



One of the great things about living in regional NSW is that we all appreciate the value of good rain. And this week's winter rains will be welcomed across much of our region, and will provide much-needed relief, and renewed confidence as we head into the second half of the year.

Agriculture remains the backbone of our regional economy, and when our farming communities are doing well, the benefits are felt right across our towns and villages. Local businesses are stronger, sporting clubs and community organisations thrive, and confidence grows throughout the region.



That sense of optimism also reminds us of the importance of continuing to invest in regional communities. Whether it is roads and water infrastructure, healthcare services, education, tourism or creating opportunities for local businesses, strong regional communities don't happen by chance, they are built through sustained investment, thoughtful planning and practical advocacy.

Over the past month, I have continued advocating for the issues that matter most across Albury, Greater Hume, Federation and Snowy Valleys, working to ensure our region receives its fair share of attention and investment.

This edition highlights some of that work, from the NSW Budget and speaking in Parliament of our vision for regional NSW, through to local infrastructure projects, healthcare advocacy and recognising the people who make our communities stronger.

The future of NSW depends on strong regional communities, and I remain committed to ensuring our region's voice is heard.



NSW Budget 2026



Liberal-Nationals
Commitments for Regional

The NSW Budget sets the Government's priorities for the year ahead, and there is a growing concern right across regional NSW that the regions are once again being asked to do more with less.

While the Budget contains a welcome cost-of-living measures by way of a car rego fee reduction, it also paints a worrying picture of the State's finances. Debt continues to grow, taxation revenue is forecast to climb to record levels over coming years, and the Government has again delayed the return to a sustainable fiscal position.

Economic commentators have also noted the deterioration in NSW's economic performance, with our State no longer clearly leading the nation and Victoria now forecast to outperform NSW on a number of key economic measures. That should concern every family, every worker and every business owner because a strong economy is what ultimately funds the hospitals, schools, roads and community services we all rely upon.

Budgets are measured in billions of dollars, but what matters most is whether local communities see the benefits. Too often, regional NSW finds itself waiting while investment is concentrated elsewhere.

I will always acknowledge funding that benefits our region, but I will also continue to advocate strongly where our communities have been overlooked. Regional NSW deserves its fair share of investment, and I will continue fighting for infrastructure, services and opportunities that our communities need to grow and prosper.

NSW

In contrast to the NSW Labor Government's budget, the NSW Liberals and Nationals recently announced a Regional Infrastructure Guarantee that would ensure at least 25 per cent of NSW infrastructure funding is invested in regional communities.

Regional NSW deserves certainty that investment will not be concentrated solely in metropolitan Sydney. Roads, hospitals, schools, water infrastructure and community facilities all play a critical role in supporting strong and growing regional communities.

We have also committed to restoring the Regional Seniors Travel Card, providing eligible seniors in regional NSW with a \$250 prepaid card to assist with fuel and transport costs.

Many seniors across our region relied on the card to help with the cost of travelling to medical appointments, shopping, visiting family and staying connected with their communities.

These commitments reflect a simple principle: regional communities should not miss out simply because they live outside metropolitan areas.



Around the Electorate

There has been plenty happening across our electorate over the past month.

In Henty, I was pleased to attend the sod-turning ceremony for the next stage of development at Avondale Place. This community-led project continues to evolve and will deliver much-needed disability and essential worker housing, helping strengthen our workforce while creating quality accommodation options for residents.

The announcement of \$7.8 million for water storage and pump station upgrades in Howlong is much welcomed, and the result of several years of advocacy. This important project will improve water security, support future housing growth and provide the infrastructure needed to support the town's long-term development.

The official sod turning for the Albury Entertainment Centre Convention Wing redevelopment marked the beginning of a project that will benefit our community for generations to come.

Replacing a facility that first opened in 1972 and has reached the end of its functional life, the new Convention Wing will create a modern, flexible space where our community can gather for conferences, exhibitions, performances, community events and celebrations for decades ahead.

