

# HOTHAM

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

NEWS FROM CLARE O'NEIL MP

### SPRING 2022



Dear Resident,

It has been a big few months since the election in May, and I am so proud to represent you as a local MP and Minister in the Federal Parliament.

Much has been done since the election. Before the election, our community told me that addressing climate change and high energy costs were the issues that mattered most. One of the first actions of the new government was to pass the Climate Change Bill 2022 into law – the first real action on these issues in almost a decade.

We have taken a big step towards fixing our broken aged care system – an issue which affects thousands of families across Hotham. A law to put the nurses back into nursing homes was the first to pass the 47th Parliament. We made a promise to restore dignity and humanity in aged care – I'm immensely proud we've been able to start that process straight away.

We also helped deliver a wage rise for millions of Australia's lowest-paid workers.

And Prime Minister Albanese has been working hard on mending Australia's relationships with our international friends and neighbours.

There is still much to do. Households around Hotham are struggling with the cost of living, and increased mortgage repayments. The government's policies to help families more with childcare and to reduce the costs of energy will help. Treasurer Jim Chalmers is working hard on this challenge. Our goal is to see real growth in wages to help families manage this really serious problem.

There's a lot more going on, and if you'd like to be kept up to date, do follow me on social media.

Whilst becoming a Minister has seen me take on some additional responsibilities, my most important role is as your local representative.

My job is to be there for you and your family. If I can help you in any way, if you would like to share your views about politics, or let me know what's happening at the moment for you and your family, drop me a line any time.

With warmest regards,

**The Hon Clare O'Neil MP**  
Member for Hotham  
Minister for Home Affairs  
Minister for Cyber Security



I'm always keen to hear your views on the most important issues to you and your thoughts on the state of federal politics. Many of you previously let me know your concerns and what is important to you, and we're taking action on those issues:

- ✔ Locked into law Australia's new emissions reductions target of 43% this decade. And net-zero by 2050.
- ✔ Helped deliver a wage rise for Australia's lowest-paid workers.
- ✔ Took real action on aged care reform – a Bill responding to the Aged Care Royal Commission was the first law to pass the 47th Parliament.
- ✔ Introduced a Bill for paid Family & Domestic Violence Leave. This legislation will help save lives.
- ✔ Building more social and affordable housing.
- ✔ Establishing Jobs & Skills Australia – a crucial body that will help tackle the endemic skills crisis facing Australia.
- ✔ Held the Jobs and Skills Summit in September.
- ✔ Announced the wording for the referendum to confirm a First Nations Voice to Parliament.



## Being sworn in and opening of the 47th Parliament



It was a proud moment to take the oath at the opening of the 47th Parliament.



I was so honoured to be sworn in as the Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Cyber Security in the 47th Parliament.



In recognition of First Nations People, the smoking ceremony is a tradition at the opening of Parliament. It's a moving ceremony.



## Supporting Hotham residents with Optus

I have been leading the charge to make sure Optus meets its responsibilities to customers after its mistakes caused an unprecedented data breach.

Australian companies should do everything they can to protect your data. I will continue to review the current legislation and regulations.

Watch this space as there is more to be done.

## Making our local roads safer

Road safety is a big priority for all communities.

I'm thrilled that we are delivering targeted safety upgrades in Hotham on roads where the most crashes are happening, or at risk of happening.

In this area, you will know that our roads can get busy at the best of times. Crashes on local roads can have a devastating impact – not just on individuals, but on families and the whole community.

That's why we're building safer roads locally. We have just announced that we're investing \$917,000 in road upgrades in Hotham to help keep locals safe.

We're installing raised safety platforms, more line markings and a raised intersection on Noble Park's Railway Parade with an investment of \$484,000.

We're also delivering safety platforms and crossing upgrades at the corner of Police Road and Browns Road in Mulgrave with a \$433,000 investment, to help keep families safe at this busy intersection.

## Hotham Census Profile

Recently released information from the 2021 Australian Census shows that our Hotham community is one of the most diverse in the country.

