

COST OF LIVING RELIEF

Get your **\$250** Power Saving Bonus



Our Power Saving Bonus of \$250 has helped almost \$8,000 families, on concession with their energy bills.

We know that many Victorians are still struggling with cost-of-living stress, that's why as part of the Victorian Budget 2022/23, our government will, Victorian households from the 1st of July, be making this one-off payment available to ALL Victorian households.

This also means that those on concession, who have already received the \$250 Power Saving Bonus from the previous program, can also apply under this new

program for a further \$250 after the 1st of July.

This one-off \$250 payment provides immediate financial support for all Victorian households with their power bills – while also helping Victorians find a better energy deal.

Seven out of every 10 users can save money by switching energy offers, with typical annual savings of \$330 on energy bills in the first year of switching alone.

To apply visit compare.energy.vic.gov.au and if you need assistance please feel free to contact my office on 9422 5171.

GO SOLAR & SAVE BIG

The Andrews Labor Government is leading the way – creating thousands of jobs, driving investment in renewables, cutting the cost of living for families, and working to halve emissions by 2030.

In our 2022/23 Budget we are providing crucial cost of living relief to Victorian families by expanding eligibility for Victoria's nation leading \$1.3 billion Solar Homes program, enabling households to access rebates for both solar panels and solar hot water or high-efficiency electric heat pumps.

This means that 4,500 households in the Mill Park electorate who have previously accessed a rebate to install solar panels can now access up to \$1,000 to install solar hot water or a highly efficient heat pump system.

If you haven't previously claimed a solar rebate, you are eligible for up to \$2,400 in rebates for the installation of bill busting solar products. Households are also eligible for a \$1,400 interest free loan, cutting up to \$3,800 from upfront installation costs.

To find out more visit solar.vic.gov.au

SOLAR FOR BUSINESSES PROGRAM IS EXPANDING

We are helping even more Victorian businesses to cut their energy bills, with up to \$8,500 off the upfront cost of a solar system installation through the expansion of eligibility criteria of the \$47.5 million Solar for Business Program.

More Victorian businesses are now able to take control of their energy bills. Businesses with up to 50 employees

can now access a rebate of up to \$3,500 to install solar panels.

For the first time, businesses are also able to apply for zero interest loans of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to reduce the initial outlay for solar installation.

To find out more visit solar.vic.gov.au

OUT & ABOUT IN OUR COMMUNITY



Celebrating the Northern Districts Softball Association Champions

Having a chat with Year 3 students & teachers from Lakes South Morang College



With David Luke, Junior Vice President of the South Morang Football & Netball Club

Celebrating Harmony Day with my local community

In the company of my young constituents



At Plenty Parklands Primary, handing out our very popular Prep Bags & welcoming our newest

Getting on with the job of cleaning our local parks on Clean Up Australia Day

#CelebrateVicWomen



With David Hughes, Chairman of the Whittlesea City Basketball Association & Jason Kelly, General Manager

With Bundoora United FC & Mill Park FC young players at the Puma Cup kick-off

#BreakTheBias
International Women's Day 2022

With Al Siraat students, during their visit at the Parliament to mark International Women's Day 2022

Lily D'Ambrosio MP

YOUR STATE LABOR MEMBER FOR MILL PARK

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Midyear
MILL PARK
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

At the Hawkstowe Picnic Area

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the midyear edition of the Mill Park Electorate community newsletter.

In this newsletter I want to provide you with an update on some important projects and investments the Andrews Labor Government is delivering in our local area.

We're investing in our health care by increasing staff and bed capacity at the Northern Hospital, and building a new ambulance station at Epping and recruiting new paramedics.

We've learned during the pandemic that casual workers with no sick leave entitlements often had to choose between staying home or going to work when they were sick. I'm proud that the Andrews Labor Government is the only Government to fully fund 5 days a year of sick and carer's leave at the national minimum wage for casual and contract workers in certain occupations.

Roads are always a priority for the Andrews Labor Government and following the upgrades to

Plenty Road, Childs Road upgrade is well underway.

I know that some in our community are doing it tough. That's why as Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change I was proud to announce that from 1st July 2022 we are providing a \$250 one-off Power Saving Bonus to all households. Victorian families can also save money and help save the environment by going solar, and more businesses can now access rebates to install solar panels. Please read through to find out more about these programs and how to apply. feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need assistance.

Warm regards,

Lily D'Ambrosio MP
State Member for Mill Park

Representing the communities of **South Morang** and parts of **Mill Park, Epping** and **Wollert**

Lily D'Ambrosio MP **YOUR STATE LABOR MEMBER FOR MILL PARK**

BETTER HEALTH SERVICES FOR ALL FIRST-CLASS CARE & 5,000 EXTRA NURSES



As part of the *Andrews Labor Government 2022/23 Budget* we will invest over \$12 billion to deliver better hospitals, first-class care and recruit and train 5,000 extra nurses and 2,000 other healthcare workers to ease the pressures on our current healthcare workforce.

That means faster and better care when you need it. Our local Northern Hospital will get more staff and additional bed capacity to alleviate the current demand.

NEW ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY IN EPPING

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering a new 30 beds acute mental health facility at the Northern Hospital, Epping. This new facility will increase capacity and reduce pressure on the emergency department of the Northern Hospital and has been co-designed with people who have lived and experienced Victoria's mental health system.

The facility is part of our \$492 million Mental health beds expansion program which is in response to a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.

It will also provide extra support for people experiencing mental illness who need immediate treatment.

