

THE MACKELLAR MATTERS

Dear ,

Along with Australians all over our nation, I am heartbroken at the senseless attack on my colleague and friend, Dr Helen Haines in October. We must continue striving to build a better and brighter future for our country by engaging respectfully in debate and advocating constructive solutions. We continue to think of Helen as she recovers.

These events have also shone a light on the way our public discourse has changed, particularly online. **Too often, outrage and division are amplified at the expense of respect, empathy and understanding.** When social media companies profit from keeping people angry and engaged, the consequences are felt across our communities.

That's why I support the introduction of a Digital Duty of Care, so Australians can have greater control over the algorithms that shape what they see online.

Read more about the work I've supported in Parliament this October below.

Warmly,

Sophie.







PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

Gas policy changes
While I voted in favour of the Domestic Gas Reservation Bill, it does reflect a missed opportunity to get Australians a fair return for their resources with a tax on gas exports. Keeping more Australian gas for Australians is a positive move and will help ease energy prices, but we continue to give away half of our gas exports for free. Japan makes more from an import tax on our gas than we do exporting it.

I moved amendments to the Bill that would limit LNG export licenses to a maximum of 10 years (instead of 20-50 years) and require that the reservation scheme operate consistently with Australia's emission reduction commitments. Read my speech.

Red Lines Package
I was honoured to introduce a suite of bills designed to ensure that Australia does not arm, fund, invest in or profit from serious violations of international law. Over 6,000 people have signed my petition calling on the Government to support the Red Lines Package. Read my speech.

Scrapping of allied health cap a win for veterans
A huge win for veterans around the country and in Mackellar, who pushed the Government to scrap its proposed $5,000 cap on veterans' allied health services. Thank you to the many local veterans who advocated so strongly on this issue. I was proud to back them in! Read my statement.

Private Health Insurance Rebate for over 65s
While I support the Government's objective of ensuring taxpayer funded rebates are properly targeted, reform must protect pensioners and those on low incomes. Many people have told me they won't be able to keep their insurance with the rebate reduction and future premium rises. Read my speech.

Minimum Tax on Discretionary Trust
I voted against the Government's proposed minimum tax on discretionary trusts due to concerns about the impact on small businesses. While tax reform is important, changes should not unfairly increase the burden on businesses already facing rising costs, red tape and economic uncertainty. I was concerned that the Government had not adequately mitigated the impacts of the measure, particularly given the significant costs some businesses could face to restructure their affairs. Read my speech

Community Win - Protecting Australia's Defence Sites
I stood with the veterans of Mackellar who wanted to see our nationally significant Defence sites, including HMAS Penguin and Victoria Barracks, remain in Commonwealth hands for future generations.

After a massive effort from the community to protest the sell-off, the Government has announced that the HMAS Penguin and Victoria will remain in public hands. A big congratulations to all who added their name to the call, from the members of our local RSLs to those who signed the online petition. Read my speech.

Keeping Australians safe online
Last week Parliament debated the Digital Duty of Care Bill, which is designed to make the big multinational tech companies responsible for making their platforms safer for Australians.

I stood up to propose an amendment that would set up a digital services ombudsman, that would help everyday Australians get a resolution when they have an issue on social media. Complaints like losing access to a small business account or flagging harmful content often go unanswered, and my proposal provides a practical solution. Read my speech



Past Events

Tax our Gas
Thank you to the hundreds of locals who came together with Senator David Pocock and I to call for multinational gas exporters to pay a fairer share for Australia's gas. At a time when families are under real cost-of-living pressure, a fair gas export tax could raise billions for the hospitals, healthcare, schools, childcare and infrastructure our communities rely on. Watch the recording.

Big Beach Brekky
The Big Beach Brekky brought together locals and community organisations to raise awareness of the supports available for men's mental health. A massive thanks to the Northern Beaches Men's Wellbeing Collective for making such a fantastic event possible.



Upcoming Events

November Town Hall
This is a chance for you to ask me your questions, catch up on what's been happening in Parliament and discuss my policies.

Thursday 12 November | 5.30 pm | November Town Hall

RSVP today

GRANTS

Congratulations to the 38 Mackellar community organisations who will soon receive a total of $66,665 through the 2026 Federal Volunteer Grant Program! The program provides grants of between $1,000 and $5,000 to not-for-profit organisations to help them support their volunteers and encourage more people to volunteer.

Keep up to date with current and upcoming grant opportunities by signing up to the free Mackellar Grant Finder. Visit my website for resources to help you find and apply for grants.

OUT AND ABOUT IN MACKELLAR

Getting out in the community and seeing what the locals are up to is my favourite part of this job. In October, I went to a Frocktober fitness class at BUMP Dee Why, joined the Two Feet and a Heartbeat Walk to raise awareness for childhood-onset heart disease, spoke at the Art for Gaza fundraiser at Dunbar Park in Avalon, and so much more.

I heard from the community at the Northern Beaches Climate Action Network, as well as at the Mackellar Small Business Roundtable. It's always heartening to see so many locals passionately advocate for their community. I was also honoured to attend the Northern Beaches Council's Citizenship Ceremony.

From the Aloha Music Festival, to the Street Side Medic, to a Mackellar local representing Australia in the Parkour World Cup, there's so much to love about our community!



CONSTITUENT WINS

Long-awaited DVA support for a local veteran
After more than 18 months waiting for his DVA claim to be assessed, a local veteran from Mona Vale contacted our office for help. We followed up with DVA to help move his claim forward, and we're pleased it has now been approved. After decades of service, he can now access the support and recognition he is entitled to.

Helping a local taxpayer resolve an ATO matter
When Paul from Narrabeen was facing financial pressure following an unexpected redundancy, our office stepped in to help resolve an outstanding matter with the ATO. Our Community Liaison Officer, Carmen, worked with the ATO to help secure his refund, which has now been paid. Paul was relieved to

receive his refund, telling our office: **“Thank you for all your support with this. I'm a very relieved constituent.”**

HAVE YOUR SAY

Access and Affordability of Medical Specialists
The Australian Government is consulting on reform options to make private specialist services more affordable and accessible. Submissions close Friday, 27 November 2026.
Make your submission

Community Consultation on Australia's Migration Plan
Join Mackellar locals for a live online community consultation about Australia's Migration Plan, 6pm Thursday November 19th.
Places are limited, submit your expression of interest to take part.

IN THE NEWS

In the news:

News 24 On the Hour

On Pork Barrelling, a Digital Ombudsman, and gas reservation

ABC RN Breakfast

On Helen Haines and social division

ABC Afternoon Briefing

On social media division and Helen Haines

ABC Radio Sydney

On immigration and Helen Haines

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.

DR sophie scamps MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR

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To stop receiving emails, .