

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023



**STEPHEN BATES MP**  
MEMBER FOR BRISBANE ▲

Hi there,

After spending most of May and June in Canberra for Parliamentary sittings, I've really enjoyed being back in Brisbane for the month of July.

In this edition of my digital newsletter, I'll mostly be sharing **local updates**, including the details of my upcoming **pop-up offices** and information about the **Barrambin / Victoria Park Masterplan**, alongside a brief national update on **housing** and **climate**.

My team has now responded to more than 7000 constituent queries, including providing individual advocacy for community members struggling with **immigration, Centrelink, housing, aged care, health, education, development issues**, and more.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need assistance.

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## POP UP OFFICES

I am so excited to be heading to Ashgrove and Lutwyche for my next pop-up offices!

These pop-up offices are an opportunity for local residents to share their issues, concerns and questions with their federal MP.

Please feel free to come by for a chat and a hello!

📍 **Ashgrove**  
Thursday 17 August 8-10AM  
Famished on Frasers Cafe  
62 Frasers Road, Ashgrove 4060



📍 **Lutwyche**  
Thursday 24 August 4-6PM  
Lutwyche Bus Station,  
Lamington Ave entrance



## Local Update

### VICTORIA BARRACKS COMMUNITY SURVEY

What would you like to see happen at the Victoria Barracks site?

The heritage listed Victoria Barracks, at the top of Caxton Street, between Petrie Terrace and Countess Street, was built in 1863.

According to internal Defence Department advice it has fallen into a state of disrepair and become a safety hazard - 'doing nothing' is no longer an option.

Excitingly, Defence's 2022 heritage plan highlights the potential to 'reimagine' the barracks as a cultural & creative community hub, inspired by examples from overseas.

**However, Defence indicated to the Brisbane Times in May 2023 that progress has not been made on this idea.**

There is so much potential for this massive inner-city site, and if we don't push for something soon, its heritage value could be lost.

So, we'd love to know what local residents think should happen to this site?

Take a couple of minutes to fill out our survey:



# BARRAMBIN / VICTORIA PARK MASTERPLAN RELEASED

Last month Brisbane City Council released their Masterplan for Barrambin / Victoria Park.

Barrambin / Victoria Park is 64 hectares of public greenspace, larger than Roma Street Park, New Farm Park, Brisbane City Botanical Gardens and Southbank Parklands combined. I couldn't be more pleased to see this site transition from a golf course into a rewilded public park, the 'green lungs' of our city. It's also something my Greens colleagues have called on for years.

**You might remember that last October I shared my submission on the draft masterplan**, where I amplified community concerns around the amount of commercial activity, buildings and hard surfacing, the proposed number of car parks, and its future use at the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. Local residents, like the Victoria Park Residents Action Group, did an incredible job making their voices heard, and I am pleased to say they secured a number of significant improvements, but we still have some concerns that I'll explain below.

## CAR PARKING

Firstly, following local feedback a car park off Victoria Park Road is no longer in the plan. Likewise, a large multi-level car park has been removed.

This is due to the park being very well serviced by public and active transport, and this area already has congestion issues which need comprehensive investigation. However, the plans say this decision may be 're-evaluated'.

Residents would like a firm commitment that this prime hilltop location will not be wasted on car parking. Likewise, with the introduction of paid car parking elsewhere in the park, residents would like to know whether these will be operated privately or by Council, as any revenue raised should really be spent on the park or other publicly-owned infrastructure.

## COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

Local residents advocated for commercial activities to be restricted in general and were pleased to see some removed from the plans. However, it's stated in the Masterplan that the proposed ropes course "will likely be a paid experience."

This is disappointing, as many had hoped that the scrapping of the Mount Coot-tha Zipline following overwhelming community opposition, on top of community outrage about the Lumina development application, would mean Council understood most residents object to the privatisation of our public greenspaces. Likewise, the plans state that the existing driving range will be retained despite its lease expiring in 2029.

Many residents are similarly concerned about the plans for the park to cater to large scale events for 20 000 people. While supportive of the park being used for small-to-medium scale events for arts, cultural and educational purposes, my office questions the need to host large-scale events given the site's proximity to the Brisbane Showgrounds.

