

CLAYTON BARR'S State News

Summer 2018-19



CLAYTON BARR MP | YOUR LOCAL STATE MEMBER FOR THE ELECTORATE OF CESSNOCK

Office: 118 Vincent Street (PO Box 242), Cessnock NSW 2325 Phone: 4991 1466 Email: cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Facebook: ClaytonBarrMP Website: www.claytonbarr.com.au

New police station



In June, the Cessnock community received news that has been more than a decade in the making. After years of advocacy from our community, a new state-of-the-art police station will be built to meet the current and future needs of our growing population. This is a tremendous win for our community.

I was pleased to be invited by the Minister for Police, Troy Grant, to join him to announce the construction of the \$13.5 million station. The Minister was in agreement with me that community safety should be the key priority of every government and a new police station will ensure our local officers can continue to keep our community safe with new and improved resources.

During the 2018/19 financial year, \$1.15 million will be spent on the design of the station, geotechnical and preliminary works. I have been informed by the Minister that construction is expected to commence around July 2019.

During construction, some police officers will remain on-site in temporary accommodation while others look likely to be working out of the Kurri Kurri Police Station. Construction is expected to take approximately 18 months.

The new station will also increase the police presence across Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Wollombi, Branxton and Greta. I know this will be a welcomed development by local residents who have expressed their concern about criminal and anti-social behaviour in recent years.

Funding for local sport

Eight local sporting groups from across the Cessnock Electorate will be in a better position to encourage people to participate in sport thanks to funding under the Local Sport Grant Program.

SUCCESSFUL GROUPS:

- **Abermain Rams Football Club**
secured **\$2,872** to purchase uniforms and equipment.
- **Abermain Weston Hawks RLFC**
secured **\$5,000** to subsidise registration fees.
- **Cessnock Amateur Swimming Club**
secured **\$3,000** to fund a swim program and subsidise costs.
- **Greta Workers Sports and Recreation Club**
secured **\$20,000** to install an irrigation system.
- **Kurri Kurri Junior Motorcycle Club**
secured **\$5,000** to purchase a tractor.
- **Kurri Kurri Netball Association**
secured **\$5,000** to purchase heavy duty marquees.
- **Kurri Kurri Tennis Club**
secured **\$7,128** to upgrade lighting at their courts.
- **West Wallsend Soccer Club**
secured **\$2,000** to allow coaches to complete development courses.

INSIDE

Kurri Kurri Ambulance Station (P3)
Minmi Road congestion (P4)

Remembering lost diggers (P7)
\$330,000 in funding (P8)

We are forced to pay for the stadiums

Since my election in 2011, there has not been an issue that has created such a sustained level of outrage in the community as the Berejiklian Government's decision to knock down and rebuild the Sydney Football Stadium and redevelop Stadium Australia at a cost of \$2.3 billion.

In the 2018/19 Budget, the Berejiklian Government directed each of their agencies to reduce their spending by three per cent over the next four years. That means more cuts to our essential public services like schools, hospitals, police, roads and transport.

The Berejiklian Government refused to explain the reason behind the decision to impose a three per cent cut on our essential services but the Budget papers clearly illustrate their reasoning. The Berejiklian Government needs an additional \$1.6 billion to meet their stadium strategy. The three per cent saving across each of the agencies totals \$1.6 billion.



We can expect the cuts to be made to jobs, building maintenance, replacing faulty equipment, keeping information up to date, responding to enquiries from the community and providing an overall efficient service.

Unfortunately, the Berejiklian Government believes it is appropriate for money to be directed towards the knock-down and rebuild of two stadiums in Sydney, that will be empty most of the year, rather than addressing the lower levels of service in the community. As we wait for our delayed buses, packed emergency rooms and decrepit police stations, the Government's attention will be focused on the construction taking place at Moore Park and Sydney Olympic Park.

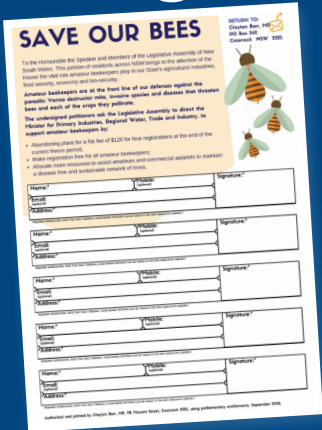
A new entrance for the jail is needed

The expansion of the Cessnock Correctional Centre has caused many concerns for local residents. However, one of the most pressing issues has been the access road leading to the site. Over the last 18 months there have been far too few consultations with the community about the entrance. This means that the Berejiklian Government is still refusing to make a decision, which is leaving our community in limbo.

In recent months, Corrective Services NSW have released three preferred options for the access road that all impact on residential streets. This has caused significant concern for local residents who have directly expressed their concerns to me, Cessnock City Council and Corrective Services NSW.

