



Local student leaders at Parliament



Willoughby Seniors Morning Tea



Chatting to Cammeray commuters

Across our community, the message I am hearing most often is this: people are doing it tough and feel they are not being listened to by governments. The cost of living remains the number one issue, with pressure coming from every direction, from groceries and housing to transport, childcare, energy and other household bills. My focus remains firmly on standing up for our community, holding the Government to account where it is falling short, and delivering practical improvements that make a real difference locally.

In this edition of the Willoughby Community Newsletter, you will find updates on my advocacy on fuel prices, e-bikes, tolls, roads, childcare, water infrastructure and the need to ensure development is properly planned and backed by the services our community needs. I also share progress on important local projects that are being delivered, including road upgrades, the new Falcon Street ambulance station, and support for grassroots community organisations across our area. We also celebrate this year's Willoughby Woman of the Year and recognise some of the many people who make our community so strong.

As always, I am working hard to provide strong representation for Willoughby and to deliver locally. I'm here to serve you, so please get in touch if you have any feedback or if I can be of any assistance.

Warm regards

Tim James

Cracking Down On Unsafe E-Bikes

Locals are fed up with unsafe e-bike use, particularly high-powered fat bikes and delivery riders racing through busy pedestrian areas. Footpaths should be safe for everyone, but too often safety is being put at risk by those failing to follow the rules. I've been raising this with Ministers and local police and am also backing practical action to improve safety and accountability. That includes introducing identification plates for certain e-bike users, such as delivery riders, shared e-bike schemes and younger riders, to empower police to enforce the rules. I'm also working with ride share companies and supporting stronger regulation to better address dumped bikes and improve management, including proper docking requirements. E-bikes are a valuable part of our transport mix, but they must be used responsibly. I will keep advocating for safer streets, safer footpaths and stronger enforcement to keep us all safe.



XYZ 123
ELECTRIC BICYCLE
NEW SOUTH WALES

**WE NEED ACCOUNTABILITY
FOR E-BIKES TO ENSURE RIDER
AND COMMUNITY SAFETY.**

Daily Telegraph
**E-BIKE INJURIES IN NSW
DOUBLE IN LAST YEAR**
**AS CONCERN GROWS FOR
POWERFUL, MODIFIED RIDES**
10 JANUARY 2026

Boosting Fuel Price Transparency

The recent fuel crisis has seen prices surge and supply become erratic, placing immense pressure on families, commuters and business. It's clear we need to restore our state's capacity and resilience to these global shocks. To give motorists more price certainty and control at the bowser, I introduced a Bill in Parliament to require service stations to lock in their fuel price for 24 hours. It is a simple, practical reform that empowers motorists to shop around by giving them the confidence that the price they see in FuelCheck is the price they will pay. Disappointingly, the Government voted down urgent consideration of the Bill. More support is needed for people to deal with fuel costs and secure supplies. I encourage motorists to use the FuelCheck app or visit fuelcheck.nsw.gov.au to compare prices and find the best deal nearby.



**FUEL
CHECK**

**FIND THE
CHEAPEST FUEL**

fuelcheck.nsw.gov.au

Or download from the Apple or
Google Play App Stores



Toll Shock On The Way

Currently motorists pay to travel on the Harbour Bridge and Tunnel in only one direction. These crossings were paid off long ago, yet the Government has now confirmed it will in coming years introduce tolls on these harbour crossings in both directions – effectively a doubling of the toll. This extra cost for local commuters comes at a time when household budgets are already under real pressure. I have strongly opposed these moves and launched a petition calling on the Government to immediately rule out this toll increase. Please sign to send a message that our community deserves better than to be slugged with another hit to the cost of living.

The image shows two green rectangular road signs. The top sign has three white upward-pointing arrows at the top, followed by the text 'TWO WAY TOLLING AHEAD' in a white box, and then 'NEW HARBOUR BRIDGE AND TUNNEL TOLLS CONFIRMED' in white capital letters. The bottom sign has the text 'SIGN THE PETITION' and 'TIMJAMESMP.COM.AU/TOLLS' in white capital letters, followed by a QR code on the right side. The signs are set against a background of a road with cars.

Celebrating Willoughby's Woman Of The Year

A remarkable local volunteer, Kay Tang, has been recognised as the 2026 Willoughby Woman of the Year. At 98, Kay is one of our community's longest-serving volunteers and has made an extraordinary contribution over many years. Through 28 years of service at MOSAIC Multicultural Centre in Chatswood, she has supported migrants and culturally diverse communities, helping people settle, connect and feel at home. Originally from Taiwan, Kay has also shared her talents through dance and cultural activities, enriching the lives of so many. Congratulations to Kay and thank you for your service.

