



Dear Residents of the Berowra electorate,

The outbreak of a large number of COVID-19 cases in Victoria is a timely reminder for us to remain vigilant. COVID-19 is not going away anytime soon and we can't afford to be complacent.

It's important to maintain the discipline of physical distancing behind closed doors, not just out in public.

Just because there are no cases in our community now, doesn't mean it will stay that way. And making sure we are all in the habit of following physical distancing and good hygiene practices will be key to preventing any future outbreaks.

People should continue to maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from others, to use hand sanitiser and to stay home if unwell.

Getting through this will require all of us to continue to work together.

As always, this newsletter contains up-to-date information about the Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and updates on what I have been up to as your representative.

Anyone who would like to be added to the distribution list can email julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au and ask to be added. You can also follow [JulianLeeserMP](#) on Facebook.

My team and I remain available to assist you.

Take care,

Julian Leeser



Mobile Black Spot Funding for Outer Metropolitan areas

I recently gave you an update about the progress we have made with Telstra, securing promises to improve the telecommunications infrastructure in the Berowra electorate. They have promised to deliver two new towers that will service Dural, Middle Dural and Glenhaven. These however, will not solve all of the black spots problems in the Berowra electorate.

I will keep fighting for mobile phone towers in Annangrove, Arcadia, Galston, Glenorie, Kenthurst and Maroota.

To try and achieve more solutions for more of our region, I have made a submission to the Australian Government's review of the Mobile Black Spot Program advocating for adjustments to the program to allow inclusion of outer metropolitan areas such as the Berowra electorate in the program.

[You can read my submission here](#)

The Mobile Black Spot Program has traditionally focussed on rural and remote areas, however, in order for the program to fulfil its purpose of dealing with mobile black spots across Australia, it must include what have become chronically under-serviced outer metropolitan areas such as our electorate.

The program also needs to prioritise areas prone to disasters such as bushfires, storms and flooding, and the evidence in this submission indicates that the Berowra electorate is one of those areas.

In addition to recommending the inclusion of outer-metropolitan areas in the MBSP, as part of the submission, I have recommended several other adjustments to the program, including:

- Prioritising the building of towers that can be used by as many providers as possible, so that competition is enhanced.
- Extended back-up power resilience for all telecommunication towers; and
- Subsidies for residents to access technology to enhance mobile coverage within the home;

Telecommunications should be like electricity and water. It is absurd that people living 40 minutes from the Sydney CBD can't get mobile coverage.

My submission will be reviewed and considered, along with all the submissions to Round 5A, by the Department of Communications prior to the rollout of Round 5A of the Mobile Black Spot Program.

Thank you for joining the Telephone Town Hall

Last week I held a Telephone Town Hall with the Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg and the Minister for Health, Greg Hunt for the Berowra electorate.

Thank you to the 7,000 people who joined me on the call and to those who asked questions of the Treasurer and the Minister for Health. It was a great opportunity for our electorate to hear directly from the people most responsible the COVID-19 response and recovery and also for them to hear directly from people in our electorate.



New Home Care Places announced

An additional 6,100 older Australians will live independently for longer following a \$325.7 million investment in new home care packages by the Morrison Government.

The extra 6,105 home care packages brings the total number of additional packages to over 50,000 since the 18-19 Budget, at a cost of more than \$3 billion.

Home care package numbers will increase to 164,135 in 2022-23 with funding increasing by 258 per cent due to growth in high-level packages and is an important step to reducing wait times and

connecting more senior Australians to essential care sooner.

It is a priority for the Morrison Government to enable older Australians to live independently for as possible, and to keep people safe and healthy during COVID-19.

Small Business Tax Cuts from 1 July 2020

From July 1 2020, small and family businesses will be paying less tax as a result of legislated tax cuts passed by the Morrison Government.

As the 2020-2021 financial year begins, incorporated small and family businesses with a turnover of less than \$50 million will see their company tax rate reduced from 27.5% to 26%.

Unincorporated businesses will also benefit as the rate of the small business income tax offset increases from 8% to 13% to ensure that sole traders benefit from the corporate tax cut.

The changes mark the next stage of the Morrison Government's accelerated small business tax cuts, legislated in October 2018, which brought forward tax relief for small and medium businesses by five years.

Extension of Simplified Working from Home Deductions

Temporary arrangements put in place by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) to make it easier to claim deductions for working from home due to COVID-19 have been extended.

Now, until 30 September 2020, taxpayers working from home can continue to claim a rate of 80 cents per hour and will only be required to keep a record of the number of hours they have worked from home, rather than needing to calculate specific running expenses.

The short cut deduction method is making it easier for those working from home due to COVID-19 to accurately complete their tax return. Standard working from home claims can still be made using the two standard approaches.

If you require urgent assistance with your tax affairs due to COVID-19 you can contact the ATO's Emergency Support Infoline 1800 806 218.

For further information about these new arrangements visit:

[ATO - Deductions you can claim](#)

Recent Media

Democratic India is a far cry from one-party China

An article I wrote about India was published in the Australian today.

India is not China and those who suggest that it is are missing some fundamental facts.

India defies neat categories. It has complex borders, a complex history and complex relationships. As the recent border tension with China reminds us, India lives in a hostile neighbourhood surrounded by an aggressive Pakistan and China, which sit directly on its borders and with which it has gone to war.

The divergent histories, demographics and cultures of India and Australia make the differences rather than the similarities between our nations easy to spot, but it is time Australia recognises the affinity we have with India...

[Read my article in The Australian today](#)

Sky News with Chris Kenny

Last week the Government announced we are suspending the extradition agreement with Hong Kong and are providing a pathway for permanent residency for Hong Kong nationals in Australia as well as exploring ways to attract job creating businesses to move their headquarters to Australia.

I spoke to Chris Kenny at Sky News about recent developments in Hong Kong and the Migration Committee's Inquiry into the Working Holiday Maker Program. For more information on the inquiry

visit: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Migration/WorkingHolidayMaker



Discussing the Working Holiday Maker Visa with Chris Kenny