Fortnightly Wrap: October 31 – November 13

More committee work to open this fortnight started with me Chairing an inquiry into proposed legislation to introduce a standalone offence for coercive control. Coercive control is a form of domestic abuse that involves patterns of behaviour that have the cumulative effect of denying victim-survivors their autonomy and independence. It's a practise that clearly needs to be stamped out and this legislation will send a clear message it will not be tolerated in NSW. We also completed reports on Cultural Fishing and the protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

It was a privilege to travel to Warren to officially open the refurbishments at St Mary's Parish School, supported by the

NSW Government. Warren is a great community and the smiles on show at the event are testament to how important these new facilities are to the area.



Official opening of the refurbishments at St Mary's School in Warren.

Despite some less than welcoming weather, a lovely service was held at the Orange Cenotaph on Remembrance Day. It was a moving service to remember and honour the sacrifice and courage of our veterans and those currently serving.



Remembrance service in Orange with a local veteran.

We had the first of a two-week spell in Parliament where I spent some time on my feet including speaking about the importance of agriculture in the school curriculum as well as highlighting a number of key events and attractions around Orange which make it such a great place to live.

On a personal note, it was a thrill to have my family in Parliament when I delivered a <u>short speech</u> on the importance of making Parliament more accessible for mums and dads, particularly those who live in the regions. Being away from home a lot can be tough for people with young families, but it is critical we continue to have a range of perspectives in Parliament and I'm proud to be part of a Party that encourages this.



My son Henry joined me on the floor in Parliament.

There were some great events around Orange I was lucky enough to attend including Orange's Biggest Garage Sale, hosted by the Rotary Club of Orange Day Break. Not only were there some great bargains on offer, but around \$30,000 was raised for local mental health services.

Looking for bargains at Orange's Biggest Garage Sale.

Congratulations also need to go to the Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens for their massive plant sale, raising funds for some of their work in the Botanic Gardens, a gem of a spot in town.

It was also great to call into the Under 15 Indoor State Hockey Championships held in Orange. Not only did this see a boost to the town with players and supporters travelling from all around the State for the four-day event, but also saw some success for the locals with the girls side finishing as runners up for the tournament.



Congratulations to the Runners Up of the Under 15 State Championships.

Eugowra looked a picture when I called through there on Saturday morning for a bacon and egg roll and delightfully, spend some time with the crew from Craft on the Creek. This great little group run a shop that offers locally handcrafted items as well as a nice chat in good company.



A lovely morning spent with the team from Craft on the Creek in Eugowra.

After recent flood events. I also spent some time in Forbes where the effects of recent flood waters are still evident. After a look around the town with Mayor Phyllis Miller, I helped clean out a damaged home and visited an affected farm. The way the community has rallied after this event is impressive although not unexpected. There are predictions of further flooding in coming weeks but let's hope it's not that bad.



Cleaning up after the floods in Forbes.

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