**OCTOBER**2020

# THE FARRER FLIER

Welcome to my Budget edition of the Farrer Flyer, in the most challenging year any Australian government has had to confront since the end of the second world war.

The Budget was moved from May to October because of COVID-19, better supporting Australians and our economy as we learn to live with and recover from the global pandemic.

As the Prime Minister said, we are not spending a dollar more than we have to, but neither are we spending a dollar less. 90% of the spend is during the next two years, when we will need it most.

Overwhelmingly this is a Budget about jobs; supporting those who provide jobs and those who find themselves seeking a job.

In regional Australia close to 9 out of 10 jobs come from small business. Our tax breaks, including loss carry backs and the instant asset write off are designed to encourage investment and bring those workers back!

I was delighted to see so much allocated for the agriculture sector. Whether it is export assistance, disaster relief, water security or improving regional visas, we are backing our farmers and rural communities every step of the way!

Travelling to the various corners of my electorate between parliamentary sittings, it's been great catching up with many of you. From grey nomads discovering Pooncarie on the Darling River, Murray houseboat operators needing our waterways open, Murrumbidgee farmers looking for harvest labour, and many others experiencing hardship because of border closures.

Whatever the problem, whatever the issue, I and my office continue to be available to help you.

Finally, a timely reminder as the weather improves and we are looking to get out more, please continue to follow COVID-safe practices; good hand hygiene, social distancing, and please take a test, even if you have the smallest symptoms.

All the very best for the remainder of 2020.

Sussan **LEY MP**

Member for **FARRER**

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# *Make it* count!

Did you know nearly half of Australia's workforce is employed by a small business producing over a third of our country's goods and services?

**As we get towards the end of 2020, it has never been more important to support the 14,000+ small businesses which call Farrer 'home'. Shopping locally when you can, really does keep people employed and help each of our local communities thrive.**

And this year 'local' takes on a much wider meaning! With international borders expected to stay closed for sometime and the summer holiday season approaching, why not consider booking a domestic holiday to somewhere you've never been?

If you can afford to get away and with restrictions (hopefully) easing, the 'Holiday Here This Year' campaign asks Aussies to 'go local' and visit areas most affected by the 2020 bushfires and COVID-19.

Details at www.australia.com/holidayhere and www.golocalfirst.com.au

# Farrer's *Budget Boost*

The next two pages in this Farrer Flier take you through a broad range of measures announced in the federal budget on 6 October.

New local funding included $11.6m to house new VLine trains earmarked for use in 2021 on the upgraded rail line between Albury and Melbourne, and the completion of a 5km rail siding at Ettamogah.

**There is a $50m boost to the (drought) water infrastructure rebate scheme and $14.5m in extra support for Farrer's local council areas to cover losses during Covid-19.**

A very welcome $4.6m was allocated for sealing the final 25km of Pooncarie Rd

towards Menindee. Kidman Way's North Kooba Bridge near Griffith will also be replaced as part of another $9m in road and bridge safety upgrades across our region.

That's just a sample, with more details also on my website at sussanley.com

# *Environment* $$$ stack up

In my additional role as Minister for the Environment, I can assure everyone the nation's environment has not been left out of the wider economic recovery measures needed right now.

Budget 2020 brings a continuation of more than $200m being spent in bushfire wildlife and habitat recovery, and more support for threatened flora and fauna.

**There's a huge investment to transform Australia's waste and recycling capacity, creating new jobs by modernising how we recycle and process our rubbish, and the implementation of a waste export ban.**

Many of our national parks and heritage areas are also receiving upgrades or

funding to replace revenue lost this year, and there's $67m to step up protection of our oceans and marine ecosystems.

Please get in touch with my office if you would like more information on any of the $1.8b in new investments we've announced since last year's budget.

# Gaining *speed*

It was great to see new plans announced in September by the NBN to deliver higher broadband speeds 'on demand' to fixed-line broadband areas.

From this month that means most Albury/Lavington businesses can request a faster speeds upgrade through their internet service provider with no upfront costs.

**Up to 75% of all Farrer's homes and businesses will be offered the same by 2023, and there's further money being invested to improve the fixed wireless and satellite networks.**

Meanwhile the next round of funding under our Mobile Blackspot Program is due to be announced shortly, with a focus on natural disaster areas, regional transport corridors and new technology solutions for areas with a smaller population.

Keep an eye on my Facebook page for updates.

# The Morrison Government's Economic Recovery Plan will create jobs, rebuild our economy and secure Australia's future.

## ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN FOR AUSTRALIA

COVID-19 has resulted in the most severe global economic crisis since the Great Depression.

In response, the Morrison Government has committed unprecedented support.

JobKeeper is a $101 billion lifeline that is supporting around 3.5 million Australian jobs.

JobSeeker doubled the safety net.

Together, our actions saved 700,000 jobs.

Australia's economy is fighting back.

The Budget sets out the Morrison Government's economic recovery plan.

## JOBMAKER HIRING CREDIT

The JobMaker Hiring Credit of up to $200 per week will be available for employers who hire 16-35 year olds on JobSeeker.