Kay Tang



Recognising Local Achievements

It is a joy and privilege to recognise locals who are giving back to our community and are doing us proud. Ritu Mirakhur and Sheila Patel received NSW Community Service Awards for their many years of leadership of the Indian MOSAIC Group. Through their dedication, they have helped support families and new migrants engage and contribute. Two outstanding young locals have also been recognised with a State representative award for representing NSW with distinction. Charles Lukas competed for NSW at the 2025 School Sport Australia National Athletics Championships in the Boys Tetrathlon and the 800 metre Sprint Medley. Eva Handel of Northbridge achieved exceptional success at the 10 Years and Under National Tennis Championships in Adelaide, finishing third in Australia in singles and becoming the top-ranked girl from NSW. If you know someone contributing locally, or who has represented NSW, please let me know.



Ritu Mirakhur and Sheila Patel



Eva Handel



Charles Lukas

Strong Representation For Our Community

New Liberal Leader Kellie Sloane brings renewed energy, fresh ideas and a strong focus and understanding of the challenges facing families. I look forward to working with her to provide a positive vision for NSW. I am proud to continue serving in the Shadow Cabinet, with responsibilities in Fair Trading, Work Health and Safety and Building, as well as new portfolios in Local Government and Veterans. These are important roles, but my priority remains clear: working hard for Willoughby and making sure our community has a strong voice on the issues that matter to you locally.



A New Ambulance Station For The Lower North Shore

Faster emergency care is on the way, with a new ambulance station on Falcon Street set to strengthen frontline services across the Lower North Shore. I advocated strongly for this investment and was pleased to secure it in early 2023. Construction is expected to begin in coming months with the station due to open in 2028. The station will help deliver quicker response times, better coverage and improved support for paramedics when every minute counts. This is a significant investment in our community's health and in the emergency services our area relies on.



North Sydney Ambulance

Safer, Smoother Local Roads

Keeping our local roads moving safely and efficiently remains a key priority for our community, and I have been working to secure practical improvements across Willoughby that make everyday travel easier.

Recent upgrades I've secured include the resurfacing of much of Willoughby Road and Penshurst Street, safer pedestrian crossings at Rosalind Street and Sophia Street, a new turning lane at Miller and Falcon Streets and upgraded crossings near Chatswood's public schools. Work is also underway on upgrading Centennial Avenue, Chatswood to improve school drop-off and pick-ups, crossings along Chandos Street in St Leonards, and a new High Pedestrian Activity Area at Castle Cove shops.

At the same time, traffic from the Northern Beaches continues to put heavy pressure on key roads across the Lower North Shore. I have encouraged residents to have their say on the Government's Northern Beaches Road Network Review, but that must now be backed by real funding and real delivery, not left as an unfunded wish list. I'll be seeking to turn this review into a tangible plan delivering real improvements.

As the Warringah Freeway Upgrade nears completion and major traffic changes come into effect, please keep an eye out for updates: caportal.com.au/rms/wfu. I'll continue to monitor the impacts and raise any issues so our roads keep flowing. Please share your views with me.

Investing In Our Water Infrastructure

Recent Sydney Water failures have caused real disruption for local residents. Burst water mains in Willoughby and Cremorne have left homes without water and caused damage. A major pumping station incident also forced residents across Northern Sydney to cut back water use. I have raised concerns directly with Sydney Water, particularly about poor communication during these incidents. When essential services are disrupted, residents deserve clear, timely updates.

These failures also highlight the need for ongoing investment in the basic infrastructure our community relies on every day. As our area grows, ageing water infrastructure must be properly maintained, renewed and upgraded so it can keep pace.



Burst main on Willoughby Rd

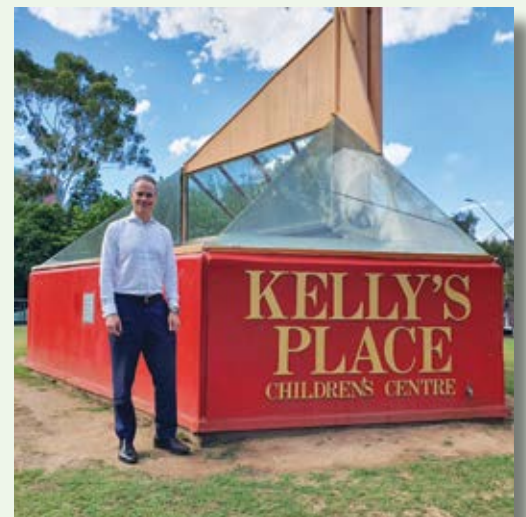
Building Sustainable, Liveable Communities

