



Warren ENTSCHE MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LEICHHARDT



A Word from Warren...

There's always so much going on that doesn't necessarily get covered in the media, so this Spring 2015 Newsletter is the best way for me to communicate with you, my constituents.

I'm pleased to report that the Northern Australia Insurance Taskforce is proceeding well. The interim report, released in August, outlined more than 30 consumer and business groups who have been consulted, and the Taskforce is now exploring the options of a 'mutual'-style cyclone insurer or a cyclone reinsurance pool, among other approaches. They're on track for the final report to be released in late November.

Meanwhile, the Northern Australia Committee's inquiry into aquaculture is underway. We've held hearings in Perth, Darwin and several Queensland locations, and inspected crocodile, barramundi and prawn farms. It's clear that new technologies and improved farm designs are already reducing the risk of pollution to coastal catchments, and this will help to develop an industry that'll contribute significantly to regional economies across Northern Australia.

I've recently co-hosted the Asia-Pacific Forum of the Global TB Caucus in Sydney, bringing together parliamentarians from 10 countries with an interest in tuberculosis and contributing to the global eradication of the disease. At the close of the forum, we signed a Charter establishing the Asia Pacific Caucus - committing to work collectively and individually to drive progress against TB, and I have accepted the role of Co-Chair.

In Canberra, I organised a number of meetings between Ministers, Advance Cairns and the Chamber of Commerce to support a bid by a local consortium to build the new Pacific Patrol Boats. There's no doubt that we have the expertise and the facilities and are the only Queensland - and Northern Australian - proponents, and I was pleased to promote the #CairnsForTheWin campaign.

Also in Canberra, the *Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2015* has come through a Senate Inquiry with just a few drafting issues to be dealt with before it can come up for debate, and marriage equality has also been in the headlines. I recognise that this is an issue where people have very strong, differing views, so it's vital that we maintain a respectful dialogue. There's been a party room decision that a vote will be put to the Australian public in the next parliament and we're working to ensure that occurs. Whatever your view, please don't think that other issues in the electorate are being neglected - I'm more than capable of multi-tasking!

Lastly, in September I was honoured to be awarded the inaugural *Australian Political Studies Association Back Bench Politician of the Year*. I take on a number of issues which may not be broadly popular, but which I feel are the right thing to do, so it's rewarding to have this recognised by the APSA.

Thanks again for taking the time to catch up on what's been happening in Leichhardt, and if there's any federal issues that I can help you with, please contact my office or call into our new premises at 200 Mulgrave Road.

Best regards,
Warren.

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Inspecting the giant clam nursery at the Darwin Aquaculture Centre, with Committee members Michelle Landry MP and Senator Ian Macdonald.

NBN Update

Last year, the Government identified around 1.6 million premises in Australia which had either very poor or no broadband connectivity.

These premises have been - and will continue to be - prioritised in the NBN rollout.

In the Far North, many regional users will get broadband via a new satellite that will offer services from early 2016.

It's going to provide a marked improvement, with far higher download speeds of around 25mbps rather than the 1-7mbps currently available.

In the meantime, NBN Co is aware that some users have had their download capacity reduced, as a result of the Interim Satellite Service being grossly oversold by the previous government.

The new limits are aimed at providing more equitable access, but I will continue to lobby for greater capacity for regional users, especially businesses in remote areas such as the Daintree.

If your business has been adversely affected, please email me on warren.entsch.mp@aph.gov.au

Lastly, it was great to host Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull in Cairns where he spoke with local businesses about the potential of the NBN and carried out a site visit.

Below: An NBN install in Whitfield with Minister Turnbull.





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Local businesses maximising opportunities

One of my favourite parts of my job is coming across people who are having a go, getting out and achieving things rather than sitting back and waiting for them to happen. I've encountered a few of these lately which I'd like to share with you.

Firstly, we are all excited by the potential of construction projects that have either started, or are on the cusp, in the Far North. There's going to be a massive demand for trades, but at all times we want people to be working safely and being smart onsite.

That's where the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) comes in. Robert Browning is NECA Queensland's new Northern Manager and in August I was happy to officially open the first NECA office in Cairns. The office will provide local contractors with support for training, safety and compliance, innovation and work opportunities.

Many electrical contractors are sole traders or small business operators, so the office will also be a place for those in the industry to meet up and discuss what's happening locally. Congratulations Robert and the team!



