

# HOLT HERALD



## Christmas Edition



### Labor is Delivering for Families

As the Federal Member for Holt, I am proud to be part of the Albanese Labor Government, working hard to deliver real support for local families.

As we approach the end the year, I want to look back on some of the key reforms Labor has introduced to support families and ease the financial pressure, including:

- Making childcare more affordable for 96% of Holt families, saving an average of \$1,700 a year.
- Delivering a 15% pay rise for early childhood educators, so they're valued for their vital work.
- Expanding Paid Parental Leave to 26 weeks by 2026, giving parents more time with their newborns.
- Paying superannuation on Paid Parental Leave, ensuring mothers aren't left behind in retirement.
- Tax cuts for every Australian, with the average Holt taxpayer saving \$1,320 a year.

- \$300 energy bill rebate, helping reduce energy prices by 17.9%.

These reforms are all about helping families focus on what matters most—each other.

I understand that families are still feeling the pressure of rising costs, especially with high interest rates.

That's why I will continue working in Canberra to provide families with cost-of-living relief and to drive down inflation. Every dollar you save is an extra dollar that goes towards supporting your family.

***From my family to yours,  
I wish you a Merry  
Christmas and a Happy  
New Year!***

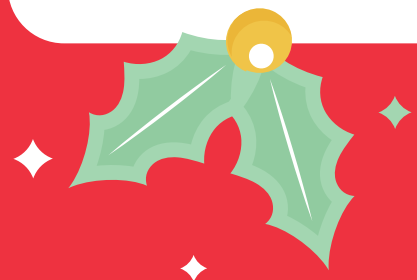
Warm regards,

*Cassandra*

Cassandra Fernando MP  
Federal Member for Holt

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## We are making Fee-Free TAFE permanent

The Federal Government has committed to funding at least 100,000 free TAFE places per year after the current program ends in 2027.

Fee-Free TAFE started in January 2023 by the Albanese Government and has exceeded expectations with more than 508,000 enrolments.

I recently visited Chisholm TAFE in Cranbourne with Minister for Skills & Training, Andrew Giles, and we spoke to students about how this program had opened up opportunities that they had never considered.



### New communication towers approved



## Improving Mobile Reception in Clyde

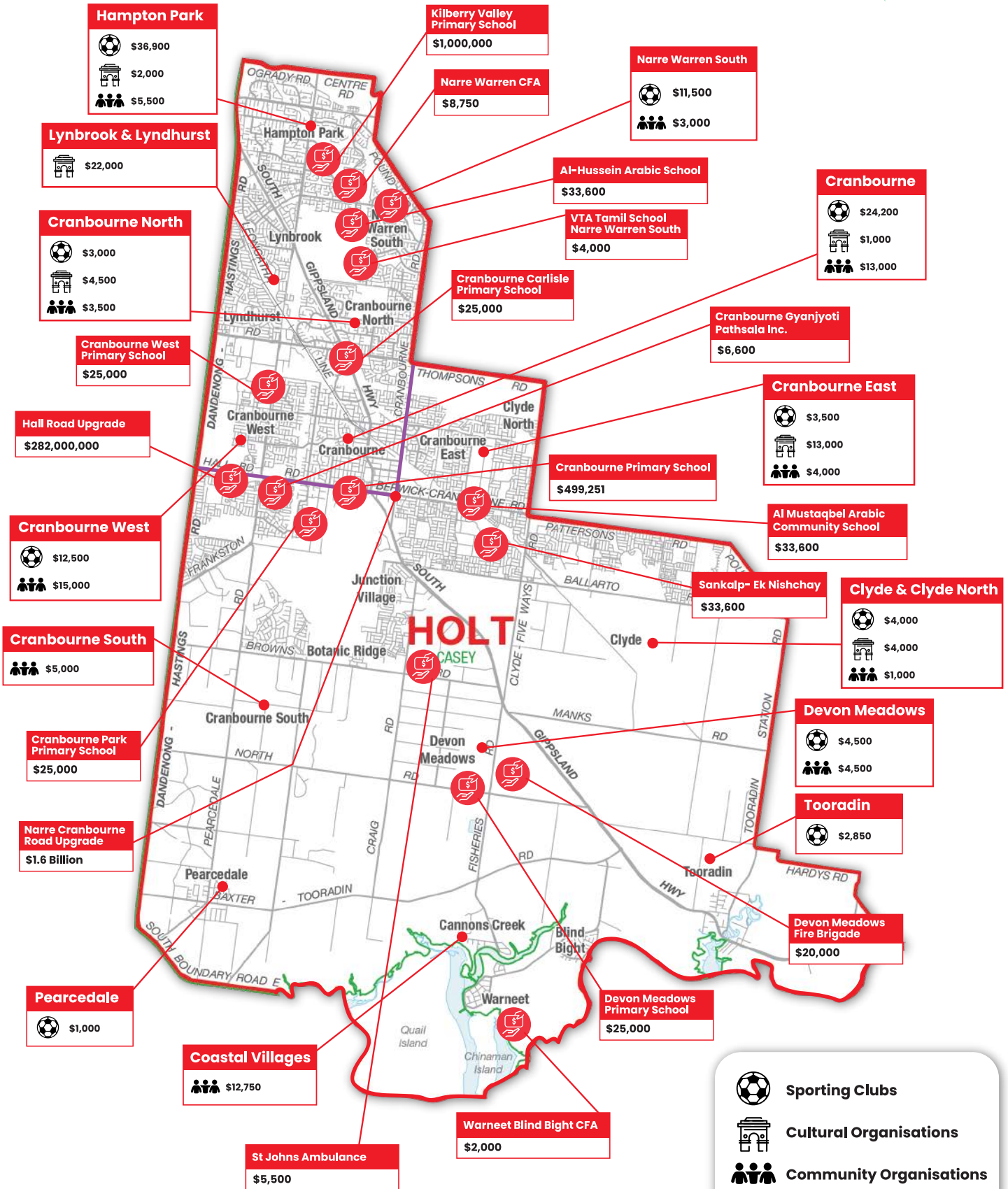
Since being elected, I've focused on enhancing mobile coverage in Clyde, Clyde North, and Cranbourne East. Last November, over 5,000 residents responded to my survey, guiding my advocacy efforts.

