

August 2026 Newsletter



WEAK GAMBLING REFORMS MISS THE MARK

Hello Curtin!

This month, a number of policy issues I have been pushing hit the headlines, with a **gambling reform package** passing through parliament and increased public attention on the urgent need for the Government to respond to the opportunities and **threats of artificial intelligence**.

I was very excited to **launch our Clean Power report** last week, an ambitious 120-page overview showing what it will take to decarbonise and diversify the WA economy, for lasting prosperity, energy security and to play our part in reducing emissions. A huge amount of work has gone into this report over the last year and I'm proud of the policy contribution my small team is making on the big issues.

This month, I checked out **Irwin Barracks** with Federal Ministers to see the opportunity the sale of the site presents to our community and understand the process. I was also briefed by the Environment Minister's office on the current status of the challenge to the **Matilda Bay ferry** development and the process from here.

Migration remains one of the most polarising issues in national debate. Most of that debate is about a single number – Net Overseas Migration - with an absurd level of confusion about what it actually measures and where each party stands. In this context, I'm meeting with migration researchers and experts to gain a better understanding of how the system works, where it is failing and what can be done to improve it over the long term. I'll be doing more work on this in the coming months, including community engagement, in order to make a constructive and evidence-based contribution to policy in this area.

We have had a good response to our **survey on a digital duty of care**, with more than 1000 people from Curtin sharing their views. You can add your views [here](#). Recent legal cases in the US show that people are now expecting more of tech platforms and Australia has the potential to lead in this area beyond the under-16s social media ban.

I had a few **legislative wins** in Canberra. The Government agreed to amend legislation that risked stifling foreign investment in the renewable energy sector. And my amendment adding additional safeguards to the **ASIO compulsory questioning** legislation, among the most intrusive powers available to the Commonwealth, was adopted.

The by-election in Secret Harbour has made national news, with the One Nation win demonstrating deep dissatisfaction with the major parties. In this shifting political context, I will continue to focus on representing the values of Curtin and getting on with working constructively on solutions like those contained in our Clean Power report.

Have a good month,

Kate

In Curtin

Clean Power report launch!



**WITH PANELLISTS, PETER KLINKEN
AND RACHEL HOWARD**

Last week, I released a new report, ***Clean Power: Securing WA's future prosperity***, which draws on more than a year's work, consultation with over 50 industry leaders and energy experts, and survey responses from 2,300 Western Australians.

The report shows the same advantages that made WA a fossil fuel giant — our sun, wind, land and minerals — can secure its prosperity through the next energy transition too. So, the sooner we decarbonise, the more secure and more prosperous WA becomes.

It sets out eight policy priorities for governments to deliver this economic transformation:

1. **Supercharge renewables roll-out**
2. **Reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels**
3. **Make sure Australians get a fair share from our resources**
4. **Level the playing field for clean Australian industry**
5. **Derisk clean industry investment**
6. **Make big polluters accountable for emissions**
7. **Stop subsidising the wrong fuels**
8. **Make sure no business gets left behind**

On Wednesday, close to **200 people** attended the official **launch of the report** at the Claremont Football Club. Thank you to everyone who attended and the contributions to the thoughtful conversation. Much thanks to the guest speakers, Peter Klinken, former Chief Scientist of WA, and Rachel Howard of Mission Possible Partnership.

This mountain of work was made possible within my small team because of the hard work of principal researcher and report author, Claire Gardner.

The full report is available [here](#).

Irwin Barracks update



**WITH THE ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR
DEFENCE AND MINISTER FOR
VETERANS' AFFAIRS AT IRWIN BARRACKS**

On 25 August, I visited Irwin Barracks, currently home to around 1,400 ADF personnel.

In February, the Government announced plans to sell Irwin Barracks as part of a national Defence land divestment process, relocating its operations and personnel to Palmer Barracks in South Guildford. The 61.5-

hectare site, the equivalent of 38 Aussie rules ovals, sits in the heart of Curtin, with established trees and two buildings on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

I used the visit to question the Assistant Minister for Defence and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs about the process from here, and how community priorities will be factored into final decisions around future use.

I'd **encourage Curtin residents** to put forward their ideas to the Department of Finance, linked [here](#). This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and I want to see the **community's interests** at the centre of any decisions about this land.