It appears in the short-term, Corrective Services NSW have repealed their intention to use local residential streets. I will continue to liaise with them to investigate the benefits of using State funded roads as an access point to the site.

Sign the petition to save our bees



Amateur beekeepers play a vital role in defending our environment and ecosystem against parasites, invasive species and diseases that threaten bees and each of the crops they pollinate.

Without our amateur beekeepers and their hives, our biodiversity will be at a real risk of irreparable damage.

I am currently collecting signatures on a petition calling on the Berejiklian Government to support amateur beekeepers by allocating more resources to help them in pursuing their hobby.

If you would like a paper copy of the petition, please contact my office by calling 4991 1466.

Saving lives!



The team at Cessnock Clay Target Club are prepared for the worst thanks to funding under the Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program.

Defibrillators are life-saving devices which deliver a controlled shock to an individual experiencing cardiac arrest, increasing their chances of survival.

The program is a wonderful opportunity for the Government to ensure sporting groups are prepared and trained for emergency situations. We all hope the Club will never need to use this life-saving machine.

Return and Earn



Return and Earn machines have been out in the community for a year now. Despite initial problems, they seem to be working well.

I have always been a supporter of a container deposit scheme and it appears local residents have shown resilience despite ongoing problems with the program and are now using the machines. There certainly seems to be a reduction in the number of plastic bottles being dumped in our streets and in our kerbs. It is great to witness the community working together for the betterment of the environment.

Progress of Kurri Ambulance Station

It has been more than 12 months since Kurri Kurri Ambulance Station was damaged during a weather event that impacted the local area. Following its closure, the Minister for Health informed the local community that repairs would be finalised by the end of this year.

Despite this commitment, we have since been told to expect the building to be closed until at least March 2019.

The Minister claims the delays have been due to building compliance issues.

I understand repairs to the station will include replacement of the roof, re-sheeting of all the internal walls, fit-out works, painting, new floor coverings and the replacement of the automatic roller door. These works will certainly bring the station up to modern standards and guarantee that paramedics will be able to continue to provide efficient and outstanding service to the Kurri Kurri community.

Until the repairs have been made the temporary station facilities at Kurri Kurri Hospital will remain operational. Although this arrangement has been frustrating for local residents, I can assure you that the number of ambulances servicing the Kurri Kurri region remains the same.



A fix for Minmi Road congestion

For some time, congestion at the intersection of Main Road and Minmi Road, Edgeworth, has caused headaches for local residents, particularly during peak traffic periods. Repeated attempts to resolve the problem have failed and congestion continues to increase at the intersection.

Since the opening of the Hunter Expressway in 2014, traffic using the Minimi and Main Roads intersection has drastically increased. Despite significant improvements by Lake Macquarie City Council, the level of daily traffic using Minmi Road continues to grow.

Along with the Shadow Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight, I have met with concerned local residents who expressed their belief that if improvements are not made, including the relocation of the bus stop from Minmi Road to Hunter Life Education land, then someone will be seriously injured or killed.

I have been working closely with the Department of Education and Hunter Life Education and I am hoping a resolution will emerge in the coming months.



Calling for a school at Cameron Park



As the population of Cameron Park and surrounding areas continues to grow, there are increasing calls for the construction of a new primary school in Cameron Park.

The Department of Education currently owns two sites at Cameron Park that have been identified as possible locations for a new primary school. One property is along Jupiter Circuit and the other is on Wallsend Road.

Despite figures showing that three local primary schools are at capacity, the NSW Government is refusing to select a site and begin construction. This is causing stress for local families.

I need your help to convince the Minister for Education that a new primary school is needed at Cameron Park. Email your support to cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au

And the winner is...

I would like to thank all of the Year 3 students who participated in the 2018 Christmas Card Drawing Competition!

It was a difficult job for local Year 11 students trying to pick a winner out of the hundreds of entries I received. The theme of this year's competition was a 'Farming Christmas'.

This year's winner is Madlin of Holy Spirit Primary School.

Madlin's drawing will be displayed on the front of my 2018 Christmas card.



Bellbird receives new fire truck

The hard-working men and women from the Bellbird Fire and Rescue NSW Station are the proud new owners of a new multi-purpose tanker. I was pleased to hand over the keys to Captain Darren Schreiber earlier this year with the Minister for Emergency Services, Troy Grant.



The new tanker is considered one of the most efficient and safe in the Fire and Rescue NSW fleet. The four-wheel drive capacity will allow the brigade to access fires in difficult terrains. This is particularly important given the barren and rural landscape around the Bellbird area.

As the population continues to grow, particularly in the outer suburbs of Cessnock, it is important our local brigades are supported.

Our firefighters put their lives in danger on a regular basis to keep our community safe and I always welcome any investment into our local brigades that ensures they have the resources and equipment to continue their important job. We rely heavily on our emergency services across the local area and I always look forward to thanking them for the wonderful work they do to keep us safe.

