



Scott Barrett MLC

Member of the Legislative Council

Fortnightly Wrap: October 3 – October 16

Back at home after a long weekend on the road, this fortnight kicked off with a hearing into a purposed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill. While there is little argument this unique and special heritage must be protected, how we go about it important so as to be sure it delivers the desired outcomes for our First Nations peoples and the rest of the country.



Parliamentary Inquiry into the proposed.

In between some of the wet weather, I did manage to take a quick trip to Coonabarabran and Tooraweenah including a stopover at the Warrumbungle's National Park. I love this part of the world and would recommend a visit to anyone. Keep an eye out for the largest model solar system in the world!



It was a big week back in Parliament after a few weeks away. There were plenty of activities on in the House including the inaugural meeting of the parliamentary Friends of Biosecurity of which I was elected Chair. This provides a great opportunity to increase the awareness of biosecurity across all members of parliament and highlight just how important this is to regional NSW.

On a sad note, I remembered the 20th anniversary of the Bali Bombings, in particular paying tribute to the community of Forbes. Three members of the Forbes Rugby Club were lost in this tragedy, in Bali at the time on an end of season rugby trip. Since then, the community has rallied around those affected in a way only a town such as Forbes can.

After a recent visit, I was able to congratulate members and volunteers of Riding for the Disabled who in the coming weeks, will celebrate 50 years of this outstanding organisation. It's a group I am very fond of and was pleased to be able to recognise this achievement in Parliament.



Another achievement I was able to recognise was the premiership of the OilsPlus Rugby Union competition, shared by Molong Magpies and the Coonabarabran Kookaburras after a tied Grand final – It was an epic clash I was lucky enough to witness. Sporting competitions and activities are such a vital part of regional communities. They provide a connectedness and sense of community unique to our regional towns. They provide friendships that last a lifetime and a movement for the entire town to get behind.

One of the most moving events of the week was the courageous valedictory speech of party stalwart Stephen Bromhead. Steve is currently battling with mesothelioma and

after many, many years of dedicated service to the national Party and regional NSW, particularly the people of Myall Lakes, we wish him all the very best.

To close the week out I chaired the deliberative meeting for the Social Issues Committee into homelessness in people over 55. In this meeting the committee decides what will be in the final report to Parliament, including recommendation made to government on the matter. This is a very important report that I am looking forward to tabling next week.



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for Regional NSW