Since then, I have engaged with Telstra, Optus, TPG, and the City of Casey, securing \$103 million from the Albanese Government to support new towers. I am pleased to announce that 12 new towers have been approved, with community consultations underway and construction starting soon, extending until 2026.

Additionally, two fast-tracked towers in Clyde, funded by the Peri-Urban Mobile Program, will be located on Bells Road and northwest of Tooradin. These towers, operational next year, will significantly enhance coverage for thousands of residents. My commitment remains to ensure reliable mobile coverage for every home in our community.



# Delivering for our community



-  Sporting Clubs
-  Cultural Organisations
-  Community Organisations
-  Upgrades



## Narre Cranbourne Road Upgrade

The \$1.6 billion South Eastern Roads Upgrade has delivered 34 kilometres of new lanes – cutting congestion, improving safety and reducing travel times for nearly 130,000 motorists daily.

In October I was pleased to announce the conclusion of major works on the South Eastern Road Upgrades at Narre Warren–Cranbourne Rd.

As someone who uses Narre Warren–Cranbourne Road every day, I understand how vital this road is to our community. This project is just one of the ways the Federal Labor Government is investing in Melbourne’s growing Southeast.

## Banning Excessive Card Payment Fees

I always say, “Cash is King,” but in our ever-digitising world, card payments are becoming the new normal. Unfortunately, these transactions often come with hidden surcharges that hurt consumers and small businesses.

In response, the Albanese Labor Government is preparing to ban excessive debit card surcharges, pending work by the RBA. This ban will put more money back into Australians’ pockets and help small businesses compete more fairly against large retailers like Coles and Woolworths.



## Tanya Plibersek MP visits Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park in Pearcedale

It was a privilege to welcome the Minister for the Environment and Water of Australia, Tanya Plibersek MP, to Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park to witness the vital work being done to protect our native wildlife.

Minister Plibersek highlighted the Albanese Government’s commitment to the Nature Positive Plan, stating:

*“Australia is blessed with some of the world’s most unique and precious species, and our government is determined to protect them.”*



## Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visits Pearcedale

In June, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited JD Propagation in Pearcedale.

During his visit, Prime Minister Albanese promoted the government's cost-of-living measures and highlighted the role of small businesses in job creation:

*"This business in Southeast Melbourne grows nearly 14 million plants a year. And on Monday (July 1) nearly 14 million Australians will get a tax cut. We're focused on cutting taxes, growing wages and helping families with the cost of living because we want an economy where every Australian can thrive."*

It was great to see our Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese in the southeastern suburbs and I would like to thank Jen and Dan for hosting us.



## Remembrance Day



On the 11th of November we gathered across Australia and the Commonwealth to remember the end of WWI. It was a day to honour the sacrifice of the men and women of our armed forces who have passed away in the line of duty.



This year I attended the Remembrance Day service hosted at the Pearcedale Public Hall. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event possible.

## Neighbourhood Morning Tea with Minister for Social Services

Recently I hosted a Neighbourhood Morning Tea with the Minister for Social Services, Amanda Rishworth, in Narre Warren South.

Minister Rishworth spoke about the Albanese Government's reforms to the welfare system including:

- Increasing Rental Assistance by 43%
- Doubling the income threshold for Senior Concession Cards, and
- Freezing the cost of PBS medicines.

Minister Rishworth has also led the government's work on extending Paid Parental Leave to 26 weeks and reforming domestic violence services.





**Cassandra**

**Fernando MP**

*Here to help*

**Thank you for putting your trust in me to represent you and our community in our nation's Parliament.**

**I am always here to assist you with a range of matters, including:**

- Centrelink
- Medicare
- Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
- Superannuation
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- Immigration, citizenship and customs
  - Passports
  - Veteran's affairs
- Pensions and My Aged Care
- Child Support

*Get in touch*

☎ (03) 8790 0556

✉ [cassandra.fernando.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:cassandra.fernando.mp@aph.gov.au)

📍 Shop 7, 1060 Thompsons Road  
Cranbourne West VIC 3977

🌐 [Cassandrafernandomp.com.au](http://Cassandrafernandomp.com.au)

📱 @CassandraFernandoMP

