



Welcome to my first newsletter for 2024.

This edition unpacks the NSW Labor government's biggest changes to planning in a generation and the concerning implications its approach will have for our area. I encourage all in our community to speak up on these changes.

Beyond this, my priorities this year will be pressuring the government to acknowledge and address the high cost of living, minimising disruption from the construction of local infrastructure projects, ensuring our bus services are fully restored, seeing the new Sydney Metro rail line open successfully, safeguarding the future of Royal North Shore Hospital and ensuring planning on the two new schools and new ambulance station are advanced.

Working together we can make Willoughby an even better place to live, work and raise a family. I'm here to represent and serve you, so please get in touch any time.

Warm regards

Tim James



Opening nears for Metro

Final touches are being made at the new Crows Nest Metro station before it welcomes passengers in the middle of this year. Frequent turn up and go services will deliver commuters from Crows Nest to Martin Place in 7 minutes and to Chatswood in 4 minutes. A trip from Chatswood to Martin Place will take 11 minutes. With local stations at Crows Nest and Chatswood, the Sydney Metro is part of the former Liberal Government's record investment in our public transport system that will forever transform how we move across Sydney.

Standing up for bus commuters

I hear and share our community's deep frustration that action to fully restore the reliability of our bus services has been delayed by the current government's bus industry review. Real progress was being made by the previous government implementing a four-point plan to seek to resolve the pandemic induced shortage of bus drivers. We need strong action from the government now – not a 12-month long review that provides solutions we already know. I welcome your feedback and continue to be in contact with local bus operators, Transport for NSW and the Minister for Transport pressing for urgent action.



NSW Government overrides our community on planning

I'm hearing growing concern across our community as we digest the detail and consequences of the NSW Labor Government's sweeping changes to planning rules.

Existing local planning controls would be overridden to impose blanket, one-size-fits-all density and building height increases across the Willoughby and North Sydney areas.

There is no question we need more housing and I support the need for an ambitious approach to lifting housing supply, but development and density must be done right.

These plans are half-baked, lack sufficient community consultation or investment in supporting infrastructure and would come at the expense of our heritage and environment. The changes risk a developer free-for-all without any respect for the character or amenity of our area. There's no accompanying plan to upgrade local infrastructure such as roads, parks, buses or schools, all of which will be overwhelmed as a result.

Building housing without regard for liveability or local communities is not the right way to address the housing shortage.



Tim, Opposition Leader Mark Speakman and Shadow Minister for Planning Scott Farlow discuss the heritage now under threat in the Naremburn Heritage Conservation Area.

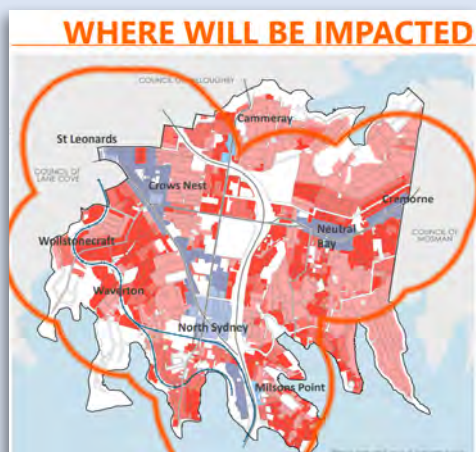


I welcome the community's feedback and input on the government's approach and will continue to advocate for you and our community.

Please sign the petition to send the NSW Government a message that our housing crisis requires real solutions, in partnership with communities and with adequate supporting infrastructure:
timjamesmp.com.au/planningpetition

What are the changes?

- Dual occupancy dwellings permitted in low density zones state-wide
- Medium density dwellings such as townhouses and terraces permitted in existing low-density areas within 800m of town centres and stations
- Taller apartment buildings up to 6 storeys allowed in medium density residential areas surrounding town centres and stations
- Accelerated upzoning of the 1,200m surrounding Crows Nest metro station by year-end
- These changes would apply to heritage conservation areas



Higher densities would apply to most of the Willoughby and North Sydney areas
(Graphic: Willoughby and North Sydney Councils)

Upgrading Artarmon's Thomson Park

The Artarmon community has scored new facilities at Thomson Park including the replacement of the current playing surface and the installation of tiered fixed seating. The \$150,000 from the previous Liberal Government's Women's World Cup Legacy program will benefit Artarmon Public School, several local teams as well as the wider community who use the park every day for sport, recreation and to relax.



SENIORS MORNING TEA

Tuesday 28 May 2024
9.30am - 11.30am
Northbridge Golf Club

TIM JAMES MP
MEMBER FOR WILLOUGHBY

RSVP by May 21 to 9439 4199 or willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au
timjamesmp.com.au/seniors

Enhancing local green, open spaces

One of my key priorities is growing our public open spaces. There's growing pressure on existing space and a pressing shortage in areas such as St Leonards and Crows Nest. I've been strongly advocating that land no longer required for Beaches Link become accessible open space. Encouragingly, it has been confirmed that Transport for NSW is developing options to do just that and I will keep you up to date on progress. I continue to advocate for a green roof over the Warringah Freeway to re-connect Anzac and Cammeray Parks.

