A prosperous, caring community alive with opportunities for all: this is my vision for Indi.

Improving mobile phone coverage and internet services, and fixing the train service, is vital for the future.

Growing our major sectors – agriculture, food production, manufacturing, health, education – will drive job creation and build stronger communities.

Working with Government in a fair and respectful way is producing results. The decision makers are listening to Indi concerns. As the Independent Member for Indi it is my duty to speak up on important issues in Parliament. I will keep fighting to get the job done and make sure the vision becomes a reality.

There are three ways I am delivering on my commitment:

- **Strong representation in Parliament** – making speeches, voting, working with Government, advocating for better services
- **Connecting with communities** – getting out and about, listening to concerns, supporting people, delivering results
- **Taking Indi to Canberra** – bringing people and groups to Parliament, building community understanding of Parliament, assisting community to take action

We are in this together. There are many ways to get involved and I welcome you to be part of the change.

**Get Involved - 2015 Events**

- **Kitchen Table Conversations**
- **Budget Impact Tour**
- **Australian Manufacturing and Farming Program Forum**, Wodonga – Friday May 29
- **Indi Summit**
  Monday October 26
- **Friday Night Conversations** – last Friday of every month at the Wodonga office

**Action on internet services in Indi**

- **Construction begins on:**
  - fixed wireless services at Alexandra and surrounds, Mansfield and surrounds, Moyhu, Wangaratta and Wangaratta South as well as Rutherglen, Chiltern, Springhurst, Merrijig, Yackandandah, Glenrowan and Milawa
  - fixed line services within areas of Wangaratta in 2016
- **Services continue to be ‘switched on’** including Baranduda surrounds, Kiewa surrounds and Ebden
- **Check the NBN rollout map for more information on NBN in your home or business**, http://www.nbnco.com.au/connect-home-or-business/check-your-address.html
- **Question Time:** Minister for Communications Malcolm Turnbull states NBN satellites will be launched later this year, plans available late 2015-2016
Valley Visits: On The Road Again

Watch out for the ‘Cathyvan’ in 2015! Cathy will be out and about in communities on Valley Visits to get feedback from people on important issues.

- Broken Valley: April 11
- Kiewa Valley: April 14
- Goulburn and Acheron Valley: April 20-21
- King Valley: May 5


Mobile Phone Coverage

- Calling for more funding to Mobile Black-Spot Programme in Private Member’s Motion
- Speaking on Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Deregulation) Bill 2014
- Advocating to the Minister for Communications, NBN Co. and telcos inc. Telstra, Optus & Vodafone for improved telecommunications access for rural and regional Australians
- Working with Indi Telco Action Group (ITAG) continuing to support councils to negotiate investment with telcos to deliver more mobile phone services
- Helping Dartmouth residents get Telstra action to fix aged copper telephone/internet lines


Higher Education

- Listening to and acting on community concerns about higher education
- Defending our TAFEs and universities from funding cuts
- Standing up for regional students, families and businesses
- Calling on Government to prioritise regional universities and TAFEs
- Working with CSU, La Trobe, GOTafe and Wodonga TAFE to develop policy
  - Co-sponsored La Trobe/CSU HE forum in Wodonga
  - Presented forum findings to Parliament
  - Lobbied for a Senate inquiry

For more detail visit www.cathymcgowan.com.au/education

Wodonga - Melbourne Train Service

- Commitment given by Australian Rail Track Corporation to complete Ballast Rehabilitation Program and remove of speed restrictions by mid-2016
- Commitment to a Public Transport Victoria draft Regional Network Development Plan by August. Plan includes timelines, rolling stock, scheduling, timetable, freight, long-term planning, funding
- Train trip to Melbourne with Member for Murray, the Hon. Dr Sharman Stone and Border Rail Action Group. Met with Premier Daniel Andrews, V/Line senior management, Public Transport Victoria, Public Transport Users Association
- Regular meetings with Minister for Infrastructure, Warren Truss

Indi Funding News November 2014 - March 2015

- Victory Lutheran College, Wodonga: trade skills centre - $1.75 million
- Our Lady’s Primary School, Wangaratta: refurbishment general learning areas - $1.1 million
- Cathedral College, Wangaratta: construction of a multi-purpose stadium - $400,000
- Parklands Albury Wodonga, Craig Rubinstein: 20 Million Trees Programme - $200,000
- ANZAC Centenary Local Grants - $122,797
- Greta Valley Landcare, VFF Farm Tree & Landcare, Upper Murray Valley Landcare, Regent Honeyeater Project - $79,990
- Rural City of Wangaratta: World War I commemoration project - $40,000
- Robert O’Hara Burke Memorial Museum: Terrestrial Globe restoration - $35,000

Indi Values

Values guide the way the team and volunteers approach their work for the community.

Understanding - Listening and sharing knowledge and experience
Integrity - Being open, honest and consistent in our actions
Respect - Treating people courteously and fairly
Optimism - Believing we can always do better
Action - Fulfilling our commitments
Governor General Visit

Their Excellencies, Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove, toured Indi on February 16-17. Thanks to the many organisations for the warm welcome and hospitality on the memorable two-day visit.

