



# JENNY AITCHISON MP

MEMBER FOR MAITLAND

Summer 2025



## Community Update

*Dear Resident*

Happy New Year to you and I hope you are enjoying a relaxing summer with friends and family. As we welcome 2025 and look ahead to another vibrant year, I want to thank everyone for the wonderful spirit I see every time I am out and about in the Maitland community.

Last year was a very busy one for the Minns Labor Government. We have been working hard to address cost of living issues and help secure more essential workers in our public sector services such as health, education and emergency services. Removing the wages cap has meant that public sector workers have been able to negotiate on pay and conditions for the first time in over a decade. Here are some highlights from the last year.

### Health & Mental Health

The Government has increased staffing at Maitland Hospital by 10 percent and established a 24/7 Emergency Department Short Stay unit to help reduce emergency department waiting times. The Maitland Mental Health Rehabilitation Project will include a purpose built facility on the New Maitland Hospital campus. More regional paramedics have been recruited, and a HECS incentive will encourage more young people to undertake health degrees. The last budget also included an historic payroll tax incentive to encourage 70% bulk-billing rates by regional GPs.

### Education

Work is progressing on the long fought for \$65.8 million upgrade to Gillieston Public School including a new preschool; a new preschool will also be built at Tenambit Public School; and \$5 million will be spent to reduce the local school maintenance backlog. An investment of more than \$60 million over five years will establish the Hunter Net Zero Manufacturing Centre of Excellence at TAFE NSW's Tighes Hill campus. Across NSW schools cancelled classes have been reduced by nearly 25 percent since the Minns Labor Government came to office and over 16,000 teachers and support staff have been converted from casual to permanent roles.

### Police

For the first time in over a decade we are seeing police training intakes full, by paying people while they study. We are also making it easier for officers to transfer at level into the NSW Police from other jurisdictions or return after a career break.

### Roads & Transport

Across the Hunter, there are over \$3.5 billion in road projects



under construction, including the M1 to Raymond Terrace, Hexham Straight Widening, the Singleton and Muswellbrook Bypasses and completion of the missing link in the Newcastle Inner City Bypass from Jesmond to Rankin Park. With the raising of Melville Ford Bridge, upgrades on Raymond Terrace Road and the planned duplication of Thornton Rail Bridge, everyone in Maitland will benefit from these upgrades. We have installed seat belts in 92 buses across the Hunter and are improving public transport options across the Hunter with new trains hitting the tracks and an uplift in bus services.

### Thank you

I am so proud of the many incredible people who make Maitland such a wonderful place to live and work. To recognise our star citizens last year in Parliament I submitted over 150 Community Recognition Statements, to acknowledge their efforts.

I wish you and your family all the best for the year ahead and look forward to working hard and continuing to deliver for Maitland.

*Jenny*

**The Hon. Jenny Aitchison MP**  
Member for Maitland

# Health Update

Thank you for standing with me in support of our hospitals and health workers. The Minns Labor Government continues the work needed to strengthen and enhance our public health system.

## More staff for Maitland Hospital

Maitland Hospital welcomed an influx of new team members including nurses, midwives, doctors and allied health professionals, increasing its full-time equivalent staff by 10 percent, or 121 new employees between July 2023 and September 2024. Maitland Hospital's Emergency Department Short Stay Unit (EDSSU) has increased its capacity to now operate seven days a week.

## Enhanced Bulk Billing Services

The Minns Labor Government's \$189 million Bulk-Billing Support Initiative will help ensure the cost of seeing a GP remains accessible for families and households. Clinics in Maitland who bulk-bill at least 70% of patients will receive payroll tax rebates.

## Expanding access to the contraceptive pill

Thousands of women across NSW will have easier, more affordable access to the oral contraceptive pill as a 12-month trial is made permanent. NSW pharmacists who have completed the required training will be able to offer this service as part of their usual business.

## Pay agreement reached for 50,000 health workers

The Minns Labor Government reached an agreement with the Health Services Union (HSU) to increase wages and deliver benefits from salary packaging for more than 50,000 health workers. The agreement covers a range of professions including allied health roles, hospital cleaners, scientists, security officers, patient transport officers and more.

Negotiations continue with NSW Nurses and Midwives, a 3 percent wage rise has already been achieved and nurse to patient ratios will continue to be rolled out across the state until an agreement is reached.

## Hazardous Area Rescue Ambulances (HARA)

One of the world's first HARAs will be located at Rutherford to optimise response capabilities during natural disasters. HARAs can drive through flood waters up to 1.2 metres and other hazardous environments. The rear of the vehicle is a fully operational ambulance, with a specially designed stretcher loading system to assist paramedics in patient handling and for patient comfort.



# Building a Better NSW Together



**Investing in essential services** that people rely on and getting the state back on track



**Prioritising building homes** for NSW to address the housing crisis



**Caring for NSW** by ensuring we have access to education and healthcare and paying our essential workers fairly



**Building better communities for NSW** by ensuring we have the roads and transport infrastructure we need to improve the lives of people in NSW.



**Making responsible, better choices** on how and where we spend the public's money, to ensure that we build a better NSW for all.



Inspecting works on the M1 to Raymond Terrace with Federal Member for Paterson Meryl Swanson.

# Renters Reforms

**The Minns Labor Government has passed the most significant rental reforms in over a decade in the NSW Parliament. Our reforms follow through on Labor's election commitment to improve rental laws and achieve the right balance between owners and the more than 2.2 million renters in NSW. Reforms include**

- No grounds evictions will be banned.
- Rent increases will now be limited to only one per year.
- It will be easier to have pets in rentals.
- Fee-free ways to pay rent.
- A ban on paying for background checks when applying for a property.
- Portable bond scheme.
- Establishing Rent Check – A new, free tool renters can use to help check whether the rent they're being asked to pay is fair.
- Rental Task force within NSW Fair Trading.