Large scale events would appear to be in contradiction with Council's objective to rewild and encourage wildlife in the park.

## BUILDINGS AND HARD SURFACING

Local residents were delighted to see some buildings and hard surfacing removed from the plans, like the very large visitor's centre. Vehicle access to the Parkway Loop will be reserved for emergency vehicles only. The plans also state that *"Primary paths, including the parkway loop will be concrete with low carbon concrete options explored. Secondary paths will be a mix of concrete and other materials."*

Local residents are keen to have more detail about low-carbon concrete options and what other materials are available. The parkway loop alone represents 14 000 square metres of concrete. Residents would also like to know what safety measures will be introduced to allow for shared use of the parkway loop by pedestrians, cyclists and scooter users?





## VENUES FOR THE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

The Greens and I have been very vocal about our concerns around the 2032 Games. Brisbane residents deserve to be excited, but instead the budget continues to blow out, local communities aren't being consulted, and there's been a distinct lack of transparency from government decision-makers.

Victoria's recent cancellation of the Commonwealth Games has led to calls by many that Queensland should seriously consider the viability of the 2032 Games.

Barrambin / Victoria Park will host the equestrian cross country and BMX freestyle events in temporary venues.

However, the Masterplan failed to answer locals questions, including:

- > How many spectators will these venues cater for?
- > What parts of the park will be closed to the public in order to host these temporary venues?
- > How long will the public lose access to these spaces?
- > How much will these temporary venues cost?
- > What will happen to the materials when the venues are dismantled/ What is the environmental impact?
- > How will the transport of athletes and spectators affect the local road network?

## NORMANBY PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

The Masterplan includes a completed Normanby Pedestrian Bridge between Barrambin / Victoria Park and Brisbane Girls Grammar School over the Inner City Bypass and rail lines. **However, as locals will know, currently there is only half a bridge left standing.**

The Queensland Labor Government has stated the bridge is closed permanently because it's not disability compliant and there are other options for active transport.

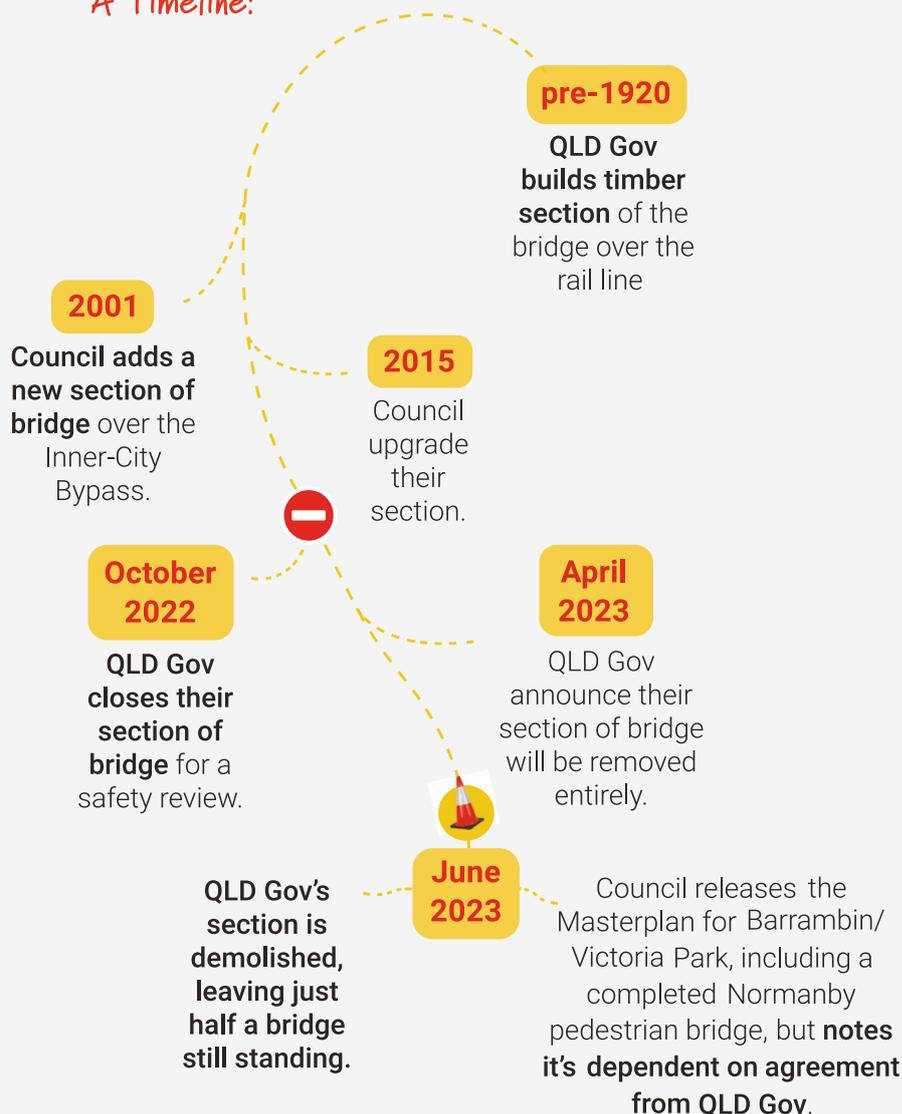
It's the Greens position that Brisbane needs world-class, active transportation routes to ease congestion, and create a liveable, connected city. This bridge will only become more popular given the redevelopment of Barrambin / Victoria Park and the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, and should be restored.

