

Half a Billion Dollars Committed to Roads in Grey

The Federal Government has committed half a billion dollars to major regional roadworks in Grey and when combined with State Government contributions will push total commitment past \$600m. It is exciting to see new projects gathering momentum. The duplication of the Joy Baluch Bridge and the Port Wakefield solution have entered the tender processes and are targeted for completion in 2022. The widening of the Rocky River Bridge at Merriton is complete. I expect the Horrocks Highway and works on Eyre Peninsula to deal with the rail closure to follow next. With more to come on the Barrier, Eyre and the Augusta Highways, the latter targeted for duplication, we are in for a busy time.

The \$250m re-railing of the Adelaide to Tarcoola line, lifting freight capacity and efficiency and providing vital work for the steel works in Whyalla is continuing. I have appreciated recognition from local councils for my work in

securing a two year commitment to the Supplementary Local Road Program and a 25% increase in the Roads to Recovery Program. Since the Coalition was elected the Building Better Regions Fund has ploughed more than \$40m into Grey, with millions more through a raft of other programs. Community organisations, schools, hospitals, aged care, industrial infrastructure and mental health services have all benefited. The establishment of three new "headspace" units is something I am particularly pleased with. The regions provide far more than a pro-rata contribution to Australia's wealth and prosperity. Predominately we provide export income for our nation essentially underwriting our economy, jobs, life style and services which can only be afforded if the nation is creating new wealth. Much of that wealth generation occurs in the regions and I am proud to be a part of a government which recognises that obvious truth.



Horrocks Highway



Rocky River Bridge.



Port Wakefield Highway duplication

A New Dog Fence

Australia's famous 5614km Dog Fence has protected our sheep industry in south eastern Australia since the 1880s. South Australia is responsible for 2150kms. About 1600kms of that is more than 100 years old and in recent years that section has become increasingly difficult to maintain. Wild dogs have been attacking and killing sheep in the areas to the south of the leaking fence with some properties reporting losses in the thousands. With the dogs moving inexorably further south each year, a major investment to protect our livestock industry for the next 100 years is well overdue. I am pleased to have pushed for the Federal commitment of \$10m and to have worked with the State Government, Chair of the Dog Fence Board Geoff Power and producer organisations to bring a combined \$25m to the table to replace the most dilapidated 1600kms of the fence. This will bring the fence up to a high standard and will provide protection for one of our greatest industries for generations to come.

Marree Gets Telstra Mobile



Telstra Regional Executive Janet Barnes, Rowan, Telstra Consumer and Country Wide General Manager SA Mark Bolton, Vice President of Progress Association Jo Bonner and President Lyall Oldfield.

A big day for Marree when Telstra opened its mobile phone service and joined Optus in the market. Marree has tens of thousands of tourists a year and the second service will make an enormous difference. It is exceptionally good to see Telstra customers now be able to access mobile coverage in the town. Connectivity in the outback is a challenge but this is a great step in the right direction. I mentioned at the opening of the tower that with the upgrade of the airstrip, a bitumen road all the way to Marree and a giant new shed at the sports club, the town is enjoying some much needed new infrastructure. The boost has been welcome in Marree where the continuing drought is still a huge concern.

David Bell of Dulkaninna Station showed Rowan the new shed at the Marree sports club which was made possible by Federal funding and the huge support of the community.



Rowan attended the recommissioning of the oldest working steam loco in South Australia, the Yx141. He then caught the Pichi Richi service to Woolshed Flat for its inaugural run. The restoration job is unbelievable especially considering it spent twenty years in a Port Lincoln playground.

Coober Pedy Get Together



Rowan caught up with a group of residents in Coober Pedy in July. A number of topics were discussed at the evening function including council administration, water and electricity.

Burra Drought Event



The Goyder Council ran a community drought event in Burra in late June. After a good information session, those attending enjoyed dinner and listening to a number of great local performers. Rowan even pulled out his trusty guitar and sang a few songs.

