



Cronulla Update

Mark Speakman MP for Cronulla
NSW Liberal Leader



I'm pleased to update you on activity in our community in the last few months, including local projects reaching completion.

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New Cronulla High School facilities

The Cronulla High School upgrade has reached a major milestone, with the second of two new buildings now being used by staff and students.

The new 'Building L' was used from Term 3 last year and followed the opening of the new 'Building M' for the start of 2024. Across the two buildings there are ten new classrooms, as well as staff spaces, student and staff amenities, a new canteen, an administration area and new staff car park.



Above and below: new 'Building L' (images School Infrastructure NSW)

Improvements also include an extension of the school hall, a new library entrance and upgraded walkways. The school upgrade will be completed soon with renovation of two existing buildings to provide more classrooms, storage, staff facilities and bathrooms.

The project was planned, designed and funded by the NSW Liberals, with great input from the school community.



Local project updates

Sutherland to Cronulla Active Transport Link update

I'm keen to see planning for the remaining stages of the Sutherland to Cronulla Active Transport Link (SCATL) (off-road bike and pedestrian path) completed as soon as possible.

Last year the 3km Stage 2 East (Jackson Avenue Miranda to the Gannons Road/Denman Avenue intersection on the Caringbah/Woolooware boundary) was opened. The project has also helped improve the streetscape along the route. The other completed part is 1.3km section between Sutherland and Kirrawee.



SCATL along Denman Avenue Caringbah

I've been told by the Government that after a delay while Transport for NSW (TfNSW) secured cooperation from Sutherland Shire Council to proceed with planning the remaining stages, it's a priority for the project to be completed as quickly as possible.

TfNSW will consult with the community on Stage 2 West between Kirrawee and Miranda and Stage 3 through Woolooware and Cronulla.

Kamay Botany Bay National Park update

Construction of the new visitor centre of Kamay Botany Bay National Park is finally underway, with other park improvements now complete or in progress.

The new visitor centre, announced and funded under the NSW Liberals, will be home to four Gweagal spears taken from Kurnell by James Cook and his Endeavour crew in 1770 that have been returned from England.

The Cricket Pitch precinct will also be revitalised, with the existing car park expanded and a new amenities building.



*New amenities building at Commemoration Flat
(image DCCEEW)*

This follows the opening of the new Commemoration Flat amenities in August last year.

The park improvements include new Disability Discrimination Act compliant pathways and parking to ensure facilities are accessible for everyone.

Work is due to be finished in 2026. There will be reduced availability of parking and amenities while construction is in progress. You can check current closures at nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Kamay wharves update

The new Kamay wharves at Kurnell and La Perouse are now due to open in early 2025.

The wharves were due to open last year, but Transport for NSW says poor weather conditions, delays in the supply of construction materials, and the discovery of bonded asbestos on the worksite at La Perouse have caused delays.

The wharves were always planned to enable a tourist and local visitor ferry service between Kurnell and La Perouse, rather than an immediate commuter service.

So far, no operators have come forward to express interest in operating a service. The Government must offer a subsidy (which apparently it hasn't done) to get this connection up and running, like it does to every other public transport operator in Sydney, or operate a service itself.

As well as allowing for a ferry connection across Botany Bay, the wharves will also improve access for locals and visitors in small commercial and recreational boats and for people to swim, dive, fish, walk and enjoy the local sights.



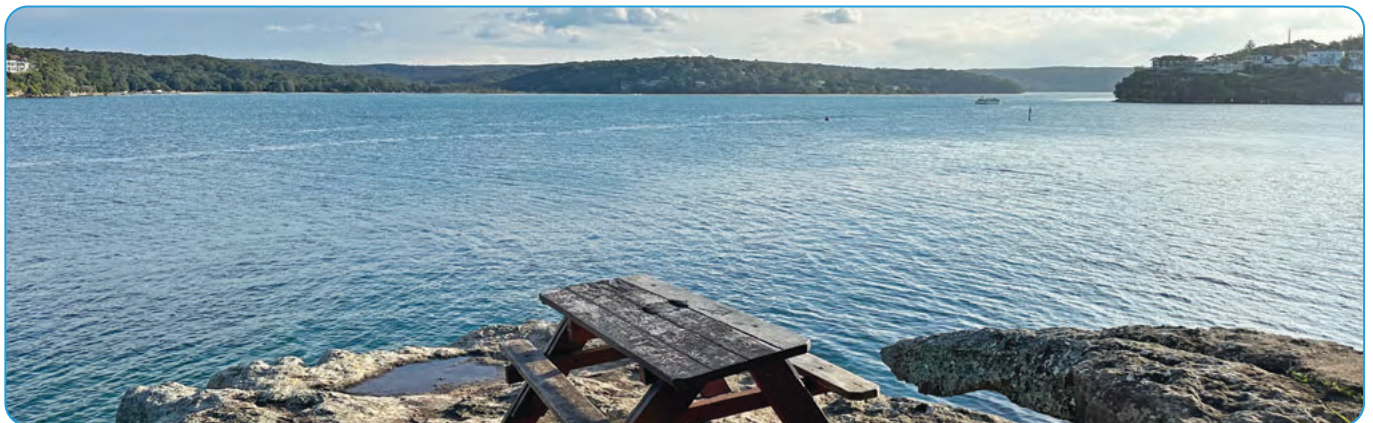
Kamay Wharf nearing completion (image TfNSW)

Hungry Point clifftop walk update

It was great to visit Hungry Point Reserve recently and see work progressing on the clifftop walkway with funding I secured when in government.