**So, my office has launched a petition calling on the Queensland Government to restore the Normanby Pedestrian Bridge, and work with Council to ensure it's safe and entirely disability accessible.**

👉 Sign it now!

### How did we end up with half a bridge?

A Timeline:



# ANNOUNCING STEPHEN BATES' COMMUNITY GRANTS RECIPIENTS

There are so many incredible organisations in Brisbane who are in need of funding. So, last month I decided to donate a portion of my salary to facilitate a handful of community grants. These grants were between \$100–\$1500, and were allocated to not-for-profit community groups, clubs, organisations and initiatives. Funding had to contribute towards or fund a project, piece of infrastructure, event, or activity that would have positive social and/or environmental impact for the residents of Brisbane.

Expressions of interest were extremely competitive with more than 30 organisations applying for a grant. The selection panel made a determination to focus on organisations which have a primary location within the electorate of Brisbane, and those proposals which sought to have a direct impact on the cost-of-living crisis, providing emergency relief and crisis food assistance. There was further support provided to projects supporting First Nations engagement, disability support, and public schools.

I am very excited to share and congratulate the following recipients of the Stephen Bates' Community Grants!

## **FORTITUDE VALLEY RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB (VALLEY RLFC)** 📍 FORTITUDE VALLEY 4006

Valley RLFC are proud that one-in-three players at their club are First Nations and will be celebrating this milestone with an annual Indigenous Round.

This round will provide the community an opportunity to celebrate culture and empower First Nation members. Their grant will help fund a wonderful Welcome to Country to kick off this amazing event!

## **BARDON GIRL GUIDES** 📍 BARDON 4065

Extracurricular, particularly outdoor and leadership activities, are generally not accessible to deaf children. Bardon Girl Guides received a grant to assist with opening an Auslan Guides unit at Bardon for deaf and hard-of-hearing girls to take up guiding.

## **WWILD SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION ASSOCIATION** 📍 WOOLLOOWIN 4030

WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association are a non-government, community organisation who work alongside people with intellectual disabilities who have experienced sexual, domestic and family violence.

Their community grant will contribute towards employing a peer worker with lived experience of both intellectual disability and violence, for an online safety program.

There are currently no similar free to access programs throughout Brisbane that allow people with intellectual disabilities to learn, improve, and discuss their online use, specifically online dating, in a safe and open way. The program will focus on online friendships, online dating, scams, image-based abuse and how to be safe when online.

## **JEAYS ST COMMUNITY CENTRE** 📍 BOWEN HILLS 4006

Last month, Community Queensland stepped in to stop this vital community space from being closed down. Jeays St Community Centre has catered to hundreds of local residents over the last ten years, but currently receives no government funding.

Their grant will cover operational costs and essentials so they can keep the doors open. Many committed volunteers attend weekly to run an open house program offering a safe space to have a cuppa, a chat and play a game of pool.