Kimba School Musical a Success



Our country schools give students tremendous opportunities and it was a pleasure for Rowan to attend another great performance by Kimba Area School students when they put on their biennial musical production. This year's performance was High School Musical Jr.

South Whyalla Cricket Club



Rowan congratulated South Whyalla Cricket Club on a Volunteer Grant to purchase First Aid kits, a laptop computer and garden equipment. He enjoyed meeting South Whyalla's U17 Cricket champions Nathan Tavra, Martin Lawrence, Zachary Leverington and coach/dad Scott Leverington.

Port Pirie
104 Ellen Street
Tel: 8633 1744

Clare Garden Day



Keen gardeners were entertained by Gardening Australia's colourful character Tino Carnevale and former presenter Angus Stewart at the Clare Garden Day in March. Rowan is pictured with them and one of the organisers Steve Whelan.

Jamestown Ambulance Station upgraded



State Health Minister Stephen Wade was in Jamestown to open new on-call accommodation and training area extensions to the ambulance station. Congratulations to those presented with service awards - we are all indebted to you for your selfless volunteering.

Talking with Whyalla Students



Rowan is always pleased to be invited to talk to school students about how Parliament works and the role of a Member of Parliament. He is pictured here with students from Whyalla's Memorial Oval Primary School.

Cummins Pavillion Upgrade



The Cummins Show pavillion is being rejuvenated with the help of a \$38k grant from the Federal BBRF. Rowan caught up with Show Auxiliary President Pam Darling, President Raymond Whillas and Secretary Chris Koch to discuss the scope of works.

Kadina
43 Taylor Street
Tel: 8821 4366

Outback Catch Up



Rowan discussing the Nepabunna community with Chairperson Ian Johnson. Ian is also Senior Ranger for the Nantawarrina Indigenous Protected Area in the Flinders Ranges which is the oldest IPA in Australia.

Kernewek Lowender Art Prize



More than 150 people attended the opening of the Kernewek Lowender Art Prize in Kadina in May. Congratulations to the organisers on a high quality exhibition.

Tumby Bay Street Art Festival



The Colour Tumby Street Art Festival utilised a substantial Federal BBRF grant to stage a three-day event. Eleven great murals were painted over the weekend by artists from across the globe including two by local artists. Rowan is pictured with festival coordinator Virginia Holness.

Ceduna Gypsum Celebration



Gypsum has been mined near Penong in the state's Far West for 100 years. Employing almost 100 locals, mine to ship, and providing more than 80% of Australia's plasterboard. Rowan is pictured with GRA Chair Andrea Pidcock and Member for Flinders Peter Treloar at the unveiling of the plaque.

Whyalla
45a Playford Avenue
Tel: 8645 4255

Rowan Ramsey Federal Member for Grey

Grey, a great place to live and work...

GREY REAPING THE BENEFITS OF A CONTINUAL FEDERAL FOCUS

Never before have we seen the level of Federal investment currently underway in Grey. We have governments in both Adelaide and Canberra who recognise the importance of our regions and I have been extremely pleased with the support I have received from relevant ministers when I have pushed our case. Since the election, five ministers have accepted my invitation to the electorate enabling me to sell our potential and raise issues firsthand. Minister for Agriculture Bridget McKenzie joined me in Port Lincoln and Coffin Bay straight after the election while Fisheries and Forestry Minister Jonathon Duniam also visited Lower Eyre Peninsula to engage with the fishing and aquaculture industries.

Angus Taylor Minister for Energy and I inspected two of the pumped hydro proposals in the Upper Spencer Gulf which are in the running for Federal underwriting to increase competition and supply in the electricity grid.

Minister for Resources Matt Canavan and I attended the Global Maintenance Upper Spencer Gulf (GMUSG) mining services conference in Port Pirie and met with locals in Hawker and Kimba.

