

Gaëlle's Gazette

The Nationals' Member for Northern Victoria

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The Government must listen to Regional Victoria



Close to 500 people attended a rally in Bendigo recently, calling on Premier Jacinta Allan to listen to the concerns of people living in regional Victoria.

Producers and regional communities are deeply concerned about fast-tracked solar projects, wind turbines, batteries and transmission lines and they still have no right of appeal. The Allan Labor Government in March removed VCAT, effectively the third umpire, from the planning process.

Producers have no say on what happens on their own land, and have been loudly protesting, yet the Premier refuses to budge as she ticks off on the renewable projects across the state.



The cost of living, cuts to health services, our crumbling roads, poorer education outcomes and a lack of childcare places – all of these things are hurting our communities. The rally aimed to tell the Premier that rural and regional Victorians matter, and they have certainly sent that message.

Labor can't manage money, can't manage projects and regional Victoria is paying the price.

Alleged CFMEU misconduct must be investigated

What has come to light in the media is that there have been significant issues with CFMEU conduct on government worksites for years, and the Labor government, which receives millions of dollars in political donations from the CFMEU, has failed to take action.

CFMEU issues are not contained to just Melbourne. Recently, I was told by a local who owns a building clean-up business in Bendigo about how he was told by a union official, he and his 16 workers, would have to join the union at a cost of \$16,000. The union representative assured him that if he joined, they would make him a millionaire, but he declined. After that, the jobs he had lined up at other sites for the government and council all dried up.

Only a Royal Commission, as proposed by the Victorian Liberals and Nationals, will get to the bottom of the alleged rorts and criminal conduct that has flourished across Big Build sites under the Allan Labor Government.



LABOR & GREENS blocked an inquiry into the CFMEU scandal in parliament



Ambulance inquiry secured

In Parliament, the upper house supported the Liberal and Nationals' motion to establish an inquiry into the performance, workplace culture, and procurement practices of Ambulance Victoria. For several years under Labor, ambulance response times have missed their targets, extensive ramping outside hospital emergency departments occurs regularly, calls have faced delays in being answered, and morale within Ambulance Victoria has plummeted.



Strathfieldsaye bus advocacy

I caught up with Emily to discuss the need for bus services in Strathfieldsaye on Sundays, and raised the issue with the Minister for Public Transport in Parliament. A large retirement village is currently being developed in Strathfieldsaye, and the population has grown rapidly with extensive residential housing development in the area. The Premier is tunneling ahead with a costly \$200 billion Suburban Rail Loop, while many regional areas have no public transport at all. I commend Emily for raising this important issue.



Flood inquiry report tabled

The Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria report was tabled. I was a part of the committee that examined our state's preparedness and response to the major floods that impacted Victoria in 2022. We received 880 submissions, and heard from those directly impacted. It was clear from the stories we heard that Victoria was not well equipped to respond to a flood of this scale, and there is much work that still needs to be done to prepare us for the future.



Health forum in Bendigo

Emma Kealy MP, Deputy Leader of The Nationals, and Andrew Lethlean, the Nationals' federal candidate for Bendigo, met with many concerned locals about the cuts to health. One local shared their story, calling 000 for an ambulance due to a severe allergic reaction, and the fire services turned up as no ambulances were available. This should not be happening in the Premier's own electorate, let alone anywhere in Victoria. Labor continues to prioritise city based projects and leave regional Victoria behind.



Visit to SPC in Shepparton

Recently, I toured the SPC factory in Shepparton to see all of the action with Kim O'Keeffe, Member for Shepparton. It's great to see so many locals employed at the site, and all of the different machines in action. SPC is an Australian institution, and has been a part of the Shepparton community for over 100 years.

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