



Spring 2017

# NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

**TIM CRAKANTHROP MP YOUR STATE MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE**

414 Hunter Street, Newcastle NSW 2300 ■ P. (02) 4926 1126 ■ F. (02) 4926 2134 ■ E. [newcastle@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:newcastle@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

## Let's put an end to **wage theft**

In the last week of Parliament before the winter break. I spoke of NSW Labor's plan to eliminate the exploitation of vulnerable employees through wage theft. Action is desperately needed with an increase of workers being taken advantage of when just trying to do a fair days work for a fair days pay.

We have all heard of the appalling systematic underpayment and the doctoring of payroll records of 7 Eleven employees and the resulting repayment of \$59M in wages.

In Newcastle, we have also seen the local Pizza Hut slammed by the Fair Work Ombudsman as \$20,000 in underpayments to staff were revealed. The Steel Street Fish Market outlets at Marketown and Charlestown Square were also audited by the Fair Work Ombudsman and found to owe \$40,000 to their employees.

Luke Foley and the Labor team recently announced our five point plan to eliminate the exploitation of vulnerable workers. Our new five point plan will see:

- A new wage theft law to criminalise deliberate failure to pay wages and entitlements;
- New laws to hold head franchisors accountable for the actions of franchisees;
- Widened powers of workplace inspectors to undertake wage audits;
- A licensing scheme for labour hire



**I will always stand up and fight for worker's rights.**

companies to force compliance with existing labour laws; and

- New laws to protect Sunday penalty rates in all state awards and agreements.

A future Labor Government will also place dodgy businesses on a public "name and shame" register and make them ineligible to participate in future contracts with the NSW Government.

We would also ensure disputes and other issues regarding apprenticeships and vocational training which are regulated by State law can be heard in the Industrial Relations Commission.

Vulnerable workers are being cheated out of a staggering amount of wages and it has to stop. Dodgy employers have been put on notice – pay the correct wages and entitlements to your staff or face the consequences!

I will always stand up for worker's rights.

## Message from Tim Crakanthorp

**Welcome to my Spring Newsletter for 2017. I hope that you are enjoying the warmer weather!**

The redevelopment of the CBD in Newcastle is moving along at breakneck speed. There are many cranes in the sky and over \$1B of development applications have gone through the Council in the last year alone.

Unfortunately, there are growing pains associated with this rapid growth. It is the Government's role to help facilitate the realisation of the community's vision for the future. With parking at a premium, the bungled privatisation of our buses and lack of planning for large events in particular, we are experiencing considerable pain.

On a positive note, after two years of lobbying it's good to see the Government finally release the Hunter (Broadmeadow) Sports and Entertainment Precinct Draft Masterplan. I look forward to many of the sporting groups that I have met with in conjunction with Venues NSW, putting in well considered proposals.

I have continued to fight for workers' rights, in Parliament, speaking locally and promoting Labor's five point plan to help stamp out worker exploitation and wage theft.

I have been calling for an inquiry and advocating for better response times for ambulances after hearing from a local Stockton family who anxiously waited 30 minutes for an ambulance to arrive to treat their seriously ill father and husband.

I am also advocating for a ban on single use plastic bags in this state.

As your local Member, you can be rest assured that I will keep fighting for Newcastle on issues important to you and get our fair share!

*Tim*



## 'Like' Tim on Facebook

For more photos and updates on local issues from Tim, please visit [www.facebook.com/fightingfornewcastle](http://www.facebook.com/fightingfornewcastle) and hit the 'like' button!