It will be payable for up to 12 months.

This will support around 450,000 jobs for young people.

## INVESTING IN SKILLS AND TRAINING

The Morrison Government is supporting the creation of 100,000 new apprenticeships and protecting a further 180,000 apprenticeships and trainees through our 50% wage subsidy.

The new JobTrainer fund will create up to 340,000 free or low-cost training places for school leavers and job seekers.

New cadetships and apprenticeships are being provided for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

## TAX RELIEF FOR WORKERS

More than 11 million taxpayers will get a tax cut backdated to 1 July this year.

The changes mean more than 7 million Australians will receive tax relief of $2,000 or more this year.

This rewards hard work. It means Australians will have more of their own money to spend on what matters to them, which will help local businesses and create 50,000 new jobs.

## KICK STARTING INVESTMENT

The Morrison Government is building on the successful Instant Asset Write Off.

Over 99% of businesses will be able to write off the full value of any eligible asset, until June 2022.

This will expand Australia's productive capacity and create tens of thousands of jobs.

Small businesses will buy, sell, deliver and install these assets.

## MODERN MANUFACTURING AND RESEARCH

The Modern Manufacturing plan will target six national manufacturing priorities:

- medical products;
- recycling and clean energy;
- food and beverage manufacturing;
- resources technology and critical minerals processing;
- defence industry; and
- space industry.

The Morrison Government is also providing $1 billion in new research funding for our universities.

## BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Budget is expanding our record 10 year infrastructure pipeline, which is already supporting 100,000 jobs on worksites across Australia today.

A further $14 billion in new and accelerated infrastructure projects will support a further 40,000 jobs.

## GUARANTEEING HEALTH CARE

The Budget delivers record funding for health of $93.8 billion in 2020-21, an increase of almost 43% since 2014-15.

Extending Medicare subsidised telehealth services has enabled over 30 million consultations since the crisis began.

This Budget includes funding for new lifesaving medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme – to treat leukaemia, melanoma and Parkinson's disease and help women with ovarian cancer.

This year, $5.7 billion is being provided to support mental health, including funding for critical front line services.

## SUPPORTING SENIOR AUSTRALIANS

Age Pensioners will now receive an additional $250 payment in December and another $250 payment in March.

To support senior Australians who want to keep living at home, 23,000 more home care packages will be provided.

## PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

This Budget includes $1.9 billion in new funding to support low emissions and renewable technologies.

A further $1.8 billion in funding for the environment will help our wildlife recover from bushfires, protect our natural environment and upgrade facilities in national parks.

This Budget is investing $250 million to modernise our recycling infrastructure, stop more than 600,000 tonnes of waste ending up in landfill and create a further 10,000 jobs.

**For more information go to: www.liberal.org.au/budget**

# *Fresh* Plan

One of the most important government developments for our region since my last 'Flier' are new initiatives relating to the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

Further reassuring communities that 'water buybacks are off the table', we will ensure a required 450gl of water for the environment is only achieved through off-farm projects and efficiencies.

**Already underway, there will be increased community meetings and engagement by the Basin Authority as well as localised funding to achieve water recovery.**

18 months ago, I asked for an independent investigation of the social and economic impacts of the Plan here in the southern region.

The Water Minister has heard the message loud and clear and I believe fully understands the concerns and complaints I have been taking from our communities to the Cabinet table.

# Show *off*

One thing I am really missing from my calendar right now is the chance to drop into our wonderful annual Spring and agricultural shows.

**With this season still shaping up as the best in years, it is heartbreaking so many towns have had to cancel this year's event.**

In late August I was able to advise on details of a $39m commitment to help show societies and field day organisers deal with cash-flow pressures caused by COVID-19 cancellations.

Many business exhibitors and community groups rely on 'their show' to generate sales or raise funds, so I truly hope this money can cover the local organising committee's fixed expenses, ensuring everyone can be back on deck in 2021.

# Just *add water*

El Nino or not, our government continues with substantial drought funding and assistance, including the just-announced $50m expansion of the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate.

**The 25% rebate encourages putting in new farm assets such as new bores, better dams and pipes.**

While consistent rainfall is certainly cause for optimism, recovering from any drought can take years, so the water infrastructure we build now gives us better preparation for future dry events.

This funding forms part of the Morrison Government's overall changing climate strategy, with the $5b Future Drought Fund providing secure, continuous funding for resilience initiatives.

If you would like more information, please get in touch or find details at www.agriculture.gov.au

# *Worker* win

With international travel restrictions slashing the number of seasonal farm workers our region relies on, we've just announced new cash incentives for our local school leavers to consider a 'domestic gap year'.

**Relocation allowances of up to $6k for Australians and $2k for eligible visa holders are available from 1 November to help farmers find more workers for this harvest.**

An added bonus worth noting, future students earning up to $15k over the next 12 months will then be considered 'independent' for Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY applications providing a higher rate of study assistance on their return.

