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FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR



THE MACKELLAR MATTERS



It has been an anxious few weeks with the conflict in the Middle East weighing heavily on many in our community. Like you, I am hoping the recent ceasefire is a step toward ongoing peace.

In Canberra, Independent MPs have been stepping up to push for practical, long-term solutions and a vision for our nation. When so much feels uncertain globally, getting good policy right and fighting for a strong democracy at home has never mattered more. So, here is what I have been working on throughout March.



Parliamentary Wrap Up

A fair share on the return of our gas resources

Australia is rich in gas, and it belongs to all of us. However, right now more than half of it is effectively being given away for free, with some countries even on-selling it for a profit. Last sitting fortnight I joined The Australia Institute, fellow crossbench colleagues, and Labor MP Ed Husic in Parliament to call for a tax on gas exports. It is time that multinational companies are taxed appropriately for the sale of our natural resources. As Australians we deserve a fair return. Each week we go without a gas export tax is costing us around \$350 million, funding that could be going towards our healthcare, education, climate resilience, or defence. Check out the live Gas Giveaway tracker to see how much we are losing in revenue every moment we do not act.

[Gas Giveaway tracker](#)

Cost of living relief for commuters

With petrol prices soaring due to the war in Iran, the Government has passed a temporary measure to halve the fuel excise on petrol and diesel until 30 June. This should save around \$19 on a typical 65-litre tank. It's not a perfect solution, but any relief is welcome and I know this will make a real difference for many in our community who rely on their cars every day.

In the meantime, sales of electric vehicles and bikes are also soaring. Going electric will help insulate individuals and our nation from liquid fuel shocks, but our Government must invest methodically in supporting infrastructure, such as cycleways to make commuting safe and feasible, and more EV charging stations for driver peace of mind.

Time for housing reform this budget

After 25 years without real reform our housing tax system is outdated, and it's locking young people and essential workers out of the market. That is not what it was designed to do. Here on the Northern Beaches young families are being pushed out and nurses, teachers, and police are being priced out of the communities they serve.

New polling from YouGov shows strong support in Mackellar for change, with 62% backing a reduction in property tax concessions like the capital gains tax discount. It is time to make the system fairer, including reviewing these tax settings, so first home buyers have a genuine chance to get ahead. [Listen to my interview on ABC Sydney Breakfast.](#)

[Question to the Treasurer on Housing](#)

Half-baked gambling reform

Australians deserve better than half measures on something as serious as gambling reform. The Murphy Report on this issue was clear: the social harms caused by gambling should be treated as a public health problem, and a full ban is needed to properly protect people, especially children.

The Government's proposed reforms are a start, but they are piecemeal and unlikely to be effective. Australians are the biggest gambling losers per capita in the world, yet analysis shows the Government's reforms would reduce gambling spending by just 0.8%. We would still be exposed to up to 3 gambling ads an hour on TV, including our kids. If we are serious about reducing gambling harm and putting an end to our children being exposed to gambling ads, then nothing short of a full marketing ban is needed. The bill is expected to be introduced in May, and I will be pushing for strong amendments alongside my crossbench colleagues.

Putting plastics back on the agenda

In Australia only 12% of plastic is recycled, the rest ends up in landfill. I am putting plastic back on the agenda. I recently joined Independent MP Kate Chaney and the Boomerang Alliance to push for national plastic packaging reform, putting the responsibility for managing plastic waste and reducing its use back on the companies producing it. For too long voluntary schemes have let big corporations off the hook while individuals and households are left to deal with the mess. Here on the Northern Beaches, we see the impact on our beaches and marine life. With growing evidence of microplastics accumulating in our bodies this is not just an environmental issue anymore, it is a health issue too. More to come – so watch this space! And in the meantime, [watch our video here.](#)

Speeches in Parliament

[It's time to End Pork Barrelling of Community Grants](#)

[Question to the Treasurer on Housing Reform and Capital Gains Tax](#)

[Speaking on the High Seas Biodiversity Bill](#)

