



Melanie Gibbons MP

Your voice in State Parliament



Community Update

February 2014 Newsletter

Local Groups Big Winners in Community Grants

Seventeen well-deserving community based organisations have shared \$200,000 in funding.



Some of the successful recipients: L to R: Liverpool City Archers, YMCA Nuwarra Out of Hours School Care and Illawong Baseball Club received infrastructure grants in the latest round of the Community Building Partnerships Program run by the State Government.

One of the most popular funding programs has once again delivered great outcomes for the many different community organisations.

Just in time for Christmas, Melanie had the pleasure of contacting the 17 successful applicants to congratulate them on their NSW Government funding.

The Community Building Partnerships

Program is designed to fund projects to improve infrastructure or carry out repairs on various club houses, sports grounds and public spaces.

Liverpool City Archers will use their grant to provide accessible facilities including pathways and all weather shooting area for the main field of play for people with disabilities.

While Illawong Baseball Club will install

new flood lights at their Barden Ridge field to enable them to play and train in better conditions at night.

YMCA Nuwarra Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) will give their facilities a facelift with a fresh coat of paint and the redevelopment of outdoor and indoor play spaces.

To read the full list of successful groups, continue reading over the page.



Community Building Partnerships Helping Out Across the Electorate



Pictured: St Anne's Church Hammondville will use the funds to upgrade their church hall. Melanie with Assistant Minister Kristan Slack and Senior Minister Stephen Cook.

The other successful applicants include:

- Menai Anglican Church to refurbishing the hall for Futsal Competition.
- St Annes Anglican Church, Hammondville to help refurbish their hall for Sunday school and other groups.
- Holsworthy Girl Guides to undertake repairs of the Guides Hall.
- Holsworthy Preschool to update the Preschool bathroom facilities.
- Illawong Athletics to install safe spectator seating at The Ridge Athletics Track.
- Liverpool City Council to upgrade the kitchen facilities of the Wattle Grove Youth Centre.
- Moorebank Baseball Softball Club to install stronger and higher fences to protect fields from vandalism.
- Sutherland Scouts for repairs and upgrades to Sutherland Scout Hall.
- 1st Chipping Norton Scouts for repairs to the Chipping Norton Scout Hall.
- Wattle Grove Scouts for repairs and installation of equipment at Wattle Grove Scout Hall.
- Southern Districts Soccer Football Association Inc to purchase a new electronic scoreboard.
- Southside Paddlers Inc to construct a storage and amenity facility.
- Sutherland Shire Canoe Club for general building upgrades.
- Sutherland Shire Toy Restoration Centre Inc for the installation of air-conditioning at the Jannali premises.

Premier Gets Tough on Alcohol Fuelled Violence

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell has announced lockouts for the Sydney CBD and Kings Cross and an eight year mandatory minimum sentence for drug and alcohol affected one-punch assaults as part of the NSW Government's comprehensive package to make our streets safer.

This tough and comprehensive package includes:

- Eight year mandatory minimum sentence for those convicted under new one punch laws where the offender is intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol, plus new mandatory minimum sentences for violent assaults where intoxicated by drugs and/or alcohol;
- Introduction of 1.30am lockouts and 3am last drinks across an expanded CBD precinct to include Kings Cross to Darling Harbour, The Rocks to Haymarket and Darlinghurst;
- New state-wide 10pm closing time for all bottle shops and liquor stores;
- Increasing the maximum sentence to 25 years for the illegal supply and possession of steroids – up from two years;
- Increased on-the-spot fines to \$1,100 for continued intoxicated and disorderly behaviour disobeying a police move-on order – an increase of more than five times;
- Community awareness and media campaign to address the culture of binge drinking and the associated drug and alcohol related violence;
- Free buses running every ten minutes from Kings Cross to the CBD to connect with existing NightRide services on Friday and Saturday nights;
- Remove voluntary intoxication by drugs or alcohol as a mitigating factor when courts determine sentences;
- Increasing maximum penalties by two years where drugs and/or alcohol are aggravating factors for violent crimes including assault causing grievous bodily harm, reckless bodily harm, assault against police, affray and sexual assault,
- Enabling Police to impose an immediate CBD precinct ban of up to 48 hours for trouble-makers;
- Introduction of a periodic risk-based licencing scheme with higher fees imposed for venues and outlets that have later trading hours, poor compliance histories or are in high risk locations;
- A precinct-wide freeze on liquor licences for new pubs and clubs will be introduced.

“It's incumbent upon all of us to play our part if we are to stamp out this unacceptable behaviour and change the culture that surrounds it,” Mr O'Farrell said.