A great turnout for the opening of the Reef Marina expansion.

It's not only the exterior improvements, it's about encouraging new ventures such as Hemmingway's Brewery - construction started in August and will feature a working microbrewery, three bars, function centre, children's play area, and of course, stunning views across the marina. I can't wait to visit!

Last but not least, congratulations to Cape York Camping Punsand Bay for winning the Regional Award at the 2015 Telstra Queensland Business Awards.

The award recognises the ability and entrepreneurship of the team at Cape York Camping Punsand Bay, who were also finalists in the Start-Up category. They've created an iconic Far North Queensland business in a truly unique location - just 5km west of the northern-most tip of Cape York. I stayed there several years ago and can attest to the challenges that businesses face operating in an extremely remote location. Cape York Camping was up against a number of other businesses of very high calibre, so for the team to win the Regional Award is an outstanding effort.

All in all, keep up the great work FNQ.



NECA's activities are supported by many business partners.

Minister Bishop was thrilled to receive a Mainie scarf.

I had the privilege recently of helping to launch a new fashion label called *Mainie*, which is the work of Charmaine Saunders and Denis Keeffe from Cairns. The label marries the ancient art of Indigenous women from the Tanami Desert in the Northern Territory with silk from one of China's fabled Silk Road cities, Nanjing.

The maiden collection of 12 unique designs is manufactured in China and demonstrates how small Australian businesses are taking advantage of better relationships between our two countries. On behalf of Charmaine Saunders and Denis Keeffe I was pleased to present Foreign Minister Julie Bishop with one of the *Mainie* scarves in recognition of the growing relationship between China and Australia.

Then, what a cracking day it was in Port Douglas for the opening of the first phase of the expansion at The Reef Marina. Comprising thirty new 30m and 22m berths, it is the largest investment in the marina precinct since the 1980s. Aply constructed by Queensland family-owned company The Jetty Specialist, the berths provide new space for tour boats and visiting vessels.

Andrew Hooper-Nguyen, the Managing Director and co-owner of The Reef Marina, and his team are determined to reinvigorate this once-buzzing precinct - given what they've invested so far, and their vision for the future, I've got no doubt they'll succeed.



Long-time marina employee Wayne Hartley cut the ribbon.

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Rangers are new leaders in Treaty Villages

A recent highlight was the graduation of 52 trainees - including 12 women - from the Treaty Village Rangers Program at Mabaduan Village on the South Fly coastline, on the PNG side of the Torres Strait.

The program is a key element of the *Building Resilience in Treaty Villages, Western Province PNG* initiative driven by the Cairns-based Reef and Rainforest Research Centre (RRRC) with support from the Australian Government.

From capping wells to safe chainsaw use, improved sanitation, first aid, public speaking, water safety and basic IT, the rangers now possess valuable skills to strengthen their communities and become future trainers and leaders.

This is about building a platform for the delivery of health services. You have to have the basics in place - potable water, sanitation, food security and logistics - before you can even look at dispensing medication to deal with health challenges such as TB.

It was an amazing event - we were welcomed by community leaders, traditional dancers and a massive crowd of people. As for the rangers themselves, it was very emotional to see the pride in their eyes and the smiles on their faces as they received their ranger caps, badges and certificates in front of their family and communities.

I can't congratulate the RRRC and the trainers, Inloc, enough for their fabulous work on this program, together with our Foreign Minister Julie Bishop MP for contributing pilot funding through Australian Aid.



The newly-graduated rangers demonstrated skills such as first aid to the dignitaries and community members.

Out and About...

- ✓ Helped open the Cooktown Discovery Festival and launch of '48 Days - A Shared History' mural project, ably supported by my beautiful daughter Mackenzie, **Cooktown**.
- ✓ Spoke at the 2015 Suicide & Self Harm Prevention Conference in recognition of the Dr Edward Koch Foundation's 20 Years of activities, **Cairns**.
- ✓ Launched the 'Our North, Our Future' White Paper on Developing Northern Australia, **Cairns**.
- ✓ Watched the races and worked the bar at the annual Laura Races and Rodeo, **Laura**.
- ✓ Learnt about Tuberculosis management activities and effective health programs, **Vietnam**.
- ✓ Discussed the Northern Australia White Paper at the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy forum, **Smithfield**.
- ✓ Congratulated my good friend Betty Hinton from Floravilla Ice Cream for winning a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence, **Daintree**.
- ✓ Pledged support for community stakeholders and Wet Tropics Management Authority on the Yellow Crazy Ant threat, **Kuranda**.
- ✓ Updated people on the work of the NA Insurance Premiums Task Force at the Archers Body Corporate Seminar, **Cairns**.
- ✓ Visited defence force personnel to discuss Australia's military commitments, **Middle East**.
- ✓ Launched the Cairns Festival and supported events at the Cairns Show, **Cairns**.
- ✓ Met with Mayors, CEOs of the Torres Strait councils and Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion, **Thursday Island**.



