



The Mornington Messenger

NOVEMBER 2009

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From David's Desk...

As this edition of the Mornington Messenger goes to press we are just 52 weeks away from the State election.

The decision Victorians make on 28th November 2010 will be critical, and the effects will be felt for many years to come.

The Peninsula region knows only too well that basic services continue to decline despite a rapidly growing population and a higher than average proportion of children and older adults..

The Brumby Government has been particularly negligent in the areas of public transport, public safety (see separate story), proper town planning guidelines and in the provision of basic health services.

Our ambulance service lurches from crisis to crisis, with waiting times

frequently stretching to well past the hour. Frankston Hospital Emergency Department seems barely able to handle the demands placed upon it, while waiting times for Elective Surgery continue to blow out. Recent figures show that less than half category two patients were admitted within the



ise to place Protective Services Officers on every train station be-

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benchmark 90 days.

The Opposition has released a number of policy initiatives in recent weeks, including a prom-

tween 6pm and the last train, a plan that will be particularly welcome for the many Peninsula residents who use Frankston Station.

A comprehensive reform of the Freedom of Information system has also been announced, including the replacement of the internal review process with one undertaken by an FOI Commissioner.

The new rules will ensure that any information refused is refused for a good reason, for example privacy considerations, and not simply because it might be embarrassing or disclose incompetence.

The FOI Commissioner will complement the already announced Independent Broad Based Anti Corruption Commission, which the Premier continues to reject, and form part of a suite of policies to ensure open and accountable government in Victoria.

The announcements are part of a comprehensive vision for Victoria to be laid out prior to the next election.

Reshuffle adds Environment role

I was pleased to be given additional responsibilities following the recent changes to the Coalition Shadow Ministry, adding the role of Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Environment. My existing roles as Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for

Local Government and Deputy Chair of the Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee remain unchanged.

The Environment portfolio covers wide range of public policy areas including Crown Lands, National Parks, the Alpine

Resorts, Catchment and Coastal Management and Fauna & Flora and Environment Protection to name but a few.

The portfolio covers many of the challenges facing the Mornington Peninsula, particularly the proper management of

our public lands and protection of our remnant vegetation and native fauna.

I am very pleased to be working with Mary Wooldridge on issues of critical importance for the future sustainability of our State.

New Boating Zones Still “Years Away”

Despite a long running consultation process Peninsula beach-goers and boat-users may have to wait four years for new recreational boating zones to be implemented.

Last month in Parliament I sought an assurance from the Minister for the Environment that the review of boating zones for both Port Phillip and Westernport would be completed, and boat owners and beach users made aware of the outcomes, prior to Christmas.

The Minister has now revealed, only weeks before holiday season gets under way, that it may take three to four years for the roll out of zones to occur.

Local beaches affected include Mills Beach and Fisherman's Beach at Mornington and Mount Martha North and South Beaches. The plans include No boating zones opposite both Mount Martha and Mornington Life-saving Clubs which will now not be implemented for summer.

With a rapidly growing population both locally and in Melbourne's southern suburbs Peninsula beaches host more and more users each year. There is a very real risk of conflict between swimmers and boat users, and a risk of serious injury for swimmers.



The review has been exhaustive and the recommendations worthwhile. It's now up to the State Government to stop finding excuses and to get on with implementing the recommendations before a serious incident occurs.

In the House...

Speeches in the Legislative Assembly in November include:

[Mental Health Services at Crisis Point](#)

[Parliamentary and Government Accountability](#)

[Regulating Medical Professionals](#)

[River Red Gum Conservation Measures](#)

[The Commonwealth and 'Fair Work' Changes](#)

[Local Crime Statistics Must Not Be Scrapped](#)

[Mt Eliza Woodlands Must be Protected Now](#)

[Why the Brumby-Madden Development Tax is Flawed](#)

[Faulty Logic in 'Hoon Boating' Bill](#)



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Next Sitting:

December 8th—10th

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