

A Strong Voice for Bendigo



Lisa Chesters MP, Federal Member for Bendigo

BENDIGO AIRPORT TERMINAL EXPANSION

Stage one of the terminal redevelopment is complete

There are exciting new developments at the Bendigo Airport. The old and outdated terminal building has been demolished and replaced. The new terminal building boasts a brand-new departure lounge, café, and toilets.

Works are continuing and once complete, will see the site completely revitalised.

The project is funded by \$4.5 million from the Federal Government, \$4.5 million from the Victorian Government and \$895,000 from the City of Greater Bendigo.

This project has been in development for a long time, and I'm proud to be part of a Government that will deliver it. The new Bendigo Airport will have a lasting, positive impact on our local economy and create more opportunities for locals to travel more comfortably, and more often.

I'm proud to be a member of the Federal Government which is delivering jobs for Bendigo and supporting our local economy.



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Bulk Billing Changes

From 1 November 2023, the Federal Government will triple the bulk billing incentive that GPs will be paid if they do not charge a gap fee for patients who are children and Commonwealth concession card holders.

Bulk billing rates across the Bendigo electorate collapsed with more and more local GPs and medical clinics moving to a private billing model.

Tripling the Medicare incentive will support GPs to bulk bill the patients that need it most. I am proud to be part of a Federal Labor Government that is rebuilding Medicare.



Voice to Parliament Referendum



Saturday 14 October is referendum day, the first our country has had since 1999.

This referendum is asking Australians to agree to change the constitution to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as our country's First Australians and to give them a Voice to the Federal Government on matters that affect them.



I believe that a First Nations Voice to Parliament will help better inform parliamentarians before policies that affect the lives and outcomes of Indigenous Australians are made. When we listen, we get better outcomes.



Just like with a Federal election, it's compulsory for all Australians to vote in the referendum and there will also be opportunities to vote early and to make a postal vote.

Head to aec.gov.au if you'd like to find out more information.

You can find out more about the Voice by heading to voice.gov.au.

Bendigo residents to benefit from NBN upgrades

Access to fast, reliable internet is more important than ever.

Whether it be working or learning from home, paying bills and banking, streaming movies, or simply connecting with family and friends, the internet has become as essential as running water and electricity.

In many parts of regional Australia we have felt the digital divide when it comes to access to quality broadband.

In great news for Bendigo, the Federal Government is investing more than \$2.2 billion to ensure that regional and rural Australians aren't left behind.



Fixed Line

Over 11,000 premises across the Bendigo electorate will be upgraded from a slower copper connection to world-class full fibre by 2025.

The copper broadband network – a legacy of the former Coalition Government – is slower, less reliable and more likely to experience prolonged faults.

Fibre broadband means faster upload and download speeds, and a more reliable connection.

In eligible areas, an upgraded NBN service will be available on demand when a household orders a higher speed plan than would currently be available to them over copper.

For more information on upgrades happening in your area go to <https://www.nbnco.com.au/residential/upgrades/more-fibre>



Fixed Wireless

Every Fixed Wireless tower in the electorate will be upgraded with new technology to increase access and boost speeds.

With these upgrades, more households who were previously in an NBN Satellite service area will now be able to connect to Fixed Wireless.

This investment will also deliver download speeds of up to 250Mbps for many households in Fixed Wireless service areas.

Depending on where you live, you may already have noticed improvements to your NBN service.

As the upgrades happen, you may experience periodic internet outages. Your telecommunications provider should let you know when to expect service disruptions.

For more information go to <https://www.nbnco.com.au/utility/nbn-fixed-wireless-and-satellite-upgrade-program>



NBN Satellite

In a gamechanger for regional Australia, from 1 June this year households connected to NBN Satellite are now able to access unmetered satellite broadband.

Uncapped data for satellite customers is a first for this NBN service and will ensure even our most remote communities are able to experience consistent access to broadband when they need it.

With speeds of up to 100Mbps now available on NBN Satellite, the upgrade to uncapped usage significantly improves connectivity.

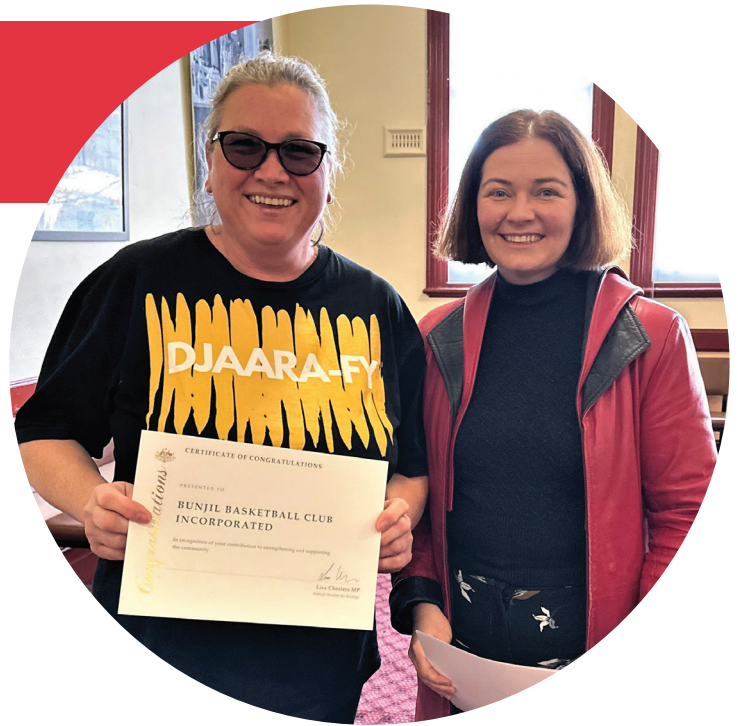
For more information go to <https://www.nbnco.com.au/utility/nbn-fixed-wireless-and-satellite-upgrade-program>

Volunteer Grant Morning Tea

In July, I hosted a morning tea to celebrate the work of local Volunteer groups across our community who received recognition through the Federal Government's Volunteer Grants Program.

The grants ranging between \$1,000 and \$5,000 enable organisations in the Bendigo electorate to better support their volunteers and to purchase small equipment, pay for fuel, transport, and training opportunities.

A total of 18 groups shared in the \$66,225 in funding available to each Federal electorate that will support them in their work serving our community.



Schools Upgrade Fund








The Federal Government is delivering on its promise to invest in our local schools with the announcement of the latest round of recipients for the Schools Upgrade Fund.

Ten schools across our community have received a share in this \$32 million round of funding for schools throughout Australia. The Schools Upgrade Fund delivers projects that improve school infrastructure such as the purchase of new ICT equipment upgrades, improvements to existing learning environments, or to build new learning spaces.



I made the announcement at Epsom Primary School, where the excited students showed me their own plans for the new outdoor learning spaces that this grant will make possible.

Get in touch

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