[Celebrating our local Rural Fire Service volunteers](#)

[Urgent need to tax gas exports so all Australians get a fair share](#)

[Statement of appreciation to the incredible local organisations in Mackellar](#)

Wakehurst Parkway & Mona Vale Road West Updates

The NSW Government's recent announcement that construction for traffic flow and safety improvements on the Wakehurst Parkway will begin mid-year is the welcome news our

community has been waiting for. Contractor engagement timelines have also been brought forward on the Mona Vale Road West Upgrade to early 2027 from 2028. By working constructively with all levels of government on these projects, our independent representatives have been able to drive genuine commitments that have translated to real progress on the ground.

I also encourage you to [have your say on the Northern Beaches Network Review](#) and help shape the future of local transport.

Out and about in Mackellar

It has been a big few weeks out and about, and I have loved seeing our community show up in such a strong way. From celebrating our incredible local artists at the **Pittwater Artist Trail Open Night**, to joining the **Manly Warringah Wolves for their Anti Violence Round** and getting in the water with the kids at the **Collaroy Disabled Surfers Day**, there is always so much going on that makes our community more vibrant.

It was great to participate in the **Head Above Water** swim again this year, and I am so proud of the **Team Sophie Striders** who pushed through tough weather conditions at Coastrek to raise over \$4,000 for mental health.

The **RFS medal awards night** is always a very special occasion recognising the dedication of our local RFS volunteers, and welcoming new Australians at a **Citizenship Ceremony** is indeed an honour. Celebrating **Harmony Day** was also a highlight, with a beautiful Welcome Dinner bringing people together to share food, culture, and stories.



Sophie in the news

ABC Radio Sydney Breakfast

[On the need for housing and Capital Gains Tax reform](#)

The Daily Telegraph

[Teal MPs join calls for Labor to reform plastic packaging standards](#)

The Today Show

[On the rise of youth crime and cost of school sporting activities](#)

ABC 7.30 Report

[Calling for a 25% Tax on Gas Exports](#)

Constituent wins

✓ **Helping families through tough times**

A local single mum waited more than two months for Centrelink payments and was living on Vinnies and Salvos vouchers. Following advocacy from Sophie's office with Services Australia, two emergency lump-sum payments were approved and the outstanding benefits granted within a week, providing much-needed stability for the family.

✓ **NDIS advocacy delivering results**

After a local resident's NDIS funding was significantly reduced following a request for a new wheelchair, Sophie's office stepped in to help. The reduction left her without appropriate mobility support, causing severe pain, isolation, and declining mental health. After advocacy with the NDIA, her funding was restored and a new self-propelling wheelchair approved. The outcome has made an immediate difference to her independence and wellbeing. 'Can't thank you enough, without your input I would still be waiting.'

Constituent wins

📌 **Modernised Multicultural Grants Program: Infrastructure for Multicultural Communities.** Batch 1 grants are open and will close on 18 May 2026. This grant provides funding to deliver community infrastructure that will support multicultural communities to connect and commune in a designated physical environment. You can apply for one of 3 streams of grant funding based on the type of infrastructure project and the amount of grant funding you require for your project. You can only apply for funding in one batch. See the [Grant Guidelines](#) for more information.

📌 **Calling all sports stars.** Applications for Round 4 2025/26 of the [Local Sporting Champions](#) and [Local Para Champions](#) grants close on 30 April 2026. These grants for competitors, coaches, and officials go towards assisting with the costs of participating in state, national, and international championships.

Go Solar Mackellar event

Looking to cut your energy bills and reduce your impact on the planet? If you're thinking about solar, batteries, or EVs consider attending an upcoming Go Solar Mackellar session.

- 2.30pm Saturday 18 April at Bayview
- 2.30pm Saturday 23 May at Newport

🔗 [Register via the Go Solar Mackellar website](#)

Get in touch

If there is an issue you would like to raise with me or something our electorate team can help you with, please email Sophie.Scamps.MP@aph.gov.au. Also don't forget to follow me on social media via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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