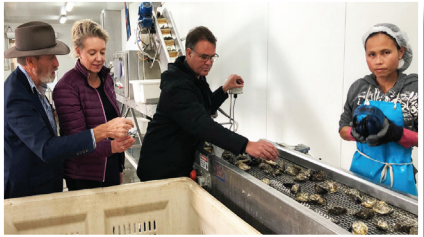
I have been pressing for solutions for doctor shortages in our regions and I am pleased Federal Minister for Health Greg Hunt took up my invitation to meet with local committees seeking to attract doctors to rural practice. He joined me at meetings on Eastern Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula.



At Tony's Tuna in Port Lincoln with General Manager Andrew Wilkinson and Fisheries Minister Jonathon Duniam.



Resources Minister Matt Canavan and Rowan with Max Cranes Group Operations Manager Brett Woolford at the GMUSG Conference in Port Pirie.



In Coffin Bay with Ag Minister Bridget McKenzie at Brendan Guidera's Pristine Oyster Farm.



Energy Minister Angus Taylor visting Rise Energy's pumped hydro proposal at Baroota.



Health Minister Greg Hunt visited Eastern Eyre Peninsula and Yorke Peninsula for firsthand accounts of the desperate shortage of rural doctors.

Reappointment to the Role of Government Whip

I was honoured to again be appointed by the Prime Minister to the position of Government Whip. This role includes ensuring quorums in the house, participating in selection of bills before the Parliament and counting divisions, as well as playing a pastoral role with the welfare of members.

My Parliamentary responsibilities- Committees

Member of the Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth
Member of the House Selection Committee
Member of the House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs
Member of the Joint Stanning Committee on the Parliamentary Library
Backbench Committees-
Chair of the Indigenous, Families, Disabilities & Social Services
Agriculture, Water Resources, Drought and Environment
Industry, Energy, Resources & Northern Australia
Chair of Liberal Regional and Rural Caucus
Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Diabetes



Rowan Ramsey MP September 2019

ANZAC DAY SERVICES

Dawn Service Two Wells



A big crowd gathered at Two Wells for the Dawn Service. Rowan and Teresa thawed out at breakfast in the community club then headed off to Wasleys.

Wasleys



Wasleys is a small town with a big heart and Rowan and Teresa attended a moving service at 10.00am. Congratulations to Wasleys resident Ft Lt Melissa Bywater for hosting the day alongside the Community Council.

Watervale



Watervale provided a beautiful backdrop for a dusk service on Anzac Day officiated by Reverend Roy Todd at the War Memorial. It was a fitting end to a day of remembrance.

Burra Car Rally



It was a very cold wintry start as Rowan waved off the first car for the Rally of the Heartland, a competitive car racing event of over 450 kilometres based in the Hallett/ Burra/Mount Bryan area. This was a great event drawing a good crowd to Burra for the first weekend in June.

Miniaton Celebration



The story of pilot Captain Harry Butler 100 years on is remarkable. Rowan was delighted to join Governor Hieu Van Le, Member for Narungga Fraser Ellis, Mayor Darren Braund and sculptor Tim Thomson at the 100 year celebration. The event also marked the launch of a great book on Harry's life, the Red Devil, by Les Parsons and Samantha Battams.

Outback Tourism



Rowan enjoying a chat with outback legend Rex Ellis and discussing eco-tourism issues. Rex has been an outback guide since 1965 and was one of the first to run nature orientated safaris.

NAIDOC Week



Naidoc is a great time to celebrate our indigenous culture and Rowan was pleased to enjoy some of the celebrations and meet the 2016 South Australian Young Achiever of the Year Marcellus Enalanga who was MC at the Port Pirie events.

Two Wells Melodrama



Kay Boon, the cheeky parrot from "The Whole Nine Yarrs" theatre production in full dress. A sell-out season shows how good the entertainment was. The group has raised more than \$650,000 for charity since it began in 1982.

Flying Headspace Funded



A Port Augusta flying headspace servicing the outback adds to units in Port Augusta, Whyalla and one coming to Port Lincoln. Federally and RFDS funded. With Dave McRae, Rachel Faulkner, Mandy Smalacombe, Andrea Triggs and Zieco Skeldon.

