



Bush not bricks for Shenton Park Rehab site

The Bush Not Bricks group has rallied twice in the last few weeks to save the ecological linkage that runs from the Underwood Avenue Bush Forever site to the Shenton Park Bushland. I spoke at a rally that to around 300 people at the site and detailed the way that LandCorp has put the clearing application on hold in order to pursue a subdivision application.

An approved subdivision application for the site will effectively mean permission to clear to match the subdivision plan - no further approvals or investigations necessary.

Answers to my questions in Parliament have made it clear that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation was intending to re-advertise the clearing

permit, as they believed that the development sites situated in current bushland meant that the clearing was not for bushfire management purposes as stated by LandCorp.

I also requested the advice given by Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) to the original clearing application. This document is very clear that clearing this bushland to manage the bushfire risk is questionable.

Given that the DBCA did not provide any further comment to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) on the subdivision proposal for the site, I wrote to the Minister for Planning and the Chair of the WAPC to ensure that this advice was part of the information considered during the subdivision decision.

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The Statutory Planning Committee of the WAPC met on Tuesday 10th April and several members of Bush Not Bricks and the Urban Bushland Council made presentations. At the end of the day, a decision on the matter was deferred.

If you have time, please write to the Minister for Planning and to the WAPC highlighting the importance of this bushland to the ecological connectivity of two of our precious Bush Forever sites.

Keep up to date with my latest news -
www.alisonxamon.org.au/latestnews



Tick-borne disease in WA

I met with US journalist Dr David Tuller along with representatives from WA, Stephen Le Page (A/ President ME/CFS and Lyme Association of Australia) and Simonne Harrison (ME/CFS patient and advocate) to discuss Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME)/ Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

It is estimated that there are 20 000 Western Australians living with these conditions. David is in Australia to highlight faulty research that has been used as the basis of recommended treatment of Australians with ME/CFS with harmful consequences. We discussed the parallels with Lyme-like illness and the need for more research into ME/CFS along with better education of GPs in Western Australia.

In the last sitting period I introduced a Motion to debate the Government response to the Senate Inquiry into Lyme-like illness in order to draw attention to the plight of many Western Australians living with this debilitating illness. The Senate Inquiry made many recommendations as to how State Governments could best respond in

order to better understand what is causing this syndrome and to support those who are suffering.

It is vital that West Australian expertise is used and our operating environment and geographical context are properly represented when the recommendations are being

implemented. I was able to get the Government on record as to what they plan to do to support the work happening federally. Needless to say that there is much more work to be done and I will continue to raise this important issue. The whole debate can be found by visiting bit.ly/MSIDSmotion.

Ocean Reef Marina

Since my last newsletter, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the City of Joondalup and LandCorp. The City of Joondalup has undertaken to work with LandCorp to try and ensure that best practice environmental design will be used for this project.

I have spoken in Parliament to encourage the Minister for Environment to keep a close watch over the environmental impact on Bush Forever site 325 and the Marmion Marine Park, a Class A reserve.

Building and Construction Industry Training Fund

The Construction Training Fund provides subsidies to employers who take on building and construction apprentices. The Fund receives money levied from building and construction projects - with some exceptions. Currently the mining industry does not pay the levy on engineering construction projects, like building roads and other kinds of earthworks. Recently I debated a motion to ensure that this exemption is removed and I am happy to report that the Chamber voted to see that the Mining industry will pay a fair share into the future.

Forests for Life rally



I was very pleased to support WA Forest Alliance, The Wilderness Society WA and the Conservation Council of Western Australia at the Stand up for the Forests! Petition Handover on the steps of Parliament on 21 March. More than 15,000 signed the petition calling for urgent action to end logging of high conservation values forests in the South West.

Welcome

It has been a busy start to the Parliamentary year since the Legislative Council began sitting again in mid-March with most of the legislation falling into my portfolio responsibilities.

There has also been much going on in the two committees of which I am a member – the Joint Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission which has begun receiving submissions into the Inquiry into Corruption risks around Public Sector Procurement and the Select Committee into Elder Abuse.

Issues arising from the Committees have been debated in Parliament and in particular I have been speaking about excessive police force and the CCC's response to this. Public hearings have also begun as part of the Inquiry into Elder Abuse.

There has been much going on in North Metro, with the community campaign to protect bushland at the Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital ramping up – and the years long fight to save Underwood Avenue bushland still very much active.

I have been working hard to ensure best environmental practice is followed relating to the Ocean Reef Marina development and continuing to speak out about the need to retain the City Beach High School site for educational purposes, preferably a future High School, for the Western suburbs.

Other pro-active work has included the re-introduction of my Industrial Relations (Equal Remuneration) Amendment Bill 2018, seven years after I introduced an earlier version in October 2011.

My bill will go some way to addressing WA's 22% gender pay gap (the highest in the country) by allowing the WA

Industrial Relations Commission to hear pay equity cases. I'm also calling on the Government to reinstate the Pay Equity Unit. My Criminal Code Amendment (Industrial Manslaughter) Bill 2017 and Electoral Amendment (Access to Ministers) bill 2017 are still before the House awaiting debate.