MORE PARAMEDICS & A NEW AMBULANCE STATION IN EPPING

We know that demand for emergency services is at an all-time high, that's why we're delivering another 90 paramedics to meet the current demand. Additionally, we are investing \$333 million for 400 new staff to increase Triple Zero call-taking and dispatch capacity, and additional training for operators.

We are getting on with boosting ambulance resources in Epping, giving paramedics the facilities and support they need to quickly respond to local emergencies by constructing a new ambulance branch on McDonald's Road, Epping.



EDUCATION BETTER FACILITIES & SUPPORT FOR MILL PARK STUDENTS

Students with disabilities and special needs are entitled to exactly the same opportunities as every other student in Victoria.

That's why in our government's 2022/23 budget we are investing \$326 million to deliver upgrades for 36 special schools including for our local Merriang Special Developmental School. Both campuses of the Merriang Special Developmental School in South Morang and Lalor will receive \$5.32 million to deliver the final stage of the school's master plan, providing better facilities for all the students.



ROADS CHILDS ROAD UPGRADE: ALMOST DONE!

Motorists in Mill Park are getting a taste of how the Childs Road Upgrade is creating safer and less congested journeys, with the new bridge across Darebin Creek now open.

Following the completed works at Bowman Drive works will continue on upgrading the existing bridge and the northern carriageway plus building the new underpass trail. In the coming months we'll start the construction of the new rest area near the bridge.

As part of the Darebin Creek Lookout, there has been community input into the new Indigenous artwork for the Rest area along with community selecting the Red Ironbark and native trees to be planted in the area. To foster better connections between people and places, the Wurundjeri Elders, the Darebin Creek Management Committee and Lalor North Secondary College collaborate through workshops with the secondary school students about cultural heritage and the environment of Darebin Creek.

The **Childs Road Upgrade** is on track for completion in 2023. The project is part of the Andrews Labor Government \$2.2 billion investment in Suburban Roads Upgrades.



EPPING ROAD ON THE GO

The contract to construct the Epping Rd upgrade is about to be awarded and this long-awaited road upgrade is getting underway soon.

Early works, including utility relocations, are expected on the ground in the coming months, with major construction commencing thereafter.

The Epping Road Upgrade will add extra lanes between Craigieburn Road East and Memorial Avenue, install new traffic lights at Park Street, upgrade intersections and build better walking and cycling connections.

BETTER ACCESS TO FARM VIGANO FOR ALL TO ENJOY!

Farm Vigano is an important historical site for our local community. As the Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change I am thrilled to announce that in the 2022/23 Budget we are investing \$400,000 to improve access to the public areas of Farm Vigano.

We will be working with Heritage Victoria to deliver new accessible walking paths, viewing platforms, and access to the wetlands and ensure that Farm Vigano becomes a well-utilised place for the local community and residents

of the City of Whittlesea and visitors.

This funding is part of our \$9.5 million investment to create new and improve green spaces across Victoria.



PARKS & RECREATION PLENTY RIVER TRAIL ON ITS WAY

We are building the new 19km Plenty River Trail. The final designs have now been released after extensive consultation with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Traditional Owners and our local community.

The Plenty River Trail will go through the Plenty Gorge linking University Hill Bundoora -through Mill Park and South Morang- to Doreen.

Five stunning new lookouts, two new bridges, new picnic and barbecue facilities at the Hawkstowe Picnic Area and Nioka Bush Camp and the Plenty River Trail itself are on the way.

This new multi-use trail will be accessible to runners, walkers, cyclists with a large portion of it suitable for all abilities including prams and wheelchairs.

This \$20.4m project is funded as part of our Government's \$315 million Suburban Parks Program.



SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT MORE JOBS, MORE OPPORTUNITIES

A job is about more than just a pay cheque – it means being able to provide for your family and plan for the future and in our 2022/23 Budget we're helping Victorians find the fair and decent jobs they deserve.

When the pandemic hit our state, we responded with record investment to protect Victorian lives and livelihoods. We had a plan to create 400,000 jobs by 2025, with a target to deliver half of them by 2022. Victoria has already far exceeded our goal – with employment rising by 280,000 since September 2020. We are well on track to reach our target of 400,000 jobs by 2025.

We are doing even more, creating more opportunities for Victorians to find a job and giving them the training, they need for the future focusing on building jobs

in the industries of the future, such as advanced manufacturing, medical research and renewable energy.

Since 2014 our infrastructure agenda has supported, or will support, more than 191,000 jobs including 14,000 new jobs supported by new projects announced in this Budget.



FREE TAFE

Whether it's a job in our mental health workforce, a role supporting children and families, or in early childhood education and our schools, we're creating thousands of opportunities for Victorians doing work that matters.

And we invest in the services Victorians need, and the workforce, needed to deliver them.

We are investing \$61.6 million to give more Victorians access to Free TAFE, by funding an extra 10,000 places across Victoria, including in courses such as Certificate IV in Ageing Support, Certificate IV in Building and Construction and Certificate IV in Cyber Security.

To find out more about free TAFE courses visit vic.gov.au/free-tafe

SICK PAY GUARANTEE FOR CASUAL WORKERS

You shouldn't have to choose between a day's pay and looking after your loved one's health.

That's why the Victorian Government has introduced the Sick Pay Guarantee.

Eligible casual workers in many industries can now register online, and access five days of sick and carer's pay per year. Workers in hospitality, cleaning, security, laundries, retail, as well as aged and disability care will all be able to take time off if they are sick or need to take care of a loved one.

Applications are open. To apply visit service.vic.gov.au/services/sick-pay-guarantee