

Office of Hon Alison Xamon MLC

MEMBER FOR NORTH METROPOLITAN REGION



NEWSLETTER
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Coastal Erosion threatens North Metro precious places

The recent release of the coastal erosion hotspots report highlighted several areas of concern across the North Metropolitan Region - including Port Beach, Floreat Beach, Mettams Pool, Watermans Bay, the Marmion Marine Club sea wall, Quinns Beach and Two Rocks northern coast.

The report focussed on public infrastructure and private property, however long stretches of our precious Bush Forever sites are also at risk. Coastal risk hazard mapping shows the likely

loss of substantial stretches of the Bush Forever sites running from Hillarys Boat Harbour right through to the northern edges of the metropolitan area.

It is also incredibly disappointing to note that the footprint for the Ocean Reef Marina is in one of the few Bush Forever areas that is protected from coastal erosion. It is essential that we tackle climate change as one of the key underlying factors for the anticipated increase in coastal erosion.

Climate Emergency

My Parliamentary Greens (WA) colleagues and I attended the Perth Extinction Rebellion Rally, to call on the Government to recognise and act on the fact that we are facing an unprecedented global climate emergency



Electronic gambling—the thin edge of the wedge

During the last sitting of Parliament we debated the bill that will enable the government to sell the TAB.

One of the most contentious aspects of this legislation is that, for the first time in WA, it paves the way for electronic gambling to be accessible right across the state by allowing TABs to offer simulated horse racing

through the gaming platform known as Trackside.

Like pokies, Trackside is programmed to be addictive and to derive maximum profits for the owners.

Western Australians have been justifiably proud of the fact that WA has been the only state not to have electronic gaming outside of the casino.

It is therefore deeply disappointing that the bipartisan approach we have held for years in opposing this type of electronic gambling has been shattered.

For the small amount of money that will

be made available from including Trackside in the sale—it has been estimated to be around three or four per cent—we will be paying much higher costs as a community. Despite my best efforts, my attempts to have Trackside removed from the scope of the sale were voted down.

I was pleased to meet with Hannah Pierce and Samantha Bradder from the **Public Health Association of Australia** (WA Branch) (below) to discuss their concerns about Trackside being included in the Bill for the sale of the TAB.



Penalty for teen's death disgraceful

In early August I was devastated to learn that construction company Valmont WA had received a paltry \$38 000 penalty for their part in the death of 17 year old construction worker Wesley Ballantine. Wes was working at height on the H&M development in Perth, without harnesses or scaffolding, when he fell 12 metres to his death.

Improving worker safety laws is an issue that has long been close to my heart but never has it felt more important to me than when I learned of this disgracefully inadequate fine.

This case really demonstrates why we need industrial manslaughter laws, which is why I brought my bill seeking to make industrial manslaughter a crime forward for debate in the parliament during the August sitting.

I will continue to call for industrial manslaughter laws and I noted with interest the McGowan Government changing their tune and finally saying they will introduce similar laws.

If you would like to join me in the campaign to keep our workers safe go to greens.org.au/wa/campaigns/safe-sites to sign up.

Call to address modern slavery

Modern slavery includes a range of exploitative practices like human trafficking, slavery, servitude, forced

labour, debt bondage and forced marriage. A Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade 2017 inquiry estimated that at the time, 4 300 people were victims of some form of modern slavery within Australia. I was

pleased to support a motion in parliament recently which highlighted this important issue and noted the need for both the state and federal governments to stamp out modern slavery.



Women in Red exhibition showcases plight of campaigners for women's rights

My Parliamentary Greens (WA) colleague Hon Tim Clifford and I were pleased to support Leederville artist Jessica Eva (pictured) as she opened her Women in Red exhibition at PS Art Space in Fremantle on 2 August. Jessica's series of large-scale photographs paid tribute to India's Red Brigade Lucknow organisation, which campaigns for women's rights and an end to violence against women.

Auditor General damns WA's mental health system

The Office of the Auditor General recently released the findings of its audit into how State-managed mental health services are structured and how people move through the WA mental health system. Disappointingly, but not surprisingly, the report paints a

damning picture of a disjointed State funded mental health care system that is out of touch with how people use services. Consistent with what I have been saying for many years now, the Auditor General found that despite the widely acknowledged veracity of the State's 10 year mental health and other drug plan there has been limited progress in its implementation.

In short, we are not making headway and in some instances we are going backwards. Of great concern the

Auditor General found that people using community treatment services in 2017 were receiving less care on average than in 2013. Unless government takes heed of the Auditor General's findings the acute end of the care spectrum, such as our struggling Emergency Departments, will continue to be under enormous strain. What more evidence could the Government possibly need to begin properly investing in delivering the 10 year plan?