# Hunter Sports & Entertainment Precinct

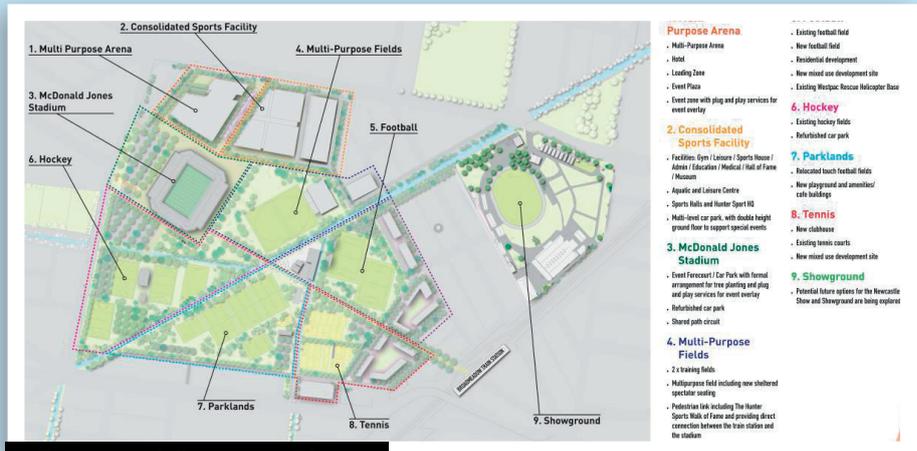
In July, Venues NSW launched their concept for the Hunter Sports & Entertainment Precinct. That is, the blueprint for Broadmeadow to become a world-class sporting, leisure and entertainment precinct that is diverse, vibrant, sustainable and commercially viable.



I have been calling for this Masterplan since entering Parliament.

The original plan, as first drafted by the Labor NSW Government in November 2009, included proposals to relocate the Newcastle Harness Racing Club, build a new 10,000-seat entertainment centre, aquatic centre and multi-level carpark. Now eight years later, the Government has finally revealed their new plans. We need to ensure that Newcastle gets the precinct we deserve. The community has been invited to give their feedback on the early concept designs and we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is spending billions on stadia in Sydney and Newcastle is missing out on its fair share. The Government must finalise the plan and begin delivery of a world class Sporting and Entertainment Precinct for Newcastle.



To see the plan, visit: <http://www.venuesnsw.com/page/conceptplan>

To have your say, you can:

- Use the online feedback form;
- Email [hunterconceptplan@venuesnsw.com](mailto:hunterconceptplan@venuesnsw.com); or
- Attend the Venues NSW stall in person on Sunday 29 October 2017 at:
  - the Newcastle Farmers Market, Broadmeadow Showground, Brown Road from 10:00am - 12:00pm
  - the Hyundai A-League Round 4 - Newcastle Jets v Western Sydney Wanderers match, Western Forecourt, McDonald Jones Stadium, 294 Turton Road from 3:30pm to 5:30pm

## Stockton death needs investigation

In August, I called on the Minister for Health, the Hon. Brad Hazzard to launch an investigation into a slow ambulance response, which may have contributed to the death of a Stockton resident.



I recently met with the widow of a man whose family had to wait too long for an ambulance. The widow explained that her daughter had been at home when her husband suffered the medical episode. The daughter had waited an agonising

thirty minutes for an ambulance to respond to her triple zero call for help when her father experienced severe breathing difficulties and then stopped breathing.

Once the ambulance had arrived at the Calvary Mater Hospital, there were many ambulances waiting to admit patients into the Emergency Department. Those paramedics could have been out on the road, responding to new emergencies. Instead they were stuck at the hospital in "bed block". Sadly, the man died two days later.

Following the man's death, the widow spoke with an executive of

Ambulance NSW who told her that the time it took to get to the hospital was "unacceptable." The widow was told the service knew of the urgent need for medical attention, but that they just didn't have the resources available.

The emergency service workers do an exemplary job, but the State Government clearly needs to provide them with more resources to enable them to get to all those in need. It's simply not good enough that New South Wales' second largest city can't find an ambulance in an emergency situation.

# OUT & ABOUT

WITH TIM CRAKANTHORP



Happy to support the MUA as they fight for their workers' right to a fair pay deal.



Luke Foley in Newcastle to expose the Government's light rail cost blow out.



Hanging out with Alexandra, Emma, Sarah, Kian and Milos following the Young People's Theatre performance of CATS (Abridged).



