



Scott Barrett MLC

Member of the Legislative Council

Fortnightly Wrap: December 12 – December 25

Merry Christmas Everyone – I hope you had some time with your friends and family and are enjoying the end of the year.

One of the great things about Christmas is seeing kids get involved in the celebrations. I was lucky enough to get along to my old School, Orange Public School to see their Christmas Concert. It was a lovely event and the strongest of congratulations need to go to everyone involved.



Merry Christmas! Mr & Mrs Claus at the Eugowra Christmas Party!

Also in Orange I addressed a local homelessness forum as Chair of the Parliamentary Social Issues Committee who has recently presented a report on homelessness among older people. Thanks must go to Shelter for putting this event on as a great opportunity to share and hear ideas relating to this issue.

I spent some time on the road this fortnight with a trip to the Northern parts of the State. With the Nationals candidate for Clarence, we met locals in Casino to discuss some of the issues key to them and listen to their concerns.



Walking the streets of Casino with Richie.

In Tenterfield, on behalf of the NSW Government, I announced the awarding of \$4.1m from the NSW Government's Regional Tourism Activation Fund for mountain bike tracks around town. This great attraction will bring tens of thousands of visitors to town each year and add to an already wonderful community. Of course, this is exciting not just from a biking perspective, but the more people come to town, they spend money in our regional economies and importantly, go home and tell their friends and family how great regional NSW is. That is why I am so happy to be part of Government who supports such initiatives – a Government that gets regional NSW.

While in Lismore, I joined local Nationals Candidate Alex Rubin at a community information session for the Resilient Homes Program. Obviously, there is still a long way to go along the road to recovery for the people of Lismore and surrounding communities. As a government, it is important we continue to listen to the needs and concerns of residents and it's great to see programs like these rolling out, although understandably, we'd like to see things move quicker.

In amongst all this and the Christmas festivities, we were recalled to Parliament to consider The Energy and Utilities Administration (Amendment) Bill 2022 which enables the Government to place a temporary cap on the price of coal used for domestic electricity generation at \$125 a tonne. The legislation supports an approach agreed by National Cabinet to cap coal and gas prices to reduce pressure on electricity bills and aligns with measures passed in the Australian Parliament on Thursday 15 December.

The cap on coal and gas prices will help drive down the cost of energy for households and businesses in NSW, with Commonwealth modelling showing that the caps will provide an estimated average saving of \$230 per household.



Excitement in Tenterfield about the \$4.1m for the construction of Mountain Bike Tracks around the town.



Eugowra at the Community Christmas Party.

We also had another local Christmas Party I was excited to get along to, this time in Eugowra. This community copped it really hard in the recent floods and it was well deserved they had a great Party, with blue skies, smiles a plenty and of course a visit from Santa.

I do hope you have a great Christmas and will be back in touch again in 2023.

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for Regional NSW