Importantly, this is more than a community facility, it is also a significant investment in Albury's economic future.

Conference and event visitors stay in our accommodation, dine in local restaurants, visit local attractions and support businesses throughout our region. Expanding the Centre's capacity will strengthen Albury's position as one of regional Australia's leading conference and events destinations, generating economic activity, supporting local jobs and attracting new investment into our city.

Projects of this scale are only possible when governments work together with a shared vision for the future. The NSW Government's \$15 million contribution, secured in 2022, recognised the redevelopment of the Convention Wing as a long-standing strategic priority for Albury and formed an important part of the partnership that has brought the project to fruition.

While there will always be competing priorities for public investment, some projects are genuinely generational. This is one of them.

The Convention Wing will serve our community for decades to come—not only as a place where people come together, but as an investment that continues to strengthen Albury's economy, support local businesses and enhance our reputation as the regional capital of southern New South Wales.

Supporting Healthcare Across the Region

In June I met with local doctors in Corowa and representatives from Albury Wodonga Health to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing healthcare across our region. Strong primary healthcare services are essential to ensuring people can access the right care at the right time while reducing pressure on our hospitals.

I also visited Holbrook Hospital, where I met staff, residents, members of the Local Health Advisory Committee and children from Holbrook Early Learning Centre. The dedication shown by healthcare workers, volunteers and community members continues to make a real difference in the lives of local residents.

Recently, Infrastructure NSW released the Business Case Summary for the Albury Wodonga Regional Hospital redevelopment. Of note, the report confirms that the Albury campus has significant capacity for future expansion, with future stages specifically tested and incorporated into the planning process. For me, that doesn't end the discussion, it reinforces the need for continued investment, the delivery of future stages of



the redevelopment and ensuring that, as our region grows, our health services grow with it. That is where I believe our focus should now be.

[▶ See more](#)



Providing Certainty for Regional Tourism

Tourism is one of the great strengths of our region, yet the future funding of Destination Riverina Murray remains uncertain beyond the next few months.

That's why I've called on the NSW Government in Parliament to provide funding certainty for Destination Riverina Murray, recognising the important role it plays in promoting our region and supporting local tourism operators.

From accommodation providers and hospitality venues to sporting carnivals, festivals, wineries, farmers markets and attractions along the Murray, tourism supports thousands of local jobs and generates significant economic activity across our region.

At a time when businesses are already facing rising costs and economic uncertainty, the last thing regional NSW needs is uncertainty around the organisation responsible for marketing and growing our visitor economy. Providing longer-term funding certainty will help retain skilled staff, support local tourism operators and ensure our region continues to attract visitors from across NSW, Victoria and beyond.

Regional tourism doesn't just happen—it requires sustained investment and strong partnerships. I'll continue advocating for funding certainty for Destination Riverina Murray and for the many businesses, workers and communities that rely on a thriving visitor economy.

[▶ See More](#)



Congratulations

TO OUR

KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS RECIPIENTS

ALBURY ELECTORATE

Mary Hoodless AM

Lucinda Corrigan AM

Michael Kelly OAM

Jonathan Howard AM

Marg Whittaker OAM

Margie Gleeson OAM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTION
TO OUR COMMUNITY

Recognising Outstanding Local Achievement

Congratulations to our local King's Birthday Honours recipients.

These honours recognise decades of service and contribution to our community. Our region is stronger because of people like them.

Congratulations also to 14-year-old Mia Hogan on qualifying for the Australian para swimming team for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. As the youngest member of the Australian team, Mia's dedication, perseverance and outstanding talent have earned her the opportunity to represent our country on the world stage. I know our entire community will be cheering her on.

I also had the privilege of recognising Joanne Nicholson, founder of Tots2Teens, in the NSW Parliament. Joanne's tireless work supporting children and families affected by domestic and family violence has made a lasting difference to hundreds of lives across our region. Her compassion and commitment continue to make our community stronger.

