March
2025 Newsletter

Hello!

This week I'm in Canberra for the budget we didn't expect to have! I'm pleased to bring you my take on it – see below.

In the last month, we've seen Donald Trump introducing huge uncertainty into the global rules-based order, with significant implications for Australia's defence and trade.

Closer to home, Cyclone Alfred has disrupted many lives over east and reminded us how climate change-related events are impacting our communities.

I've been out and about a lot lately - mobile offices, flyering, doorknocking and kitchen table conversations - informal chats hosted by constituents, which give me the opportunity to have grounded discussions about what really matters to people around Curtin.

We've started holding weekly informal 'Meet Kate' events – you can pop into a local café for a 1:1 chat – upcoming locations and times are below or on social media.

We are expecting an announcement in the next week or so, for a May election and we are gearing up for a strong community-driven campaign. We would love to have you on the volunteer team if you want to keep Curtin independent in the next Parliament. The stakes are high, with neither party offering much of a vision for the future.

Thanks for all your support and engagement - whether it's through attending events, sharing your thoughts, or staying involved in what matters. It's all part of doing politics differently, and it's absolutely worth it.

Warm regards,
Kate

Budget Breakdown

Going into budget lock-up on Tuesday afternoon - no phones or internet for a few hours while we review the budget

Unfortunately, this week's budget is as underwhelming as expected, if you are interested in the long term prosperity of the country. Unsurprisingly, it looks very much like a pre-election budget.

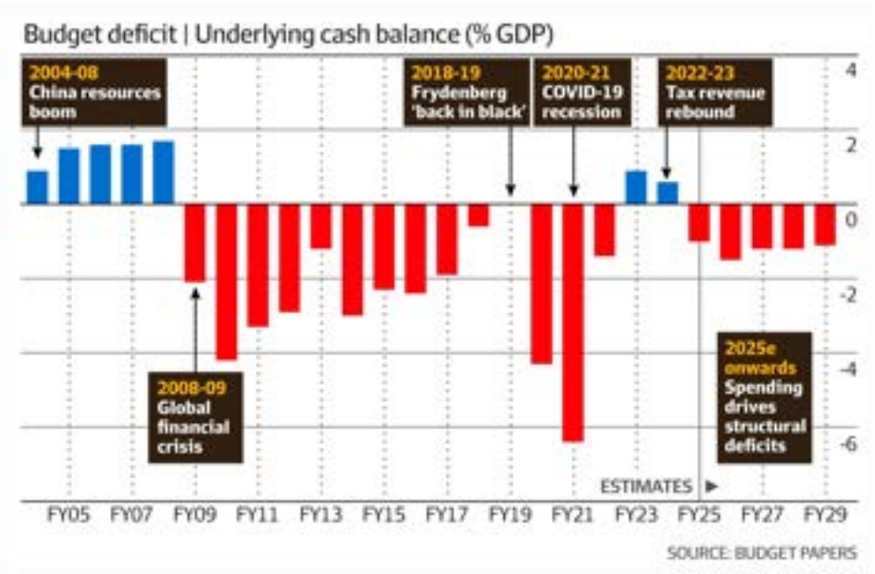
The good news – already announced

Putting my optimist's hat on, there's some cost of living relief (already announced), like Medicare bulk billing incentives, the 20% HECS write-off, cheaper medicines, childcare and education commitments, energy bill relief

of $150 (not means tested) and a surprise tax cut of $5/week in a year, with an additional $5/week the following year.

The global context – batten down the hatches
With global uncertainty likely to impact trade and future defence spending and a likely increase in natural disasters, we could do with a buffer.
We've had a run of windfalls in recent years, driven by external factors (war, migration, commodity prices) not policy decisions.

Our national debt is not as bad as many of our peers, but we have a structural deficit and no real plan to address it. Our underlying cash balance is back in the red for the foreseeable future.



Intergenerational unfairness
We rely heavily on income tax, so as our population ages, younger workers are paying for the growing burden of health and aged care, as well as the looming costs from natural disasters and global uncertainty.

If the big spending in this budget was contributing to economic reform, it could be justified, but with a decade of deficits ahead and not much to show for it, we are effectively borrowing from future taxpayers to pay for what we need now.

All this in the face of the fading prospect of being able to afford to own a house.

On housing, the budget expands the government's shared equity scheme, Help to Buy, which is good news if you qualify, but effectively throws more fuel on the fire. A national licensing scheme for electricians may start to attract more tradies to WA, but apart from that, there's not much that's new, with the HAFF and other initiatives rehashed.

This budget confirms that we are failing to make good on our assumed promise that our standard of living will keep improving from generation to generation.

What about the Opposition?
We haven't seen the Opposition's response yet, but I'm not holding out huge hopes.

According to independent economist Chris Richardson, with all this 'policy mirroring', the major parties have agreed on 99% of what we are planning to tax and spend over the next 4 years. He says "In the election campaign both sides are therefore promising Australians that they'll remain mediocre. I believe them, and you should too."