New kitchen for Holsworthy High

When Holsworthy High School was announced as one of three local schools to receive funding to upgrade school infrastructure, Melanie asked the Education Minister came to see how it would benefit the school.

After receiving representations from the P&C and concerned parents about the desperate need for upgrades, Melanie contacted the Minister for assistance.

Holsworthy High School then received funds to restore their kitchen and food technology facilities to meet current standards. This will enable them to keep offering HSC and VET courses in hospitality.

The staff and students put on an impressive afternoon tea for the Minister as they showed him around their existing facilities.

The statewide \$40 million Public School Upgrade Program enables schools to apply for funding to renovate, upgrade or provide new facilities, as identified by the principal and school community.

Melanie was also pleased to see that through the program Lucas Heights Community School will have their sports and playing fields upgraded and Woronora River School has been able to improve safety for students with the resurfacing of their playground.



Pictured: Education Minister Adrian Piccoli MP and Melanie enjoyed the barista skills of Holsworthy High School's hospitality students during a recent visit.



Pictured above: Environment Minister Robyn Parker MP with Melanie talking to local residents about the Free Power Savings Kit.

Electricity Reforms Deliver Savings For Households

The Auditor-General's Electricity Industry Overview report highlights significant savings have been made by the State's three network distribution businesses.

The report found savings in capital expenditure and operating costs across Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy of \$1.4 billion over the past two years (2011/12 and 12/13), exceeding the NSW Government's target of \$400 million over four years.

The O'Farrell Government came to office acutely aware of the impact of rising electricity prices and committed to preventing the types of price rises delivered under the former Labor Government's policy settings.

To help assist further, more than 800,000 rebates were paid to eligible families and households in 2012/13 from the Government's Family Energy Rebate and Low Income Household Rebate.

People on a low income or in receipt of Centrelink benefits are eligible to receive a free Home Power Savings kits.

Melanie recently joined the Minister for the Environment to celebrate the 200,000th household who signed up for the Kit.

To find out more go to <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/homepower/>

Waste Less, Recycle More



Pictured: Melanie Gibbons with Liverpool City Council Mayor Clr Ned Mannoun at the future site of the Liverpool Community Recycling Centre.

Liverpool City Council has received a \$250,000 grant from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) under the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative to establish a statewide demonstration model of a best practice Community Recycling Centre for household problem wastes. The new Recycling Centre will be built at the Liverpool City Council Operations Centre on Rose Street.

“This is one of the first grants to be delivered under the new Waste Less, Recycle More waste initiative that was launched by the NSW Government recently,” Melanie said.

“It will enable Liverpool Council to manage up to 85 per cent of household problem wastes that are traditionally disposed of at Chemical CleanOut events including gas bottles, lead acid and household batteries, paints, oils and fluorescent globes as well televisions, computers and cardboard.

More information about the \$465.7 million Waste Less, Recycle More program can be found on the EPA website here: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste

Menai Becomes Holsworthy

As the population continues to grow in NSW, so do the sizes of our State Electoral Boundaries. To keep each electorate to a similar size in population, the independent Electoral Commission must undertake a boundary distribution process every few years to even it out.

At the 2015 State Election, the seat of Menai will be abolished and in its place, the new seat of Holsworthy will be created. This change will affect residents in Menai, Bangor, Illawong, Alford's Point, Sutherland, Woronora

and Jannali as they will be moved into the Heathcote and Miranda electorates. Holsworthy will also incorporate sections of Liverpool and Casula, plus the suburbs of Prestons and Lurnea.

Residents of Chipping Norton, Hammondville, Moorebank, Pleasure Point, Sandy Point, Voyager Point, Holsworthy and Wattle Grove and Barden Ridge will remain in Holsworthy.

For more information visit www.redistribution.nsw.gov.au

Latest Figures Reveal Boost to Jobs in NSW

The latest ABS Labour Force figures reveal an additional 3,800 jobs were created in NSW in late 2013.

Melanie said these new figures are good news for the people of NSW and good news for our economy.

While the unemployment rate has risen slightly from 5.6 per cent to 5.9 per cent in the previous month, NSW still holds the second lowest unemployment rates in the country.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has created over 94,000 jobs since coming to office – the second highest number of jobs created after Western Australia.

The Payroll tax reforms, which were a centrepiece of the June Budget, are designed to provide tax relief to thousands of businesses to encourage them to increase hiring and grow their businesses.

