



> YOUR BUSINESS



FROM THE OFFICE OF
RUSSELL NORTHE
MEMBER FOR MORWELL



Dear business owner & staff,

Welcome to the latest edition of my business newsletter. I hope this finds you all well.

With the beginning of the next financial year, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with a financial year calendar, and this newsletter which I trust you will find informative.

Russell Northe MLA
Member for Morwell

Out and about



Russell with Owner of Traralgon Newsagency, Darren Howe.



Russell with Steeline Manager, Adrian Burgiel.

2015/16 STATE BUDGET A MIXED BAG FOR LATROBE VALLEY

The Victorian Government's 2015/2016 state budget whilst providing a few initiatives has delivered very little for the Latrobe Valley community, especially in public transport and support for businesses.

Whilst I welcome the Government's commitment to provide some funding for the Morwell Primary School Regeneration project questions remain on the totality of funding for this project.

I am pleased the government had also committed funding to redevelop the Morwell campus of Kurnai College, and that it continued to support the Coalition in implementing the recommendations of the Morwell Mine Fire Inquiry.

I also welcome the Government's commitment to a Gippsland Logistics Precinct in Morwell and a dental prosthetics training facility; however there is no detail on what funding will be committed, or when these projects will be delivered.

Labor had pledged funding for a new technical school in the Latrobe Valley prior to the election, but it appears the locality may now change given the budget papers refer to a new technical school in 'Gippsland' with only planning money committed at this stage.

The Latrobe Valley Industry & Infrastructure Fund has been axed and the Coalition's plan to establish a \$5 million Gippsland Innovation and Enterprise Development Centre at Federation University, Churchill, has also been ignored.

It is also extremely disappointing that there is no funding towards a Newborough CFA fire station, which would ensure our magnificent CFA volunteers were able to operate out of a modern facility and not a building that is close to 50 years old.

I will be lobbying hard to secure more funding for businesses across the Latrobe Valley.



Budget low lights



Abolishment of the \$15 million Latrobe Valley Industry and Infrastructure Fund



Trade output budget – cut by 61.5 per cent



Regional development output budget – cut by 24 per cent



Regional Expo – cut

Grand Final Friday - Public Holiday

On top of a disappointing budget for businesses the Grand Final public holiday will hurt many businesses and may even force the closure of some.

It is predicted that Grand Final Friday will cost the retail and hospitality sectors an estimated \$201 million alone through penalty rates.

Treasury has estimated that the lost productivity to the economy would be \$1.6 billion through an extra public holiday.



SMALL BUSINESS MENTORING PROGRAM

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport runs a mentoring program for small business which is delivered by the Small Business Mentoring Service Inc. (SBMS).

Each year over 3,000 mentoring sessions are held with small business owners and people intending to start a business.

For more information you can visit www.sbms.org.au/ or call Business Victoria on 13 22 15.



COALITION FUNDED PROJECTS WELL UNDERWAY IN THE MORWELL ELECTORATE

Despite missing out on funding in this year's State Budget, numerous projects worth millions of dollars funded by the previous Coalition Government are currently under construction across the Morwell electorate. These important investments are improving local services, creating local jobs and ensuring our region continues to grow.

Latrobe Regional Hospital



The Victorian Coalition Government committed \$73 million for a redevelopment of Latrobe Regional Hospital to increase capacity, including a new department more than double the capacity of the existing facility and a new 30-bed ward. This redevelopment provides the opportunity for the creation of a number of jobs during construction of the project.

Gippsland Heavy Industry Park

The Victorian Coalition Government committed \$2.5 million for the former Lurgi Coal Gasification Plant site which is being transformed into a new heavy industry park after being idle for 11 years. The former site is due to go on the market shortly and is expected to create an additional 470 full-time jobs, 800 construction jobs, and 590 direct jobs across the Latrobe Valley over the next 10 years.



SMALL BUSINESS VICTORIA FESTIVAL AUGUST 2015

The Gippsland Small Business Festival will be held during August this year. The festival is a collection of events and workshops aimed at encouraging and inspiring business capability, leadership and collaboration.

There will be a number of events held in the Morwell electorate that cover a broad range of topics including:

Amplify your success: Dinner with Naomi Simson

When: Thursday 6 August 2015

Time: 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm

Where: Premiere Function Centre, 29 Grey Street Traralgon

Cost: \$45 early bird (June 3 to 14 July), \$60 per person

Bookings: <https://naomisimsontraralgon.eventbrite.com.au>

Building the Vibe in your Business with Gary Bertwistle

When: Tuesday 11 August 2015

Time: 7.00 am to 9.00 am

Where: Waratah Restaurant, 80 Princes Drive Morwell

Cost: \$25

Bookings: <https://buildingthevibeinlatrobe.eventbrite.com.au>

For more information about the Small Business Festival you can visit www.business.vic.gov.au



UPCOMING BUSINESS AWARDS

There are a number of local business award events coming up over the next few months and I take this opportunity to congratulate our local business finalists for their excellence in customer service.

- 2015 Latrobe City Business Tourism People's Choice Awards gala evening is being held on Tuesday 21 July 2015

- 2015 Gippsland Business Awards gala dinner is being held on Friday 28 August

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