Unregistered dirt bikes



A common problem suffered by residents across the Cessnock Electorate is unregistered dirt bikes speeding along local streets throughout the day and night. Following calls from our community, the police have responded in force taking over 50 unregistered dirt bikes off our streets.

Officers from the Hunter Valley Police District and the Lake Macquarie Police District have been proactive in recent months targeting unregistered dirt bikes on our local roads.

In many cases those riding unregistered dirt bikes do not have helmets or safety gear and are often up to no good. The dirt bikes are used to run drugs, ignore the rules of our land and to assist in all types of other criminal activity.

Those not obeying the law should not be confused with the law-abiding hobby riders who wear helmets and safety gear.

If you see any criminal activity on local streets, you can report it anonymously to **Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000**.

Inspiring others



Jelle Drost of Cameron Park is a perfect example of the benefits volunteers make to our community. His dedication to the Cancer Council makes a tremendous difference to the lives of many.

It is people like Jelle who make our area such a wonderful place to live and grow. Volunteers make a significant contribution right across the Cessnock Electorate and they deserve to be thanked and recognised for their efforts.

Do you know a special volunteer from our area? You can nominate someone who has worked hard to improve the quality of life of members of our community in recent years for a NSW Government Community Service Award. Nomination forms can be accessed at **www.dpc.nsw.gov.au**

Digging up the dead

In the last sitting weeks of Parliament, the Berejiklian Government used its numbers to confirm their proposal to allow cemeteries to dig up human remains and re-sell the burial plot to other people after 25 years. This plan will impose horrible choices on many families.

Under this proposal, the Government will force grieving families to choose from two classes of burials – perpetual monuments for those who can afford it, while everyone else will be encouraged to “rent” the resting place of families and loved ones for approximately 25 years.

There are concerns that these changes will allow cemetery operators to increase the price of perpetual graves and profit from people's natural reluctance for limited tenure.

The Government claims the rationale behind this decision was because of the growing population of NSW. Rather than finding new cemetery space, the Government thinks the best decision is to dig up the remains of loved ones.

Despite many groups and organisations, including churches, cemetery operators and community groups, pleading with the Government to not go ahead with their proposal, they have adopted a crash or crash through approach.

Can you imagine having your loved one removed from their “final” resting place 25 years after their passing? Is there anything more distasteful? Let me know your thoughts by emailing cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Honouring Weston's past



Kurri Kurri and surrounding suburbs are known for their beautifully crafted and inspiring murals. Recently, another mural was unveiled at Weston to commemorate the life and work at the Kurri Kurri Aluminium Smelter.

Titled *Remembering the Smelter*, the mural was completed by local artist Daniel Joyce, who captured the life and times of the smelter which was opened between 1969 and 2012.

The mural is located just off the Hunter Expressway exit at Loxford. It is an incredible addition to the landscape.

The smelter played a significant role in the lives of many families in the Kurri Kurri community and it is wonderful to see its legacy celebrated.

Apply for a Seniors Card

Are you aged 60 or older and working less than 20 hours of paid employment a week?

If yes, then the Seniors Card may be for you! With this card, you will be eligible for discounts at local businesses.

To apply, visit www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au or phone 13 77 88.

JP services available at Edgeworth

Local residents often require the services of Justices of the Peace (JP) but sometimes find it difficult to locate or identify members of the community who serve as a JP.

For people who live in the eastern end of the Cessnock Electorate, the Morisset and Lake Macquarie Branch of the NSW Justices Association regularly provide free JP services at Edgeworth Town Square Shopping Centre on the first Thursday and third Saturday of each month between 10am and 12pm.

The community JP desk will be available on the following dates.

Thursday

- 3 January 2019
- 7 February 2019
- 7 March 2019
- 4 April 2019
- 2 May 2019
- 6 June 2019

Saturday

- 19 January 2019
- 16 February 2019
- 16 March 2019
- 20 April 2019
- 18 May 2019
- 15 June 2019

If you live in another part of the Electorate, you can find a list of local JPs by visiting www.jp.nsw.gov.au

Remembering 20 lost diggers



During the Centenary of Anzac, local communities have come together to remember those men and women who bravely served our country during World War I. Recently, the Kearsley Community Dawn Service Committee held a special ceremony to honour 20 local men who had served during World War I but had received no public recognition of their service.

Earlier this year, the Committee uncovered the identities of the men who had lived and worked in the small villages of Kearsley, Edenville and Abernethy before enlisting and travelling to Gallipoli and the Western Front.

During the remembrance ceremony, the Governor of NSW, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) unveiled 20 memorial plaques to commemorate the service and sacrifice of each of the recovered soldiers, which are located in the Kearsley Remembrance Garden that has been established by the Committee to honour local service personnel.