Community QLD is adding a bank of repurposed public computers, a Free Range Library and continuing care of the community garden.

## **OPEN DOORS YOUTH SERVICE** 📍 FORTITUDE VALLEY 4006

Open Doors received a grant to continue their Jellybean program which supports hundreds of young transgender people aged between 12 – 25 in Brisbane.

## HENDRA STATE SCHOOL P&C ASSOCIATION

📍 HENDRA 4011

Hendra State School P&C received a grant to assist with establishing a sun-safe outdoor learning and relaxation space near their library for staff and students to utilise.

## DIG IN

📍 FORTITUDE VALLEY 4006 + WEST END 4101

Dig In is a not-for-profit organisation that has been servicing Brisbane’s homeless and disadvantaged for the last five-and-a-half years.

Every Saturday, they cook and prepare hot meals and serve them in two locations – Kemp Place Park in Fortitude Valley and Bunyapa Park in West End. Their vision is to serve hearty and nutritious meals. They understand the power of connection, and know that a hot meal and a smile can make all the difference in someone’s life.

Their grant will be used to fund this Saturday service for the next three months.

## MAMRE ASSOCIATION

📍 BRISBANE WIDE

Mamre is one of Brisbane’s longest-running not-for-profit disability service providers, supporting local children and adults with disability for 40 years.

Their grant will support a free community event in August to celebrate this milestone with a range of games and sensory-friendly activities to cater to everyone who comes along, alongside free food and drink, face painting by talented staff members, karaoke, and more.

## KELVIN GROVE STATE COLLEGE P&C

📍 KELVIN GROVE 4059

Kelvin Grove State College P&C received a grant to purchase supplies for their Outside School Hours Care Community Working Bee and sausage sizzle.

## BANKS STREET COMMUNITY KINDY

📍 NEWMARKET 4051

This not-for-profit kindy received a grant to purchase new indoor classroom equipment to enhance the learning experience for their kids.

## HOPE IN A SUITCASE

My electorate office is now an official collection point for Hope in a Suitcase Australia, a non-profit organisation delivering suitcases of goods to children and youth entering foster care.

When young people are removed from their home in an emergency situation, they usually go into care with only the clothes on their back, or a plastic bag with a few items of clothing. This is often a very traumatic time, so Hope in a Suitcase aims to make this process a little easier by providing essentials like clothes and toiletries, as well as some items that might spark some joy, provide comfort or a small distraction.

The suitcases are so these kids can have something of their very own that is new and keeps their belongings safe, which is particularly important as often they are required to move between different homes. The suitcases are usually filled with new clothing, toiletries, pyjamas, something to cuddle, a book to read, puzzles or colouring books.

**You can find a full list of items you can donate on the Hope in a Suitcase website here.**

Please note, all donated items must be new.

You can come past my office Monday – Friday between 9am and 5pm to drop-off a donation.

I look forward to seeing any support provided to this fantastic organisation, helping young people in foster care be reminded that they matter and are loved.



# UPDATE ON THE CAMPAIGN TO COMPLETE THE RIVERWALK & ESTABLISH A NEW PARK ON SKYRING TERRACE, NEWSTEAD

You may remember in November, my office launched a petition calling for the completion of the riverwalk and a new riverfront park for the 1.7 hectare site for sale at 17 Skyring Terrace. I wrote to the relevant decision makers at all levels of government calling on them to ensure this site delivers the greenspace and public infrastructure needed to keep up with the area's rapid population growth.

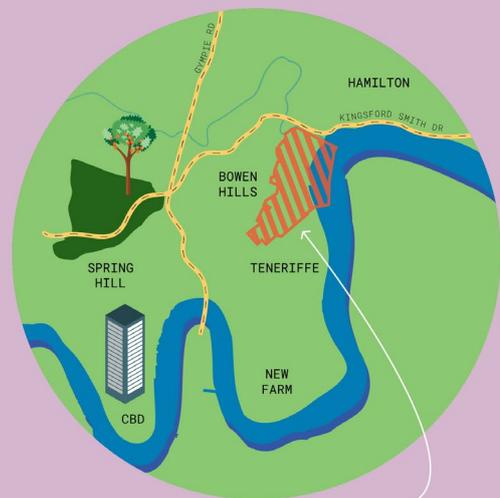
The petition has garnered more than 1500 signatures and that continues to grow everyday. My office has been promoting this campaign comprehensively, including:

- > My first print newsletter that was delivered to every household in the electorate;
- > Volunteers have delivered more than 12 000 targeted flyers delivered into New Farm, Newstead and Teneriffe;
- > I've hosted three pop-up offices in the local area where I promoted the petition;
- > I attended the Teneriffe Festival and handed out petition flyers;
- > I've been sharing the petition on Facebook and Instagram as posts and stories;
- > I wrote a letter to the relevant decision-makers at every level of government;
- > The Greens have launched our Council candidate for the Central Ward, Wendy Agdam. We have started doorknocking in the area and our volunteers have copies of the petition flyer to share with interested community members.

Significantly, since we launched this campaign the site has sold to a private developer for \$120 million, however no development application has been lodged, and there is still a clear pathway for the Council and State Government to deliver on community demands. Brisbane City Council and the QLD State Government must make any approvals for the site conditional upon the provision of publicly accessible green space and the completion of the riverwalk.

We will continue to campaign and gather signatures to present to the QLD Government and Council when a development application is lodged. With local and state elections just round the corner this is the ideal time to build pressure on the decision-makers.

➤ If you haven't already, sign our petition!



In the last decade, **NEWSTEAD** has experienced the fourth largest increase in population density of any suburb in the country.

Tens of thousands of additional residents are predicted to move there over the next two decades.



# Petition!

## EXTEND THE 199 BUS SERVICE FROM THE TENERIFFE FERRY TERMINAL TO THE ROYAL BRISBANE WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



A New Farm resident recently shared with me their **petition to Brisbane City Council to extend the 199 bus service from the Teneriffe Ferry Terminal to the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital (RBWH).**

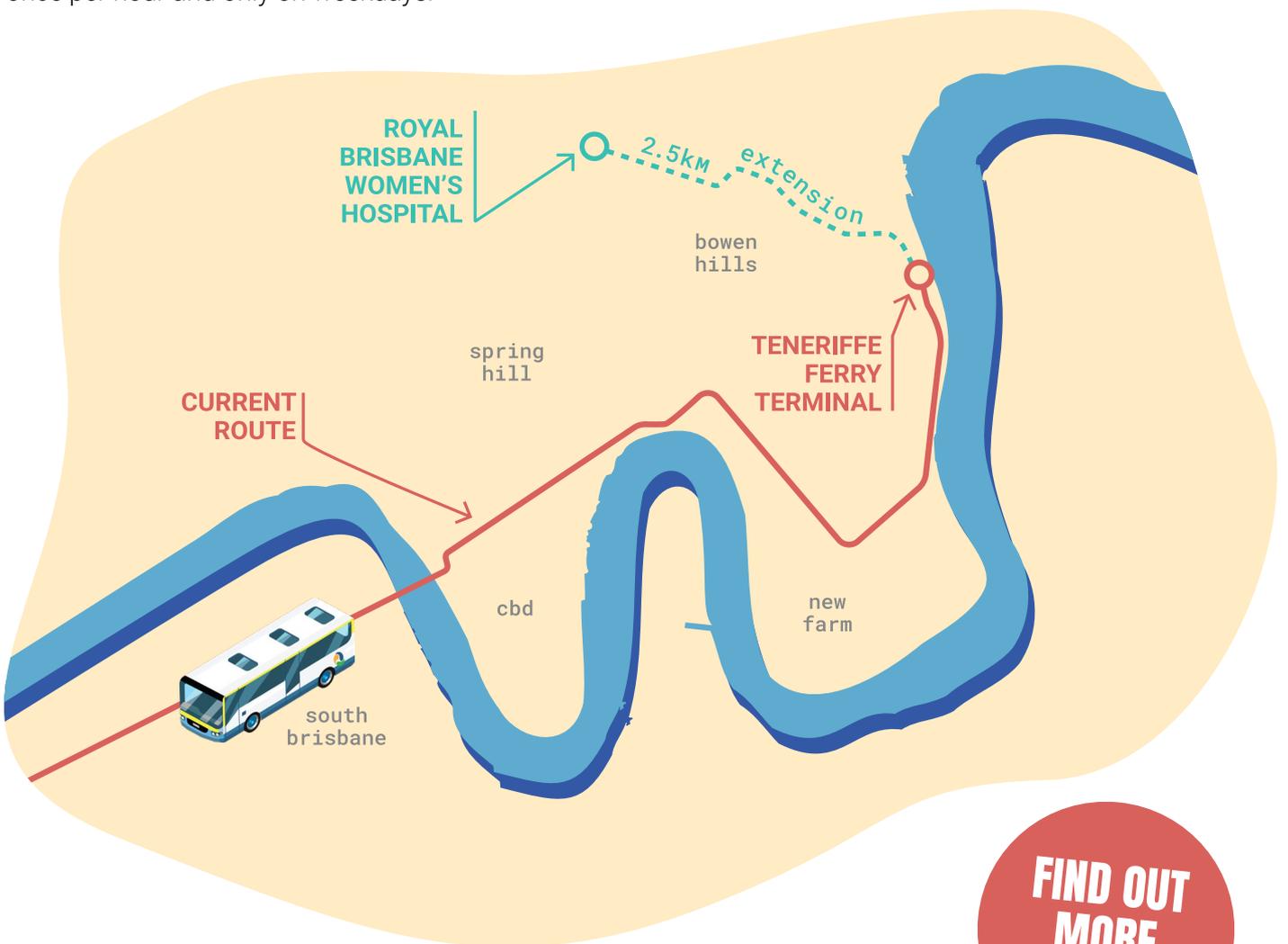
I agree we need better public transport connectivity between Teneriffe and the RBWH, allowing commuters to access not only the hospital, but also northern busway services, Bowen Hill Station and future Cross River Rail Services.