So how could it be better?
On revenue, for a start, I would like to see tax brackets indexed instead of the confected largesse of a small tax cut, so governments of both sides have to explain the trade-offs involved with additional spending rather than relying on the bracket creep slush fund.

We need to go back to first principles on tax reform, like Ken Henry suggested a decade ago, and work out how we can pay for the things we expect – health, aged care, NDIS and a safety net. Everything should be on the table. This requires deciding what sort of country we want to be. Constituents always tell me they want to live in a fair country. We could pull 1 million people out of poverty by re-allocating 1% of the budget to increase Jobseeker to the poverty line. If we choose to.

But neither party is willing to take on substantive tax reform, despite the almost unanimous view of the experts that we need it. Serious productivity measures are also required, and lacking in this budget, other than removal of non-compete clauses.

On spending, I would like to see greater use of program evaluation so we are only funding what works. I have been amazed to see how rarely we actually set outcome goals for government programs and measure whether they are being achieved. This should be built into any new funding so we are using taxpayer money well.

Another thing we could do is slow down some infrastructure. This budget allocates $120 billion over the next 10 years, but it's not clear whether these are the infrastructure projects prioritised by the Productivity Commission.

What about the climate?
On climate, there are (already announced) incentives to transition our economy, including for green iron, critical minerals and hydrogen, which are wins for WA, although approval delays are making it hard for projects to get up. But other than that, climate was conspicuously absent in the Budget and the Treasurer's Budget speech.

The energy bill relief (not means tested) could have been used for more permanent bill relief for those who need it most, by supporting transition to solar/batteries.

What can I do?
There's a perceived risk that crossbenchers find things to spend money on, rather than working out how to balance the budget. But the reality is that

right now, it is only the crossbench that is proposing long-term tax reform. I will keep pushing for this – we need to make good on our intergenerational promise and we can't afford to avoid the hard discussions.

Campaign Offices

Exciting news!

I am thrilled to announce that our Scarborough Team Chaney Hub at *91 Scarborough Beach Road (opposite the police station)* is opening from this Thursday the 27th!

Both Scarborough and Subi *(368 Hay Street)* campaign hubs exist for all campaign activities and are staffed by our friendly volunteers.

Our opening hours are:
Subiaco: Open 10-4 daily
Scarborough: Open Tuesday & Wednesday 10-1pm, Thursday & Friday 2-5pm, Saturday 9-12pm, Closed Sunday & Monday

Pop in and pick up a t-shirt, a cap, corflutes, bumper stickers or to sign up to volunteer or attend a volunteer training.

For any constituent-related matters, our electorate office in Floreat is still operating normal office hours.

Get your corflutes!

Lewis Payton (constituent and photographer) took such a good photo for the corflute!

One of the most impactful ways you can show your support for my campaign is by displaying a yard sign (technically called a corflute!) at your home or business in Curtin.

It's a simple and powerful gesture that demonstrates our community's support for being represented independently. Every sign makes a difference, so please think of anyone else who might want one too.

Team Chaney will deliver and install it in the best place, so you don't have to mess about with stakes or cable ties. If you have a specific spot in mind, you can add any installation notes for the team when signing up

Sign up for your corflute

Together We Can Keep Curtin Independent!

We think the election will be called very soon – it's likely to be less than 1000 hours until Election Day!

We are ramping up volunteer-driven visibility activities throughout the electorate, including flyering and doorknocking. We need more volunteer T-shirts, yard signs, flyers, billboards and digital ads, so we can let everyone in Curtin know what's at stake at this election.

So this month, we've set a community fundraising target of $100,000 – that's 1,000 people contributing $100 each, to show that we want to keep Curtin independent.

If you can, please join us and donate now, so we can make every one of

Upcoming Events

Support Kate

Meet Kate: Scarborough

Date: Friday 28 March
Time: 9-10am
Location: Drift Kitchen, 16a Calais Road, Scarborough

Canberra Debrief

Date: Thursday 3 April
Time: 5.30-6.30pm
Location: Cottesloe Beach Cnr of Marine Parade and Forrest Street

Kate Chaney In Conversation: Admiral Chris Barrie AC

Join us as we discuss national security, climate change and how Australia is positioned in a changing world order.

Date: Friday 4 April
Time: 5:30-7pm (Drinks: 5 - 5:30)
Location: Lawrence Wilson Gallery (35 Stirling Hwy, Crawley)

Register Now

Meet Kate: Mt Claremont

Date: Saturday 5 April
Time: 8-9am
Location: Mt Claremont Farmers Market

Social Media

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!

Instagram | Facebook | TikTok | Bluesky

Contact Us

E: Kate.Chaney.MP@aph.gov.au
W: www.katechaney.com.au
P: 08 9388 0288

Electorate Office
Cnr The Boulevard and Floreat Ave
PO Box 186
Floreat WA 6014

We acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar Peoples 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,