

Gaelle's Gazette

Summer 2023/24



Merry Christmas & *Happy New Year!*

As I reflect on my first year in Parliament, it is an honour to represent Northern Victoria, and speak on issues that matter in our region. It's been a full year with parliamentary sittings, committee hearings and community commitments across the electorate.

To stay up to date across the year I invite you to connect on Instagram or Facebook, or visit my website at gaellebroad.com.au for the latest news.

I can assure you that The Nationals team are committed to delivering a fairer share for Regional Victoria, and if I can assist you with any State Government matters please get in touch.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Kind regards,

Gaelle Broad



Soaring Energy Costs (SEC)

The 'revived' SEC should stand for 'Soaring Energy Costs'. Under Labor electricity prices have soared by 25%. The Labor State Government promised to return energy generation to public ownership, yet the SEC remains a vague \$1 billion pledge with no independent costings, and their first 'SEC' project is a minority share into an existing private project.

Victoria's Housing Crisis

I recently held a roundtable discussion with Real Estate Agents in Bendigo to discuss Victoria's housing crisis. Labor State Government's taxes, red tape and regulation are destroying Victoria's housing market, and both landlords and tenants are suffering. Property owners are leaving the market in droves, forcing people out of the rental market and onto the social housing waitlist. According to the REIV the total number of rental properties has dropped by nearly 22% since 2020, as rental properties disappear from the market it reduces the number of houses available and drives up rent. The vacant land tax is also adding significant costs for property developers wishing to subdivide and build new homes, further reducing the number of new houses available.





Victoria Police on Strike

The Labor Government's neglect of Victoria Police is putting the safety of Northern Victorian communities at risk, as police numbers dwindle and crime rates continue to rise.



Regional Infrastructure

The Nationals continue to fight for a fairer share of state government funding in regional areas, to build key infrastructure projects including the Shepparton Bypass, Kilmore Bypass and the new Yarrowonga Bridge.



Bendigo Health Visit

Shadow Minister for Health, Georgie Crozier MP and Wendy Lovell MP recently joined me in Bendigo to visit Bendigo Health, Monash University School of Rural Health, and St John of God Bendigo Hospital.



Falling off the Tracks

In 2018 the Labor Government promised to fix mobile black spots on the main train lines across regional Victoria. Eight years later and we are still waiting.



Speaking with Students

It was a pleasure to speak with nearly 500 middle and senior school students at Victory Christian College recently on the theme of 'courage'.

If you are involved at a school and would like me to speak with students in 2024, please get in touch.



Rising Cost of Living

Calls to the debt helpline have jumped by 47% this year as people struggle with the rising cost of living. I met with Tracie and Jenny from Bendigo Family and Financial Services and a growing number of people are seeking food relief and housing.



Diwali Festival

It was great to attend the Diwali celebrations hosted by the Benalla Migrants Association Inc. for the launch of the Benalla Festival, a community led celebration packed full of activities including markets, history, open gardens, and hot air balloons!



Parliamentary Internship

My interest in state politics started 28 years ago as a parliamentary intern. The intern program started in 1990, and since then over 1300 students have taken part. A big thank you to Pascal Samfat for researching towns impacted by the 2022 Victorian Floods!

THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria

Gaëlle Broad MP

Member for Northern Victoria

Your local voice in Parliament

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Photo: Flood committee inquiry hearing

Committees

Flood Inquiry

I am a member of the parliamentary committee undertaking an inquiry into the State Government's response to the 2022 Victorian Floods that impacted 63 local government areas. In Rochester over 900 homes were flooded, and people are still living in caravans. The Committee's final report is due in June 2024.

'Con' Games

The Liberals and Nationals called for an Upper House inquiry following the Labor State Government's decision to cancel the Commonwealth Games. According to State Government department estimates, cancelling the Games will cost Victorians more than half a billion dollars.

Batting for Business

An inquiry is being held into the Allan Government's flawed WorkCover legislation, thanks to the Liberals and Nationals. Over \$1.3 billion of taxpayer funds have already been used to prop up the broken Scheme, and businesses have been slugged with an average 42% rise in insurance premiums.

Save our Bacon

Labor joined the Animal Justice Party and inner-city Greens to launch a Parliamentary inquiry into pig welfare, trying to shut down Victoria's pork industry. To save our Christmas ham, and save our bacon, please visit www.saveourbacon.com.au

Transparency in Government

The Allan Labor Government cannot manage money. Victoria has a higher debt than NSW, QLD and Tasmania combined. Despite introducing over 50 new taxes, Victoria's mid year budget update shows that interest repayments will cost \$8.8 billion by 2026/27, that's \$24 million every day!

Auditor General Reports

The Auditor General's Annual Financial Report of the State of Victoria: 2022-23 states: Debt rose again this year at a pace faster than revenue and economic growth... The government have not laid out a plan for when and how the state will pay down existing and future debt.

The Premier has chosen to ignore these warnings, signing Victoria's 'debt sentence' committing to a \$3.6 billion contract to commence the \$125 billion+ Suburban Rail Loop, despite soaring debt, rising interest rates, increasing labour and material costs, and inflationary pressures. Before the 2018 election Labor promised to reduce expenditure on contractors and consultants, but a recent review by the Auditor General revealed that between 2018-2022 State Government spending on consultants and contractors increased by 47%, with over half a billion spent on consultants, and over \$11 billion on contractors!

Victorian Ombudsman Report

The Victorian Ombudsman recently conducted a review of the politicisation of the Victorian public service which revealed a major lack of transparency, stating:

We uncovered rushed and shoddy recruitment practices, overuse of direct appointments often involving former ministerial staffers, executives fearful of providing 'frank and fearless' advice, and the marginalisation of public officials around keynote projects.

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THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria

Our Nationals Team

It's great to be part of a strong Nationals team, representing the issues that matter to our regions in the Victorian Parliament. With less than 1070 days until the next state election in November 2026, we will continue working hard to bring about the change of government that Victoria desperately needs. To keep up to date with the latest news from across the state, visit www.vic.nationals.org.au



Working in the Victorian Parliament

During 17 weeks of sittings in the past year, I delivered nearly 100 speeches on a range of issues in the Victorian Parliament.

- Raised awareness of housing crisis impacting regional Victoria.
- Called for further support for those impacted by the Victorian floods.
- Advocated for reliable, affordable and sustainable energy production in Victoria.
- Called for colony of 38,000 bats to be relocated from the centre of Bendigo.

- Called for increased funding for roads and bridges.
- Voted against increases to payroll tax.
- Raised awareness of childcare deserts in regional Victoria.
- Supported continuation of duck season.
- Stood against Labor's decision to locate a medically supervised injecting room next to a school.
- Supported updates to IBAC reporting for greater transparency in government.

- Called for change to our Upper House voting system.
- Spoke against Domestic Violence.
- Stood Against Water Buybacks.
- Called for better mobile and internet coverage in regional areas and V/Line trains.
- Supported Victoria's sustainable native timber industry.
- Advocated for single officer police stations in regional areas.

To view speeches in Hansard or learn more about the Victorian Parliament visit:
www.new.parliament.vic.gov.au

Can we help you?

Do you need help with any State Government matters? Please contact our team for assistance at gaelle.broad@parliament.vic.gov.au or call us on 1300 423 533.

From 8th January 2024 you can also visit our new electorate office at 30 Queen Street, Bendigo.

Gaelle Broad MP

Member for Northern Victoria Region

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Photo from left:
Bart, Linda
and Karen