# milestones March 2020 – September 2020

## 70 + Wedding Anniversaries

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Leonard & Georgina Cairns | 70 | Albury |
| Jack & Marie Jones | 70 | Rand |
| Walter & Marjorie Winnett | 70 | Holbrook |

## 60 + Wedding Anniversaries

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Terrianne Hicks | 65 | Leeton |
| Graham & Natalie Snow | 60 | Griffith |
| Lloyd & Lorna Swaffield | 60 | Leeton |
| John & Beryl Breed | 60 | Leeton |
| George & Pearl Easey | 60 | Griffith |
| Bill & Rae Brown | 60 | Griffith |
| Thomas & Beryl Gorring | 60 | Lavington |
| Jim Williams & Dianne Whitton Wlliams | 60 | Albury |
| Geoffrey & Margaret Nesbitt | 60 | Moama |
| Bill & Gill Mackay | 60 | Albury |
| Anthony & June Ellwood | 60 | Thurgoona |
| Kevin & Thelma Ryan | 60 | Berrigan |
| Neville & Helen Male | 60 | Henty |
| Donald & Yvonne Bensley | 60 | Albury |
| Desmond & Narelle Hohnberg | 60 | Henty |
| Jeffrey & Lorraine Edwards | 60 | Coleambally |
| Ross& Irene Wells | 60 | Jerilderie |
| Darell & Diana Evans | 60 | Lavington |

## Other Anniversaries

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Neale Bathols & Libby Mears-Bathols | 58 | Corowa |
| Ken & Ivy Thomas | 55 | Walla Walla |
| John & Ann Mills | 50 | Leeton |
| Douglas & Brenda McDonald | 50 | Barellan |
| Harold & Joyce Gannon | 50 | Hillston |
| Brian & Eva Walsh | 50 | Yenda |
| Roy and Jennifer Jefferies | 50 | Griffith |
| Colin & Jean Glover | 50 | Deniliquin |
| Neville & Carmel Kschenka | 50 | Narrandera |
| Barry & Anne Maples | 50 | Beelbangera |
| Lionel & Patricia Hills | 50 | Lavington |
| Alois & Merrilyn Achammer | 50 | Hamilton Valley |
| Shane & Linda Smith | 50 | Curlwaa |
| Norma & Sandra Parker | 50 | Howlong |
| Mervyn & Valerie Heffer | 50 | Springdale Heights |
| Bill & Raylee van Noordennen | 50 | Lavington |
| Colin & Jean Glover | 50 | Deniliquin |
| Thomas & Heather Pyle | 50 | Berrigan |

## 100 + Birthdays

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lucia Fornasiero | 105 | Albury |
| Ruby Poynter | 101 | Narrandera |
| Caterina Calagaz | 101 | Deniliquin |
| Bruna Pietroboni | 100 | Griffith |
| Gina Crosato | 100 | Griffith |
| Giuseppa Pittari | 100 | Griffith |
| Coralie O'Connor | 100 | Griffith |
| Alan Reginald Smith | 100 | Moama |
| Elfriede Mikosch | 100 | Lavington |
| Phyllis Clarke | 100 | Albury |
| June Wright | 100 | Moama |
| Joyce Evans | 100 | Barooga |
| Joy Beckinsale | 100 | Albury |
| Lola Bradley | 100 | Lavington |
| Anna Hinton | 100 | Moama |
| Una Gullifer | 100 | Albury |
| Lyla Dunn | 100 | Albury |

## 95 + Birthdays

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Essie Burns | 99 | Lavington |
| Nancy Jolly | 95 | Griffith |
| Rosario Catanzariti | 95 | Griffith |

## 90 + Birthdays

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Irma Sartor | 93 | Hanwood |
| Lorna Reko | 90 | Hillston |
| Barbara Dunn | 90 | Berrigan |
| Natalie Snow | 90 | Griffith |
| Joyce Catanzariti | 90 | Griffith |
| Alice Paterson | 90 | Narrandera |
| Les Langford | 90 | Albury |
| Sylvia Bradney | 90 | Albury |
| Peter Wilson | 90 | Finley |
| Harry Struck | 90 | Lavington |
| Elizabeth Eddy | 90 | Narrandera |

## 80 + Birthdays

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Yvonne Lynch | 85 | Leeton |
| Beryl Breed | 80 | Leeton |

# Farrer *funding*

100's of organisations throughout Farrer have been granted funds since the last election, spreading across each council area.

I encourage your organisation to contact my office for assistance in obtaining information on grants which may be suitable for your special project.

| Council | $ Amount ex GST | Council | $ Amount ex GST |
|---|---|---|---|
| Albury | $ 5,491,298 | Griffith | $ 15,035,283 |
| Balranald | $ 6,404,295 | Hay | $ 3,804,483 |
| Berrigan | $ 6,660,539 | Leeton | $ 5,223,906 |
| Carrathool | $ 11,678,214 | Murray River | $ 13,076,558 |
| Edward River | $ 9,943,672 | Murrumbidgee | $ 8,703,857 |
| Federation | $ 10,995,267 | Narrandera | $ 9,568,340 |
| Greater Hume | $ 9,829,469 | Wentworth | $ 9,332,399 |

**Total Electorate Funding: $ 125,747,580**