Lifeline Port Pirie



Clare Lions Open Shop



Following the closure of the town's secondhand furniture shop, Clare Lions saw the opportunity to open their own. Rowan is pictured with Lions' member Dave Simpson, Member for Frome Geoff Brock MP and Lions' member Allan Mayfield.

Constitutional Recognition

Ken Wyatt is our first Indigenous Minister for Indigenous Australians. A former teacher and highly competent administrator in the education and health sectors, elected to Parliament in 2010, he is well-credentialed to deliver constitutional recognition of Australia's First Peoples. Constitutional change requires a referendum in Australia and is rarely successful, usually requiring support from all major parties. Wisely, Ken has stipulated this support be a prerequisite of putting such a question to the nation. Much has been made of the "Uluru Statement" which calls for the "Establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution."

A working group spent more than twelve months on preparation of the statement, but surprisingly have not presented any options on how this "voice" would work, what rights it would have and importantly who would be responsible for governance of such a body. It would seem pointless if an elected body did not have the ear of our national Parliament and yet if, as some have suggested, the group had consideration of the policies affecting indigenous people it would likely encompass most parliamentary deliberations.

If such a body could not deny legislation, why then would the Parliament hold its opinions any higher than a number of existing advisory bodies and would the extra hurdles make the timeliness of government even more difficult? At the heart of these undecided issues is the bigger question as to whether we want our constitution to divide us by race. Another significant issue is indigenous diversity. I recently listened as a traditional elder publically expressed doubts as to how such an elected body could ever represent the hundreds of indigenous groupings across the nation. Given all these imponderables, the Minister has put some space between the "voice," which would face difficulty gaining the necessary broad support, and the commitment to constitutional recognition. It is important we understand Australian human history stretches back at least 60,000 years.

Australia has the opportunity to recognise our indigenous people's undeniable history. Embedding these facts within the constitution is achievable if we are all determined to do so.

While we work to right the wrongs of the past we should not forget to celebrate our successes. Currently we have five members of the Australian Parliament who identify as indigenous. They are a strong voice in a place where they can affect real difference.

Four Year Parliamentary Terms

The National Parliament's three year term has become an oddity in our nation. Our states and territories have all adopted four year terms and it is time to pursue this change at the Federal level. However, Federal reform is more challenging, as while the states simply required legislative change the Australian Constitution stipulates three year terms (six for the Senate) and any alteration requires a referendum. I raised this issue following the election and have written a paper proposing a path to implementation. Consequently the House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs is convening a high-level constitutional round table to discuss the issue. Good government requires a longer-term focus. Governments need time to plan, implement policy and then retain power long enough to judge the success of their deliberations. Currently our three year terms are not fixed and the average length of the 45 parliaments since Federation is less than 32 months. Three year terms are particularly challenging for newly-elected

"Most comparable democracies have either four or five year terms..."

governments spending most of their first year settling in, the second implementing their electoral agenda and the last, increasingly focussed on re-election. Business confidence is eroded on a triennial basis by prospects of change, imparting a real, if unquantifiable negative impact on the economy and employment. While arguably Australia has enjoyed better government than most around the world, generally this election cycle diminishes quality of governance. Most comparable democracies have either four or five year terms.

Extending the electoral cycle is not primarily about saving money, but would provide a taxpayer saving in the vicinity of \$25m a year. I propose we simply change the two relevant clauses in the constitution determining length of term to read "four" for the House of Representatives and "eight" for the Senate and that the question be put at the next election eliminating most of the extra costs of a referendum. The new arrangements would not apply until the following election negating arguments concerned with the cost of reform and of self-interest of sitting members seeking to extend their terms.

Burra Paxton Square Upgrade



The benefits of Burra's National Heritage listing are beginning to flow with a \$400k Federal grant assisting the Goyder Council in restoring areas at Paxton Square. Rowan is pictured with CEO David Stevenson, Mayor Peter Matthey and Cr Bill Gebhardt.