The project will extend the existing Cronulla Esplanade walkway to the southern point of the Hungry Point Reserve. Visitors using the walkway will enjoy spectacular views across Port Hacking and work so far has included setting concrete footings for an elevated viewing platform near the southern tip of the peninsula.

Weather permitting, work is due to be completed by May 2025.



A new viewing platform as part of the new Hungry Point clifftop walk will offer spectacular views like this

Cost of living help

Look at the NSW Cost of Living Hub for ideas on how to save money and access any rebates and vouchers you may be eligible for.

The hub has links to a range of helpful information to help you manage the cost of living – find out more by scanning the QR code right.



Sutherland Hospital update

Notwithstanding the best efforts of Sutherland Hospital's hard working staff, the hospital continues to suffer from the State Government's real (after inflation) cuts to the total health budget for two years in a row.

The latest independent data for the September quarter reveal:

- Fewer than half of emergency department patients are now having their treatment starting on time – at 49.5%, this has fallen from 53.1% a year ago (even though patient numbers are stable) and from 58.7% when the Liberals left government (after dealing with the COVID pandemic).
- The elective surgery waiting list has grown by 23% in 12 months, with the Government having discontinued the Liberals' funding to clear the COVID backlog.



Cronulla Seniors Awards nominations

Nominations close very soon for the Cronulla Seniors Awards. The awards are a great way to recognise the contribution seniors make to our community, particularly as volunteers.

If you know someone who makes a difference and you believe they should be recognised, I'm keen to receive your nomination – scan the QR code below. Nominations close at 5pm on **17 February**.

The awards will be presented during the NSW Seniors Festival in March 2025. An overall Cronulla Senior of the Year is awarded, with a group of finalists presented with certificates.

Scan to submit your nomination →



Local news in brief

Community Building Partnership grants

Applications for the next round of grants under the popular Community Building Partnership (CBP) program close on **21 February**.

CBP has helped local community groups, organisations and schools in the Cronulla electorate deliver projects and purchase vehicles and equipment to support their activities.

The 2024 grants in our area were for between \$8,000 and \$46,000 each. They included P&C school projects such as playground shade, together with sports and community club facility and equipment upgrades like ground seating, clubhouse improvements and woodwork machinery.

Find out more about the 2025 CBP grants and how to apply on the program website by scanning the QR code right.



*With grant recipients
Shire Woodworking Club*



GyMEA Bay Public School air conditioning

GyMEA Bay Public School is the largest public primary school in the Cronulla electorate, and I'm pleased that work by its P&C and school families to raise money for air conditioning will now bear fruit after holdups caused by Education Department head office.

The school P&C approached me after it was advised that the project has been placed on hold, even though the P&C was funding the initiative.

After I raised the matter with the Education Minister, I was glad to receive her letter saying the project was in progress.

Lilli Pilli Public School bathrooms

After years of hard work by the school and its dedicated P&C, the lower site at Lilli Pilli Public School will be getting a long overdue bathroom upgrade.

The existing bathroom block is old and not fit for purpose and planning to replace these facilities appeared to have stalled.

I raised the matter in Parliament a number of times and I was pleased to receive a reply from the Education Minister saying the project has now been funded.



Lilli Pilli PS bathrooms

Have your say

As your local MP I'm keen to know what issues are of most concern to you and your family.

I would appreciate it if you could spare a few minutes to complete my community survey by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://bit.ly/surveyforcronulla>



Community recognition

I'm delighted to make community recognition statements in the NSW Parliament acknowledging locals for their achievements, good work or dedicated service.

Please contact my office if you think someone you know or an organisation from the Cronulla electorate should be recognised in this way.

I recognised the following in the second half of 2024:

Sutherland Shire

Business Chamber (awarded 'Outstanding Local Chamber')

Wanda Surf Life Saving Club (Sutherland 2 Surf)

Late James Bruce (long time servant of Arts Theatre Cronulla)

Late Alexander 'Lex'

Macpherson (Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club stalwart)

Late John Suann (long term volunteer leader at Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club, Cronulla Polar Bears Winter Swimming Club)

Chief Inspector Rick Johnson (retiring from NSW Police after 40 years service)

St Aloysius Catholic Parish Cronulla (centenary celebrations)

Cronulla Seagulls Premier League Men's Team (State Cup winners)

Caitlin Schneider (Southern and Southwest Sydney Training Awards School based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year)

Sutherland Shire Council lifeguards (Cronulla Beach rescue)

