



“ I want to make sure that the views and concerns of local residents are heard and expressed through strong and effective representation. That’s why I want to hear from you, so feel free to fill in my Issues Survey on my website at www.grahamwatt.com.au ”



Watt's Cracking?



GRAHAM WATT MP Member for Burwood

Where's Watt'sy?

Mobile Office Sites and Dates:

- Sunday, 24th of March 2013 10am – 12pm**
Ashburton Primary School Grand Fair, Fakenham Rd, Ashburton
- Thursday, 25th of April 2013 Anzac Day Dawn Service**
East Malvern RSL, Stanley Grose Drive, East Malvern
- Thursday, 2nd of May 2013 2.30pm – 3.30pm**
Interview with Iain Messer on 3WBC Community Radio 94.1 FM
- Sunday, 5th of May 2013**
Burwood Festival, Burwood Village Shopping Centre

Minister to host Small Business Forum

The Minister for Small Business, the Hon. Louise Asher, will host a post State and Federal Budget briefing for small businesses in the Burwood electorate at the Victory Room of the Matthew Flinders Hotel on Thursday the 16th of May at 5:30pm.

This is a great opportunity to receive an update on the Baillieu Government's plans for the future of small business, which is one of the most important and dynamic sectors of our economy.

Numbers are limited so bookings are essential. Contact my office on (03) 9809 1857 to secure a place.

INSIDE: • Men's shed opening • Minister visits Ashwood College Works

Investing in Victoria, delivering for Burwood

As I travel in and around the electorate, whether it is at a local game of cricket with the Burwood Bulls or the Chinese New Year festival in Box Hill, the message is clear.

At a time of record investment from the Baillieu Government in areas such as Health, Education and Infrastructure, it is just so frustrating to see the Gillard Government cutting funding in these vital areas.

My goal as your local Member of Parliament is to help make your lives easier, not harder and I will continue to work towards that end.

In an environment of global instability and an ever challenging federal environment, the Baillieu Government will continue to provide the investment in infrastructure and services that are needed for Victoria.

In the last two State Budgets, the Baillieu Government has announced additional investment of more than \$2.06 billion in health, \$1.22 billion in education, \$724.6 million in public transport and have recruited 850 extra police, with a further 350 new officers allocated by June 2013.

Locally we have been working on replacing the tram at Wattle Park, rebuilding Ashwood College, improving road infrastructure, including installing traffic lights at Through Road, building the Monash Children's Hospital and finding a new home for the Alamein Men's Shed, amongst other things.

I'm committed to working with you to build, strengthen and protect our local community.

If you have any questions or suggestions or require help on a local issue, feel free to pop into my office, call me on 9809 1857, visit my website www.grahamwatt.com.au or email graham.watt@parliament.vic.gov.au



GRAHAM WATT MP
Member for Burwood

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Minister for Health the Hon. David Davis MP, Elizabeth Miller MP & Graham

Real Impact of Federal Cuts

The Gillard Government is reducing its payments to Victorian Health Services including nearly \$40 million being clawed back from the last financial year. This is the first time in memory any Australian government has cut the health budget retrospectively.

At the same time the Baillieu Government has made a record investment in our health system, with additional funding of over \$2.06 billion allocated in our first two budgets.

While the Gillard Government tries to conceal the truth, the December cheque arriving from the Reserve Bank was over \$15.3 million less than the November cheque, an indisputable cut.

It is expected that the impact of the \$107.3 million funding cut in 2012-13 could eventuate in:

- 495 bed closures
- 8,906 elective cancellations
- 243 equivalent full-time jobs lost

The effects on services at Southern Health, including Monash Medical Centre, could be 1,800 elective surgeries likely to be deferred and the closure of a ward.

Eastern Health, including Box Hill Hospital, will also most likely be forced to defer surgeries and close beds.

I strongly encourage you to contact your Federal Members of Parliament to express your concern.

Some policy achievements of the Baillieu Government that you may not be aware of:

- ✓ New train program \$220m
- ✓ Added more than 1,000 new train services
- ✓ 40 additional V-Line carriages
- ✓ Works set to start on Mitcham and Springvale railway crossing removals
- ✓ Record infrastructure spend - \$5.8b in 2012-13.
- ✓ Port of Melbourne \$1.6b capacity expansion
- ✓ \$4.8b new foreign direct investment with 10,000 jobs in 2 years
- ✓ Record trade through the Ports of Melbourne, Geelong and Portland
- ✓ Planning reform - new zones, VicSmart
- ✓ AAA credit rating maintained with a "stable" outlook - while others downgraded
- ✓ A new EBA for 5,400 disability services workers
- ✓ A new EBA to cover the majority of Victoria's public mental health workers
- ✓ EBA offer to make best performing teachers best paid in Australia
- ✓ Special and Autistic schools support - record investment
- ✓ \$336m for child protection, new Commission for Children and Young People
- ✓ A new \$36m rehabilitation centre for people with an acquired brain injury will be established at Alfred Health's Caulfield Hospital.
- ✓ Working on the \$1b new Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, and the \$630m Bendigo Hospital and \$447.5m Box Hill Hospital
- ✓ Fully funded redevelopment of Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
- ✓ Fully funded new purpose-built Monash Children's hospital
- ✓ Funded 310 additional ambulance paramedics and 30 additional patient transport officers
- ✓ A new integrity system including the Independent Broad Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC)
- ✓ Abolishing suspended sentences
- ✓ Reduced public housing waiting lists by more than 10%





