

Now that some COVID-19 restrictions are beginning to be eased, I'm very keen to get back into my local communities to keep abreast of concerns and issues.

If you want to arrange a meeting with me or would like me to visit your organisation, please let me know. If you see me out and about, please feel free to come and say Hi.

Stay safe. I hope to see you soon.

Cindy



Cindy McLEISH MP

LIBERAL MEMBER FOR THE EILDON ELECTORATE



Special Edition Community newsletter

Dear Resident

Our community has experienced many challenges this year. The impact of the January bushfires was pronounced and now the COVID-19 pandemic has seen us all make changes to how we do things.

It is distressing to see thousands of businesses shut and many people losing jobs. As restrictions are slowly eased, it is time to present constructive ideas on how to get our state back on track.

State Liberal Leader Michael O'Brien and his team have been busy working on a strategy to get Victoria on the move again and have released Our Plan to get Victorians Back to Work and Back in Business.

- OUR PLAN** To help families in our electorate with their hip-pocket costs and secure your personal finances we propose the State Government commits to:
- ✓ **No new taxes.** The Andrews Government must not increase taxes to fund its unprecedented debt.
 - ✓ **A freeze on all council rates** by supporting local government to implement a 12 month freeze on all council rates categories.
 - ✓ **Real action to reduce energy costs with:**
 - a **one-off increase to the energy concession** to \$1000 per household in 2020-21.
 - cut energy costs and pollution through new Energy from Waste technology.
 - abolishing the ban on natural onshore gas - more gas means lower prices.

Our plan will kick-start our state's economy and get Victorians back to work and back in business. It will help individuals, families and communities across Victoria take steps to rebuild from the damage done by COVID-19.

Yours sincerely,

Cindy McLeish

Cindy McLeish MP | Liberal Member for the Eildon Electorate

Proudly representing communities in Alexandra, Bonnie Doon, Buxton, Christmas Hills, Dixons Creek, Don Valley, Eildon, Flowerdale, Glenburn, Healesville, Jamieson, Kangaroo Ground, Kinglake, Kinglake West, Launching Place, Mansfield, Marysville, Merrijig, Millgrove, Molesworth, Mount Buller Alpine Village, Pantom Hill, Powlettown, St Andrews, Steels Creek, Strath Creek, Taggart, Tolmie, Thornton, Toolangi, Warburton, Wesburn, Woori Yallock, Yarck, Yarra Glen, Yarra Junction and Yea

COVID-19 RESPONSE



A MESSAGE FROM

Michael O'Brien MP | Liberal Leader

Post COVID-19, Victoria needs a **bold, ambitious and positive plan in the Eildon electorate** to rebuild from the damage done by the COVID-19 pandemic to jobs, local communities and our lives.

Our Plan to get our region and Victoria Back to Work and Back in Business sets out how the State Government can help Victorians by:

1. SECURING YOUR PERSONAL FINANCES
2. REBUILDING LOCAL ECONOMIES
3. BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES
4. KEEPING YOUR FAMILY SAFE

Victoria is already suffering from crippling debt and the highest State taxes in the nation.

We need a strong plan to re-start our economy, get Victoria moving and restore confidence.

Our Plan sets the path for a **business-led and jobs-led recovery** to help everyone rebuild from the damage done by COVID-19. Our jobs, our communities and our lives have all felt severe impacts, so now is the time to act and build Victoria's prosperity and opportunities again.

We need to focus on pro-jobs, pro-business policies. With Victoria's future at stake, we urge the State Government to **adopt Our Plan to Get Victoria Back to Work and Back in Business.**

INSIDE How to download our Plan



DON'T FORGET to fill out the survey on the back of this newsletter and have your say on how the COVID-19 Response has affected you!

1 THE MINUTE SURVEY

Please tell me how the COVID-19 Response affected you and **what we should do to support communities and local businesses** in our community. Your views are important to me, so please take a moment to complete this short survey. **Thank you.**

YOUR DETAILS

Please provide contact details to register your response

Name/s

Email

Mobile

YOUR SITUATION

How did the COVID-19 Response affect you/family personally?



A little



Somewhat



Severley

Comments:

What should the State Government do to help Victoria's economy recover from the COVID-19 lockdown?

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Was there anything different or additional you would have liked to have seen in the government response?

What would you like to see as part of the recovery effort in our community



Please take a picture and email to

Cindy.McLeish@parliament.vic.gov.au **OR** text a photo of your completed survey to 0438 832 608 **OR** send in an envelope to Cindy McLeish MP, State Member for Eildon, Reply Paid 90005, YARRA GLEN VIC 3775 - no stamp required. Thank you.