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Milestones

50th Wedding Anniversary

Graham & Janet Goodall
19th June 2015

Fred & Valerie Mellick
3rd July 2015

Edgar & Ute Haring
11th August 2015

Ian & Lyle Cunningham
21st August 2015

Rodney & Beverlee Tayler
11th September 2015

60th Wedding Anniversary

Donald & Violet Rutherford
2nd July 2015

Leslie & Gloria Pickering
6th August 2015

Vincent & Shirley Hogan
6th August 2015

95th Birthday

Dawn Brown
14th September 2015

100th Birthday

Edna Sallaway
18th June 2015

Rose Sequeria
4th September 2015

Ice scourge on our streets

Ice poses the highest risk of all illegal drugs to our community because of the violent and irrational way people behave under its influence.

At a recent community forum with the Assistant Minister for Health, Senator Fiona Nash, we heard that while ice use is not yet widespread in our region, it's increasing at an alarming rate. The fight against ice can only be effective when the community and law enforcement agencies work together. That's why I've welcomed the Coalition Government's commitment of \$1 million in funding for Crime Stoppers to roll out a national 'Dob in a Dealer' campaign.



Representatives from family, health, Indigenous and emergency service organisations expressed their views at a community Ice forum.

The national campaign asks community members to report people who are dealing illegal drugs as part of a national initiative to crack down on the supply of ice at our borders and in our communities. The campaign will be rolled out in consultation with the states and territories but all instances of crime or suspicious behaviour can be reported to Crime Stoppers now on 1800 333 000.

Aged Care in focus

Supporting the mental and physical health and wellbeing of our elderly residents is vital. In recent months there has been a lot of discussion around the shortage of aged care beds in the Cairns region in particular.

It is a complex issue and one that is often misrepresented by media headlines unfortunately. Nevertheless, reducing the waiting times for older people who can no longer live independently - or may be living inappropriately in long-term hospital beds - is a priority.

I have asked the Department of Social Services to carry out an audit so we can get a better understanding of the bed places that have been allocated to facilities but haven't yet been activated. We also need a detailed outline of how many new beds will be brought online in the coming months to deal with the immediate challenge, and I will keep you updated on this.

Speaking of beds coming online, I was very pleased to attend the opening of the new Bupa Cairns facility in September, which will provide accommodation for 144 aged care patients and can be accessed by some of those older people who are well enough to leave Cairns Hospital. 30 of these beds will be specifically for people with dementia.

In Mossman, I am continuing to work with Salvation Army Aged Care Plus and the Mossman District Nursing Home committee.

In last year's ACAR round the project received an allocation of 42 beds and I have supported their bid for capital funding to help build the facility in this year's round.

Great to also see that Douglas Shire Council will transfer freehold title of the proposed site to The Salvation Army at no cost.



L-R: Bupa Cairns General Manager Gaye Clark, new residents Jean Kent and Dennis Manson, and Warren Entsch MP.



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PM takes part in historic visit to region

The northernmost part of Australia – comprising the Torres Strait Islands and tip of Cape York – is a remarkable area with diverse and culturally-distinct communities, fascinating history, abundant marine resources, stunning azure waters and white sand beaches.

In August, the Prime Minister and other senior ministers visited as part of a pledge to spend a week each year living and working in indigenous communities. For some communities, it was the first time they had been visited by a Prime Minister of Australia.

It was a fantastic opportunity to highlight a range of issues and opportunities in the areas of health, education and infrastructure, particularly the need for a permanent multi-agency base on Saibai Island to address immigration, biosecurity, and health and customs challenges. But it was also a chance to hold a very special remembrance ceremony to recognise the service of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion (TSLIB).

