

Natalie Hutchins MP

STATE MEMBER FOR SYDENHAM



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

This has been a trying time for our community in ways that we never thought possible.

Our community has collectively demonstrated resilience and strength, supporting one another through small acts of kindness and championing local small businesses.

A huge thank you to everyone that has gotten vaccinated or tested and for continuing to do the right thing.

Getting vaccinated is our way out of this pandemic.

To book your vaccination visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment, call the hotline on **1800 675 398** or speak to your GP.

It's very important if you have any symptoms whatsoever, including a fever, chills, sweats, cough, sore throat or runny nose that you come forward and get tested.

For a list of local and nearby testing sites visit:

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19

Support payments are available if you are required to self-isolate while you wait for the results of your COVID-19 test.

If you require assistance during lockdown or have any queries, my office is here to support you.

Please get in touch on **(03) 9449 1511** or natalie.hutchins@parliament.vic.gov.au and my team will be able to assist with any questions and concerns.

KEY CONTACTS:

For up to date information on COVIDSafe settings, exposure sites, testing station locations and to book vaccinations.

www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Coronavirus hotline: **1800 675 398**

For translator support call TIS National on **131 450** & ask for the coronavirus hotline.

Business Victoria business.vic.gov.au

If you're struggling with your mental health, please get in contact with one of these organisations.

THERE IS ALWAYS HELP AVAILABLE.

Lifeline | **13 11 14** | lifeline.org.au

Beyond Blue | **1300 224 636** | beyondblue.org.au

SANE | **1800 18 SANE (7263)** | sane.org

EDUCATION: PREMIER VISITS COPPERFIELD COLLEGE



Natalie Hutchins MP with Premier Daniel Andrews & Copperfield College students.

PHOTO TAKEN PRIOR TO RESTRICTIONS REQUIRING OUTDOOR MASK USAGE.

Students at Copperfield College received a surprise visit from Premier Dan Andrews in July.

The Premier joined students for a tour of upgraded facilities at the Delahey Senior Campus. Stage one of the recently completed capital works project at the campus includes new administration and arts facilities, part of a \$10 million investment in upgrades of the school, including maintenance and infrastructure improvements.

Student leaders and staff joined Premier Andrews in a Q&A session, and discussed their future aspirations and how they have adapted to periods of remote learning.

Delivering for the suburbs of Calder Park, Delahey, Fraser Rise, Hillside, Keilor Lodge, Keilor North, Plumpton, Taylors Lakes, Taylors Hill, Sydenham, & parts of Caroline Springs

P: 9449 1511 **E:** natalie.hutchins@parliament.vic.gov.au

VACCINATION

Australia's first drive-through vaccination hub, operated by Western Health, opened in Melton in August.

The site (now one of four state-run drive-through vaccination sites) located at 149 Barries Road, screens drivers and passengers for eligibility and symptoms at the carpark entry before proceeding to an identification check-in point. Individuals will remain in their car for the 15-minute observation period before exiting the site.

Getting vaccinated is our way out of this pandemic. COVID-19 vaccines are free, safe and will help protect you, your friends, family and community from getting sick from COVID-19.

More than 200,000 doses will be administered at vaccination centres each week between **16 August** and **19 September 2021**, with all centres operating with extended hours.



Natalie Hutchins MP receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.

Every Victorian aged 18 to 59 is now eligible to receive either Pfizer or AstraZeneca.

You can book your vaccine appointment at coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment or the Coronavirus Hotline **1800 675 398**.

DELAHEY RESERVE SPORTS PAVILION



Natalie Hutchins MP at construction tour of new sport & community hub at Delahey Reserve. Joined by Brimbank City Council Mayor Ranka Rasic & representatives from the ETA Buffalos Soccer Club & Taylors Lakes Football Club.

PHOTO TAKEN PRIOR TO RESTRICTIONS REQUIRING OUTDOOR MASK USAGE.

An exciting local project we are working on is construction of a new sport and community hub at Delahey Reserve that will deliver the sporting facilities that our community deserves.

The project is made possible by a \$375,000 investment from the Victorian Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund - Female Friendly Facilities and includes construction of two new pavilions to cater for three sports clubs and community use. The pavilions will support local level competition, two female friendly and accessible changerooms, two umpire rooms, first aid facilities, social room, kitchen, storage, and car park.

85 LEVEL CROSSINGS TO BE GONE BY 2025. INCLUDING CALDER PARK DRIVE, CALDER PARK.

We're saying goodbye to the dangerous and congested Calder Park Drive level crossing forever!

The Andrews Labor Government promised Victorians we would remove 75 dangerous and congested level crossings by 2025. With almost 50 gone already we're ahead of schedule. But we know there's more to be done, so we will remove another 10, making it 85 level crossings gone by 2025.

At present, boom gates at the Calder Park Drive level crossing can be down for up to 21 per cent of the morning peak, with up to 25 trains passing through the crossing. This level crossing congests our local roads and puts lives at risk for the approximate 10,000 commuters

going through the site each day. Once removal is completed, traffic flow in the area will improve, enabling the closure of the nearby level crossing at Holden Road.