Supporting the Cancer Council with Jess Green and the beautiful Cancer Council quilt up for raffle.



Headed out to the Newcastle NAIDOC Day and enjoyed a cuppa with Garry, Ronnie and Sean.



Welcoming new Australian citizens, the Abdulkareem family!



Visited the amazing Marching Koalas who will represent Australia in the 119th Pasadena Rose Parade in California on New Years Day 2018.



Thanks to the hard working OzHarvest Newcastle team at the Hamilton #thinkeatsavenewcastle event. They make a crackin' vegetable hotpot!



I was pleased to join Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes and Matilda, Emily van Egmond at the announcement of the Westfield Matildas Vs Brazil game held at McDonald Jones Stadium on Tuesday 19 September.



I met Shelley presenting an exhibit from the "Past, Present and Future" exhibition in the Science and Engineering Challenge at The University of Newcastle



I met with Newcastle school cleaners, who are among the 7,000 that may lose their jobs under the NSW Government's proposed contract changes.



Happy to hand over the Community Building Partnerships grant of \$8,349 to San Clemente High School Mayfield Principal, Scott Donohue and Brian Rowe for the school's Aboriginal 'yarning circle.'

# 2018 NSW Women of the Year Awards

**Do you know someone who deserves to be recognised for the amazing work that they do in Newcastle?**

There are many exceptional women in Newcastle who deserve to be recognised. If you would like to acknowledge a woman in our community who has made a significant contribution, has demonstrated excellence in her career, or is an inspiring role model, you can nominate her for the 2018 NSW Women of the Year Awards.

You can nominate them by contacting our office on [newcastle@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:newcastle@parliament.nsw.gov.au) or at 414 Hunter Street, Newcastle. Please include their name, contact details and the reason that you think they should be nominated.

Be sure to include your name and contact details as the nominator.



**The 2017 Woman of the Year, Melissa Histon.**

## My answer is YES!

**Personally, I am in strong support of marriage equality and will be voting yes in the postal vote on same sex marriage.**

While I respect different views on the subject, I believe in equality for all regardless of sexuality. Love is love and this change is far beyond overdue



**I visited Newcastle resident and friend, Kath who with the help of neighbours painted the 'Fence of Love' in support of marriage equality.**

### KEY DATES

**Tuesday, September 12:** voting forms sent out

**Wednesday, October 11:** requests to replace damaged or lost form closes

**Friday, October 27:** the date all Australians are strongly encouraged to return forms by

**Tuesday, November 7 :** final deadline to return forms

**Wednesday, November 15:** survey results released

## BAN THE BAGS

**In August, I was joined by Shadow Minister for the Environment, Penny Sharpe, at Dixon Park to call on the Berejiklian Government to ban single-use plastic bags and protect our treasured coastal environment. We were also joined by local environmental groups, Take 3 Newcastle, the Litter Collective and the Wilderness Society.**



**The Shadow Minister for Environment, Penny Sharpe and I met with local environmental groups.**

The visit showed the ease with which plastic bags and litter pollutes our waterways, putting aquatic species and bird life at significant risk of ingesting or being choked by plastic bags and plastic fragments. Given the risks to local wildlife and Newcastle's highly regarded coastal environment, the Berejiklian Government must take action – there is no reason not to act.

In light of the recent announcement that supermarket giants Woolworths and Coles will voluntarily phase out single-use plastic bags over the next 12 months, the State Government has been humiliated by failing to implement a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags.

Already the ACT, SA, Tasmania and the NT all ban single-use plastic bags, with Queensland committing to do so next year. NSW Labor has a bill before the Parliament that will implement a ban on single-use plastic bags – but the Government has so far refused

Labor's call for bipartisan support on the issue. I am committed to banning single-use plastic bags under the next Labor Government.