More R&D funding for medical research



**AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE WITH THE
WA CONTINGENT OF THE AAMRI**

Curtin is lucky to have world leading medical research institutes right on our doorstep. I was delighted to meet with the WA contingent of the Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI) in Parliament this month.

To ensure we continue to nurture and grow this expertise, I've called on the Government to implement the **Ambitious Australia review** package in full, including lifting funding for R&D in line with the Australian Academy of Science's – **Restore Science campaign**. If we back science today, we secure a healthier, safer and more prosperous Australia for generations to come.

You can listen to my 90-second statement [here](#) and Question in Parliament [here](#) on the urgent need for investment in Science R&D.

Matilda Bay update

Last sitting week, I met with Environment Minister Murray Watt's office about an application for **cultural heritage protection** lodged over the Matilda Bay site. The applicant argues that the proposed ferry and associated infrastructure threaten to injure or desecrate the area. I learned that the Minister is likely to decide whether to grant protection before the end of the year. This power has only been used eight times since the 1980s, but I hope the process prompts a fresh look at the terminal's location.

Media diversity in Curtin



LAUNCH OF THE NORTH COAST POST

It is exciting that Post Newspaper has launched the **North Coast Post** this month, which cover suburbs from Scarborough to North Beach. Well done to Bret Christian and the team!

Last week, in Parliament I spoke on the **importance of local, independent media** for a strong democracy. The rapid growth of digital platforms has stripped revenue from Australian journalism, so I welcome the intent of the **Government's News Bargaining** package to fix the revenue crisis, but I moved amendments for greater support for small, independent, regional, multicultural and First Nations news organisations that keep so many of our communities informed.

To highlight this, in my speech I spoke about how lucky we are to have the Post telling us what is happening in our community for almost 50 years and the tremendous impact this paper has had across so many parts of our daily lives.

You can watch my full speech on the importance of media diversity [here](#).

In Canberra

Weak gambling reforms now law



THE VOTE ON GAMBLING REFORMS - ONLY 14 MPS STOOD UP AGAINST GAMBLING INTERESTS

Last week, the Government passed its gambling reform legislation with the Prime Minister talking it up as the most significant gambling advertising reform by any Australian government ever.

It was **disappointing** to say the least – a hugely complicated framework with different rules for different times, channels, products and target audiences. Not a single gambling researcher has come out in support of it.

Having contributed to the unanimous 31 recommendations in the *You Win Some, You Lose More* report and after years of advocating for them to be implemented, it was devastating but not surprising that in finding a so-called 'balance', the final package tipped heavily in favour of the vested interests that make money from gambling harm and have the ear of the government.

If there's an upside, it's that we have built greater awareness about the issue.

Another upside is that one of the amendments I proposed in the House – a statutory review to see if the package actually works – was passed in the Senate. So **in a few years the government will need to face up to the**

likelihood that this will have no material impact (I would love to be wrong on that point!).

Thanks to those who supported the **Stop Gambling Ads campaign** I ran with David Pocock by either signing up to the website (you still can do so [here](#)), putting a bumper sticker on your car, or donating to spread the campaign message. We now have nearly 17,000 people across Australia who have written to their Federal MP and the Minister of Communications.

I will keep advocating for evidence-based reforms to reduce gambling harm and prevent gambling from being normalised as part of sport in Australia.

Suspending standing orders for voluntary assisted dying



**PRESS CONFERENCE WITH
VAD ADVOCATE ANDREW DENTON**

On the first sitting day back after the winter break, I moved to **suspend standing orders to force debate** on my Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) Telehealth Bill. VAD is now a lawful end-of-life option in every Australian state

and territory, yet an outdated provision in the Commonwealth Criminal Code means doctors risk criminal liability and a \$300,000 fine for using phone, email or video for any part of the multiple consultations and assessments legally required before a person can be approved for VAD.

This hits hardest in regional and rural communities, where telehealth is often the only way a patient reaches a specialist at all, and for people simply too unwell to travel, some of whom have died in pain before completing the process.

My Bill is a simple, one-line fix, backed by the AMA, the Law Council, VAD regulatory bodies, 20 health organisations, state Attorneys-General and Health Ministers, and a 13,000-signature petition I tabled in July. The Government and Opposition combined to defeat my motion 74 votes to 12, despite Labor's own National Conference resolving just weeks earlier to remove this barrier and to allow its members a conscience vote.

I'm disappointed, but not deterred, and I'll keep working constructively across the Parliament to end this unnecessary suffering for terminally ill Australians.