For more information about the new level crossing removals, visit levelcrossings.vic.gov.au.



Natalie Hutchins MP & Brimbank City Council Mayor Ranka Rasic at the Calder Park Drive level crossing.

HEALTH UPDATES

✓ A new **Melton Hospital** is one step closer, with a preferred site at **Cobblebank** selected for the cutting-edge hospital being built by the Andrews Labor Government. Planning will identify how the new Melton Hospital will link with services at other public hospitals in the western region to deliver **world-class healthcare for residents**.

✓ Construction of the new **\$1.5 billion Footscray Hospital** is now underway, with the hospital expected to **open in 2025**. The project is the largest ever health infrastructure investment in the State. Once completed, the hospital will feature **200 new beds**, reducing wait times and pressure on nearby hospitals.

✓ **\$13.2 million** has been announced by the Andrews Labor Government to meet the growing demand for public maternity services and to support Victoria's hardworking midwives. The funding will strengthen the maternity workforce, with the equivalent of an **extra 175 staff** funded across the state to help relieve pressure for busy midwives at 38 health services across Victoria.



MACKELLAR PRIMARY SCHOOL INCLUSIVE PLAY SPACE

Construction on a new an inclusive play space at Mackellar Primary School is now complete.

The new equipment is more accessible for students with a disability and additional needs and was made possible by a \$200,000 funding allocation through the Inclusive Schools Fund.

Since 2015, the Fund has supported 308 primary, secondary and specialist schools to build inclusive indoor and outdoor learning spaces as well as accessible playgrounds that ensure all students, regardless of disabilities or other differences, can fully participate, learn, develop and succeed in Victorian government schools.

500,000 TREES FOR A COOLER, GREENER WEST



Earlier in the year, the Victorian Government announced 500,000 new trees in Melbourne's west.

If you would like to help create greener, cooler spaces in our local area, register your interest as a planting volunteer by sending your full name and address to:

Natalie.Hutchins@parliament.vic.gov.au

Make sure to let me know if you have any spaces, parks, schools or streets across our neighbourhood that you would like to see become more leafier, greener and healthier.

These local community conservation groups are making a big difference towards promoting environmental sustainability within our local area. Get in touch to register as a volunteer or to keep up to date with the latest opportunities and news:

📍 **Lions Greening Taylors Lakes and Surrounds**
E: lionstaylorlakes.secretary@hotmail.com

📍 **Friends of Sydenham Park**
E: friendsofsydenhampark@gmail.com

📍 **Friends of Organ Pipes**
E: info@friendsoforganpipes.org.au

Natalie Hutchins MP participating in National Tree Planting Day activities. PHOTO TAKEN PRE COVID-19.

CUTTING THE COST OF ENERGY BILLS FOR STRUGGLING VICTORIANS



Photo taken Pre COVID-19

The Victorian Government is reducing the cost of energy for Victorians doing it tough, with a one-off \$250 payment to help with energy bills.

The Power Saving Bonus is available to Victorian households with at least one resident receiving payments under an eligible concession program, including Centrelink or The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Pensioner Concession, JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Abstudy, or Austudy, or holds a DVA Gold Card. The bonus provides immediate financial relief to more than 900,000 Victorian households and is available until 31 January 2022.

CORONAVIRUS FINANCIAL SUPPORT



\$450 TEST ISOLATION PAYMENT if you have taken a Coronavirus test and have no income or paid leave while you isolate and await your result

\$1,500 PANDEMIC DISASTER LEAVE PAYMENT if you have no income or paid leave and have been instructed by Department of Health to quarantine or self-isolate

EXTREME HARDSHIP SUPPORT PROGRAM payments of \$800 for temporary and provisional visa holders (including international students) and undocumented migrants who have zero or very limited income, savings or community support

COVID-19 DISASTER PAYMENT for people have lost income due to public health restrictions

NO INTEREST LOANS SCHEME payment of up to \$3,000 to support low-income households with the costs of rent and utilities, repayable over 24 months

UTILITY RELIEF GRANTS up to \$1950 to help with overdue electricity, gas and water bills

FOOD RELIEF PACKAGES to provide basic food and personal care items to Victorians who need to isolate or quarantine

For more information, go to:
www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/financial-support
www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/covid-19-disaster-payment-victoria

The bonus is available through the Victorian Energy Compare website – compare.energy.vic.gov.au – or by calling **1800 000 832**.

If you don't have access to the internet or require assistance with your application, please contact my office.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY SAFETY IN MELTON

In July, we announced that the City of Melton would be a local government Crime Prevention partner as part of the Government's Building Safer Communities Program.

Tackling the root causes of crime is the best way to create safer communities. The partnership includes \$700,000 in grants being spent on crime prevention identified at the Building Safer Communities forum.



Natalie Hutchins MP at the Melton Empowering Communities Grant announcement alongside Member for Kororoit Marlene Kairouz MP, Member for Melton Steve McGhie, Melton councillors Bob Turner & Goran Kesic, Deputy Mayor.

PHOTO TAKEN PRIOR TO RESTRICTIONS REQUIRING OUTDOOR MASK USAGE.



Natalie Hutchins DELIVERING for SYDENHAM

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