

CLAYTON BARR'S State News

Summer 2020-21



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

NSW made NSW jobs first

NSW Labor is calling on the Berejiklian Government to put NSW workers and NSW jobs first. For too long NSW's manufacturing has suffered from contracts being awarded overseas rather than keeping them in our state. The campaign launched by Labor compels NSW Government departments and agencies to prioritise and support locally produced goods and services rather than spending money overseas.

Our community expects the government to spend taxpayer money responsibly and in a way that will help those in NSW, not just chasing the cheapest price. How is sending money out of NSW is going to help our economy thrive?

Labor's policy would support manufacturing and design capacity across the state by incentivising local materials, construction and professional services in major projects like new harbour ferries and train carriages.

In NSW we have world class engineering and design expertise as well as highly skilled manufacturers ready to work. We need to make better decisions about how and where we spend taxpayers' money. This money should stay here in NSW and keep people working.

The Berejiklian Government have a woeful record of overseas purchases. You only have to look at the trains purchased from South Korea that didn't fit the tracks, ferries from Indonesia that don't fit under bridges, light rail from Spain and France that keep breaking down. These purchases are just not good enough and are unsuitable. We need to support people in our own backyard.

Introduced to Parliament by Labor, the *NSW Jobs First Bill 2020* aims to support local businesses and help to employ thousands of people who are out of work and struggling, due to the current economic crisis.

Labor is hoping to make the 'NSW Made' policy law. Part of the policy is the establishment of a NSW Jobs First Advocate to enforce these new requirements and ensure government agencies are maximising the opportunities provided to local workers and local businesses.

Living with Covid-19 holidays



- Practice good hygiene
- Stay at home if you are sick
- Regularly wash hands for at least 20 seconds
- Practice social distancing 1.5m
- If you can't practice social distancing wear a mask

With the 2020 Christmas holidays upon us it is important to make sure we are practicing good hygiene and following Covid Safe practices when we are out in the community.

By making sure we are all taking precautions and following health advice we can keep our communities safe.

For updates and further information about restrictions and health advice see www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules

Community Service Awards

Volunteers are the life blood of our community. The last 12 months has been challenging for so many of us and during this time we have relied heavily on our volunteers.

This year we have recognised three such community heroes who have selflessly given to our community, as part of the NSW Government Community Service Awards 2020.

Andrew Jones of Laguna Rural Fire Brigade and Peter Beveridge of Millfield Rural Fire Brigade were both recognised for their service during the 2019-2020 bushfires. Ronald Jackson was recognised for services to the local community.

As captain of the Laguna RFS Andrew Jones led his team tirelessly to save both lives and property. Mr Jones is also a volunteer at Laguna Public School and committee member of Valley Artist Inc.

Peter Beveridge was recognised for his leadership of the Millfield Fire Brigade who as a group put in more than 1,000 volunteers hours from November to December alone including at one stage volunteering for a consecutive stint of 18 days straight working 12 hour days.

Ron Jackson was recognised for his long standing volunteering as an entertainer at aged care facilities and as a current and past member of Kurri Kurri Retired Mineworkers, Cessnock Cantata Choir and board member of Cessnock Community Transport.

INSIDE

Our local Hidden Treasures (P2)
Community Building Partnership (P3)

Butterfly Cave West Wallsend (P2)
Return and Earn (P4)

Our local Hidden Treasures

It is during times of adversity we see the wonderful spirit of our volunteers. In October four of these amazing volunteers were recognised for the role they play in our community as part of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Rural Women's Network Hidden Treasures Honour Roll.



Nadine Hickey and Karen Blandon both of Cessnock, Jane Goldie of Kearsley and Stacy Jacobs of Cessnock High School are among 104 rural and regional women named on this year's honour roll.

It was fantastic to see their contribution recognised as these four women have given thousands of hours of their own time to support our community,

Cessnock resident Nadine Hickey has dedicated countless hours to making a positive contribution to the lives of others by volunteering with Wheeling and Able, the Link or Sink Group, Cessnock Relay for Life, Dreams2Live4, Cessnock Public School P&C and Cessnock Basketball Association. These are just some of the groups Nadine has been actively involved in over the years.