# Education Update



Artist impression of Gillieston Public School after \$65million upgrade

**I acknowledge the wonderful teachers, librarians, learning support staff, educators and those in administration roles in our schools, TAFEs, preschools and all learning facilities in Maitland.**

Together with the Teachers Federation and Parents and Citizens Associations across the Maitland electorate, we have worked to improve Maitland's education system from the ground up.

## Investment in Educators

**The Minns Labor Government has invested in educators:**

- Scrapping the wages cap.
- Delivering highly competitive salaries for teachers in Maitland.
- Improved workplace flexibility for attraction and retention, including opportunities for job-sharing, part-time employment, and full-time and part-time leave without pay.
- Capping regular after-school meetings at one hour a week, with after-school events to be planned in consultation with teachers with reasonable notice given.
- Additional school development days, with a focus on explicit teaching strategies and the curriculum.
- Converted more than 16,000 temporary teachers and school support staff to permanent roles.
- Banning mobile phones in public schools to improve student behaviour and focus in the classroom.
- Expanding the School Admin Reduction Program trial to streamline the non-classroom work required of teachers.
- Reduced teacher vacancies to a three-year low.
- The number of merged and/or cancelled classes each day in schools across NSW has been halved.



It was great to catch up with students from East Maitland Public School as we announced the completed installation of seatbelts on 92 dedicated school buses across the Hunter.

## Investment in School Infrastructure

**The Gillieston Public School redevelopment will include:**

A public preschool, new classrooms, support learning hub, staff and administration facilities, library, school hall, canteen, Out of School Hours (OOSH) care facility, bus stop and kiss & drop facilities.

A new state-of-the-art preschool at Tenambit.

A new public preschool, primary school and high school for Huntlee, catering to residents in the western areas of Maitland and taking pressure off the largest high school outside of the Sydney metro area, Rutherford Technology High School.

\$5 million will be spent on maintenance projects in the coming months in public schools across Maitland.

- Francis Greenway High School – stormwater repairs and gutters and downpipes replaced on Block E.
- Maitland High School – technical and applied sciences facilities will be refurbished, including new carpet and equipment.
- Telarah Public School – retaining walls and covered walkways.
- Maitland East Public School – Block A's roof repair.
- Maitland Public School – external wall repainted.
- Tenambit Public School – new carpet and painting and carpark gate repairs and covered walkway.
- Hunter River Community School – new carpet installed.
- Morpeth Public School – wall and roof replacement in its demountable.
- Thornton Public School – vinyl and carpeting work.
- Lochinvar Public School to receive electrical upgrades.
- Maitland Grossmann High School – Block D kitchen upgrade, concrete cancer treatment and facade refurbishment, in addition to the already completed asbestos remediation.

All of those projects are being undertaken as a way of addressing the significant backlog in education infrastructure in Maitland.

The Government will invest \$60 million to establish the Hunter Net Zero Manufacturing Centre of Excellence in Newcastle.



# Out and About in Maitland



Breast Screen NSW opened a new permanent site at Greenhills Shopping Centre in August



Launch of Camp Quality 2025 Convoy Fundraiser



Launching "Navigating Money, Markets & Men" by local author Judy Williams at East Maitland Library



With Tara Dever from Mindaribba LALC at MRAG for the launch of Robert Fielding's "Tjukurpa Handle It" exhibition



Launching "Kiyakya" with the Hunter River Dragons - an \$18,000 NSW Government grant



Opening the NSW State Championships for Piping and Drumming at No 1 Sportsground in Maitland.

## MOBILE OFFICES 2025

My mobile offices are a great opportunity for you to catch up with me and my team, to raise any issues of concern. I am also available to visit your retirement or seniors living village or other community housing areas. Please reach out if you would like a visit. Upcoming mobile offices are as follows:

<b>21 FEBRUARY 2025</b>	<b>8AM TO 10AM</b>	<b>RUTHERFORD</b> Rutherford Community Centre, 23 West Mall
<b>23 FEBRUARY 2025</b>	<b>9AM TO 11AM</b>	<b>WOODBERRY</b> Woodberry Family Centre, 11 Lawson Avenue
	<b>12PM TO 2PM</b>	<b>ASHTONFIELD</b> Shamrock Hill Multipurpose Centre, 19 Galway Bay Drive
	<b>3PM TO 5PM</b>	<b>TELARAH</b> Telarah Lagoon BBQ & Picnic Area, 6 Bungaree Street
<b>24 FEBRUARY 2025</b>	<b>8AM TO 10AM</b>	<b>LOCHINVAR</b> Porter Place, New England Highway
<b>2 MARCH 2025</b>	<b>11AM TO 1PM</b>	<b>MAITLAND</b> Maitland Markets, Bloomfield Street
	<b>2PM TO 4PM</b>	<b>METFORD</b> Metford Community Hall, 13 Ingall Street
	<b>5PM TO 6PM</b>	<b>MORPETH</b> School of Arts, 110 High Street
<b>9 MARCH 2025</b>	<b>1PM TO 3PM</b>	<b>THORNTON</b> Pat Hughes Community Centre, Taylor Avenue
	<b>12PM TO 2PM</b>	<b>GILLIESTON HEIGHTS</b> Community Hub, Redwood Drive & Pine Street

**ALWAYS HERE TO HELP**



If I can help with any State Government matter please contact me at my office on (02) 4933 1617 or email at [maitland@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:maitland@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