- Arts Space Wodonga
- Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation
- Murray Valley Centre
- Wooragee Primary School
- Beechworth Town Hall Gardens
- Borinya-Wangaratta Community Partnership
- Northeast Health Wangaratta
- Wangaratta Youth Council
- Rural City of Wangaratta civic reception
- Benalla Men’s Shed Aviation Museum
- Cooinda Village
- Benalla Rural City civic reception
- Mansfield Shire Council – civic reception lunch
- Café Connect & Mansfield Armchair Cinema
- Murrindindi Shire Council reception
- Firefoxes Australia Kinglake

2015 ANZAC Message

Values demonstrated by the ANZACs remain important to this day.
- Service to country
- Duty to family and community
- Courage to fight for a better world
The centenary of ANZAC is timely to acknowledge these values as a gift from the people who fought in this war.
Stories abound of Indi men and women serving in World War I. These will be of great interest to many people, and I encourage you to find out more of the history of ANZAC in Indi. These stories include:
- Victoria Cross recipient Sergeant AD Lowerson and his valiant efforts during the capture of Mont St Quentin
- Lieutenant Colonel George Langley, CBE, DSO - Mansfield Agricultural High School teacher who survived the Gallipoli campaign
- 20 nurses, including Matron Agnes O'Neill, from Indigo Shire who served in World War I
- Pvt Percy Albert Tippett, who died in the early days of the Gallipoli conflict
To the veterans of Indi, past and present, we thank you for your commitment and dedicated service. To the families of veterans, we also thank you for the strong support and assistance you have given our service men and women. Please visit your local council website or keep an eye on your local newspaper for details on the ANZAC Day services being held in your community.
I will be attending ANZAC Day commemoration events in Wangaratta, Myrtleford, Mansfield, and Wodonga. I encourage everyone to be part of the activities planned in their community.

2015 ANZAC Centenary Local Grants

- Rutherglen RSL Sub-Branch $6000
- Benalla RSL Sub-Branch $8980
- Lucycvale Tennis Clubs $5990
- Greta Sporting Complex $8980
- Whorouly Memorial Park Committee $4985
- Jamieson Community Group $4250
- Wangaratta RSL Sub-Branch $8980
- Kiewa RSL $5840
- Corryong RSL Sub-Branch $8700
- Mansfield RSL Sub-Branch $8487
- Beechworth RSL Sub-Branch $8416
- Bright RSL Sub-Branch $3615
- Wangaratta High School $3883
- Mansfield Historical Society $8250
- Beechworth Theatre Company $4467
- Chiltern Athenaeum $5800
- Alpine Shire Council $10,000
- Bonegilla Hall $1287
- Bonegilla Hall Management Committee $4432
- Chiltern Athenaeum $505
- Eskdale Primary School $750

Speeches in Parliament to March 2015

* includes 2nd reading and consideration in detail
# includes speeches on trains, Telecommunications, Agriculture, Education, Health, Industry, petitions, Maiden Speech, Motions and Private Members Business

From Top: Sir Peter meets youth at Wodonga Art Space; Sir Peter chatting with Cert III students at Borinya-Wangaratta Community Partnership
Federal Funding Grant Opportunities


**Saluting Their Service** - Saluting Their Service (STS) grants to preserve wartime heritage, undertake activities and projects to recognise the role of our servicemen and women. Community Commemorative Grants of up to $4,000 are available for small local projects and Major Commemorative Grants for a national or state project of significance. Visit www.dva.gov.au/commemms_oawg/commemorations/grants/Pages/index.aspx

**Community Heritage Grant** - applications now open and close on 1 May 2015. Community Heritage Grants provide funding of up to $15,000 to community organisations, archives, museums, genealogical and historical societies, multicultural and indigenous groups. The grants are provided to assist with the preservation of locally owned, but nationally significant, collections of materials that are publicly accessible. Visit http://www.nla.gov.au/awards-and-grants/chg for details.

School Visits To Parliament

A tour of Parliament House is an excellent educational experience. Enquiries about the program can be made at 1800 646 337 or 02 6277 4570 or email school.bookings@aph.gov.au

Get In Government’s Ear!

Make your voice heard and raise issues with Government through petitions and letters to Ministers and Senators. Visit www.aph.gov.au for all information about Parliament. Cathy can also make representations to Government on your behalf, see contact details below.

Are You Interested In Volunteering?

There are many ways to be involved. From one-off tasks to volunteering weekly in Wodonga, Wangaratta and Canberra. Volunteers bring a wealth of different skills and experience and people of all ages are welcomed to join the program. Volunteer information sessions will be held throughout the year. Visit www.cathymcgowan.com.au/volunteer to sign up.

**Budget Impact Tour** – Volunteers are welcome to help with the 2015 BIT. Come along to volunteer information sessions to find out how to help. Visit www.cathymcgowan.com.au/BIT to sign up.

Wodonga – April 13; Yea – April 20; Wangaratta - April 30; Benalla - May 7

Congratulatory Messages

The office can organise congratulatory messages for: 90th and 100th birthdays, 50th, 60th and 70th Wedding Anniversaries, Births, Community Volunteer Awards, Community Achievements, Business Achievements and Youth Awards. Visit www.cathymcgowan.com.au/congrat_messages or phone 03 5721 7077 for more information.

Quick Connection with Cathy

Facebook and Twitter are great ways to engage with Cathy. Visit Cathy McGowan For Indi on Facebook. You can:
- Like the daily posts
- Share with your FB community
- Leave a comment about any issue

Twitter is a simple and quick way to stay in touch with the community and keep up with the hot topics. Twitter handle is @Indigocathy and the main hashtag to use is #inditalks. Make sure to let @Indigocathy know when you start following!

Connect With The Office

There are many ways to connect with Cathy’s office to provide feedback or raise an issue for Cathy to act on.
- 117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta VIC 3677
- 03 5721 7077/Toll free: 1300 131 791
- cathy.mcgowan.mp@aph.gov.au
- @Indigocathy
- www.facebook.com/CathyMcgowanForIndi
- www.cathymcgowan.com.au

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Website Details