



Dr Joe McGirr MP

INDEPENDENT MEMBER
FOR WAGGA WAGGA



Over the past few months we've seen progress on a range of issues that relate directly to my vision for the Wagga Wagga electorate.

Like many, I've used technology more than ever before to remain connected with and listen to concerns within the electorate.

It's good to see our local economy reopening, and I'd like to acknowledge all of the local businesses that have pivoted to stay in business during this tough time. I also wish to thank all those on the frontline and acknowledge the stress and anxiety of those who have lost their jobs or businesses.

I'd like to remind everyone to remain vigilant when it comes to the health measures that will keep us safe, and limit the spread of COVID-19:

- washing hands with soap and water OR using hand sanitiser regularly,
- maintaining a 1.5m distance when with others,
- avoiding large gatherings,
- and getting tested should you experience any symptoms, no matter how mild.

Thank you for the part you are playing in keeping our community safe. Together, we will get through this.

Warm regards,

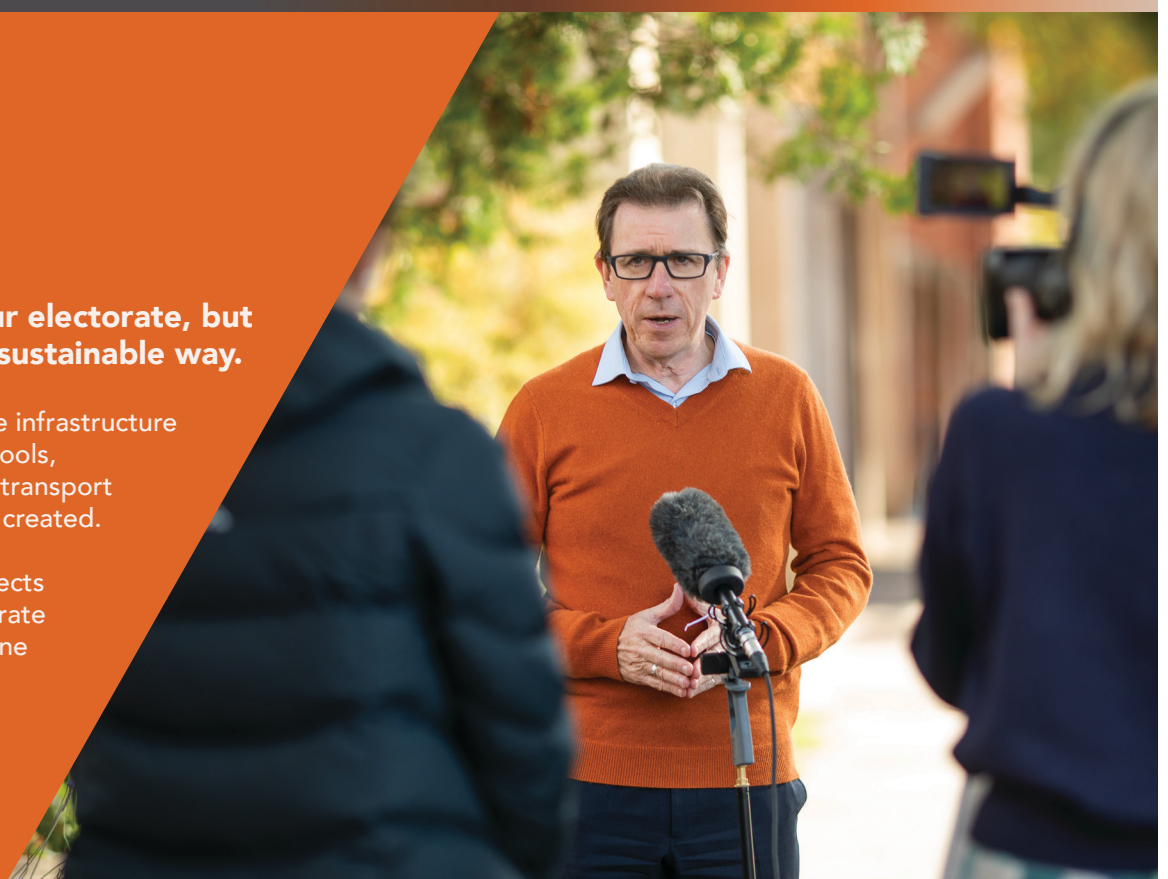
Dr Joe McGirr

VISION FOR THE ELECTORATE

Growth is important to our electorate, but growth must happen in a sustainable way.

To grow responsibly we need the infrastructure to support our communities: schools, hospitals, safe roads, affordable transport and opportunities for jobs to be created.

Read on for updates on the projects currently underway in the electorate which tie in with this vision of mine for responsible regional growth.





Responsible regional growth Location: Tumut, NSW

GOCUP ROAD

For years, Snowy Valleys residents have been warning of the dangers of the Gocup Road-Snowy Mountains Highway intersection.

Unfortunately, earlier this year we saw a tragic accident at the intersection, which claimed the lives of an expectant mother, her unborn child and her 10-year-old daughter.

During a parliamentary sitting in June, I pressed Minister for Regional Roads Paul Toole on what was being done to fix this death trap intersection. Minister Toole responded by seeking a review by the Transport for NSW Centre for Road Safety.

This is why I launched a petition to put further pressure on the Government to make upgrading safety at the intersection a priority.

In July, the Minister visited to view the intersection at my invitation.

Thank you to everyone who signed and distributed the petition. We have received more than 2000 signatures.

I have now tabled the petition in Parliament and the Government must respond within 35 calendar days from the date it was received.

