

PAUL SCULLY'S WOLLONGONG WRAP UP



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Merry Christmas

Christmas is right around the corner,
as well as a new year ahead.

During 2022 I was pleased to have worked with so many people in Wollongong to fight for our fair share. Over the course of the year lifts at Unanderra and Towradgi stations have progressed; upgrades to Wollongong Hospital are underway; and a program of repairing and re-opening jetties around Lake Illawarra has continued.

But there is more to do and I will continue to hold the Government to account, and never stop fighting for Wollongong's fair share.

I hope that you have a very happy Christmas and festive season.

Unanderra Station lifts progressing but...

The long-awaited lifts at Unanderra Station are progressing.

Scaffolding was recently removed from two of the three lift shafts and canopies over the stairs are being installed.

A progress update earlier in the year had the lifts on schedule to be opened to the public in early 2023.

However, just when the prospect of the end of facing the 72-step struggle at Unanderra Station was in sight there has been a further delay in this decade-long project.

Recent advice from Transport for NSW has revealed that the lifts are now unlikely to be open until 2024 because there are limited days that trackwork takes place at Unanderra to install the footbridge between the lifts.

I have raised this with the Minister for Transport, appealing to both he and Transport for NSW to do everything in their power to provide for an additional day or days of trackwork to install the footbridge or to reprioritise proposed works so that the footbridge can be installed – **after all, we've waited long enough.**



INSIDE ■ Upgrades to Wollongong Hospital (P2) ■ Huge interest for investing in renewable energy projects built right here! (P3) ■ Getting more teachers back into classrooms (P4)

Upgrades to Wollongong Hospital & refurbishment of the 'ghost ward'

The Crown Street entrance to Wollongong Hospital will remain closed for another 12 months – but for a good reason!

The Crown St entrance will be used for as a dedicated construction entrance for a number of projects being undertaken to provide much-needed upgrades at Wollongong Hospital.

THE WORKS INCLUDE:

- ✔ New palliative care ward which has been designed to enhance the environment for patients and their families
- ✔ Refurbishing and relocating the cardiology ward next to the cardiac diagnostic centre
- ✔ New specialist rehabilitation ward and gymnasium with state-of-the-art equipment
- ✔ Improving facilities for our hard-working hospital staff

These projects build on the upgrades and refurbishment of the maternity ward which was completed and opened in 2021.



I'm pleased to have secured funding for upgrades and improvements to health care services for the Illawarra, but there's more to do.

Safe staffing levels *are needed* in our hospitals

Our health and hospital system is experiencing unprecedented pressure as a result of understaffing and under resourcing over many years.

There are record long waits in our Emergency Departments (ED) and ongoing 'bed block' is putting strain on staff, patients and patients' families.

In the last quarter, independent health statistics report that more than 3,000 people left Wollongong ED before receiving any treatment.



There needs to be a change in the way we staff our hospitals.

I am calling on the NSW Government to adopt the safe staffing Labor policy across our hospitals to make sure that patients get the care they need, and nurses get the support they deserve.

Under this policy, minimum and enforceable safe staffing levels will be implemented across our public hospitals, starting with emergency departments.

The policy will see an additional 1,200 nurses and midwives recruited into the NSW public health system (above the Government's additional recruits outlined in the 2022-23 NSW Budget) over four years.

Thank you to everyone who has shared their personal experiences with me. I will continue to work for you and your families, to make sure that our community has access to the quality health care we deserve.

Illawarra REZ attracts \$43 billion in potential investment

The National Tribune, 29 August 2022

Huge interest for investing in renewable energy projects

built right here!

The Illawarra can have a great future in generating renewable energy after \$43 billion worth of potential investment was registered for the Illawarra Renewable Energy Zone (REZ).

I was instrumental in having an Illawarra REZ included following intense negotiations with the NSW Government in the passage of the Electricity Investment Infrastructure Bill 2020 – we would have been entirely left out without me working to have the legislation changed.

There were 10 wind generation projects, including offshore; 5 solar projects, 16 energy storage projects, 4 pumped hydro projects, 4 hydrogen and 2 hydrogen electricity generation projects, and 3 new load projects, including green steel manufacturing, which were part of the registration of interest process.

The Illawarra is well placed to take advantage of this massive investment and create new jobs.

We host a deep sea-port, transport infrastructure, major energy users, and Australia's largest steelworks.

Most importantly, we have a highly skilled workforce and world class University of Wollongong and TAFE.