**ONLY LABOR HAS A PLAN TO MAKE**

**HOME OWNERSHIP**

**A REALITY**



**Too many Australians in NSW are being denied the opportunity to own their own home. While the Liberals and Nationals give tax breaks to big business, they are doing nothing to tackle the housing affordability crisis in NSW.**

**We call upon the Liberal and National NSW Government to take strong action to make the Australian Dream achievable for all people living in NSW**

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**SIGN THE PETITION TO TAKE ACTION ON HOUSING AFFORDABILITY**

**PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION**

## Local Hero

**Stephen Fewson**  
SURVIVAL CANDLES



Stephen Fewson is a Mayfield resident, husband and father of four daughters. When not working in disability services, he spends his time actively volunteering with the SES, creating his own 'survival candles' and distributing them completely free of charge to the homeless.

Stephen's 'survival candles' are homemade candles inside a small tin that will heat a can of baked beans, warm your hands on a cold night or just give you some light.

### What keeps you motivated?

Being a father, but more importantly, I love showing them that nothing is out of their reach. I've always been an advocate of people being

heard, but I really love the voice that my daughters have and I look forward to their futures with excitement. They will be strong beautiful women, with a good sense of community and kindness.

### Anyone you admire?

Firstly, it's without a doubt, the strength, wisdom and abilities of my mother - a very strong and courageous woman. My father-in-law for his quiet patience and wisdom.

### What do you do in your spare time for fun?

In my spare time, I really enjoy building timber furniture, learning something new from those around me and cooking with my girls.

### What has been your biggest achievement to date?

I love the smile that a 'survival candle' can bring to someone's face. It gives me a little 'heart smile'

### What is your ultimate dream?

I really love learning new things, so if I won the lotto, I'd be off to study with different artists from around the world. Furniture makers, Japanese paper makers, Tasmanian knife makers etc.

### Any advice you would like to offer?

If you want to make someone's day, check out 'survival candles' on Facebook and learn how to make one!

## Ferry idea floated for complete transport interchange

- As the Interchange starts to take shape and the light rail is being constructed;
- As the Newcastle buses and ferries are privatised and the timetables are updated;
- As the ferries increase in patronage and the Stockton car park overflows;
- As the Newcastle transport network is reviewed and changed;

I am again calling for the Government to consider expanding the Stockton Ferry to Wickham.

The city continues to expand to the west and traditional workplaces have moved to Honeysuckle and Wickham, now is the time to ensure the updated transport plans reflect those changes.

With the Wickham Transport Interchange nearing completion and Keolis Downer asking for submissions on the future transport needs of Newcastle, now is the time for both Keolis Downer and the Government to consider linking the new Interchange to Stockton and Queens Wharf directly.

Parking concerns continue to grow in

Newcastle's CBD, wouldn't it help the situation if we had another ferry stop in addition to Queens Wharf? The demand for "park and ride" from Stockton will only increase as the suburbs of Fern Bay and Fullerton Cove continue to grow. In addition, as the city's commercial core continues to shift west, Wickham will become more and more of a destination for employment.

If the Government is so intent on getting the Newcastle commuters onto public transport, they should at least make it easier for them to do so by giving us the facilities we need.

I first called for this in 2015 when I asked the Government to confirm that the Stockton ferry service would feature in



Newcastle's future integrated transport plans. Whilst the plans were still being laid out, I asked the Government to consider expanding the ferry network. I wrote to the Minister for Transport and he said he had asked Transport for NSW to consider the proposal. Unfortunately, to date I have not received a response.

Newcastle is changing. The CBD is expanding further west and with the Newcastle Interchange combining different modes of public transport; it seems a missed opportunity that the ferry network isn't expanding with it.

## CONTACT TIM

Keep in touch with Tim and find out what's happening across Newcastle.

**f** Like Tim's page on facebook [FightingForNewcastle](#)

**t** Follow Tim on Twitter [@crakanthorp](#)

**E:** [newcastle@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:newcastle@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**P:** (02) 4926 1126 **F:** (02) 4926 2134

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Authorised by Tim Crakanthorp MP, Member for Newcastle, 414 Hunter St, Newcastle NSW 2300 and printed by NCP Printing, 14 Channel Road, Mayfield West, NSW 2307 using parliamentary entitlements, September 2017.