After all, public transport services to hospitals are generally very popular and extending the 199 is a great option. I know the 393 bus route travels from Teneriffe to RBWH, but this is a service only available once per hour and only on weekdays.

This service has existed for years but the population in surrounding suburbs (like Newstead) has more than doubled this decade. An hourly service which does not operate on weekends is no longer sufficient.

I would also be interested in a new service that travels along this route: Teneriffe Ferry Terminal - RBWH - Herston Rd - Newmarket shops - Ashgrove Ave - Ashgrove shops.

I encourage residents to sign the petition if they would like to see the 199 bus extended, and let me know about other possible solutions via return email.



**FIND OUT MORE HERE**



# Out and About

## SPORTING WHEELIES AND DISABLED ASSOCIATION CLUBHOUSE

I was thrilled to volunteer at the **Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association's new Milton clubhouse** one weekend in June with CEO Amanda Mather and the team. **Katinka Winston Allom - Branch Spokesperson for Mount Coot-tha Greens** and I were pitching in for their new project: a one-of-a-kind Para Sport Clubhouse, the first in Australia.

The massive site will feature a gymnasium, rehabilitation and therapeutic services, sports courts, and a cafe, providing ample opportunity to celebrate and participate in para sport.

Sports programs are so important for health, connection and community. I'm excited to welcome this new hub into Brisbane, **opening on Monday 31st July.**



## CONNECTING WITH REFUGEES AND PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM AT COMMUNITY BARDON

This month, it was amazing to see first-hand the impacts of Community's vital work in housing and supporting refugees and people seeking asylum. It was moving to be able to connect with these residents and hear their stories. I was incredibly disheartened to hear that after decades of living in immigration detention centres, they still had limited access to their basic human rights due to the punitive restrictions on Bridging Visas. With limited working rights and insufficient access to income support during a cost-of-living and housing crisis, these residents are unable to access basic necessities such as food, utilities and secure accommodation.

While the move to transition all remaining refugees from the offshore processing cohort in Nauru to Australia was a positive step, the Greens and I are concerned about the Albanese Government's decision to maintain the LNP's significant reduction in eligibility and funding for the Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS) safety net. The SRSS was designed to assist people recently released from immigration detention to transition into life in the community.

The Greens want to restore the SRSS at a rate equivalent to Newstart, providing full support and integration opportunities for recent arrivals. We are committed to ensuring that all refugees and people seeking asylum have access to adequate income support, work rights, healthcare, education, and settlement services, allowing them to live in our communities with dignity.