AI work in Parliament



**AI POLICY PAPER: SHAPING THE
FUTURE OF AI FOR AUSTRALIA**

AI Parliamentary Committee

As many of you know, I have been taking a very active role in AI policy in Parliament. I have been very concerned by the Government's passive, hands-off approach to AI. I want to ensure this industry is shaped by Australian voices, rather than dictated by international tech companies.

I was very pleased to work with the Coalition to set up the **new Joint Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence**, which I will sit on. This Committee is made up of Government, Coalition and crossbench members. It will hear evidence from experts, civil society, communities, industry and other stakeholders – and then prepare a report with recommendations.

There is so much that the Federal Government should be thinking about when it comes to AI:

- the opportunities for AI to drive productivity and supercharge scientific research;
- the harms that can be caused by AI-powered scams, misinformation, privacy breaches, job losses and environmental impacts;
- the best way to ensure the benefits and opportunities of AI are shared by all Australians; and
- the sovereignty and security risks of relying on overseas AI models.

I have been one of the few MPs fighting for the Government and Parliament to take seriously the magnitude of the challenge and opportunities that AI presents. This Committee is a sign that the Government is starting to understand.

In June, I released an ***AI Discussion Paper: Shaping the future of AI for Australia*** setting out 18 policies (to date, the Government has responded to 6) you can pick up a hard copy from my office or download a copy [here](#).

Digital Duty of Care survey - let me know your views

The Federal Government has committed to implementing a **Digital Duty of Care for technology** platforms by the end of the year.

This is a great opportunity to make our online spaces safer and more positive – it will be aimed at ensuring that social media companies, AI chatbots and other digital platforms **take responsibility** for the harms they cause and prevent them before they happen.

While ensuring we retain freedom of expression, it could address:

- harmful content on social media (like self-harm and violent material);
- social media algorithms that prioritise outrage and emotion;
- the addictive design of social media that ensnares our attention; and
- the fake emotional intimacy of AI chatbots that damages our children's long-term development.

I would love to get your thoughts on the key issues, to inform what I will focus on as this policy is debated. Please take five minutes to **fill out my survey** linked [here](#).

In support of our veterans



**ATTENDING THE
VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY SERVICE
IN THE CITY OF STIRLING**

In the May 2026 Budget, the Government announced a \$5,000 annual cap on the allied health services veterans can claim through their Veteran Card, starting 1 July 2027.

I have been **raising concerns** about this measure since it was announced and having heard from local veterans about what it would mean for them, I am calling for it to be withdrawn. Compliance action should **target the small number of providers** who are exploiting the system, **not the veterans with chronic, accepted conditions** for whom this treatment is not optional.

You can watch my recent social media post on this issue [here](#).

Youth Parliament in Canberra



**WITH MICAELA BUDDLE
CURTIN'S NATIONAL YOUTH
PARLIAMENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Micaela Buddle from Newman College was part of my Curtin Youth Advisory Group last year and I was thrilled to hear she was selected as the Youth Member for Curtin in the inaugural National Youth Parliament which took place in Canberra this month.

Social Media

well done, micaela!

Don't forget to **follow me on social media**. It's the best way to **keep up-to-date** and find out about my **upcoming events!**

Get involved!



Instagram

Facebook

TikTok

Bluesky

Contact Us

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We acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar People as the Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Authorised by Kate Chaney MP, Cnr The Boulevard and Floreat Ave, Floreat WA 6014

If you would like to unsubscribe from these emails, click the link:

CALL OUT FOR 2027 CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

It's that time of year again, we are starting to put together the 2027 Curtin Calendar. The calendar is always filled with beautiful images of the people, animals and greens spaces which make up this beautiful place we call home.

If you are a local artist or photographer and have a picture of something you love in Curtin, please send it in!

Email your submissions to: kate.chaney.mp@aph.gov.au by 23 October 2026.

Events

Community Forums



AUGUST COMMUNITY FORUM AT ST BRIGID BAR

Come along to a community forum to share your thoughts and hear about what I've been working on in Canberra and in Curtin. The next catch up is:

Tuesday 6 October

5.30 pm - 6.30 pm

Subiaco Bar & Bistro

Subiaco Village Shopping Centre

10/531 Hay Street, Subiaco

To RSVP for all events, visit the Events page of my website [here](#).