Jono Mosley (Push-up Challenge raising funds for Lifeline)

St George and Sutherland Medical Research Foundation (fundraising and medical research)

Southern Waters Legal and SP Screens (fundraising for The Family Co)

Levi's Project (fundraising for kids fatal brain cancer research and clinical trials)

Mia Toohey (2024 World Under 20 Athletics Championships)

Louise Sullivan (outgoing Sutherland Shire Councillor)

Dan Michel (2024 Paralympic Games boccia silver medallist)

Rotary Club of Cronulla (leadership team and club achievements)



Ken Warburton (organiser of Sylvanvale Pre World War II Car Show)

Ernesto Young (Margot Fonteyn International Ballet Competition winner)

Les Townsend (long time Wanda Surf Lifesaving Club volunteer)

Dandelion Support Network (support of children and families in need)

Sutherland Shire Netball Association (2024 season and volunteer recognition)

Cronulla Junior Rugby League (2024 season and volunteer recognition)

Late John Jones (long time volunteer of Lilli Pilli and Shire Football)

Andy Neudegg (Caringbah Redbacks Football Club life member)

Local surf club representatives (success at Lifesaving World Championships)

Lilli Pilli Football Club (football grand finals)

GyMEA Anglican Church (spring fair)

Taj Bennett, India Hulbert and Johnathan Prokopsis (Youth Partnership VET Excellence Award winners)

Derek Gray (Sutherland Shire Football Association Merit Award winner and long term contributor to football)

Nicho Hynes (NRL Ken Stephens Medal winner for community work)

John Veage (almost 40 years of service to The Leader newspaper)

Cronulla Polar Bears (Australian Winter Swimming Association Men's National title winners two years in a row)

State Emergency Service (SES) Cronulla Unit volunteers (SES Metro Zone Awards)

Outdoor Furniture Taren Point
(50th anniversary)

Blayke Brailey (back-to-back Cronulla Sharks Player of the Year)

Woolooware Women's Golf Committee (charity fundraiser)

Woolooware High, St Aloysius College Cronulla, Kirrawee High, Cronulla High, Caringbah High (2025 local high school student leaders)

Linda Soars (over 20 years service to 1st Lilli Pilli Scout group)

Dr Fiona Benyon (environmental advocacy and volunteer scout leadership)

Cronulla Bowls Club (100th anniversary)

Troy Burke, Chris Jessop, Otis Jessop, Noah Sutton and Maddix Burke (surf rescue)

Lilli Pilli Public School (Wakakirri National Story-Dance Award winner)

White Horse Coffee (overall champion, 2024 Golden Bean Australasia Roasting comp)

Kurt Brissett (CIO Magazine CIO of the Year)

De La Salle Catholic College Caringbah (2025 student leaders)

Sydney U3a Endeavour (Southern) Region (35th anniversary)



Lilli Pilli Football Club 18A2 boys (Champion of Champions winners)

Isabelle Hayward (NSW Youth Community Service Award)

Southside Malibu Club (40th anniversary)

NSW Rural Fire Service – Kurnell Brigade members (long service awards)

Julie McKinnery (Julie's Biggest Pink Breakfast to support breast cancer research)

Cronulla Retro Surf Comp (fundraiser for mental health support)

Botany Bay Family History Society (40th anniversary)

Saoirse O'Brien and Amelie Sanchez (surf rescue by Cronulla SLSC cadets)

Paul Tindall (Sydney East School Sport Robert Stone Award)

Kath Koschel (2025 NSW Australian of the Year)

Penny Clarke (GyMEA Netball Club life membership)

Nicole Shobrook (long service to GyMEA Netball Club)

Alex Challenor (Australian Schoolboys rugby league team)

Lachlan Hess and Justin Hess (30 for 30 campaign for blood donation)

Cronulla RSL Netball Club (60th anniversary)

Cameron Shalhoub and Nic Watkins (surf rescue)

Todd Ganderton (Cronulla Caringbah Sharks JRLFC life membership)

Greg Allum AM (Commander of the Order of Lifesaving award)

Sutherland Shire Local Business Awards winners:

Elly Offord – e'botanical (Outstanding Florist)

Unearth-Ed (Outstanding Education Service)

The Property Co. Group (Outstanding Real Estate Agency)

Kayne Telfer – Acorn Building Solutions (Youth Award)

Bliss Day Spa (Outstanding Beauty Services)

Joselyn Bancs Hair (Outstanding Hairdresser)

Plumbers Please (Outstanding Plumbing Services)

Mountain Asset Partners (Outstanding Professional Services)

Kirrawee and Woolooware Family Medical Practice (Health Improvement Services)

Express Pathology (Outstanding New Business)

Out and about



With Shire icon Matty



Lilli Pilli Public School



Community consultation
– Cronulla Beach



Kurnell Public School



Yolie Bay Public School



Cronulla Water Polo



Sutherland Rotary



Port Hacking Little Athletics



Wanda Surf Life Saving Club



Woolooware High School



Cronulla High School



Cancer Council

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