I am expecting a draft declaration to be placed on public exhibition shortly ahead of a formal declaration of an Illawarra REZ to be made in 2023.

Site selected for new Warrawong Community Health Centre



I am very pleased that Warrawong will be getting a new, purpose-built Community Health Centre.

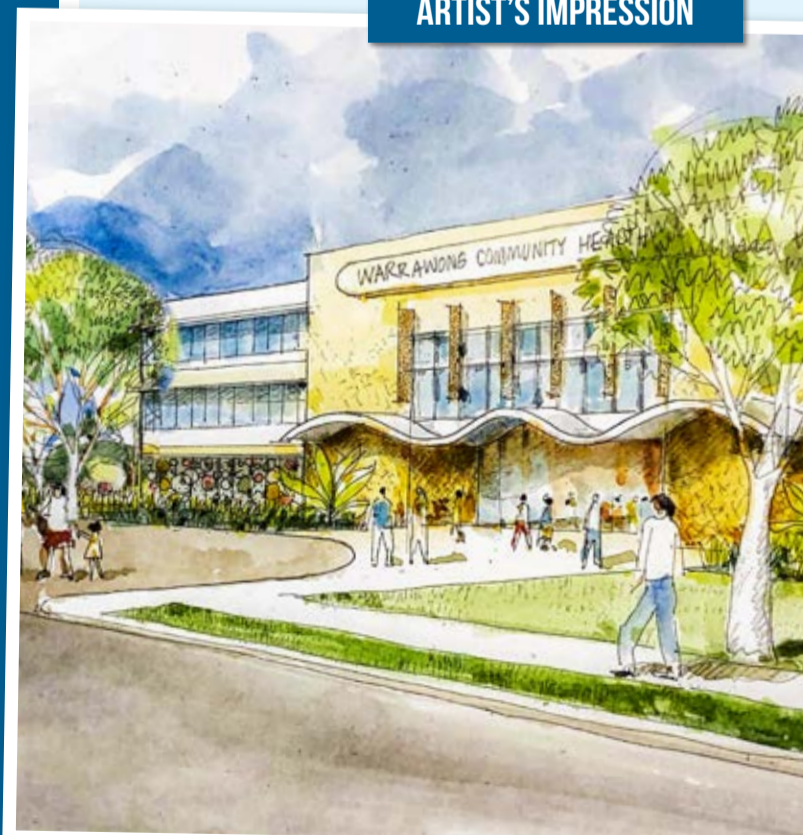
The Warrawong Community Health Centre will be built on a part of the existing site of Port Kembla Hospital grounds.

The existing ageing Port Kembla Hospital first built nearly 60 years ago has reached its used by date.

The new Warrawong Community Health Centre will provide much needed health services to the local community, including a children's and family health hub, and community nursing services.

The Warrawong, Port Kembla, Lake Heights and Berkeley community deserves a new 21st century health facility to meet their healthcare needs.

ARTIST'S IMPRESSION



Getting more teachers BACK INTO CLASSROOMS

Did you know that the Education Department expects teachers to comply with 219 policies?



This administrative burden is eating into the time teachers have, to do what they do best – teach!

Reducing this administrative burden on teachers will help address the chronic teacher shortage and help turn around student learning outcomes.

Over 28,000 teachers have left the profession and our local public schools over the last 12 years.

We need these dedicated, professional champions of learning back in our local public schools.

I strongly support shifting 10,000 temporary teaching positions into permanent positions.

I support a line-by-line audit of teachers' administrative workloads so we can have teachers back in the classroom instead of drowning in paperwork compliance.

I also support restricting student use of mobile phones in classrooms to improve student learning and reduce incidences of cyber-bullying.

World Road Cycling Championships put Wollongong on the map – now to make it permanent!



Wollongong put on a magnificent show for the world when it hosted the 2022 UCI World Road Cycling Championships.

It demonstrated to NSW, Australia and the world that Wollongong is ready, willing and more than able to host global events.

As a lasting reminder of our success in hosting the cycling championships I asked the NSW Government to consider permanently marking the course.

They agreed.

With many cyclists visiting the region to ride the course that world champions rode this will assist them navigating our city and it will also remind motorists that they may find cyclists on the course.

Now we ask, “what’s next Wollongong?” as we search for the next major event our city can host.

HERE TO HELP

Paul Scully MP, Your State Member for Wollongong

If I can help with any State Government matters please call my office on **(02) 4226 5700** or send an email to wollongong@parliament.nsw.gov.au

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