



Dear Friend,

This week I delivered my Inaugural Speech to the NSW Parliament. It was a wonderful occasion because it not only marked a moment in history, but was also attended by many supporters, colleagues and of course my family.

I am incredibly proud to represent the best electorate in NSW and in the speech I laid out my values as ideas over ideology, collaboration over confrontation, and the collective good over partisan gain. I also detailed my priorities including Mona Vale Road, planning, environmental protection, health, small business and gambling reform (as covered by the [Sydney Morning Herald](#)).

Thank you to everyone who supported me on this momentous journey. Elections are not won by chance. It was because of the dedication of my team and hundreds of volunteers.

Having been elected, I now represent the whole community, and my commitment to Pittwater is to serve with integrity, to champion evidence-based policy and to ensure that our voice is not just heard, but acted upon.

You can [read my speech here](#).

You can [watch my speech in full here](#).



Northern Beaches Council Proposed Rate Rises

I am very concerned about the proposed Northern Beaches Council rate rise, especially in a cost-of-living crisis. This is a huge issue and I've been contacted by many people opposing this rise.

I attended the council meeting where the decision was taken by the majority of councillors (state MPs like me have no jurisdiction to vote on these decisions) to apply for a special rate variation (SRV) of almost 40%. All councils, including NBC, need to do more to manage budgets efficiently, make cost cuts and demonstrate austerity before applying for an SRV. They must also better communicate and listen to the community.

We are not alone. Councils across NSW (25 in the last three years - including Liberal Councils like Hornsby under Phillip Ruddock) are facing financial challenges and seeking SRVs, indicating a systemic problem requiring structural change. The problem is so ubiquitous it is the subject of both state and federal parliamentary inquiries.

This week I met Local Government Minister Ron Hoenig regarding an independent audit and responding to the recent [NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Ability for Local Government to Fund Infrastructure and Services](#) (I encourage you to read the recommendations).

Northern Beaches Council as well as urging the government to launch an immediate review into council CEO salaries.

Finally I called for the government to adopt most of the recommendations from the [NSW Parliamentary Inquiry](#), which will put downwards pressure on rates.

I have also agreed to present [a parliamentary e-petition](#) calling for an independent inquiry, an audit, and a halt to rate increases in the interim.

The petition requires 20,000 signatures to trigger a debate in Parliament and As your state MP, I am doing everything I can to address wider problems like cost shifting from state and federal government.

urge everyone to sign it. I also urge you to sign [a second e-petition](#) that's been launched. The more pressure we can put on the state government, the better.

[Read more](#)

You can watch my [Notice of Motion on Northern Beaches Council rate rises in full here](#).



**Sign the Northern Beaches Council proposed rate rise
parliamentary e-petition**



190x Bus Service Survey

I've responded to a flood of complaints about the 190x express bus service from North Avalon to the city. What was heralded as a minor timetable adjustment turned out to be a 25% cut in morning services. In addition to timetable cuts, continuous cancellations have left commuters angry, frustrated and seeking alternatives services.

The complaints coincide with an [Audit Office report](#) criticising Transport for NSW's lack of oversight of privatised bus services.

I met commuters in Avalon to discuss their concerns, and I made a statement in Parliament, which [you can watch here](#), calling for services to be reinstated. I am also meeting with the Minister for Transport John Graham and will present him my survey responses.

[My survey - How have 190X timetable cuts impacted you?](#) has already had 170 responses. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete it. Your feedback helps me build our case for better services. The survey is still open if you want to add your comments.

Media coverage included the [Northern Beaches Advocate](#) and ABC breakfast radio.

I'll keep up the pressure until we get the service we deserve and were promised north of the B1!

[Find out more](#)



Mona Vale Road update

Now that the summer break is over, I will be briefed on the long-awaited Northern Beaches Network Review, which I have every confidence will highlight the need for Mona Vale Road West to be delivered. I will update you on socials and in my next newsletter.

Please [sign the petition](#) if you haven't already. Adding your voice to the call for action helps me demonstrate broad community support for the road to be fixed.

My latest steps, include:

- Writing to the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese asking the federal government to match funding particularly in light of the LA Fires and Mona Vale Road being a key evacuation route.
- Attending a 1.5 hour briefing with the TfNSW and Minister for Roads John Graham next week
- Calling on NSW Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib to carry out an audit of bush fire risk in the area and the extent to which a completed Mona Vale Road West would reduce risk.

[Sign the Finish Mona Vale Rd Petition](#)

E-Bike Inquiry Report - Tell me what you think

Families, kids and many in our community are enjoying the freedom and convenience of e-bikes, but there are inherent risks - not only for riders but also serious risks for pedestrians and drivers. I'm a firm supporter of improved regulation and better enforcement.

I receive a lot of correspondence regarding e-Bikes, particularly with the Northern Beaches seeing a swift rise in the prevalence of 'fat bikes'.

I have been eagerly awaiting the Report for the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into [Use of E-Scooters, E-Bikes and Other Related Mobility Devices](#), which was released late Thursday. This was a thorough and extensive review. I welcome the recommendations and will be putting pressure on the government to respond quickly to the inquiry. I encourage you to read the recommendations and complete [my survey](#) on whether you agree with them. I'll also be holding a town hall on this issue.

[Complete my e-bike survey](#)

Nominations for Seniors Local Achievement Awards 2025

Do you know a senior who is making a difference in our community - a leader in business, environment, science, health and wellbeing, lifelong learning or community service?

Tell us why they deserve recognition with a Local Achievement Award as part of the 2025 NSW Seniors Festival celebrations in March. Please email us at Pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au asap.



TOWN HALL: Let's talk about the future of planning on the Northern Beaches

I'm looking forward to being on the panel for a Better Cities forum: 'What's next for the Northern Beaches'. We'll be discussing how to balance density and affordability with ecology and nature and whether the community should have more say in planning.

All are welcome. Register via bettercities.org.au.

- 6-8pm Wednesday 26 Feb 2025
- Mona Vale Memorial Hall, 1 Park St, Mona Vale

Community Building Partnership Grants - Incorporated not-for-profit community organisations can apply for grants of between \$10,000 and \$100,000 for facilities and equipment. Applications close 5pm, Friday 21 February 2025. [Find out more](#)

NSW Government Creative Industries - Connectivity Grants offer small to medium arts and cultural organisations, not-for-profit organisations up to \$30-50k. Applications close 17 March 2025. [Find out more](#).

The NSW Government is co-funding an EV charging network. They are seeking landowners and leaseholders interested in hosting stations. Applications close 28 March 2025. [Find out more](#).

As I promised, 2025 is going to be a busy year. Having now delivered my Inaugural Speech I can (finally) be an active member in NSW Parliament, as well as in my community. As most of you know, I am not one to let an opportunity like this pass me by. I plan to keep working to deliver results for Pittwater.

Please follow me on my socials for day-to-day updates.

Kind regards,
Jacqui



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Jacqui for Pittwater · Australia

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