Labor Member for Narre Warren South

Community Matters

AUTUMN 2022 NEWSLETTER



CLYDE RD LEVEL CROSSING GONE FOR GOOD

Motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and public transport users can finally rejoice. The Clyde Road level crossing is now just a memory.

All the years of being stuck at boom gates for what seemed like forever are over. The gates were down 31 minutes of every two hours or 26 per cent of the morning peak.

The promised upgrade has delivered an underpass with a new 53 metre rail-bridge which is providing better traffic flow than ever before. More than 22,000 vehicles used the former level crossing daily.

Getting where you need to go quickly and safely means more time where you'd rather be.

This is the 12th level crossing to go as part of the \$15 billion investment into the Pakenham line which will be level crossing free by 2025.

State-wide, it is the 58th dangerous level crossing removed by the unbelievable level crossing removal team who work around the clock to deliver these projects.

Thank you to all the workers and all the locals including traders, pedestrians and drivers for their patience during these important works.

The Andrews Labor Government will continue delivering the Metro Tunnel, Suburban Rail Loop and more high-capacity trains.

Our community will benefit from these infrastructure upgrades which will mean turn up and go rail services for all.

More information is available at levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

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Health & Wellbeing

Increasing COVID-19 Vaccine Accessibility

Matters



The State Government is continuing to assist with the Federal Government's vaccine roll-out.

State vaccination hubs have helped achieve a 94% double dose and 60% triple dose rate in Victoria which is the main reason we are open with as few restrictions as possible.

Local groups such as Le Mana Pasifika Project and Bakhtar Community Organisation have supported their community with vaccination information and promotion for CALD members as they reduced barriers to accessing the vaccines.

Now there are vaccination hubs targeting third doses and school children to ensure we are all protected. It has been an incredible community-wide effort.

Creative Industries

Creative industries have been one of the hardest hit during the last two years.

The Andrews Labor Government has been supporting the arts with packages including the \$85 million Creators Fund which provided grants of \$20,000 – \$50,000.

This fund backs our artists with cutting edge ideas and career defining works. It also includes dedicated streams for First Peoples and deaf and disabled creatives.

This is on top of recent grants for buskers, venues, and touring. It's great to see our performers getting back to what they do best.



More information can be found at creative.vic.gov.au

Early Childhood



This year, 3 year olds across Victoria have free access to 5 hours per week in a kindergarten program led by a teacher. It is all part of the State Government's \$5 billion investment into kindergartens over the next 10 years.

The Gwendoline Children's Centre upgrade will be delivered in conjunction with the City of Casey. The Growing Suburbs Fund will provide \$926,000 to this \$1.7 million project which will see new kindergarten facilities, child services, meeting spaces and improved accessibility to meet the needs of families in our growing area.

The Fund has supported 28 projects in Casey since 2015 and has helped deliver upgrades to local halls, community centres and reserves.

Education Matters

Shade Sails for Schools

Making sure our students return to on-site learning has been a priority for the Victorian Government. Safety has also been top of mind.

The State Government has invested over \$190 million to improve schools' ventilation with air purifiers and encouraging outdoor learning with shade sails.

Over 50,000 air purifiers have been rolled out across the state and shade sails have been approved for many local schools including Berwick Chase P.S, Kambrya College, Brentwood Park P.S, Berwick Fields P.S and more.

Also, free rapid antigen tests, isolation protocols, mask requirements and child vaccinations have helped reduce the virus' spread and kept our schools open.

A big thank you to students, parents and school communities for a successful start to the year.



FreeTAFE Courses



The State Government's FreeTAFE program started in 2019 to support job seekers, students and those looking to upgrade their skills.

Eligible students have seen their job opportunities increase and their skills have benefited our whole community.

This Government has delivered a \$3.2 billion investment to rebuild TAFE and support universities and higher education and there is going to be another 60,000 new FreeTAFE training places over four years.

100 new schools by 2026! This Victorian Government commitment is well on the way to being delivered.

14 new schools will be open in 2022 for a total of 48 by year's end. While more than 1,700 schools are being upgraded thanks to investments of \$10.9 billion.

Local schools such as Strathaird P.S, Brentwood Park P.S, Hampton Park Secondary College and Narre Warren South P-12 College are all benefiting from new buildings and upgrades. This investment ensures our students, teachers and staff have the facilities they need and deserve.

Upgrading Our Schools



Community

Power Saving Bonus Extended



Don't miss out. The Victorian Government has extended the \$250 Power Saving Bonus until 30 June 2022.

The one-off payment per household is available to eligible concession card holders.

Apply at www.compare.energy.vic.gov.au and if you need assistance with your application call my office on 8783 6959.

The Orange Door is Open

The Orange Door recently opened in Southern Melbourne, providing adults and children in Casey with access to family violence and family wellbeing support if needed.

The Orange Door centralises connections to all support services for anyone seeking help. For more information, visit orangedoor.vic.gov.au or call 1800 271 170.



In Parliament




Parliament has resumed for 2022 and I have spoken on various bills that continue delivering on Andrews Labor Government commitments.

I have raised improving local amenity and programs with relevant Ministers, and I continue to sit on various government committees - work that will inform future policy and legislative direction.



It's my honour to represent our electorate of Narre Warren South.

Get in touch:


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Get Active Kids Vouchers

The Get Active Kids Voucher Program provides financial support to help eligible kids get involved in grassroots sport.

Families can access a voucher valued up to \$200 for each eligible child to spend with registered providers.

For more information, visit: getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers/

Let me help!

My team and I are here to assist you with any State Government or community matter. Get in touch.



Mobile Street Stalls

April 23 | June 4 | July 2 | July 30

10:30am Hampton Park Shopping Centre

11:30am Fountain Gate Shopping Centre

12:30am Lynbrook Village Shopping Centre - with Pauline Richards MP

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