Whilst we've seen the former Liberal government invest heavily in improving local public spaces with almost \$15m in recent contributions to the impressive Waddangari Park, Hume Street Park and the upcoming Holtermann Street Park, there's much more to do and I'll continue to work on securing funding from the state government to deliver the many initiatives proposed in the area's Green Plan. Waddangari Park, constructed over the rail corridor opposite St Leonards station, delivers almost 5,000 sqm of new open space and is the sort of innovative thinking we need to bring sizable uplift to our local parklands and recreational space.



Open space can be grown through innovative approaches such as building over the rail corridor

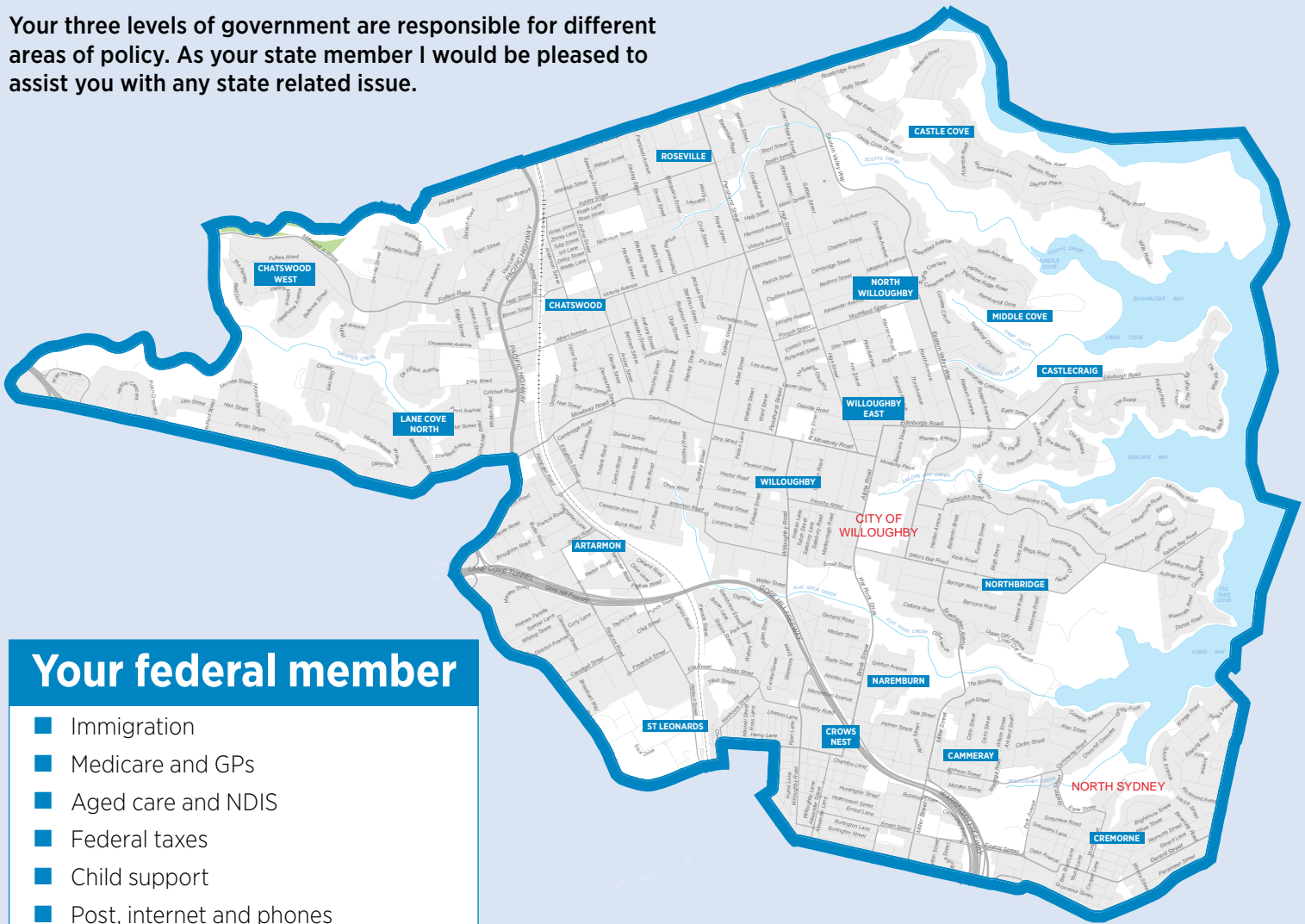


Safeguarding our hospital for the future

The Royal North Shore Hospital master plan that guides the next forty years of expansion has been released and it is of concern that it provides for future residential and commercial development. I've been consistent and clear - hospital land must be used for health purposes. Building residential tower blocks at our hospital undermines expansion to meet our health needs into the future. There'll be more to say and do on this and the separate Herbert Street Precinct development as concept plans emerge.

