A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM STUART

As the year comes to an end and the Christmas season approaches it’s a good time to reflect on the past year. There is no doubt that Penrith has had a big 2017.

The over half a billion dollar redevelopment of Nepean Hospital is underway - the largest ever investment in our hospitals history. Importantly it’s been planned properly so services can still be delivered during construction and we are accounting for future population growth.

State roads in our community are being massively upgraded. The Northern Road upgrade is in full swing and the new bridge over the M4 will start to take shape next year. On Mulgoa Road we are designing a widened road that will be 6 lanes from Glenmore Park to Andrews Road.

We are entering the final phase of construction of the new Nepean River Pedestrian Bridge, finally opening up our river precinct and providing a safe river crossing.

I made these promises to you and I am delivering them for you.

It’s not just infrastructure. Our schools have received big boosts in funding and seeing students studying robotics alongside Maths and English gives me great confidence in our future workforce.

We reduced housing access to foreign buyers and at the same time increased support for local first home buyers.

All of this has created a strong local economy, best seen through our record low unemployment rate of 4%, down from 6.2% when I was first elected to represent you.

Beyond the infrastructure, construction and economy what really makes Penrith the best place to live is its people. So this Christmas take some time out to say thank you to someone who has helped out in our community. They’ll appreciate it and you’ll feel better for saying it.

I’ll see you again in 2018 where I’ll continue to be working hard for you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

WORKS BEGIN ON $576 MILLION NEPEAN HOSPITAL UPGRADE

Demolition works have begun as part of the $576 million Nepean Hospital redevelopment which will transform health services in Penrith and the Blue Mountains.

The NSW Government is making a record investment in first-class health infrastructure right across the state and the $576 million Nepean Hospital redevelopment highlights this commitment.

Construction on the multi-storey car park, on the corner of Parker Street and Barber Avenue will free up space for the new hospital tower, which will be built on the site of the current carpark.

Stage 1 of the Nepean Redevelopment will include:
- A new clinical services block
- A new and expanded Emergency Department
- Expanded and upgraded medical imaging
- At least 12 new operating theatres
- 18 birthing suites in new accommodation
- A new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (an increase of ten)
- A new helipad
- More than 200 overnight beds in new accommodation

The Nepean Redevelopment team is also undertaking the expansion of medical oncology services with a doubling of chemotherapy chairs from 15 to 30.
NEPEAN RIVER BRIDGE SET TO LAUNCH

Work is ramping up on the new Nepean River Bridge with bridge trusses being welded together to form the main span, set to be launched in the coming weeks. Crews are working around the clock at the Memorial Avenue compound to weld and paint 25 metre long, 8.2 metre wide trusses delivered to the workshop overnight by Police escort. We’re more than halfway through delivery of this exciting project which will prove to be a massive asset to the community and enhance our use of the Nepean River as a recreational space.

HONOURING VETERANS ACROSS PENRITH REGION

Minister for Veterans Affairs David Elliott joined local veterans and school students to take a soil sample from the Penrith City Memory Park.

The soil will form part of the renovated Hall of Service at the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park to honour soldiers from across Penrith who answered the call to fight in the Great War.

LOCAL BUSINESS DOMINATES SAKE EXPORT

Niall Blair, Minister for Trade and Industry and I visited Sun Masamune, Australia’s only sake producer who is located right here in Penrith. Sun Masamune export more than 80% of its product back to Japan. This is another example of a Penrith business dominating on the world stage.

LOCAL JPS AWARDED

Attorney General Mark Speakman joined me to congratulate and present certificates of thanks to Mr Warren Miller and Mr Raymond Tregenza for their 50 years of service to the community serving as Justices of the Peace.

This is a remarkable achievement deserving of this special recognition.

(02) 4722 8660  
Shop 23 Ground Floor Tattersalls Centre, 510-534 High Street, Penrith NSW 2750  
penrith@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Education Minister Rob Stokes joined me at Samuel Terry Public School to announce that Penrith government schools will each receive a share of $12 million next year for educational resources and student support, including targeted literacy and numeracy programs, teacher training and additional speech pathologists.

Minister for Emergency Services Troy Grant and Royal Life Saving NSW CEO Michael Illinsky visited the Nepean River to release two new water safety reports by Royal Life Saving NSW and to flag the dangers in our rivers as the weather warms up. The drowning statistics concerning our rivers are alarming and a stark reminder to us all to consider the dangers including strong currents, submerged objects and steep or crumbly banks. For further details visit www.royallifesaving.com.au

The Northern Road Employment and Training Hub at Penrith, where a new generation of skilled Western Sydney workers are being trained, was officially opened during a visit by Melinda Pavey, Minister for Roads, Maritime and Freight. The purpose-built employment hub is training local jobseekers and placing them into apprenticeships, traineeships and other construction related careers as part of the Australian and NSW Governments’ 10-year Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan.

