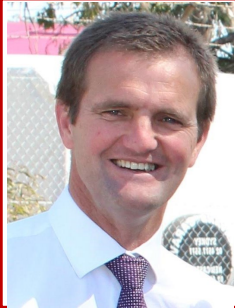


CLAYTON BARR MP

STATE NEWS - NOVEMBER 2016



It's time for another edition of my Electorate Newsletter, covering a few of the things that are going on around the Electorate and down at Parliament. As always, if there are any State Government issues I can help you with please call my office on 4991 1466 or e-mail cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au. However I have no say with local Council or Federal Government matters, so your best avenue for those issues is to contact your local elected Councillors or your Federal MP.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2017.

Clayton Barr MP, State Member for the Electorate of Cessnock



GAOL UPDATE – ALL THE BAIRD GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE CESSNOCK IS AN INCREASED PRISON POPULATION

The discussed changed entrance to the gaol, the discussed designed hospital room for prisoners, the discussed increase in police and the replacement police station have all been ignored by Premier Mike Baird and Minister for Corrections David Elliott.

Cessnock Correctional Centre numbers will be practically doubled which should lead to more staff employed – although from my dealings with the Justice Department regarding this increase, we will need to wait and see if more jobs comes to fruition.

I am proud of the community and the contribution so many made in an attempt to get the best possible outcome for our town after the Government told us they were sending more inmates to Cessnock Correctional Centre. There was no negotiation allowable on this decision as the Government had already changed the rules so that where gaols are concerned they do what they like – right across the State.

I was told by Minister Elliott that our community would be genuinely consulted, genuinely included and partially compensated for the additional increase in the gaol population and all that this entails – we were ignored by the decision makers. So much for the word of a Minister in this Government!

Thank you to every single person who took the time to attend the community meeting, wrote submissions, sent emails and letters, made phone calls and made your voices heard.

I will keep fighting to get the infrastructure our Electorate



COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Holmesville's Anne Andrews was recently named Local Woman of the Year for the Cessnock Electorate. The Local Women of the Year recognises women who have made outstanding contributions and achieved great things in their local area.

Anne was recognised for her volunteer work over many years for a number of groups and associations. Anne is a member of the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group which works to improve educational outcomes for indigenous children and in recent times has been a great advocate fighting to save the Butterfly Cave at West



STILL FIGHTING FOR BUTTERFLY CAVE

You may recall in my last newsletter I wrote about an incredibly significant Aboriginal site in our Electorate known as the Butterfly Cave. The battle to save the Butterfly Cave has been going on since before I was a Member of Parliament and sadly it's still ongoing.

We have only one chance to save this cave and Aboriginal women's sacred site. It appears the only option we have to save the Butterfly Cave is to pay the developer fair money for that land in its currently undeveloped form—to buy back 40 blocks of land undeveloped allowing for a profit of about 25 per cent, which is incredibly generous. That would amount to \$50,000 per block and would equate to \$2 million. We can save Butterfly Cave for \$2 million. It's disappointing that the Treasurer didn't allocate money in this year's budget for this sacred site.

WHAT IS DEBT ?

If the State had no debt, then a fair question to ask would be "why do we pay \$2Billion in interest each year? Remember, \$2Billion = \$2,000 Million. That equals \$5.5Million just in interest, every single day. If you had no debt on your credit card—then surely you would not be paying interest. If you had no debt on your mortgage—then you would not be paying interest. If you had no debt on your car—then surely you would not be paying interest. So why does our Treasurer tell us that we are free of debt ? In short—it is political and financial spin. And the broader media have taken the bait—hook, line and sinker. Interestingly though, of the \$16Billion sale of Ausgrid, \$10Billion will be used to retire debt. So do we have debt or don't we Mr Baird?

COMMUNITY BARR-BECUES ARE BACK

During the New Year I'll be setting up my tent and barbecue at a spot near you, cooking up a storm and talking to local people about the State issues they're concerned about. Here's the schedule, come along for a sausage sandwich and a chat:

BELLBIRD	Tuesday 21 March	11.30am—1pm	Bellbird Miners Memorial Park, Wollombi Road
BROKE	Tuesday 28 February	4.30pm—6pm	McNamara Park, Wollombi Street
CAMERON PARK	Thursday 16 March	4.30pm—6pm	Bruce Kane Memorial Park, Durham Drive
EDGEWORTH	Thursday 23 March	11.30am—1pm	Park in Johnson Street
GRETA	Thursday 2 March	4.30pm—6pm	Norman Brown Memorial Park, corner High and Water Street
HEDDON GRETA	Thursday 16 March	11.30am—1pm	Car park opposite the Hotel
HOLMESVILLE	Tuesday 7 February	11.30am—1pm	Joseph Holmes Memorial Park, Appletree Road
KITCHENER	Tuesday 7 February	4.30pm—6pm	Heritage Park near the Poppet Head
KURRI KURRI	Thursday 9 February	11.30am—1pm	Margaret Johns Park, corner Northcote and Boundary Streets
LAGUNA	Thursday 2 March	11.30am—1pm	Car park at the front of Laguna Public School
MILBRODALE	Thursday 23 March	4.30pm—6pm	Grassed area, corner Putty and Milbrodale Roads
MILLFIELD	Tuesday 28 February	11.30am—1pm	Park opposite the General Store
MULBRING	Tuesday 21 March	4.30pm—6pm	Mulbring Park, Vincent Street
NULKABA	Tuesday 14 March	11.30am—1pm	Corner Kerlew Street and Wine Country Drive
WESTON	Tuesday 14 March	4.30pm—6pm	Peace Park, Cessnock Road