It was an honour to attend the ceremony and see first-hand the impact the discovery of these 20 young men has had on the communities of Kearsley and Abernethy. By providing a local connection to the courage and bravery demonstrated by Australians during World War I, the Committee has ensured that future generations will continue to reflect on the service of these local men. This is a wonderful example of a community working together to ensure our past is never forgotten.

Celebrating our local volunteers

In many ways, volunteers are the driving force of our community. The benefits of their service are immeasurable. From Barnsley to Bulga and Greta to Laguna, there are so many wonderful volunteers making a difference. I was pleased to recognise five outstanding local volunteers at a morning tea where I presented them with certificates that acknowledge their volunteering achievements.

The following recipients were recognised during the morning tea for their community service:

- **Terrence O'Brien** - 50 years of service as a Justice of the Peace
- **Ellena Morris** - 25 years of volunteering in the community
- **Joanne Smith** - volunteering effort in the community
- **Keith Hearnden** - volunteering by the newly retired
- **Deborah Mellross** - volunteering by the newly retired

It is wonderful to know we have so many amazing volunteers serving our community.



Community receives \$330,000 in funding

Community groups and organisations are the lifeblood of our community, with so many making a positive contribution to the ongoing development and growth of local towns and villages. Recently, I took great pleasure in announcing that 18 projects from our area have shared in \$330,000 under the 2018 Community Building Partnership.

I know this funding will help these community groups make a positive difference across our area. Thanks to the initiative of former Premier, Nathan Rees, communities across NSW have had access to this funding pool for close to a decade. In that time, the Cessnock Electorate has received more than \$3.5 million in funding.

I was thrilled to meet with the Cessnock Country Women's Association to discuss their plans for the future. After securing more than \$22,000 in funding, the CWA hopes to make significant improvements to their kitchen. This will help members when they are hosting events and baking their famous cakes.

This is certainly one of the most rewarding parts of being the State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock.



SUCCESSFUL RECIPIENTS:

- **Abermain Bowling and Recreation Club**
secured **\$13,000** to upgrade handrails on steps and ramps around bowling greens.
- **Bellbird Cricket Club**
secured **\$9,000** to construct a shelter, tables, seats and scoreboard facilities.
- **Cardiff Australian Football Club**
secured **\$31,000** to purchase and install a multi-purpose scoreboard.
- **Cessnock City Council**
secured **\$26,500** to replace the kitchen at Kurri Kurri Senior Citizens Centre.
- **Cessnock City Council**
secured **\$20,000** to refurbish the family amenities at Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre.
- **Cessnock City Council**
secured **\$20,000** to upgrade the hoist system at Cessnock Performing Arts Centre.
- **Cessnock Country Women's Association**
secured **\$22,300** to refurbish their kitchen and install air-conditioning.
- **Cessnock Croquet Club**
secured **\$15,394** to create a croquet court and to install an irrigation system.
- **Cessnock District Netball Association**
secured **\$8,770** to purchase and install glass display cabinets.
- **Cessnock PCYC**
secured **\$10,238** to purchase and install a new scoreboard and to erect fencing.
- **Edgeworth Community Preschool**
secured **\$19,690** to upgrade their bathroom to make it more accessible for people living with additional needs.
- **Greta-Branxton Football Club**
secured **\$15,000** to make upgrades to their ground.
- **Hunter Region Business Enterprise Centre**
secured **\$15,000** to upgrade the Business Hub at Kurri Kurri.
- **Kurri Kurri Girl Guides**
secured **\$8,262** to upgrade the kitchen at Kurri Kurri Guide Hall.
- **Kurri Kurri Public School P&C Association**
secured **\$30,000** to create an inclusive outdoor learning environment.
- **Hunter Life Education**
secured **\$12,358** to install two touchscreens at Edgeworth Hunter Life Education Centre.
- **Richmond Vale Preservation Co-operative Society**
secured **\$39,488** to upgrade signage at Richmond Vale Railway Museum.
- **West Wallsend Football Club**
secured **\$14,000** to purchase a ride-on lawn mower.

Here to help

As your local State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock I can help by:

- Advocating on your behalf with issues such as housing, police, education, roads, transport, health and community services
- Writing to Ministers on your behalf seeking their assistance in resolving issues you may have with the NSW Government or its departments
- Providing assistance with processing of your Justice of the Peace applications
- Arranging milestone anniversary and birthday congratulatory messages

Connect with me

ADDRESS: 118 Vincent Street, Cessnock NSW 2325

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 242, Cessnock NSW 2325

PHONE: 4991 1466

TOLL-FREE PHONE: 1300 550 114

FAX: 4991 1103

EMAIL: cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au

WEBSITE: www.claytonbarr.com.au

FACEBOOK: ClaytonBarrMP