## BIKE RIDE WITH BUG AND SPACE4CYCLING

It was great to ride with the Airport BUG and the Space4cyclingbne crew a couple of Fridays ago! Both organisations do an incredible job advocating for better active transport options in our city.

Thousands of people work at the airport and deserve better active transport options for their commute. Active transport users from all over our city are desperate for improved connectivity, and bike paths that are well maintained, functional and safe.

I look forward to seeing more Greens' representatives join Trina Massey Councillor for

the Gabba Ward in Council Chambers in 2024 to advocate for investment in active transport infrastructure, reducing our city's over reliance on cars, while providing transport options that are good for our health and wellbeing.

I'll continue to fight alongside BUG and Space4cycling until the airport precinct is accessible to cyclists and pedestrians alike.



# National Update

## CLIMATE

July has been the earth's hottest month on record, with reports that Antarctica's sea ice is in sharp decline and unable to substantially recover over winter for the first time ever, with experts worried it may never return.

**Meanwhile, the Australian Labor Government could approve up to 27 coal mining developments, having already approved three coal mines over the last two months. If all 27 are approved, this would lead to the release of nearly 17B tonnes of carbon emissions, more than 35 times our national average.**

Here in Queensland, the Minister for the Environment Tanya Plibersek has extended the life of a coal mine by nine years, claiming it will have no significant impact on our environment or our climate. Make no mistake - this particular project is located in critical koala and greater glider habitat and will now be responsible for an extra 100 million tonnes of carbon emissions. The Labor Government cannot claim to be taking action on the environment or climate while approving coal and gas projects.

This is a perfect example of the need for a climate trigger within the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) and a moratorium on new coal and gas mines. Fossil fuels are the single greatest contributor to the climate crisis, and so Labor's position on these approvals is absolutely unacceptable and terrifying. We need a rapid and just transition to renewable energy, and we need it now.

If you have been feeling hopeless and anxious about this news recently, please know you're not alone, and the Greens won't stop fighting for you and our climate. We must not allow ourselves to be defeated - let this news motivate you rather than lead you to despair.

The Greens have announced Seal Chong-Wah for Paddington Ward and Wendy Aghdam for Central Ward in the upcoming Brisbane City Council elections. Both teams are already out campaigning to turn this city Green. Sign up to join them - there's a role for everyone to play within our grassroots movement.

If you live on the west side of the electorate:

➡ Sign up to campaign with Seal here

If you live in the east:

➡ Sign up to campaign with Wendy here

## HOUSING

The Greens have secured the nation's first ever federal inquiry into the rental crisis.

Over the past year, my office has consistently heard from renters who are only one rent increase away from eviction, often fearful to ask for basic repairs and maintenance because it's likely their lease won't be renewed if they do.

**So, whether you rent now, or have a story from the past, we need your voice. The Senate Inquiry will be open till the 4th of August, and the form only takes a few minutes to fill out, just follow this link.**

We know from previous attempts to secure rental reform that the powerful real estate lobby, property developers and wealthy investors will mobilise against us in this inquiry. We need the voices of renters to challenge the narrative that renting is fair in this country. The more submissions the inquiry receives, the more pressure we build. Every submission and every story matters.

Renters' rights are now on Labor's National Cabinet agenda, where the federal, state and territory governments will decide their plan to tackle the rental crisis. But Labor has said they don't want to freeze and cap rents, or do anything to stop unlimited rent increases.

**That's why the community will be gathering outside Labor's National Conference at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre on Saturday 19 August at 11am. Please join us for the Tell Labor: Cap Rents & Build Public Housing rally!**

**The pressure of this campaign has already secured an additional \$2 billion for public housing to be spent immediately.** Now, we need to keep our campaigning momentum to secure action for renters, like making unlimited rent increases illegal and giving renters real rights.

The federal electorate of Brisbane is home to 55% renters, the second highest proportion of any electorate in the country. I won't be leaving my community behind. The Greens won't stop fighting until everyone has somewhere safe and secure to call home.

Until next time,

**STEPHEN BATES MP**  
**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE**