Safe and supported communities Location: Tumut, NSW

TUMUT HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

I was delighted to able to watch concrete pours begin as part of the construction of the \$50m Tumut hospital redevelopment.

This redevelopment was a project I pressured the Government to move forward with, and I am keen to see the Snowy Valleys communities benefit from the redeveloped health service.

The redevelopment is expected to be completed in late 2021.

Safe and supported communities Location: Wagga, NSW

TOLLAND HOUSING ESTATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Last month, I was at the Tolland Community Centre alongside Minister for Water Property and Housing, Melinda Pavey, and Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga Cr. Greg Conkey, to hear plans for the reinvigoration of the Tolland precinct.

With a vision of Wagga Wagga as a city of 100,000 residents, our communities must feel safe and supported through this growth. I'm pleased to see the State Government now seeking Expressions of Interest from the community housing sector on the next stage of this project.

Responsible regional growth Location: Wagga, NSW

ESTELLA PRIMARY SCHOOL

In April, we saw initial site works commence at the site of the new Estella Rd Primary School.

Since then, the final plans have been given the green light by the NSW Government, with the project set to inject \$36 million investment into the local area.

I'm pleased to see the wheels in motion on this project that will provide places for up to 480 students.

Safe and supported communities Location: Wagga, NSW

WAGGA BASE HOSPITAL

The third and final stage of the Wagga Wagga Health Service Redevelopment is well and truly underway.

In May, the 48.9m crane known as Wamarra (Wiradjuri for "to build") was farewelled, and submissions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to decorate the Aboriginal Cultural Courtyard are now being reviewed. Stage three of the redevelopment includes the completion of the 5-storey Ambulatory Care Building, the relocation of BreastScreen NSW to a refurbished building in Berry Street, and an additional parking area on the WWBH campus.

Responsible regional growth Location: Tumut, NSW

TRANSGRID'S PROPOSED HUMELINK

A growing number of residents from the Snowy Valleys are raising major concerns about TransGrid's proposed HumeLink development, which could see 65-metre high towers travel across prime agricultural land.

As it is linked to Snowy Hydro 2.0, this is an important project, but it is vital that the voices of residents are heard, so I took residents' views directly to the Minister for Energy and the Environment, Matt Kean, and to NSW Parliament.

Mr Kean told Parliament he expected TransGrid to undertake "meaningful and extensive" engagement with local communities and to work with them on route design.

"I expect TransGrid to keep our communities and, of course, members, informed and across the detail of the projects, and to listen to and act on any concerns raised. My clear message to TransGrid today is that no concern is too small," he said.

Mr Kean promised his door was always open to me on this issue and I will be following it closely to make sure landowners' voices continue to be heard.

Responsible regional growth Location: Wagga, NSW

POMINGALARNA CYCLING COMPLEX

Despite commencement of the \$9.2 million cycling complex at Pomingalarna Reserve being pushed back, the next stage of development has been endorsed by Wagga Wagga City Councillors, who have awarded the contract of design and construction to a Riverina-based firm.

Set to feature new cycling and running paths, a BMX track, mountain bike playground, velodrome and cycling education area, the complex will be funded by both State and Local government, contributing \$6.92M and \$2.3M respectively.

This world-class facility will be a valuable addition to our city's recreational and sporting landscape.

PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

Responsible regional growth Safe and supported communities

- Phase 1 Development application lodged **\$10M** Riverina Conservatorium of Music Stage 1
- Construction contract awarded **\$14.4M** Stage 2 RiFL at Bomen
- Plans on exhibition **\$30M** Olympic Highway intersection upgrades
- Completed **\$1M** Adelong Police Station
- Completed **\$1M** Early Intervention 'Youth on Track' program
- Tender process started **\$23M** Wagga Wagga PCYC upgrade
- Entwine project in construction **\$739K** Wagga Wagga Botanic Gardens Upgrade
- Six extra staff allocated to Wagga police station last financial year
- Additional police officer positions
- Meetings underway
- Crime Prevention Taskforce
- Completed
- Meetings underway
- Struggle Street Reference Group
- Work is well under way
- \$4M** Lockhart Urana Road
- Meetings are occurring
- Women's Advisory Committee

PROJECTS AT A GLANCE KEY ● Progressing/Completed ● Subject to changes ● On hold



COMMUNITY DIARY

June 2020

Parliamentary Youth Committee Meeting

Five students planned to represent our electorate at YMCA's Youth Parliament this year. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the program was cancelled.

I invited these students to take part in a Wagga Wagga Parliamentary Youth Committee where they can work towards building their leadership and advocacy skills.

We held our first meeting in June and it was excellent to hear the ideas of these young, local political enthusiasts.

I look forward to seeing how the participants develop over the coming sessions as we work towards developing ideas around issues they are passionate about.



Visit to Mater Dei Commerce Class

It was a pleasure to speak with Mater Dei's Year 9 commerce class, who had plenty of great questions about the state government, and how parliament works.

July 2020



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NSW Government Community Service Award

I had the pleasure of announcing Lockhart's Heather Trevaskis as a recipient of a NSW Government Community Service Award.

As President of Lockhart & District Historical Society, Greens Gonyah Museum, Heather has gone above and beyond dedicating most of her time since retirement to preserving Lockhart's social history.

Congratulations Heather, on the well deserved award.

If you know someone like Heather, who goes above and beyond volunteering their time to their community, please contact my office with their details.



Lockhart pop-up office

Thank you to the residents of Lockhart who visited me at the pop-up office I held at Lockhart Shire Council. I look forward to regularly visiting and hearing your feedback.



For the latest on COVID-19 information in NSW? Visit nsw.gov.au/covid-19



Upcoming community engagement events
Visit joemcgirr.com.au/your-say