Watch the Speeches below;

[▶ Joanne Nicholson](#)

[▶ Mia Hogan](#)

Backing Small Business and Local Jobs

Strong regional communities are built on strong local businesses.

Across our electorate, small and medium businesses employ local people, train apprentices, support community organisations and sponsor sporting clubs. They are the engine room of our regional economy and play a vital role in creating opportunities for local families.

In recent years, however, many business owners have told me they are facing rising costs, increasing regulation and growing uncertainty. They want to invest, employ more people and grow, but too often they feel government is making that harder rather than easier.

That is why I welcome the NSW Liberals and Nationals' plan to deliver the most competitive payroll tax regime in Australia. The reforms would raise the payroll tax threshold from \$1.2 million to \$1.5 million, reduce the payroll tax rate for businesses with payrolls below \$10 million, and introduce CPI indexation to stop businesses being pushed into higher tax brackets simply through inflation. Around 4,000 businesses would be removed from the payroll tax system altogether, while a further 25,000 businesses would benefit from Australia's lowest payroll tax rate.

Payroll tax is, in effect, a tax on employing people. When businesses are given greater confidence to invest and create jobs, the benefits flow throughout the community. More jobs mean stronger local economies, greater opportunity for young people and more vibrant regional communities.

With my background as a local business owner, supporting small and medium businesses has always been a priority for me because when local businesses succeed, our communities succeed. I'll continue advocating for practical policies that encourage investment, reward enterprise and help regional businesses grow with confidence.

[▶ See more](#)



Thurgoona Drive Interchange – Planning Complete, Now It's Time to Build

The Thurgoona Drive interchange has reached an important milestone, with Transport for NSW confirming a preferred concept design for the project.

This is the result of years of sustained advocacy involving the local community, Transport for NSW and all levels of government. In 2022, I brought the then Minister for Regional Roads, the Hon. Sam Faraway, together with senior Transport for NSW officials to the site to begin the work needed to move this project forward. Since then, advocacy has continued to progress the planning, concept design and business case. That work has now largely been completed.

Thurgoona is one of the fastest-growing communities in regional New South Wales. The interchange is a critical gateway for local residents, businesses, Charles Sturt University, TAFE and the wider Thurgoona community. As the area continues to grow, our road infrastructure must grow with it.

Planning is an important milestone, but planning alone won't improve safety or reduce



congestion. The next step is clear: securing funding to construct the interchange.

Thank you to the Thurgoona–Wirlinga Community Action Group and the more than 700 local residents who signed the petition supporting this project. Your advocacy has helped keep this issue firmly on the agenda, and I will continue working constructively with the Government while advocating strongly for the funding needed to deliver this critical piece of infrastructure.

[▶ Read more](#)



In Parliament

Parliament continues to provide opportunities to raise the issues that matter most to our region.

I supported legislation to close a gap in NSW criminal law identified by the High Court, strengthening protections for victim-survivors of domestic and family violence.

In Question Time I highlighted the growing skills crisis facing New South Wales, with apprenticeship and traineeship commencements falling sharply while investment in TAFE continues to decline.

In addition, the Liberals & Nationals have raised concerns about proposed environmental legislation that would place additional costs and administrative burdens on small businesses without adequate consultation.

My focus remains on ensuring the voices of regional communities are heard in Parliament and that government decisions deliver practical outcomes for people across the Albury electorate.

[▶ State Budget and TAFE](#)

[▶ Crimes \(Domestic and Personal Violence\) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026](#)

[▶ Environmental Legislation Amendment \(Plastic Reduction and Container Recycling\) Bill 2026](#)

How my office can help you

My team and I are committed to assisting local residents with state government services and agencies. If you're experiencing difficulties, need guidance, or require support during disaster recovery, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We also offer Justice of the Peace services at the electorate office for document witnessing and statutory declarations.



Our office is here to support residents across our community.

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