YOUR LOCAL WILLOUGHBY STATE ELECTORATE

Your three levels of government are responsible for different areas of policy. As your state member I would be pleased to assist you with any state related issue.



Your federal member

- Immigration
- Medicare and GPs
- Aged care and NDIS
- Federal taxes
- Child support
- Post, internet and phones
- Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Defence
- Financial services and interest rates
- Higher Education

Your state member Tim James

- | | |
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| ■ Schools | ■ Fair Trading |
| ■ Hospitals | ■ Fines |
| ■ Public transport | ■ Energy and Water |
| ■ Policing and Crime | ■ Emergency Services |
| ■ Main roads | ■ Public Housing |
| ■ Planning | |

Your local council

- Rates
- Local roads and parking
- Rubbish
- Development
- Public parks, sporting grounds, pools
- Libraries and community services
- Pets and food inspection
- Trees and footpaths

Update on Chatswood Dive Site

The Chatswood dive site on the corner of Mowbray Rd and Pacific Highway, Chatswood is a significant development site and I want to see as much space returned for community use as possible as Sydney Metro construction demobilises this year. A new public primary school has already been confirmed and a requirement for social and affordable housing has been added. Unfortunately, the government has failed to commit to building a public pre-school on the site as was committed by the former Liberal government. I'll be strongly advocating for this be delivered alongside the school. Detailed proposals are currently being worked up with shortlisted proponents and the masterplan will then be open for extensive community scrutiny and input.

Petition to restore palliative care cuts

\$150 million was slashed from the state's palliative care system in the last NSW Labor Government budget, undermining the vital support that minimises suffering and provides dignity for those at the end of their lives. Send a message that our community values palliative care by signing the petition to reverse these cruel cuts at <https://bit.ly/restorethefunding>



Welcoming our newest Australians

Welcoming our newest citizens at local citizenship ceremonies is always a highlight. It was particularly special to celebrate with 100 new Australians from around the world who took the oath in Chatswood on Australia Day. Unfortunately, North Sydney Council has chosen to end the tradition of holding an Australia Day citizenship ceremony. Welcome to all our new Australians, thank you for calling Australia home and for everything you bring to enrich our community.



Willoughby Council's Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony

Easing the pressure on renters

Advocating for a fairer rental system is a key part of my Shadow Fair Trading responsibilities. Rents in NSW continue to soar as the NSW Labor Government has failed to implement the bulk of promised rental reforms. Promises to end no grounds evictions, establish a portable bond scheme, make it easier to own a pet in rentals and to end secret rent bidding remain undelivered. The government needs to get serious about easing the pressure currently felt by renters. As we work on building new housing it is essential the government delivers strata, building and rental systems that are fit for the future and working for the people of our state.

Intergenerational Program

Bringing our young and elderly together presents many precious opportunities, currently being researched locally. Adults aged 65+ are invited to participate in an intergenerational research trial, bringing adults and pre-school-



aged children together for fun-filled and engaging activities, hoping to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for all. Such programs have been spotlighted by the ABC TV series 'Old People's Home for 4-year-Olds'. Happening soon, this 20-week program involving 2-hour weekly sessions will be held at Integricare Preschool Northbridge and other nearby locations. Eligibility requirements apply. Interested or want to know more? Call 8052 4365, email integrity-study@georgeinstitute.org.au or visit <https://redcap.link/integrity.trial.eoi>

Lifeline Connect coming to Chatswood

Are you feeling stressed, overwhelmed or need to connect with people that care? Lifeline Connect is a free face to face community service where you can talk with trained supporters, without judgement and in a discreet and caring environment. This service is coming to the Dougherty Centre, Chatswood from 5 April operating every Friday from 1:00pm – 5:00pm. I was pleased to present local Lifeline CEO Elizabeth Lovell with a Willoughby Community Award recently to recognise the important service Lifeline provide to so many. For more information visit www.lifelineh2hsydney.org.au/get-support/lifeline-connect/

Resurfacing our main roads

There's been positive progress on my campaign to resurface Willoughby Road and Penshurst Street with Transport for NSW now confirming that the resurfacing of 26,000 m² of these roads has now been added to the future works schedule. These roads have deteriorated after years of heavy rains and for public safety it's past time they were fixed. There's more to do on this and I encourage you to sign the petition at timjamesmp.com.au/roadpetition



Out and about in Willoughby



Discussing health priorities at North Shore Private Hospital



Celebrating Lunar New Year



Walking the bush tracks of Middle Harbour



WWII veteran Peter Comino at Chatswood RSL



Presenting a Willoughby Community Award to Steph Croft with Gisele Kapterian



Welcoming our newest citizens on Australia Day



Meeting new local probationary constables



Opening the new St Leonards Medical Clinic



1st Northbridge Sea Scouts decorating the office Christmas tree



Listening post in Artarmon



Meeting with St John Ambulance in Chatswood

TIM JAMES MP
MEMBER FOR **WILLOUGHBY**
Shadow Minister for Fair Trading, Work Health and Safety and Building

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