At the **Equal Love WA** rally (below) to protest exemptions which allow religious groups to discriminate against LGBTIQ people



I was outraged at the Australian Federal Police raids on NewsCorp and the ABC. This is a blatant attempt to intimidate whistleblowers and journalists to stop publishing important public interest matters. I spoke on this both in Parliament and at the **Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA)** rally for press freedom (above). Photo credit Simon Stevens photography



I was pleased to meet with Professor Kingsley Faulkner and Maurice Swanson, CEO of the **Australian Council on Smoking and Health** (below) to discuss their latest strategies towards achieving their goal of a smoke free Australia by 2025



I met with Aleem Ali and Kate Leaney, from **Welcoming Australia** (above) as part of my work with my Parliamentary Friends of Refugees group, which I co-founded in 2018



South-western snake-necked turtle under threat

In early August I asked questions about the south-western snake-necked turtles that have come under increasing threat of localised extinction from foxes and cars in the Bibra Lake area. I wanted to see what the Government was doing to ensure the turtles' survival and what actions it was taking to tackle ongoing threats to the fauna in Perth's wetlands.

Ongoing monitoring is in place, control programs for the foxes have been scheduled, and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, City of Cockburn and Murdoch University are currently installing and evaluating protective cages for nesting turtles. Other measures like fauna underpasses are being considered as part of longer term planning decisions. I'll be keeping a close eye on this going forward to ensure these measures are effective.

Prohibition of live export trade over summer months must be extended

In March this year the Federal Government made a decision to prohibit the live sheep trade for the months of June, July and August in recognition of the intolerable stress suffered by these animals over the Northern Hemisphere summer.

Recently, the shipping ban has been extended to include the first three weeks of September in recognition of the ongoing high temperatures. While on the face of it this is a good thing, the five year mortality rate for sheep per voyage shows that mortality rates in October are almost the same as in June.

It simply does not make sense to continue to allow Australian sheep to be exported during October, which is why I am joining with the RSPCA and the Australian Veterinary Association in calling for the prohibition period to be further extended.

The Greens, of course, have opposed live export for many decades and continue to do so, however until this occurs it is imperative that animal welfare is prioritised throughout all phases of the life cycle of production animals.

Hope for future for greyhounds

I was pleased to again meet with Andrea Pollard from **Free the Hounds** (left) to discuss our campaign to improve welfare standards in greyhound racing with the ultimate aim of the banning the "sport" altogether.

Much to my delight Andrea brought Hope, the latest addition to her family, along with her. Hope was one of five greyhounds recently rescued by an international animal welfare group from a cruel facility in Macau, China.

She is a gorgeous dog and it was easy to see that she is settling into her new life well. Hope was even happy to meet Monty!

Reserves (Marmion Marine Park) Bill 2019

The Bill to excise the 143 Hectares of Marmion Marine Park required to build the Ocean Reef Marina has been introduced to Parliament. The proposed marina will see the loss of nearly 20% of the marine park's inshore reef. The Minister for Environment has approved this outcome on the advice of the EPA. The Ministerial conditions include substantial monitoring of the abalone and other marine life on the reefs to the north of the proposed development. You can read the Ministerial conditions at <https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/proposals/ocean-reef-marina>

The final touches to the Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment to facilitate the land-side of the development is still progressing and at the time of writing is expected to receive Ministerial sign-off in the near future.



Welcoming new GWA members with some of my State and Federal colleagues (above)

Silicosis must not become akin to asbestos crisis

There has been a concerning rise in the number of cases of silicosis occurring across Australia as a result of occupational exposure to silica. It is believed that the rise in the incidence of silicosis is linked to the stone cutting industry's increasing use of artificial stone, (typically made up of 90% silica).

The enormity of the problem was brought to light in Queensland last year where a screening program has so far uncovered 98 cases of silicosis. WorkSafe has subsequently initiated an inspection program here in WA.

This is not before time given recent news that five cases of silicosis have been confirmed in WA over the past year. Most of these cases have come from the stone bench industry and one from the mining sector.

My understanding is that one of these people is only 25 years old. Given what has unfolded in Queensland there is every reason to believe that these numbers are just the tip of the iceberg. To be clear: this is a disease that is 100% preventable.

The Government must act swiftly to ensure that dust reduction regulations and inspection programs are rigorous enough to ensure that workers are not exposed to silica in the first place. And, if workplaces are found to be doing the wrong thing, they are properly held to account. We do not need another asbestos crisis on our hands.