Cindy McLEISH MP | Liberal Member for Eildon Electorate

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Cindy McLEISH MP
Liberal Member for Eildon

Post Covid-19, Victoria needs a strong economic recovery to support everyone across our region. That's why we must help our local small businesses get back on their feet to give them the confidence to employ others.



Kick-starting regional tourism

Tourism is a crucial part of our local economy and this year the industry has taken a hard hit. The summer bushfires played havoc and then the COVID-19 pandemic has put the industry and operators on the back foot, with a difficult road back.

This is why Our Plan proposes kick-starting regional tourism. The Government must establish a dedicated \$200 million Regional Tourism Fund to support country communities. Advertising must be increased to showcase our unique region and investment made in tourism related infrastructure and projects. Boosting regional tourism will increase our local economy through hospitality, accommodation, retail and destination attractions.



Support schools to bounce back

Covid-19 certainly disrupted schooling. Parents and teachers have done a mighty job, but nothing replaces time in the classroom. So many parents, teachers and principals have told me of their struggles and triumphs during remote learning.

Now is the time to support schools to bounce back. The government should provide funding for schools to arrange catch up classes and tutoring for those who have struggled and fallen behind. Outdoor education, so important locally, should be supported and promoted.

Bringing forward maintenance spending will improve learning environments and clear the backlog. Works should be done mostly by local tradies and businesses.



Bring manufacturing home to Victoria

Victoria used to be the manufacturing heartland of Australia. But over the past 20 years, the number of manufacturing jobs in Victoria has fallen by more than 50,000. Our state and nation are not as self-sufficient as we used to be and that needs to change.

Our plan would establish a \$1 billion manufacturing fund to encourage industry to bring manufacturing home to Victoria. Industries of national importance such as supply of protective equipment, medical research and defence procurement should be prioritised.

We need to encourage local business to take the bull by the horns & invest in our future just like Quality Fabrication & Engineering in Woori Yallock. Their 'Road Ant' is a truck that can be driven from both ends, eliminating the danger of reversing. I was most impressed when I saw it in action and took a ride.



Upgrade our roads

There is always work that could be done to fix our roads yet the required investment in rural roads has been overlooked by the State Government.

Our Plan would support Council's by reinstating the Country Roads and Bridges Program and invest in major highways to improve surfaces, add turning and overtaking lanes and improving shoulders. This would support local construction businesses, employment and make travel safer for motorists.



Deer solution needed

The ever-increasing deer population in the area continues to be a major headache for landowners and motorists. Large herds threaten agriculture and conservation by destroying orchards, grapevines, vegetation, fences and ring-barking trees.

They are also extremely dangerous on our roads. The Minister must release the well overdue deer management strategy and invest to tackle this problem.



Keeping you safe

Stay at home restrictions and job losses have been difficult on some households, with family violence and mental health issues rising to the surface.

Access to mental health services must improve and the acute bed rate increased. Causes of homelessness and family violence need to be tackled and funding increased to organisations working in this area. The public housing waiting list has blown to about 52,000 and supply must be increased.

OUR PLAN TO KICK-START OUR ECONOMY To help support small business in the Eildon electorate rebuild from the damage done by COVID-19, our plan calls on the State Government to take action:

Establish a \$1 billion "Bringing Manufacturing Home" fund to encourage manufacturers to locate and expand facilities in Victoria, invest in innovation, research and development and secure local supply chains.

Waive payroll tax below the \$10 million threshold in 2020-21 to get more people back into work.

Deliver 10,000 additional apprenticeship and traineeship commencements by the start of 2022 to develop the skills we need to grow Victorian businesses.

Fast-track shovel-ready local transport and infrastructure works to get new construction jobs underway.

Reduce business taxes and excessive regulation including business licensing fees, WorkCover premiums and labour hire registration fees to give small business the confidence to get back in business.



Improving our local environment

A healthy local environment is essential for healthy communities. We need to establish a plan to counteract the increasing amount of waste going to landfill and take responsibility for our waste disposal now to protect future generations.

The State Government should immediately implement our Zero to Landfill plan to transform household waste into usable energy and prioritise investment in shovel-ready recycling and Energy from Waste projects.

Fast-tracking the implementation of the Container Deposit Scheme and providing funding to Victorian Landcare will ensure our environment is cared for by the community and provide local jobs.



**Our Plan to Get Victoria Back to Work
and Back in Business**

Visit my website at
CindyMcLeish.com.au
to download your copy