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BUDGET NEWSLETTER

ALISON BYRNES MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CUNNINGHAM

Address 74 Crown Street, Wollongong, NSW 2500 ■ Phone (02) 4228 5899 ■ Email alison.byrnes.mp@aph.gov.au

Labor's Budget delivers for the Illawarra

Illawarra families and businesses will directly benefit from the Albanese Government's 2023-24 Budget, as this Budget delivers a stronger foundation for a better future.

\$ The 2023 Budget delivers on Labor's promises, provides cost of living relief for our community and named Wollongong as being at the centre of our plan to become a renewable energy superpower.

LABOR IS DELIVERING:

- ▶ A new Energy Price Relief Plan with a \$500 energy rebate for eligible households and a \$650 rebate for eligible small businesses.
- ▶ The largest increase to the bulk billing incentive ever, which will make seeing a doctor cheaper and easier.

- ▶ A 15 per cent increase in award wages, for more than 250,000 aged care workers.
- ▶ A \$4 billion investment to realise our future as a renewable energy superpower.
- ▶ Cheaper child care for around 5700 families in Cunningham from 1 July.
- ▶ Cheaper and more accessible medicines.
- ▶ An expansion of paid parental leave.
- ▶ \$400 million for a further 300,000 Fee Free TAFE and VET places in high skill needs areas from 2024.
- ▶ Getting wages moving again.

The Albanese Labor Government's positive plan will grow the economy, support and create jobs, boost renewable energy, improve standards of care for those who need it and invest in education, skills and training.

The budget also brings the Government's total investment to make Australia a renewable energy superpower to more than \$40 billion since the 2022 election.

Investing in jobs & skills

🛠️ I am delivering on my election commitment to build our skills and capabilities to take advantage of Australia's transition to a clean renewable energy future.

We are investing \$10 million in the state-of-the-art Energy Futures Skills Centre at the University of Wollongong.

The Energy Futures Skills Centre will help build the energy workforce of the future, using modern teaching laboratories and upgraded equipment to provide real world examples of clean energy technology for teaching and research.

This investment will deliver teaching programs to train and upskill workers for a career in clean energy and clean manufacturing.

The Government is also investing \$2.5 million to upgrade equipment and teaching aids at Wollongong TAFE, creating a Renewable Energy Training facility.

This investment sets up the Illawarra to be a leader in the energy transformation of the coming years and decades.



Prime Minister announcing the Energy Futures Skills Centre at the University of Wollongong.



INSIDE

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Cost of living relief



Increases in the cost-of-living mean that household budgets are under pressure. The centrepiece of the Albanese Labor Government's second Budget is a \$14.6 billion cost-of-living package that will help to ease pressure on households while putting downward pressure on inflation.

This includes a \$500 energy rebate for eligible households and a \$650 rebate for eligible small businesses, and access to cheaper medicines.

The Budget delivers more than \$1.6 billion for energy saving upgrades for homes, businesses and social housing.

This investment will help people with older homes and appliances that don't meet modern energy standards to upgrade and help save money.

The Government is also increasing the base rate of income payments like JobSeeker Payment, Austudy and Youth Allowance payments for eligible people.

This will support close to 8000 people in Cunningham to benefit by \$40 per fortnight.

Boost to *bulk billing*

Labor is making a historic investment in our health system by delivering the largest increase to the bulk billing incentive ever. This will provide an immediate benefit to over 156,000 Illawarra residents, including children, pensioners and other concession card holders.



Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride MP visiting King St Medical Centre.

This investment will help take pressure off our public hospitals and emergency departments, which are still feeling the strain of a once in a century pandemic.

DELIVERING CHEAPER MEDICINES

For millions of Australians this budget will see the cost of medicines cut in half with changes to the dispensing of more than 300 PBS medicines for chronic conditions.

It is estimated that this change will benefit more than 85,000 people in the Illawarra who will be able to get more of the medicine they need for less money and less hassle.

Save energy, save on bills



Labor is boosting electrification and supporting households and businesses access energy upgrades to improve their energy use and save on their energy costs with:

- ✓ \$1.3 billion to establish the Household Energy Upgrades Fund to upgrade homes with battery-ready solar PV, modern appliances and other improvements to keep them warmer in winter and cooler in summer.
- ✓ \$300 million to support upgrades to social housing that will save tenants up to one-third of their energy consumption from upgrades each year.
- ✓ \$310 million in tax relief via the Small Business Energy Incentive, to provide businesses with annual turnover of less than \$50 million with an additional 20 per cent deduction on spending that supports electrification and more efficient use of energy.

The Government's *Energy Future Plan* will reduce pressure on power bills and cut emissions and supports the efforts being made by locals like Saul Griffith and Rewiring Australia who are working on the ground in our community and with the Albanese Government in Canberra, to make electrification a reality regardless of income or postcode.

Illawarra Clean Energy Expo



In March we took Wollongong to Canberra, with the Illawarra Clean Energy Expo at Parliament House. We had close to 20 local exhibitors promoting the Illawarra’s skills, capabilities and opportunities when it comes to renewable energy and advanced manufacturing. The Illawarra’s world class innovation and expertise were demonstrated by large attendance of Canberra’s diplomatic community all of whom were keen to learn, partner, and collaborate with our expertise.

“ Alison Byrnes is the energetic federal representative (Labor) for Cunningham, within which sits postcode 2515 and Wollongong. She listens to and trusts experts and has the existential challenge (for Wollongong) of how to transition the steel industry, and what to do with the port facilities as coal exports inevitably shrink. I’ve watched Alison absorb the concerns of these critical industries and plan with them their timelines for emissions reduction. ”



Boosting renewable jobs



The biggest opportunity for the Illawarra and Australia for growth and prosperity is the global shift to clean and renewable energy and this Labor Government is making the biggest ever investment in Australia's energy transformation.

The Albanese Government is investing \$2 billion in a new Hydrogen Headstart program, so Australia can be a world leader in producing and exporting hydrogen power.

Hydrogen means the Illawarra can make and export everything from renewable energy to green steel.

Labor is investing in the installation of community batteries, which will support communities like Warrawong with affordable energy by storing renewable energy generated during the day for distribution in the evening when energy is more expensive.

These investments support the future prospects for a local battery manufacturing industry.

Seizing these kinds of industrial and economic opportunities will be the biggest driver and determinant of our future prosperity.



Alison Byrnes MP visiting Sicona Battery Technologies research lab.



Alison Byrnes MP meeting with founder and CEO of Sicona Battery Technologies, Christiaan Jordaan and Ty Christopher from the University of Wollongong's Energy Futures Network.

AUKUS UPDATE

The Government has made clear that no decision has been made on the location of an east coast naval base and it won't be made till late this decade.

All feasible options will be considered – not just the previous government's three identified locations of Brisbane, Newcastle and Port Kembla. The Assistant Minister for Defence, Matt Thistlethwaite MP, has reiterated in his visits to Wollongong that as the Minister responsible for the Defence Estate, Defence had not expressed a preference for any location.

The Albanese Government made a clear undertaking that we will work with industry, the community and stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the recent Defence Strategic Review and that the Illawarra should continue to attract investment in a range of industries that will grow jobs and opportunity for the region – particularly in the renewable energy sector.

Always here to help



Alison Byrnes MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CUNNINGHAM

If you need help with any federal issue please contact Alison's office on

4228 5899

or email

alison.byrnes.mp@aph.gov.au

Authorised by Alison Byrnes MP, 74 Crown Street, Wollongong, NSW 2500. Printed by Print Media, 13/30 Swan Street, Wollongong NSW 2500.