“ Graham has always been available to listen to my concerns. It is great to have to have such a responsive member of parliament who is actively delivering for our community. The new Box Hill Hospital is just one example. ”

Simon Dodds, local resident

A better health deal

Investing in education

Fixing public transport

Tough new laws to curb violence

Restoring integrity in planning



Graham with Cr Jack Wegman & Professor David de Kretser AC at the Men's Shed opening in Alamein

Men's Shed Opening

The Alamein Men's Shed has been given a new lease of life thanks to \$50,000 from the State Government. With a new home at the Alamein Train Station the Shed will be only metres away from the Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning Centre which facilitates the program.

I joined former Governor of Victoria the Hon David de Kretser AC, the Mayor of Boroondara Cr Jack Wegman, Members of the Alamein Neighbourhood House Margaret Jamieson and Jill Hitchcock for the opening.

The Baillieu Government has recently announced a \$1.2 million funding boost for Men's Sheds, recognising the significant role they play in their local communities.



Graham at Shaun's Gourmet Meats in Through Road

Another Commitment Fulfilled at Through Road

As part of an election commitment that I gave to the people of Burwood in 2010, works to improve traffic safety in Camberwell have begun with a new set of traffic lights at the intersection of Riversdale and Through Roads.

The project will improve traffic flow at this intersection. The existing pedestrian operated signals located 20 metres west of the intersection will be removed. These will be incorporated into the new traffic signals to provide more convenient access to the Through Road shopping strip for drivers and pedestrians to access from Riversdale Road.

The works are expected to be completed by May 2013.



The Minister for Education the Hon. Martin Dixon and Graham discuss works with Assistant Principal Anna Kukuruzovic

Minister visits Ashwood College Works

On January 17 I was pleased to accompany the Minister for Education the Hon. Martin Dixon on a tour of the new Ashwood College redevelopment construction site.

We were led by the Assistant Principal Anna Kukuruzovic who gave a thorough account of the schools plans and expectations for the future of Ashwood College as we surveyed the first phase of the works being undertaken.

The \$10.5 million Ashwood College redevelopment was part of an election commitment that I gave in 2010 and its completion will result in a modern state of the art educational facility.

In Brief:



Graham discusses Myki with local Elwyn

Myki Forum for Seniors

Around 40 people attended a Myki Forum for the Golden Wattle Club conducted by Public Transport Victoria. This forum gives people, especially seniors, the opportunity and confidence to utilise the new ticketing system that replaces Metcard.

If you wish to organise a Myki Forum please do not hesitate to contact my office on (03) 9809 1857.

Monash Children's Hospital gets a healthy start

Another world class children's hospital in Victoria is set to become a reality, with the Baillieu Government committing the full funding to build the new Monash Children's Hospital.

Project planning by the Baillieu Government is being finalised and project tendering will soon commence through a detailed and competitive tender process. This will ensure the best value for money for Victorians, and give families in Melbourne's east the very best health facilities.

The Monash Children's Hospital project, when completed, will deliver 230 beds including:

- 96 paediatric beds

- 12 dedicated children's cancer day beds
- 20 same day beds
- 10 paediatric intensive care beds
- 30 neonatal intensive care cots, and
- 28 beds providing special mental health services for children and adolescents.

This exciting development will also deliver three dedicated children's operating theatres and a children's procedure room, as well as dedicated children's medical imaging facilities.

Additional bed capacity will allow the Monash Children's Hospital to treat 7,000 more children each year close to where they live and is expected to begin providing services in 2017.



Graham discusses the new Monash Children's Hospital with Southern Health Board Member Charles Gillies, Lorraine Wreford MP & Elizabeth Miller MP

Working hard to fix Myki

The development and implementation of Myki by the former Labor government was an unmitigated disaster. The system was extremely expensive and did not work properly. We have spent more than two years working tirelessly to fix the mess that we inherited.

If you have experienced any problems and have any examples, please go to my website www.grahamwatt.com.au and fill in the Myki feedback form so that we can make sure that the faults are identified and repaired.



Working hard to improve local services