Port Augusta West Football Club Grant



West Augusta Football Club received a \$4,500 Volunteer Grant to purchase a match day shelter and portable barbecue. Club General Manager Anthony Packard pictured with Rowan says they will be used every match day.

Whyalla Job Stimulus



Assistance through the \$20m Regional Jobs Investment Package was instrumental in bringing Peats Soils to Whyalla. They have installed an advanced composting facility turning waste into valuable product. Rowan is with Managing Director Peter Wadewitz and Whyalla Mayor Clare McLaughlin.

Improved Facilities in Ceduna



The Drought Communities Grants program has provided \$1m for 19 councils across Grey. Councils have grabbed the opportunity to support local trades and suppliers. Some projects in Ceduna include foreshore footpaths, a new kitchen and airconditioning at the Ceduna Memorial Hall. Rowan with Mayor Perry Will, Chris Wilson and CEO Geoff Moffatt.

Beware the Scam Calls

My offices regularly field calls from people either reporting attempted scams, or sadly who have become victims of scams. A healthy degree of scepticism when someone calls offering you "easy money" is the best defence. Make no mistake, the fraudsters are sophisticated. Many calls originate overseas using VOIP services and technologies masking the origin of the call. Scam callers often falsely claim to represent wellknown or respected organisations such as the ATO, while others call anonymously seeking your personal information for illegal purposes. These calls are difficult to track presenting practical difficulties in identifying scammers and barriers to prosecuting overseas scammers in Australian courts. However, you can be certain that if you owe money to a government agency like Centrelink or the ATO, you will be contacted first by mail. You will never be asked over the phone for bank details to get a payment or benefit. If you are in doubt, check it out; excellent advice is available at www.cyber.gov.au. The government has also established a Scam Technology Project to explore practical technological solutions. Terms of Reference and the Discussion Paper are available at www.acma.gov.au/theACMA/scam-project-underway. The main thing to remember is not to provide financial details or access to devices to anyone who asks, unless you are certain about who is contacting you.



Kimba History Grant



Kimba & Gawler Ranges Historical Museum is renewing its electronic archiving equipment courtesy of a \$3,600 Volunteer Grant. Rowan discussed the archiving with amazing volunteers Pat Beinke and Brenton (Red) O'Donohue. Pat is Kimba's current Citizen of the Year.

Robertstown Community Centre Upgrade



The Robertstown War Memorial Community Centre has received grants totalling more than \$18k to assist with major upgrades to this important community centre. Rowan discussed the works with Centre Coordinator Sharon Tremaine.

Middle Australia Finds its Voice



Voting in Peterborough

"How good is Australia?" Prime Minister Scott Morrison asked on election night. It was certainly a night to remember. The fact the leftist voices of the inner city elites in our national media and political commentariat got it so wrong demonstrated just how isolated they have become from everyday Australians and should give them cause to reassess their operations and inbuilt attitudes. Much of the credit for the victory must go to Scott Morrison who was resolute and indefatigable. Here, in the expanded Grey electorate, I was humbled by the strong increase of support and certainly the increased vote in both electorates of Grey and Barker contributed greatly to us



Declaration of the Polls

returning an extra Liberal Senator. I am looking forward to the most stable term of government since the Howard years. Scott Morrison has won enormous authority by the nature of his victory. He is also protected by a Liberal Party Room rule I helped draft last Parliament, barring challenges to a Prime Minister returned at an election. Scott Morrison is providing great leadership and his fundamental belief in our democracy, in the good sense of mainstream Australia, in the institutions that have underpinned our development and in decency as a core tenet are being recognised by the general population. On election day I visited 14 towns and voted in Peterborough.

Kernewek Lowender



The Kernewek Lowender is a wonderful celebration of the Cornish history of the Copper Coast—after a disastrous performance two years ago in the pasty bake-off and with a little help from Moonta student Dan Boska, Rowan was able to take out the coveted title in the Cornish pasty competition.