Elsewhere, I have continued to respond to cuts to the Education budget and attended several rallies, debated the majority of legislation which has come before the Upper House as they have landed within my portfolio areas and started an important conversation in Parliament about Lyme-like illness.

I will continue to utilise every possible Parliamentary tool at my disposal to draw attention to a wide range of issues, both in my electorate and in the wider state.

Pay Equity bill to tackle shocking 22% gender pay gap in Western Australia

I was very pleased to re-introduce my Bill designed to tackle the appalling 22% gender pay gap in Western Australia, the largest in the country. Essentially the bill will allow the WA Industrial Relations Commission to hear pay equity cases and to make enforceable equal remuneration orders to ensure that employees are able to receive equal pay for work of equal value.

In addition to this bill, I am also calling on the Government to re-establish the Pay Equity Unit. The drivers of the gender pay gap are complex and tackling them requires a strategic approach.

There can be a lot of confusion about the difference between equal pay for equal work and pay equity so I've also put together a short video designed to bust some myths. You can find my video as well as some suggestions for how to support my campaign to reduce the gender pay gap on my website www.alisonxamon.org.au



Incidents at Bandyup Women's Prison highlight urgent need for change

Over the past month we have received two horrendous reports about the treatment of vulnerable Aboriginal women in our prison system. In the first case, an incredibly distressed woman was transported naked, handcuffed and covered in menstrual blood from Bandyup Women's Prison to Graylands Hospital.

This event occurred in August last year, yet the public was only made aware recently. The second case involved a woman who was forced to

give birth alone in her cell to her premature baby at Bandyup Women's Prison despite calling for help.

Both of these events would have been highly traumatic for the women involved, and demonstrate manifestly unacceptable treatment of vulnerable individuals.

These cases raise so many issues. They highlight the unacceptably high and growing rate of imprisonment of Aboriginal Western Australians, something that should concern every

one of us. They highlight concerns I continue to raise about the provision of health care and mental health care in our prisons.

And, of course, they also raise ongoing issues around the impact of policies such as mandatory sentencing and fines enforcement on Aboriginal communities.

All these areas require urgent action and should be addressed by the WA Government as an absolute priority.

An honour to represent their voices in Parliament



A bill to expunge historic homosexual convictions is due to come before the Legislative Council soon. In preparation for my second reading speech I attended an afternoon tea organised by my office in conjunction with GLBTI Rights in Ageing Inc (GRAI) and Prime Timers.

We discussed the impacts of past discriminatory legislation and stigma on the lives of members of the LGBT community. It will be an honour to represent their voices in Parliament.

Minister must listen to the community and reverse remaining cuts to Education

It was incredible disappointing to start the parliamentary year still talking about the terrible cuts to the education budget. Unfortunately, the Minister for Education has still not seen reason and refuses to reverse the decision to close Moora Residential College, and Tuart and Canning Colleges, and to defund six camp schools, Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre and Landsdale Farm School.

The community has been incredibly strong and unified in voicing opposition to these cuts – it is time for the Minister to start listening and I am not going to stop raising the issue.

I attended a rally to save Moora College in March, right.





Meeting Rosie Batty, finally

I was honoured to finally meet former Australian of the Year and extraordinary advocate against family and domestic violence Rosie Batty, in March.

Australia owes Rosie an enormous debt for her work over the last four years in the face of the unspeakable tragedy of losing her son, Luke.

Rosie spoke passionately of the need to urgently address this serious issue and how disrespect of women and the desire for power and control are at the root of violence against women and children.

Commonwealth Redress Scheme

I continue to advocate for resolution of the ongoing issues around the Commonwealth Redress Scheme. The passage of the *Civil Liability Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Allegations) Bill 2017* was an important step in addressing a significant barrier to survivors seeking justice, however, it is important to acknowledge that some survivors may not want to, or be able to, go through a potentially traumatic court process.

It is therefore vital that state and federal governments sort out the issue of redress, and that any redress process is conducted properly, fairly and respectfully. Many survivors are vulnerable, ageing and ill - they have been waiting for a long time.

Child sex abuse legislation

I was extremely pleased to contribute to the passage through parliament of the *Civil Liability Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse Allegations) Bill 2017*. This legislation addresses a significant injustice by removing limitation periods for civil litigation in child sexual abuse cases. While this legislation was very welcome, it is disappointing it only covers child sexual abuse – I know there is a strong desire in the community to see the provisions extended to cover all forms of child abuse and neglect, including physical, emotional, psychological abuse and neglect.

I will keep advocating for this to occur and hope that there may be future legislation which will cover this.

Excellent WREN for women experiencing DV should be available across WA

I was pleased to have the opportunity to visit the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre and to learn about WREN (Women's Resource and Engagement Network).

WREN is a Specialist Domestic Violence Unit/Health Justice Partnership (SDVU/HJP) service and assists women experiencing domestic violence to protect themselves and their children.

