

March 2025

# Community Update

It was great to see construction begin on the new Barwon Women's and Children's Hospital in Geelong last month.

Expanding on the women's and children's health services currently available across the region, this build will feature a new neonatal and parent care unit, an expanded special care nursery, extra hospital beds, birthing suites, operating theatres and clinic rooms. This vital investment will provide more local jobs and ensure that families across the Bellarine and Greater Geelong can access expert care and facilities close to home.

This isn't the only exciting local project currently underway, as we work to make our community, facilities and road infrastructure as safe and accessible as possible.

Last month, it was terrific to visit Wallington Primary School to celebrate construction commencing on their new building upgrades.

School captains, and junior project managers, Nathan, Lily and Brianna gave me a tour of the site that will soon become new classrooms, and they gave it a big giving a tick of approval. It's great to see this \$2.1 million investment take place for an incredible local school that has served the community since 1868.

Recently, I also visited the Queenscliff Coast Guard to celebrate the roll out of the new digital radios for all Marine Search and Rescue units to improve their communication on the water. These radios give them access to encrypted communication with the Water Police Rescue Coordination Centre, improving connectivity when responding to rescue operations.

There are more projects to celebrate in the Bellarine throughout this year with Collendina Reserve progressing in road safety upgrades that will make it safer for members of the football and cricket clubs, as well as their families and opposing teams, to safely enter and move around the reserve, before further works commence on upgrading their pavilion with support from Federal Government.

This month we'll see the commencement of important intersection upgrades in Barwon Heads, with a new roundabout, dedicated bicycle lanes, pedestrian paths and improved school bus stops on Barwon Heads Road and Stacey's Road intersection.

And that's just the start of 2025. I look forward to celebrating more milestones throughout the year with the wonderful Bellarine community.

## Keep Up to Date in the Community

If you're looking for regular updates alongside this community column, be sure to follow my social media on Facebook and Instagram, '*Alison Marchant – Member for Bellarine*', to see up to date information regarding project milestones, what grants are available in the community, upcoming events and community notifications.

As your local member of State Government, please contact my office on 03 5250 1987 or via email [alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:alison.marchant@parliament.vic.gov.au) if you require any assistance.