Our community supports the need for more housing. We want the next generation to have the chance to live close to where they grew up and Willoughby has long done its part in meeting and exceeding housing targets. But new homes must be backed by the schools, transport, open space and essential services that make a community work and housing liveable. That is where the current system is falling short. More and more, we are seeing proper precinct-wide planning give way to a piecemeal, site-by-site approach where local voices are being sidelined and public benefit too often overlooked. That is leaving our area with major development but too little supporting infrastructure, including pressure on schools, public space, roads and community facilities. Sites such as Chatswood Metro dive site and land at RNSH, which should help deliver public infrastructure are being sold off. I have raised these concerns with government and will continue advocating for proper strategic planning, genuine community engagement and an approach that builds the homes we need whilst lifting liveability and ensuring Willoughby continues to be a great place to live for generations to come.

Supporting Community Childcare

Access to reliable, affordable, high-quality childcare is essential for working families. Parents need services they can trust and depend on and so we need to support the community-run, not for profit sector that exists for the sole benefit of the children. I have raised concerns about the State Government's refusal to ensure adequate pay for community preschool educators, as well as the significant increase in fees it charges childcare services. These extra costs are ultimately passed on to parents.

I am also strongly advocating to save Kelly's Place in Crows Nest, a long valued community-run not-for-profit service. At a time when quality community based childcare places are in short supply locally, it is extraordinary that North Sydney Council wants to use state funding to demolish Kelly's Place without relocating it first. Funding intended to grow essential services in fast growing areas should not be used to demolish those very services. Council needs to provide real support to relocate Kelly's Place before sending in the bulldozers.



Backing Local Community Groups

Local community organisations are the backbone of Willoughby. They support families, bring people together and help build the strong sense of community our area is known for. I am proud to back these grassroots groups. Willoughby Community Preschool in Naremburn is a great example. For nearly 50 years it has supported local families, and I was pleased to secure funding for new air conditioning to improve comfort for children and educators. This is one of many local projects I have supported through the Community Building Partnership program. I have also secured funding for grassroots sporting organisations, including North Sydney United, Northern Suburbs Little Athletics and Chatswood Croquet Club, helping them expand participation, improve facilities and support more people to get involved. These groups do far more than provide a service or run an activity. They build connection, confidence and belonging across our community.

At Willoughby Community Preschool



At Rotary Field with UTS Norths Athletics

Upgrading Rotary Athletics Field

Works are underway at Chatswood Rotary Athletics Field in Lane Cove North to deliver a new six-lane synthetic athletics track, synthetic runways for javelin and long jump and new sand pits, giving locals access to modern athletics facilities. These improvements will make a real difference for the many athletes and families who use this venue, particularly UTS Northern Athletics and Northern Suburbs Little Athletics, two terrific local clubs. This project has been made possible through cooperation between the State Government, Willoughby City Council and local clubs. I am pleased to have supported the funding and progress of these upgrades, which will leave a lasting benefit for local athletics and our wider community.

Ideas Corner – Share Your Views!

I'd love to hear your ideas and views on the issues that matter most to you. My regular listening posts are valuable but I'm sure many more ideas and views are out there. Recently, people have raised with me concerns around the number of empty homes in our area, the impact of land tax on local retail tenancies, as well as the amount of crime. I'd like to know your views and suggestions on these and any other issues.



I'M HERE TO HELP

I'd love you hear your priorities and ideas on how we can make our area an even better place to live.

HAVE YOUR SAY



Complete the Willoughby Community Survey

Your feedback helps shape the decisions that matter.

timjamesmp.com.au/survey

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Out and about in Willoughby



Clean Up Australia Day in Northbridge



Chatting to residents at Artarmon Station



ANZAC Day in Willoughby



Welcoming new local probationary constables



Celebrating Lunar New Year in Chatswood



Celebrating the opening of Club Willoughby



Unveiling of Marion's Nature sculpture in Castlecrag



Willoughby North Probus Club



St Stephens Willoughby Fitness 4 Men



Acknowledging the life of Eric Anderson at Northbridge Oval



Parliamentary Committee hearing



Willoughby Theatre Company's Beauty and the Beast

TIM JAMES MP
MEMBER FOR **WILLOUGHBY**

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