Midland Learning Academy visit

In August I visited the Midland Learning Academy, a small school model designed for highly disengaged high school aged students who are no longer participating in mainstream education. I appreciated the opportunity to learn from staff about the work of the centre. This model, which delivers an individualised program to students in a more informal setting than mainstream schools, has been found to be successful in boosting student's attendance and engagement. We need similar programs around the rest of the state

Submission sent to EPA on Greenhouse Gas Emissions technical guidance

Submissions to the EPA regarding the Greenhouse Gas Emissions technical guidance and the Environmental Factor Guideline on Greenhouse Gas Emissions close on 2 September. I and my colleagues have all provided submissions on this.

As you no doubt remember, the Government promised industry that they would not support any EPA recommendations based on these guidelines when they were first released in March this year. I was outraged at the time and remain furious that these guidelines are being so delayed.

I fully anticipate that the public response will be that the guidelines should be as tough as possible and implemented as quickly as possible. We know that we have reached a climate change crisis point and at the moment, the EPA is the only environmental body in Western Australia with the necessary independence to act in the absence of Federal Government regulation.



Young Parliamentarians make the most of experience

It was my very great pleasure to spend time last month with the **YMCA Youth Parliament** group at Parliament House. (left)

Every year I am impressed by each student's preparation, their intelligence and their commitment to making the most of the experience

New facility to provide anchor point for North Metro youth

Anchor Point is a new purpose-designed facility where disengaged young people in the northern corridor are supported with an appropriate alternative to high school; offering students a flexible, youth friendly environment where they can complete their education while getting extra one-on-one support.

Youth Futures' approach allows the students to learn at their own pace and reengage with education in a manner best suited to their circumstance.

I'm pictured (right) with the Commissioner for Children and Young People Colin Pettit and Mark Waite CEO/Director of Youth Futures WA at the opening of Anchor Point, **Youth Futures** new centre in Joondalup.



Police medical retirement changes

I was pleased to speak in Parliament recently to indicate the Greens' support for the Police Amendment (Medical Retirement) Bill 2019.

This legislation creates a much needed standalone process for the medical retirement of police officers, replacing the current provisions which unfairly lump police officers of integrity, who have been unfortunate enough to suffer injury because of the extensive occupational hazards they face in the line of duty, in with police officers who are dishonest, criminal, corrupt or incompetent.

This is something the Police Union has campaigned on for a long time, and I join them in welcoming the reform.

Call for eviction moratorium

I have been publicly supporting the community sector's call for a six-month moratorium on tenant evictions involving children or tenants with severe mental illness from public housing.

This call follows revelations in July that more than 300 tenants had been served with court orders or evicted by bailiffs in the 10 months to April this year.

A new program to support Aboriginal housing and public housing clients called Thrive is currently being developed, but vulnerable tenants are being made homeless while we wait for the program to be up and running.



New intern, Alicia Nowak

I am very pleased to welcome our latest office intern, Alicia Nowak, who is participating in the Parliamentary Research Program this semester. Alicia is studying law through ECU and is researching issues around the imprisonment of fine defaulters in Western Australia during her internship in my office.

Current committees

Joint Standing Committee overseeing the Corruption and Crime Commission:
The inquiry is ongoing.

Parliamentary Inquiry into Alternate Approaches to addressing illicit drug use (Chair): Findings will be delivered in December.

Western suburbs sportsgrounds

I have been following up with the Minister for Planning about the lack of sportsgrounds in the Western Suburbs. Youth and Women's participation in social sport is growing rapidly. With this increase and the anticipated population increase from urban infill, we can foresee that the current fully subscribed sporting grounds in the Western Suburbs will not be able to keep up. Sporting clubs based at Rosalie Park are already having to turn prospective juniors away.

The City of Subiaco initially required 1.73 Hectares of sportsgrounds in exchange for the MRA to take Subiaco Oval and surrounds for the Subi East project. Unfortunately that necessity was not included in the final Memorandum of Understanding between the two bodies and no additional provision for sport has been made.

My recent letter to the Minister regarding the planned provision of sports-fields did not address the ongoing issues in the context of urban infill. Provision of active and passive green recreation space is essential to ensuring that infill is welcomed, rather than met with open hostility.

Get in touch.

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Bills debated

Police Amendment (Medical Retirement) Bill 2019

Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Amendment Bill 2019

Consumer Protection Amendment Bill 2018

Betting Control Amendment (Taxing) Bill 2019

Criminal Code Amendment (Industrial Manslaughter) Bill 2017

TAB (Disposal) Bill 2019