While 29% of Australians were born in another country, a massive 57% of Hotham residents were born overseas. The most common countries of birth in Hotham (other than Australia) were India (8%), Vietnam (7%), China (5%), Cambodia (4%) and Greece (3%).

Hotham's median age is 37 – slightly younger than the national median of 38.

## Community Roundtables

In my Hotham electorate there are many thousands of Cambodian Australians and Vietnamese Australians.

I regularly hold roundtable meetings with leaders from these communities so that they can let me know the issues and needs for these communities.

They are always lively and helpful conversations, and I am so grateful to them for their knowledge and commitment to their communities.



## Oakleigh Krushers Ladies Day luncheon



I love being a Patron of the Oakleigh Krushers. What a brilliant club.

The girls team came off a massive footy victory and after a quick outfit change, headed into the club rooms for their Breast Cancer fundraising lunch.

I was thrilled to be with them to celebrate their victory, and importantly to draw the raffle and raise some money for such an important cause that touches so many.

## Visit to the Moorabbin Toy Library



Established in 1987, the Moorabbin Toy Library has supported thousands of families in my electorate.

I was thrilled when they were successful in Round 6 of the Stronger Communities Grants Program and I was able to help them get a Lawn Games Pack. They are already lending this out to local schools and kids' services.

The toy library is run by a dedicated and passionate volunteer committee and member volunteers. They've been here for so long that some of the first bubs to visit the toy library are now coming back as volunteers.

I met Charlotte and her grandad down at the library and Charlotte couldn't have been happier amongst the toys.

## Huntingdale Primary School Q & A Session



It was such a pleasure to join Principal Ruth Biddle at Huntingdale Primary School as staff and students celebrated Principal's Day – a thank you celebration for Ruth to acknowledge all of her hard work.

Huntingdale Primary School's grade 5 and 6 students have been learning about the three levels of government we have here in Australia – local, state and federal – and asked me to join them for a Q&A session.

These students had some really well-informed, well-considered questions for me about the Australian Parliament and federal politics, including about my role as local Member as well as being a Minister.

## Monash Historical Society (Oakleigh-Carnegie RSL)



ANZAC Day means so much for Australian veterans and their families.

But marking 100 years of local history is especially significant.

It was a real honour to join Oakleigh-Carnegie RSL as they marked their centenary with the opening of a new Monash Historical Society exhibition commemorating 100 years of military service from Oakleigh locals.

It was great to join Lieutenant D'Rozarrio, RSL President Doug Prendergast, local veterans and their families for this once-in-a-century moment.

There was some sadness in 2021 with the loss of my friend and mentor, Merle Mitchell AM, who was well known for her tireless community work.

South East Community Links – a dynamic organisation in Springvale - has established the MERLE Youth Development Program which embraces the spirit and passion of their Patron Merle Mitchell AM. Merle and her husband Eric were instrumental in setting up this organisation back in the 1970s.

The MERLE program stands for Mentor, Empower, Reflect, Learn and Earn and is an intensive, two-year early intervention program. MERLE will work with students across schools in the south-east suburbs to promote inclusion and build resilience.

It was wonderful to join my colleague Cassandra Fernando (MP for Holt) on a trip to Hampton Park Secondary College for the launch of the MERLE program.



## On a Personal Note



We all love our mums. My mum is such a wonderful support to me – she is an absolute treasure.



I can't believe my beautiful baby Greta turned one in July. How quickly the time goes. We love her more each day and she brings us so much joy.



