

PAUL SCULLY'S WOLLONGONG

WRAP UP



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SUCCESS Additional train carriages to arrive in January

In some good news, additional train carriages will be placed on the 3.24pm and 3.54pm services from Central to Wollongong.



Following consistent pressure from me, on behalf of local commuters for nearly two years, the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure finally relented and agreed to add carriages to the existing four car sets turning them into eight car sets.

This will help deal with overcrowding on these two services where commuters have been forced to stand for over an hour, or sit on the floor and stairs.

Some passengers have even brought their own fold-up chairs along for the journey. This was unacceptable.

The additional carriages will be made available from January 2019.

I want to thank all who made their voices heard loud and clear on this issue.

There's more to do to improve our train services on the South Coast Line and I will continue to prioritise improvements in rail services to the Illawarra above more toll roads, including working with my Parliamentary colleagues, Sharon Bird MP and Ryan Park MP, to improve mobile reception between Thirroul and Helensburgh.



THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

Electricity prices just keep going up and up

Many households have received their quarterly electricity bills, which continue to go up and up.



Since 2011, electricity prices have increased by 60 per cent. In nearly the last two years alone, prices have increased by 20 per cent.

Remember when the Baird and Berejiklian Governments promised that once NSW 'poles and wires' were privatised, electricity prices would fall?

Power price increases are placing additional pressure on household budgets.

NSW Labor has a plan to re-regulate electricity prices – there will be no more privatisation of the NSW electricity system.

NSW LABOR'S POLICIES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Increase solar energy generation on the roof-tops of all government owned buildings;
- ✓ Mandate the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) solar tariff so household generated rooftop solar is paid fairly, and;
- ✓ Implement Green Jobs Illawarra, focusing on renewable energy, innovation and jobs.

Parliament told: Wollongong investment 'deficit'



In Parliament recently, I outlined how the Wollongong electorate has had \$113.4 million less investment during the life of the O'Farrell/Baird and Berejiklian Governments than under the previous government.

After analysing the last seven budgets under the Liberals and comparing them with the last seven years of the previous Labor Governments, it confirms that the former Labor Governments invested more than \$5400 per family more in the Wollongong electorate than under the current Liberal Government.

Over the last seven budgets of the previous Labor Governments – that is 2004-2005 to 2010-2011 – total capital spending in the Wollongong electorate was \$535.7 million.

Under the Liberal Governments total capital expenditure was just \$424.4 million with \$1 in every \$2 spent completing projects conceived, approved and funded by the former Labor Government.

The Treasurer has said that "Wollongong always does better under a Liberal-National Government."



The Premier has suggested that "The Illawarra has never had it so good."

Both claims are, to put it mildly, rubbish.

The analysis clearly finds that Labor Governments invest more in the Wollongong electorate than do Liberal

Governments over a comparable period.

NSW Labor's fully-costed \$225 million Illawarra Jobs Action Plan will continue to build on Wollongong's strengths and to invest in the Illawarra's future.

Illegal trail bike riding

In recent months, some local residents have raised with me incidents of illegal trail bike riding in parks, reserves and on footpaths.

I have been working with Wollongong City Council and Lake Illawarra and Wollongong Police Districts to see how we can address this issue.

Police will take enforcement action against illegal trail bike riders, but they are also constrained in the pursuit of riders, who are often young, inexperienced and don't always wear protective safety gear. Chasing riders can often lead to injury, or worse, and there are broader public safety concerns to be considered.

I recently organised a meeting between local Port Kembla residents and the Lake Illawarra Police District to discuss this issue and planning is underway to hold more meetings with local residents who face similar concerns in other areas of the Wollongong electorate.

This is, unfortunately, not an easy issue to resolve given the personal and other public safety concerns, which Police must consider.

However, Police do encourage local residents to report incidents of illegal trail bike riding and taking note of a description of the rider, colour and make of the trail bike, and whether the rider returns to particular premises.

Police will investigate these reports and all information is taken into account when making plans for future operations.

Lake Illawarra Police District can be contacted on 4232 5599 and the Wollongong Police District can be contacted on 4226 7899.



The fight to upgrade Unanderra Station - *we'll never give up!*



The Minister for Transport and Infrastructure has again knocked back my request that he meet with a delegation of representatives from the Unanderra Action Group and Illawarra disability advocates to put pressure on the Berejiklian Government to install the Unanderra Station lifts.

The previous NSW Labor Government funded the installation of the Unanderra Station lifts in 2010, but the money was 'reallocated' to other projects after the O'Farrell Government was elected in March 2011.

The people of Unanderra and surrounding suburbs have campaigned long and hard ever since to get the money returned.

Labor's policy is to finally build the Unanderra Station lifts, which will be funded under NSW Labor's fully-costed \$225 million Illawarra Jobs Action Plan.

I will never give up on having the lifts built at Unanderra Station.



Wollongong WIN Entertainment Centre turns 20 – but needs an upgrade



Over the last 20 years there have been some great concerts and events at the WIN Entertainment Centre (WEC).

Tourism and hospitality provides job opportunities for young people in particular, and helps the visitor economy in Wollongong thrive. Events at the WEC have added millions to the local economy.

But the Entertainment Centre is starting to show its age and is due for an upgrade.

NSW Labor has a plan to upgrade the Wollongong Entertainment Centre, delivering more than 280 jobs and adding \$12 million to the regional economy and attracting 40,000 visitors to Wollongong every year.

It's one element of NSW Labor's fully-costed \$225 million Illawarra Jobs Action Plan.

An upgraded Wollongong Entertainment Centre will mean it becomes the second largest convention centre in New South Wales and continues to put Wollongong on the map for more concerts and events.

Wollongong Health System

UNDER PRESSURE

While doctors, nurses and other health professionals try to do the best they can with available resources, Wollongong Hospital remains under great pressure.



Latest quarterly statistics released by the independent Bureau of Health Information show that there was a 7.2 per cent increase in presentations at Wollongong Hospital Emergency Department, which has seen 17,067 presentations in the last year.

Yet one in three patients were not seen within the standard four hours of arrival. At the same time more than 5700 patients wait for elective surgery in the region.

NSW Labor plans to conduct a one-off surgery blitz for thousands of patients to slash waiting lists for elective surgery such as cataract removal and hip and knee replacements.

The Elective Surgery Acceleration Plan will cut these waiting lists by around 10 per cent.



Merry Christmas

As we head into Christmas, we reflect on 2018. As a local community, we have faced many challenges and had many successes this year.

I'm pleased to have worked with so many in our local community to fight for our fair share. Together, we made our voices clear to the Berejiklian Government that we wanted to keep our Gong Shuttle free and overcrowding on our trains has begun to be addressed.

There is still much to do and I want you all to know that I'll continue to hold the Government to account and never stop fighting for Wollongong's fair share.

I want to use this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe, happy Christmas and New Year festive season.

As we head into preparations for Christmas and New Year, please stay safe on the roads and be kind to one another.

Paul Scully

Paul Scully MP



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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