FOR SALE

MORE SELL-OFFS

LAND TITLING AND REGISTRY SERVICES

For some strange reason, the New South Wales Government has been acting more like a Real Estate agency than a Government for people recently. In Parliament the Government took the decision to privatise our Land Titling and Registry Services. Under the proposed new scheme, the Titling and Registry Services will be sold off, on a 35 year contract. The certainty, accuracy and thorough cross-checking, we would hope, might continue. But the greater fear is that the search for profit might lead to a lower quality service. And this would mean that the title that people hold for their home or their other property would have far less certainty. This will increase the "risk" factor and that will make banks and financial institutions far more nervous about mortgages and land investments. The other hidden little fact in this privatisation is the massive increase in fees and charges.

It won't surprise you at all to learn that the proceeds will provide a massive injection of funds in Sydney, on football stadiums.

CROWN LAND

Crown Land comprises approximately half of all land in New South Wales. Some of this land is allocated to public uses such as national parks, state forests, schools, hospitals, sporting, camping and recreation areas, as well as lands which are managed and protected for their environmental importance.

This leaves other significant portions of Crown Land that can be used in a number of ways, including leasing for commercial or agricultural purposes, through to land development and sale.

The Baird Government is poised to introduce significant changes in Crown Lands management without coming clean with the people about what's really at stake. What environmental values are at risk from these proposals?

The Parliamentary Report shows that when the Government looks at Crown Land, it sees dollar signs, and when the people look at Crown Land, they see a rich environmental and cultural legacy that they want protected for future generations.

Premier Mike Baird is quite literally preparing to sell the ground from beneath your feet. This is a sneaky attempt by the Government to give its own real estate hucksters the green light to put up a sale sign on public land.

SPORT AND RECREATION SCHOOL CAMPS

As reported, the NSW Government is considering privatising the operation of the 'sport and rec school camps'.

The Government has admitted it is floating "market testing" and "consultation" about the Centres' future management, which the State Opposition says is an obvious prelude to privatisation.

For about 70 years, the camps have been an integral launch into the outdoors for generations of school students that includes bushwalking, orienteering, abseiling and archery.

The State Government seems determined to sell everything in the state and it appears that the Sport and Recreation camps are next on their hit list.

ABERMAIN FIRE STATION

It's exciting to see the completion of the new Abermain Fire Station.

Our firefighters have an incredibly stressful and dangerous job. The new station has been designed to provide a safe and comfortable place for them to recover mentally and physically between emergency calls.

It does leave you asking the question though, what does this new facility mean for the future of Weston Fire Station?

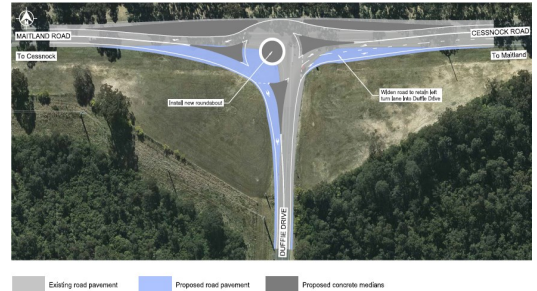


DUFFIE DRIVE FUNDING

I was very pleased to secure \$500,000 for the planning stage of the intersection of Maitland Road and Duffie Drive, Cessnock.

The current proposal involves installation of a roundabout at a cost of \$2.7Million to improve safety and traffic flow for road users.

This funding is a result of strong community action and congratulations to all local activists.



I'll be keeping an eye on this project and look forward to seeing the final outcome.

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

Four schools in the Electorate of Cessnock will receive additional sets of flashing lights to improve road safety for children travelling to and from school.

- Bellbird Public School
- Cessnock West Public School
- Ellalong Public school
- Kurri Kurri Public School



I first raised my concerns in Parliament for road safety in and around our schools back in 2012.

Children are some of our most vulnerable road users and we know school zone flashing lights are an effective way of warning drivers and riders to slowdown to improve safety.

HOW TO GET IT TOUCH

As well as my Community Barr-ecues, Mobile Offices in West Wallsend and being available for appointments at the electorate office, I also try to do a bit of doorknocking in the local area to keep in touch with people. I never want anyone to be able to say I haven't been available to hear their concerns. I'm available to help you with any of these State Government issues:

- Transport - Health - Community Services - Education - Law and Order - Water - Resources and Energy - Sport and Recreation - Public Housing - Science - Roads - Industrial Relations - Environment*
- *Medical Research - Fair Trading - Seniors Card Information - JP Applications -*
 - *Congratulatory Messages for milestone Wedding Anniversaries and Birthdays*

My office is located at 118 Vincent Street, Cessnock and can be contacted by

Phone: 4991 1466 / Toll Free: 1300 550 114 / Fax: 4991 1103

E-mail: cessnock@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Mail: PO Box 242, Cessnock NSW 2325



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MERRY CHRISTMAS