Kearsley resident Jane Goldie was recognised for her 25 years service with Kearsley Rural Fire Brigade where she has held many positions including that of deputy captain, a position she has held for more than two decades. Her dedication to keeping residents of Kearsley and surrounds safe is truly amazing.

Cessnock's Karen Blandon was recognised for her countless hours of volunteering including establishing Mount View High School's Leo Club (a Junior Lions Club) and her role in collecting donations for Hunter Hands of Hope, White Ribbon, Legacy, Relay for Life and many more charities.

Cessnock High's student support officer Stacy Jacobs was recognised for her role in helping form Cessnock High's Interact Club (a school-based Rotary Club), as well as being a member of Cessnock Rotary Club, President of the PCYC Cessnock Advisory Boards, committee member of Cessnock Family Support Service, is a volunteer driving instructor, and last year coordinated Cessnock's Pink Up Your Town events (raising funds for the McGrath Foundation).

Butterfly Cave West Wallsend

Over the last 6 years I have provided regular updates on the fight to save the Butterfly Cave at West Wallsend.

This sacred women's site has been a meeting place for over 40,000 years for local Aboriginal women; a place for ceremony, safety, cultural, teaching and more.

In February 2019 the then Federal Environment Minister issued a declaration to protect the sacred site. However that declaration will not be worth anything without the current Environment Minister Sussan Ley MP upholding and enforcing the declaration.

Subsequent stages (stages 7 and 9) of the residential development would see a catastrophic impact to the site as these planned stages would overlook the cave and surrounding area. With the potential for men to be looking down from their houses directly onto this sacred women's site this is a huge invasion and disrespect of cultural practices.

In late September Minister Ley visited the site, met with representatives of Awabakal women and the developer and stated that she expects the development to fully comply with the existing declaration.

Saving the Cave is an incredibly important thing we can do. Not just for our local culture but our national Aboriginal culture.

And the winner is...

Thank you to all of the Year 3 students who participated in my 2020 Christmas Card Drawing Competition!

Choosing a winner out of the hundreds of entries that were received is a very difficult task, I am grateful to the senior high school students for selecting a winner for me. It is always great to see the wonderful drawings from across the Electorate and the drawings always brings a smile to my face.

The theme of this year's competition was 'Beach Christmas'.

The winning drawing will be displayed on the front of my 2020 Christmas card. You can see the winning entries on my website www.claytonbarr.com.au.



Community receives \$300,000 in funding

Many community groups across the Electorate have been recipients of the Community Building Partnership Program (CBPP) including Branxton Greta Little Athletics who were successful in receiving funding to purchase a new ride on lawn mower for their athletic track and field.

The program, introduced by the Labor Government in 2009, has provided funding to thousands of community groups, sporting clubs and councils across NSW to build or upgrade local facilities.

In late November I was pleased to announce the successful recipients of the Community Building Partnership Program 2020/21.

The Electorate of Cessnock was successful in gaining funding for a total of 23 projects. Its great to see funding being used in the local community. I know this funding will help make a positive difference across our area.

SUCCESSFUL RECIPIENTS:

- **Cessnock City Council**
secured **\$6,000** for the installation of shade sail over the play equipment at Paxton Park.
- **Trustees of Church Property Diocese of Newcastle**
secured **\$14,386** for Church Hall renovation Christ Church Mt Vincent.
- **Kurri Kurri High School P&C**
secured **\$8,500** for a water fountain upgrade at KKHS.
- **Scouts Association - Branxton Greta Scouts**
secured **\$2,500** for construction of a front fence for Branxton-Greta Scout Hall.
- **Cessnock PCYC**
secured **\$15,000** for Stage II meeting room repairs.
- **Cessnock Croquet Club**
secured **\$4,500** for construction of access ramp and railings to existing clubhouse.
- **St John Ambulance Cessnock**
secured **\$11,499** to purchase a stretcher.
- **Kurri Kurri & District Pre-School Inc**
secured **\$12,000** for bike track repair.
- **Hunter Region BEC**
secured **\$8,800** to replace the front doors with disability friendly doors.
- **Masonic Holdings - Cessnock**
secured **\$27,829** for the Freemasons Hall Cessnock transformation project.
- **Bellbird Preschool Inc**
secured **\$20,000** for bathroom renovation.
- **Hunter Valley Off Road Racing Association Inc**
secured **\$10,000** for repair of existing structures at sporting complex.
- **Cessnock Woodturners Inc**
secured **\$5,800** to purchase a replacement wood thicknessing machine.
- **Compass Housing Services Co Ltd**
secured **\$10,000** for the installation of solar panels and battery at Weston Community Hub.
- **Wollombi Valley Tennis & Sports Association Inc**
secured **\$30,000** for the purchase and installation of outdoor fitness equipment.
- **Cessnock District Hockey Association Inc**
secured **\$8,000** for the installation of field safety netting.
- **Edgeworth Community Preschool Inc**
secured **\$14,300** for the installation of solar panels.
- **Mt Sugarloaf Croquet Club Inc**
secured **\$4,940** for restoration of croquet lawns and care.
- **Towns with Heart Inc.**
secured **\$24,689** for an electronic community noticeboard for Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri.
- **Lions Club of Branxton**
secured **\$4,115** for replacement and refurbishment of iconic road safety signs in Branxton.
- **Piranha's Cricket Club**
secured **\$17,000** for the removal of shipping container and installation of two lane cricket nets for training facilities.
- **Cessnock Clay Target Club Inc**
secured **\$25,062** for installation of solar panels & to purchase a ride on mower.
- **Greta Branxton Junior Soccer Club**
secured **\$15,000** grandstand and seating around football fields at Miller Park.



Kurri Kurri Hospital Rehabilitation Unit



There has been concern in the community about the lack of new patients being accepted into the Kurri Kurri Hospital Rehabilitation Unit, due to a lack of medical support after hours and this has led to concerns the unit would close.

Hunter New England Health has stated "There are no plans to close the Kurri Kurri Hospital Rehabilitation Unit, or for it to be absorbed into another unit at the Hospital."

At the time of going to print I am optimistic that the concerns of the doctors responsible for the unit will have been addressed and we will soon have the rehab unit operating at full capacity providing a high level of care.

Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program

The Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program which provides funding to assist local sporting clubs in the purchase and maintenance of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) is currently calling for applications for the current round of funding.

The program offers NSW sporting clubs and councils the opportunity to acquire an AED package for their club or sports facility at a reduced cost.

Having access to CPR and a defibrillator can make a huge difference increasing a person's chance of survival by 75%. This program makes sport safer for our local sporting groups and their supporters.

I would encourage all of our local not-for-profit sporting organisations, groups and services to submit a grant application for this potentially life saving equipment.

For more information see www.sport.nsw.gov.au/clubs/grants/defibrillator



Are you a senior?

Senior Saver Card

If you are over 60 but still working 20+ hours a week and a resident of NSW you are entitled to a Senior Saver Card.

The new card will provide access to discounts and deals offered by participating businesses but excludes transport concessions.

Seniors Card

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

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

For more information or to apply for a Senior Saver or Seniors Card visit www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au or call Service NSW 13 77 88.

Return and Earn across the Electorate

Since its launch in December 2017 the scheme has collected over 4 billion containers through its 600+ return and earn collection points. Many residents and community groups have embraced the use of the machines and I encourage everyone to claim as much money back as you can.

One such community group which has embraced recycling and the Return and Earn facilities is Kurri Kurri & District Pre-School who started collecting the cans from their family events. The pre-school now have collection crates as part of their events and as a drop off point for students families.

After visiting the pre-school I could see how they have embraced sustainability and creative recycling as part of their culture.

Across the Electorate there are reverse vending machines at the following locations:

- BP Nulkaba - Wine Country Drive, Nulkaba;
- Cameron Park Shopping Centre - George Booth Drive, Cameron Park;
- Cessnock - North Avenue, Cessnock;
- Edgeworth Bowling Club - Park Street, Edgeworth;
- Kurri Kurri Bowling Club - Tarro Street, Kurri Kurri;
- Mackex Kurri Kurri - Northcote Street, Kurri Kurri; and
- Miller Park Sports Club - Maitland Street, East Branxton.

There is also an over-the-counter site at Huntlee Academy on Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury.



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, youth 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
- Arranging milestone anniversary and birthday congratulatory messages

Connect with me

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