The hub is being delivered in partnership with Lendlease, to provide some of the region’s most vulnerable people with pre-vocational skills, traineeships, internships, trade qualifications and jobs with contractors and subcontractors. Initiatives like this will provide a fresh start for so many people, giving them an opportunity to secure jobs and learn new qualifications while helping deliver projects of long-term benefit to the state.
IMPORTANT LICENSING CHANGES FOR YOUNG DRIVERS

The NSW Government has announced major improvements to the state's highly successful Graduated Licensing Scheme to ensure new drivers are safe drivers on our roads.

- Learner drivers will have to complete the Hazard Perception Test before they can take the driving test;
- P1 drivers will no longer have to complete the Hazard Perception Test to get their P2 licence; and
- The Driver Qualification Test has been removed for P2 Drivers and in its place P2 drivers will have to stay on their licence for an extra 6 months if they receive a suspension for unsafe driving behaviour.

These changes come into effect from 20 November 2017.

LEARNER DRIVER LOG BOOK GOES DIGITAL

Learner drivers are now able to use one of three apps – Licence Ready, Roundtrip and L2P to log their required 120 hours of driving practice and then submit their logbook electronically with RMS. The apps are available for free download through the Android Play and Apple app stores and they are designed not to distract learner drivers or their supervisors whilst driving.

Further information may be found at www.rms.nsw.gov.au

PENRITH WINS WITH MORE OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PLACES

It was a pleasure to join Sarah Mitchell, Minister for Early Childhood Education during visits to Kingswood Park Public School and Samuel Terry Public School to announce funding to support new Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) services. Each school has received a grant of $30,000 to set up new OSHC programs. Before and after school care services are a huge asset for schools and help relieve the burden for working mums and dads across NSW.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government continue to deliver on their election commitment to increase the number of before and after school care places to support working parents with more than $1.6 billion spent in Early Childhood education since 2011.

MOTORISTS TO RECEIVE GREEN SLIP REFUNDS

The vast majority of NSW motorists will receive a CTP Green Slip refund next year as part of the NSW Government’s reforms that make the scheme fairer and more affordable. About $300 million will be returned to motorists across the state in addition to the $120 saved on the average premium under the new scheme. Further information is available at www.sira.nsw.gov.au

Stuart Ayres MP
ONLINE CALCULATOR LAUNCHED FOR MORE TRANSPARENT RETIREMENT VILLAGE CONTRACTS

Retirement village residents will be better protected and have greater transparency when considering potential contracts after NSW Fair Trading launched a new online calculator.

This tool puts consumers first by prompting prospective residents through a series of simple questions, which then generates easy-to-understand cost estimates.

Learn more about the calculator by visiting www.rvcalculator.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

NEW PROGRAM ENSURES SENIORS STAY IN THE GAME

I was joined by Minister for Ageing Tanya Davies and some local seniors to launch the Modified Sports Program, a partnership between the NSW Government, Football NSW, Netball NSW and Gymnastics NSW.

The program encourages seniors across NSW to take part in an exciting new low impact sporting initiative to help them stay active and connected in their communities.

Sport is a vital part of the social and economic fabric of NSW and it helps keep our older community members fit, healthy and engaged. To register or for more information visit www.MyFootballClub.com.au
www.netballnsw.com/walking-netball
www.gymnsw.org.au/olderadults

ENERGY BILL RELIEF PACKAGE FOR HOUSEHOLDS AND SMALL BUSINESS

NSW households could save hundreds of dollars a year off their energy bills through discounts on energy efficient appliances, rebates will increase by 20 per cent, and small businesses could save up to $1,900 a year under the nation’s most comprehensive energy relief package.

The energy affordability package includes:

- The Low Income Household rebate increased from $235 to $285 and the Family Energy Rebate increased from $150 to $180
- Discounts on equipment upgrades for small business to save each business up to $1,900 on their yearly bill
- Discounts for energy efficient lighting and air conditioning upgrades for all households that could lead to bill savings of up to $500 per household per year
- Discounts for up to 23,000 concession cardholders to save up to 50 per cent on the cost of upgrading old fridges and TVs to energy saving models, saving each household an average of around $200 a year

For further details visit: www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au
PENRITH COMMUNITY KITCHEN EQUIPMENT UPGRADE

It was great to have Premier Gladys Berejiklian visit the Penrith Community Kitchen to chat to the volunteers and to announce they will receive $4850 towards equipment upgrades.

The Penrith Community Kitchen is a not-for-profit organisation that has been supporting those in need in the Penrith area for almost 20 years.

Operated entirely by volunteers and funded by donations from the local community, businesses, schools and church groups, the Penrith Community Kitchen feeds more than 500 homeless and underprivileged people every week. The weekday lunch service culminates with a special Christmas lunch at the end of each year.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Did you know the Penrith electorate “Have Your Say” Survey is accessible online?
To “Have your say” visit: tinyurl.com/ycz8bcku or scan the QR Code.

NEW PARKING SPACES OPEN AT PENRITH STATION

The new 450 spot car park for commuters is NOW OPEN at Penrith Station.

In addition to the new spaces, around 220 spaces have also been returned to customers following the end of construction.

This is a tremendous boost for Penrith Station customers who will now have access to more than 1,170 untimed and free spaces, including 30 disabled spaces for our less mobile commuters.