



**COLLABORATION:** Lorraine Gill and Theresa Bennett joined me with other Wodonga supporters at morning tea at Bean Station Café on June 19 – the first of a series of gatherings to recognise the tremendous work which so many did during the election campaign.

## Hello Team Orange!

Here's the first of updates about what's been happening and what's ahead as I prepare for Parliament.

## Indi election declared: June 12

It is an **extraordinary privilege to be the Member for Indi**. I feel that I am one very fortunate person – one now who also understands the very great responsibility that this election brings.

I'm so conscious that I'm standing on the shoulders of giants. There have been extraordinary members for Indi – it's a Federation (1901) seat – and I pay particular tribute to my immediate predecessor, Cathy McGowan AO, the first Independent Member for Indi who served our communities so courageously and so honourably for the past six years.

To all of the people of Indi I say that I will be the very best person that I can be. I know I have a lot to learn but I have a lot to give, and you can be absolutely certain that I'll be doing that with as much honour as I can. I thank you and look forward very much to being your Member for Indi for the next three years.

## My priorities: climate action, integrity

I'm keen to get to work with the crossbench to encourage parliament and government to develop **a cohesive response to the challenge of climate change** that promotes unity rather than division.

A collaborative approach to climate change can enable businesses and communities across the country to advance new opportunities, such as a roll-out of renewable energy projects, especially in rural and regional areas. I think action on climate change is one of two key priorities on which the crossbench will be quite united.

The other is the establishment of a robust federal integrity commission.

I'm optimistic that by working collaboratively with the government, the advantages of so many of the current and proposed projects we've put forward from Indi communities leading into the recent federal election campaign will be realised.

## Parliament opens: July 2

I'm to be **sworn in as the Independent Federal Member for Indi** at Parliament House in Canberra on July 2. This ceremony takes place before the formal opening of the 46<sup>th</sup> Parliament by Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC, Governor General, the same day.

Ahead of that – on June 25 and 26 – I'll be joining other newly-elected Members and Senators in an orientation program at Parliament House. I'm looking forward to meeting Zali Steggall, the new Independent Member for Warringah, and later our fellow crossbenchers Andrew Wilkie (Clark), Adam Bandt (Melbourne) and Rebekha Sharkie (Mayo).

## First speech: August 1

It's the luck of those of Irish descent that I'm to make my **first speech in the House of Representatives** on August 1: Horses' Birthday!

I'm aware that quite a few Orange supporters are keen to travel to Canberra for this occasion and in the next week or so you'll receive an email – or via a link on *slack* – to advise if you'd like to attend.

We can then move ahead and make arrangements, subject to demand, for bus charter and public gallery ticketing in the House of Representatives. If you're to come along make sure you wear a winning colour!

## Coalition campaign commitments

The coalition government committed to provide about **\$112 million to projects in Indi** during the 2019 election campaign. Almost 93 per cent of this sum was promised for projects in Wodonga.



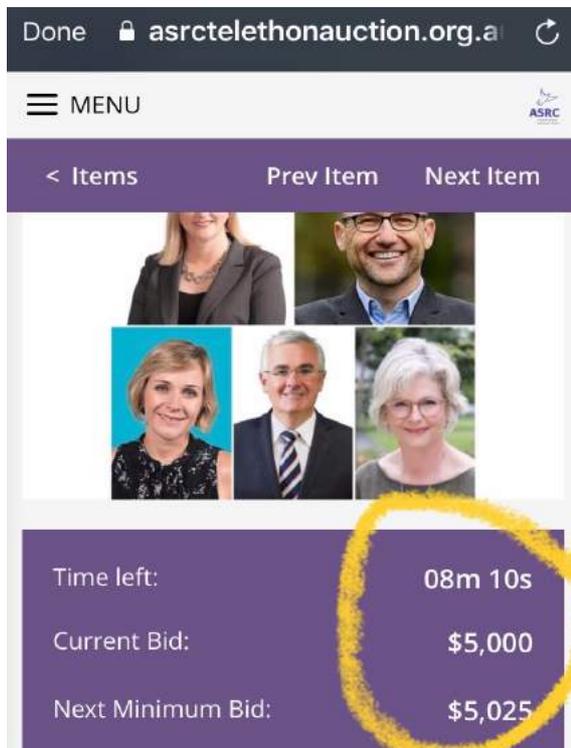
I've already spoken with some local government leaders about their communities' expectations and I'll be contacting others shortly.

I am sure the Prime Minister is a man of his word. I look forward to working with our communities and the government to ensure these projects are delivered.

### Winning bid puts x-bench at the table

On **World Refugee Day** – June 20 – I joined my federal crossbench colleagues to support the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre through its annual Telethon on-line auction. The ASRC advocates for those seeking asylum and does great work helping others who have become refugees and settled in Australia.

Rebekha, Zali, Andrew, Adam and I offered dinner with us at Parliament House as an auction item and it topped the bidding – achieving a price of \$5000. We're working on our conversation skills to ensure we deliver value for money to the successful buyer, Joanna Kirk.



### Thank you, Amanda

You will have seen the **wonderfully-crafted cockatoo** on bunting at the head of this newsletter – another of Amanda Aldous's skilled designs. These stickers are available from my Wangaratta and Wodonga electorate offices in exchange for a gold coin donation.



**RADIO CHAT:** ABC Goulburn Murray morning presenter Joseph Thomsen interviewed me on June 19 at the station's Wodonga studio about my election, background, priorities and how I'm planning for parliament. You can hear it at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1vRv8Lt7NQW0Y0PCWfZv1vxQvCEovTtvA>



**THANK YOU:** I visited Yea, Marysville and Alexandra after the election to meet Murrindindi supporters, volunteers and community leaders, including Alexandra Health Service nurse unit manager Jeanie Hurrey and Mandy Valsinger, and to talk about key local issues and aspirations.

### Tell me what you think

The extraordinary effort of the 1700 who contributed to the Independent Orange campaign in Indi is to be captured in a survey. We're finalising the questions and it will soon be distributed to all who took part. **I encourage you to participate.** Your views will help to shape how we maintain and build our amazing network and knowledge.