Three of the four surviving members - Pvt Bamia Mast from Innisfail, Pvt Mebai Warusam from Saibai and Pvt Palm Stephen from Broome – were honoured by the Prime Minister, who personally pinned Mr Stephen's long-awaited medals to his chest in what was the culmination of an amazing story.

Mr Stephen told how at age 15, he changed his name to 'Palm Stevens' and cited his place of birth as 'Steppen Island' so he could enlist alongside his four brothers, who were among the 870 Torres Strait Islanders in the TSLIB. Coincidentally, the fourth surviving member of the TSLIB, 102-year-old Jerry Stephen, is Palm Stephen's eldest brother – unfortunately he wasn't well enough to travel to the Torres Strait from Cairns.

This discrepancy in Palm Stephen's enlistment details meant that post-service, the army repeatedly denied that he had served. It was only earlier this year, when I got my hands on the old records and recognised the similarities in the names, that I put two and two together – there's no 'Steppen Island' in the Torres Strait, and members of the Stephen family spell the surname with a 'ph' not a 'v'.

I applied for Mr Stephen's medals and brought them up just in time for the Thursday Island event – so more than 70 years after he fought for the nation, Mr Stephen – now 86 – has finally been recognised by the Australian Defence Force for his efforts during WWII.

As the Prime Minister told the ceremony: *"If volunteering to serve is the ultimate mark of commitment to country and patriotism, no part of Australia has been more patriotically Australian than the Torres Strait and its citizens. At a time when Indigenous people were not even counted in the census, Australia could count on Indigenous people."*



Prime Minister Tony Abbott presents Mr Stephen's medals.



Reminiscing with Mr Mast (left) and Mr Stephen (right).

Live, love your local environment...

I'm really pleased to see grass-roots organisations getting support to carry out much-needed environmental work in our local bushland, waterways, parks and recreational areas.

The Green Army has been very popular in FNQ, with multiple projects underway in the Cairns region, Mossman and Hope Vale carrying out yellow crazy ant surveying and baiting, weed control, marine debris clean-ups, creek rehabilitation and creating bush-tucker gardens.

I'd strongly urge any interested young people aged 17-24 to join the Green Army to work on projects that will make a real difference to the environment, and get paid! Visit www.australia.gov.au/greenarmy for all the info.

Just on the yellow crazy ants, in September the Wet Tropics Management Authority presented Minister Hunt with a comprehensive proposal for a long-term eradication strategy.

I'll continue to work with WTMA as this pest is a major threat to our native wildlife, agriculture, tourism and lifestyle.

I've also been involved in helping Cape York NRM and Terrain NRM announce almost \$1m in National Landcare Programme grants for community groups and environmental organisations. The groups are restoring local ecosystems and protecting natural assets so that Far Northerners can enjoy the long-term benefits of a healthy and liveable environment.

Lastly, there's a great opportunity for community groups, organisations and individuals to start their own tree planting projects as part of the 20 Million Trees Programme. Grants of between \$20,000 and \$100,000 are available for projects - keep an eye out for the opening of the next round at:

www.nrm.gov.au/national/20-million-trees

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Warren Entsch's COMMUNITY SURVEY

YOUR VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT TO ME...

THE ISSUES

Please number (from 1 to 4) the four issues that concern you the most.

- Building a stronger economy
- Tackling crime in our community
- Securing Australia's borders
- Creating local jobs
- Developing Northern Australia
- Improving health care
- Support for local education
- Improving and building new roads
- Supporting small business
- Protecting our local environment

IN PARLIAMENT

If you could raise one issue in the Federal Parliament, what would it be?



OUR COMMUNITY

If you could fix one problem in our local area, what would it be?



ABOUT POLITICS

Please select one of the following options: (optional)

I ALWAYS support the following party

- Liberal Nationals
- Labor
- Greens
- Palmer
- Katter
- Independent / Other

OR I USUALLY support the following party

- Liberal Nationals
- Labor
- Greens
- Palmer
- Katter
- Independent / Other

OR I don't support any political party

YOUR DETAILS

Please complete the following details so that I can keep you informed.

Title

Name

Address

Home ph

Mobile ph

Email

How do you prefer to be contacted?

- Mail SMS Email

YOUR WORK

Please select the option which best reflects your current situation:

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Self-employed
- At home parent
- Unemployed
- Student
- Age pensioner
- Disability pensioner
- Self-funded retiree

Your occupation

Thank you for completing this survey.

Please return to:

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