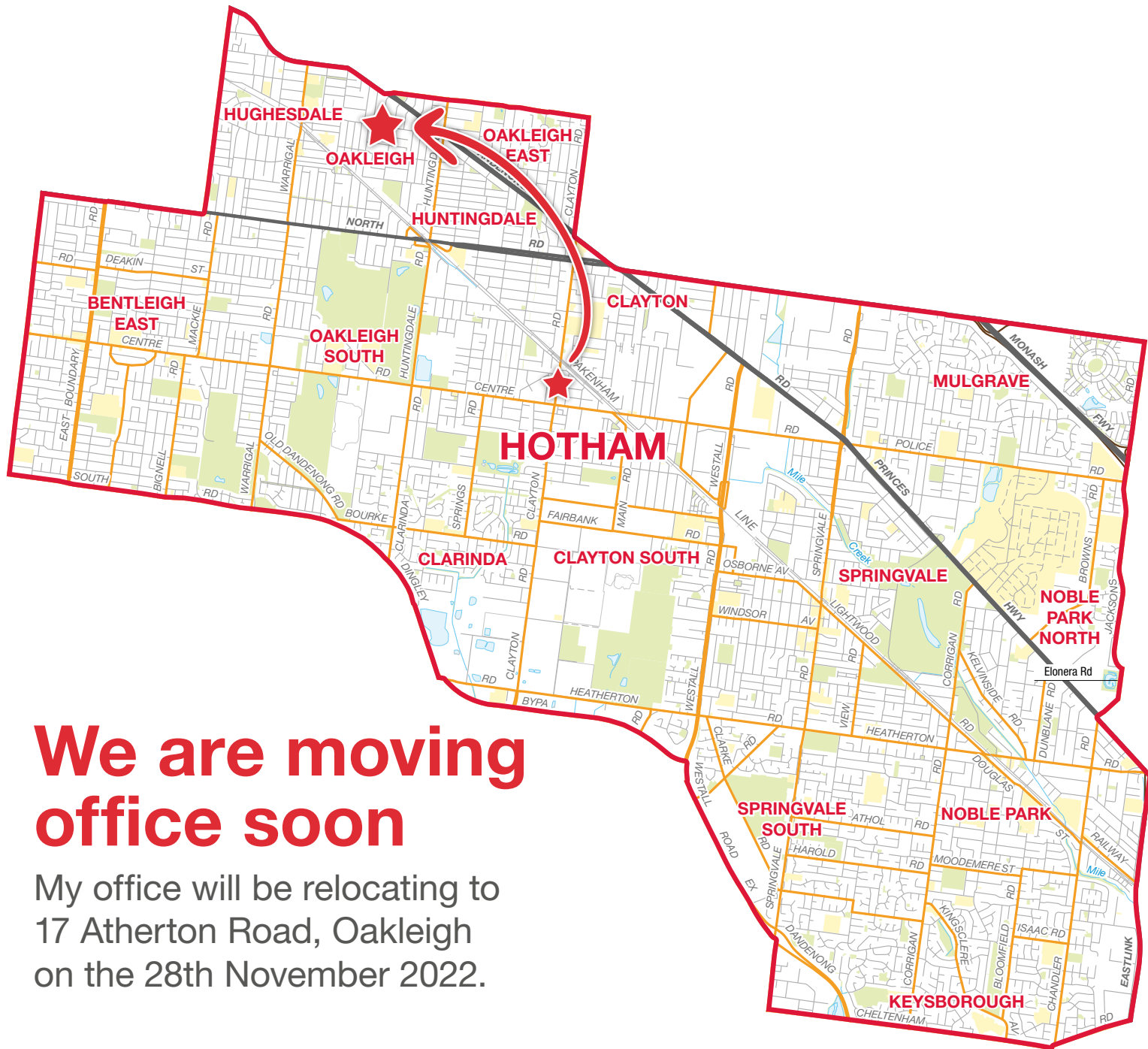
Our wonderful dogs, Blossom and Clover are still thriving family members – always up for play time.



Its always great to spend time with my colleague Steve Dimopoulos (State MP for Oakleigh).

We celebrated Greek Easter together in Oakleigh at Steve's family home. Steve also joined me and Senator Penny Wong at my campaign event earlier this year.

# HOTHAM ELECTORATE MAP



## We are moving office soon

My office will be relocating to  
17 Atherton Road, Oakleigh  
on the 28th November 2022.



## Get in Touch

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Federal Member for Hotham

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