NSW Treasurer Mike Baird MP said the diversified NSW economy would also benefit as the nation made the adjustment from high levels of resource investment to more broadly based growth drivers.

Fair Go for Safe Drivers

4,042 motorists in the Menai electorate have been rewarded with half price drivers' licences as part of the 'Fair Go for Safe Drivers' incentive scheme - and the new figures show women are safer than men on our roads.

The 'Fair Go for Safe Drivers' scheme provides a discount of up to \$81 on a licence renewal.

The discount is the Government's way of saying thank you to motorists who do the right thing and encouraging better driving behaviour in others.

The 50 per cent discount applies whether the licence is renewed for one, three or five years. Pensioners are unaffected as they pay nothing for their licence.

State Snippets

Here are some of the pieces of legislation Melanie has spoken in support of recently:

Child Protection Legislation Amendment (Offenders Registration and Prohibition Orders) Bill 2013

Introduces additional mechanisms for the monitoring and management of child sex offenders and other persons who have committed serious offences against children whilst they are living in the community.

Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Amendment Bill 2013.

Seeks to ensure the safety of victims of domestic and personal violence but also make it easier for protections to be put in place. These include AVOs and PVOs that are enforceable from the time of the incident and can be issued on the spot without requiring a court to approve it first.

Road Transport Amendment (Obstruction & Hazard Safety) Bill 2013

Requires that additional consideration must be given to any obstructions or hazards on the road when a court is determining whether an a driver has committed an offence that results in the death or injury of other motorists.

Graffiti Control Amendment Bill 2013

Further supports the Government's commitment to reduce graffiti

vandalism and to ensure that graffiti offences are charged appropriately.

Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Illegal Waste Disposal) Bill 2013

Increases penalties for illegal dumping and makes it harder for regular dumpers to avoid paying levies to dispose of waste appropriately.

Drugs and Poisons Legislation Amendment (New Psychoactive and Other Substances) Bill 2013

Makes it illegal to sell or promote the use of synthetic drugs or "legal highs" in NSW, following the death of teenager, Henry Kwan.

WestConnex on the move



- The NSW Government has hit go on the biggest transport project in Australia after the business case for the 33 kilometre WestConnex motorway confirmed \$20 billion in economic benefit for NSW.
- WestConnex will link Sydney's West and South West with the city and Sydney's international gateways of the airport and Port Botany.
- It will help motorists avoid up to 52 sets of traffic lights, creating a saving of 40 minutes on a trip from Parramatta to Sydney Airport and halving the travel time from Parramatta to the CBD to 25 minutes.
- The NSW Government will build the \$11.5 billion project in three stages with the M4 widening to start first and be completed in 2017 – the initial planning application has already been lodged.
- For full details visit <http://www.westconnex.com.au/>

M5 West Widening Project Update

- Widening work is now underway along the length of the M5 South West Motorway.
- Work is underway on concrete pavement between Heathcote Road and Moorebank Avenue.
- Work is underway to construct 18 of the 23 new sediment basins along the motorway corridor.
- Work is underway to construct new noise walls and heighten existing noise walls. As part of the upgrade, approximately 6 kms of new noise walls will be constructed and approximately 12 kms of noise walls will be heightened.
- Work is underway to widen the Queen Street Bridge at Revesby and the Nuwarra Road Bridge at Hammondville (the motorway passes over Queen Street and Nuwarra Road at these locations). Work at each bridge will take approximately 6 months and includes boring piles, installing girders and pouring a new deck to connect the new extension to the existing bridges.

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Melanie Gibbons - Community Survey

Have your say!



Please let me know what's important to you. Together, we can make our local area a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Please number (from 1-4) the four state issues most important to you:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing cost of living pressures | <input type="checkbox"/> Improving public transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creating more local jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Making government more accountable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improving our hospitals by providing more doctors and nurses | <input type="checkbox"/> Investing in our children's education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Putting more police into our community | <input type="checkbox"/> Tackling anti-social behaviour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting our local environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Building much needed road infrastructure |



If you could fix one problem in our local area, what would it be?

Would you like to receive further information via email about our plans for the local area?

YES - Please add me to your e-newsletter distribution list

EMAIL

Please complete the following details so I can stay in touch with you.

NAME <input type="text"/>		
STREET ADDRESS <input type="text"/>		
SUBURB <input type="text"/>	POSTCODE <input type="text"/>	
HOME PHONE <input type="text"/>	MOBILE PHONE <input type="text"/>	FAX <input type="text"/>

Please return your completed survey to **Melanie Fax** (02) 9825 4861 | **Phone** (02) 9825 3653
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