WREN provides legal services and supports women to access other services, such as crisis accommodation, counselling and financial advice. This is an excellent and much needed service and should be available throughout WA.

During my visit I also had the opportunity to hear about the Older Peoples Rights Service, which is the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre's specialist service providing legal assistance and social work support to those experiencing or at risk of Elder Abuse. This excellent service is provided through a partnership with Advocare.



With staff from the Women's Resource and Engagement Network (WREN) during my visit to the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre in March.



IWD with the Unions

On International Women's Day I had been pleased to hear from early childhood educators who were gearing up for the Big Steps pay equity campaign. Simply, we do not pay these professionals what they are worth. We need equal pay.

Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill 2017

I debated the Tobacco Products Control Amendment Bill which seeks to implement some of the recommendations arising from a recent review. The Bill seeks to place further restrictions upon the sale and marketing of certain tobacco products, particularly those that have recently emerged as potentially marketing to children, and also makes it unlawful for children to sell tobacco products.

The Greens have a long standing record of standing up to tobacco interests and I note it was only the Greens pointing out that even this good Bill did not go far enough.

Children at severe educational risk

I finally received answers to questions I had put on Notice during Estimates to the Education Minister regarding students who are at Severe Educational Risk and was alarmed to note the significant increase.

There are a number of reasons for this increase but of particular concern is the correlation with the increase in school violence and the number of children whose families have been affected by amphetamine use. This requires a multi-faceted and complex response and one that we can ill-afford to neglect.

Independent Child oversight

I spoke in Parliament about the pressing need to establish an independent advocate for children in Western Australia, and in particular vulnerable children and those in care.

As the Blaxell Inquiry, which examined the abuse which took place at the St Andrew's Hostel in Katanning, and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse have shown, it is too easy to ignore, dismiss or disbelieve children's concerns.

The number of children in out of home care in Western Australia has increased by a staggering 82 per cent in just ten years. These children need to have a clear independent path and specialised support when they want to raise concerns about their care.

Year 12 Muslim Achievement Awards

I was invited to speak at the Human Appeal Australia 11th Annual Year 12 Muslim Achievement Awards on 9 March. It was the first time the awards had been held in Perth, following the establishment of a new branch of the organisation here.

Congratulations to the 19 students who were recognised to achieving scores of 90% or more in their 2017 ATAR.

I took pleasure in presenting awards to a number of students and wish them all the best for their respective futures.



A trip to the Goldfields to discuss mental health, AOD and Youth services

I was pleased to be able to undertake a whirlwind visit to Kalgoorlie where I delivered some training and also had the opportunity to meet with Mental Health, AOD and Youth services. I was given firsthand information about the particular community and funding challenges faced by services in the region and it was a great opportunity for me to be able to speak to people directly and establish relationships.

Services are under pressure everywhere but particularly so in the regions and getting specific information directly from those affected helps my advocacy in the space enormously.



Palm Sunday Walk for Refugees

I joined hundreds calling for justice, freedom and safety for refugees and people seeking asylum at the 2018 Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees on 25 March. We must see an immediate end to offshore detention and processing. The Commonwealth Government needs to start showing some compassion. Thanks to Caroline Perks for the photo.

National Close the Gap Day

I was pleased to lend my support to the campaign from Social Reinvestment WA to close the justice gap. The organisation is calling for justice targets to be added along with the health and education targets, to the Federal Government's Close The Gap framework.



Meeting with Afghan MP Ahmad Behzad

Hon Tim Clifford and I met with Ahmad Behzad, a Member of Afghanistan's Parliament regarding the future of the Hazara people in Afghanistan.

We also discussed Australia's appalling record regarding asylum seekers.

I have put Mr Behzad in touch with the Global Greens and raised his concerns with my Federal Colleagues.

Alcohol and Other Drugs
Community Services
Corrective Services
Disability
Education
Electoral Affairs
Family and Domestic Violence
Gambling
Health
Industrial Relations
Integrity of Government
Law and Order
Mental Health
Multicultural Affairs
Pay Equity
Public Sector
Seniors and Aging
Sexuality and Gender Diversity
Suicide Prevention
Training
Volunteering
Women



It was a privilege to meet Chloe Swarbrick, Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand MP and New Zealand's youngest member of Parliament in more than 40 years.

At just 23, Chloe ran a successful campaign and was elected as a list member to New Zealand Parliament Pāremata Aotearoa in September 2017.

Get in touch.

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Bills debated in Parliament

Civil Liability Legislation
Amendment (Child Sexual
Abuse Actions) Bill 2017

Health Practitioner
Regulation National Bill (WA)
Amendment Bill 2017

Sentence Administration
Amendment Bill 2017

Tobacco Products Control
Amendment Bill 2017

An introduction to Kalparrin

I had the great pleasure of meeting with Carrie Clark, CEO of Kalparrin to learn about the work they do supporting families in WA who are caring for children with a disability and additional needs.

They are an information and social hub for families and connect them to supports. With a membership of 11 000, they are a great contact to make to keep across what is happening on the ground.