

# TED O'BRIEN MP

Federal Member for **Fairfax**  
Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy



## A MESSAGE FROM TED

Dear Resident,

**It's hard to believe that we are already a quarter of the way through 2024.**

A belated 'Happy Easter' to you all. Although the Easter break was a welcome respite, many in our community are struggling each day with the rising cost of living.

Unfortunately, the future of our region has also been jeopardised by the Labor government's backflips on transformational infrastructure projects: heavy rail to Maroochydore and the upgrade of the Sunshine Motorway at the Mooloolah River Interchange.

This is incredibly disappointing on a personal level. I fought hard to secure 50% of funding for these projects from the former Coalition Government, amounting to over \$1.75 billion. However, it is Sunshine Coast residents who will feel the real pain of Labor's short-sightedness.

These set backs add further impetus to my fight to ensure milestones like the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games act as a catalyst for critical infrastructure to support our growing region.

At the federal level, we are moving closer to Budget Week and I am exerting pressure on the government to use every lever at their disposal to get prices down on utilities, housing, fuel and groceries rather than progressing ideological crusades.

With Anzac Day also around the corner, I have listed local commemoration services across the electorate on the back page. I encourage you to consider attending one of these events.

I'll also be reflecting on the 80th Anniversary of D-Day – 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1944 – and our good fortune to live in peace in the best country on earth.

To all our service men and women, both in active service and retired, thank you for your service.

Lest We Forget.

Best regards,

Ted O'Brien MP  
Federal Member for Fairfax  
Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy



*Ted O'Brien looks over the site of the proposed Maroochydore rail station, which the Labor government has not committed to.*

## INACTION LEADS TO TRANSPORT SETBACKS

**Two of the Sunshine Coast's most transformative projects – heavy passenger rail along the CAMCOS corridor to Maroochydore, and the upgrade of the Sunshine Motorway at the Mooloolah River Interchange (MRI) - have suffered major setbacks.**

Ted O'Brien helped secure \$1.6 billion from the former Coalition Government towards the \$3.2 billion heavy rail project, and Labor promised to support its delivery before the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

But now, the Labor Government is only committing to half the rail line at twice the price – and only promising to Caloundra.

Ted flagged this risk 12 months ago, warning the then Palaszczuk government that the highly inflationary environment will mean any delays will result in increased costs.

"This is a major setback for the Coast which could have been

avoided if the original 50:50 agreement between the State and Federal governments wasn't torn up by Labor after the 2022 election," said Ted.

In another blow for the Coast, the upgrade of the Sunshine Motorway at the Mooloolah River Interchange has been completely scrapped by the Albanese Labor government.

Ted secured \$160 million toward the \$320 million needed for this project, which would have fixed the traffic choke point at the southern end of the Motorway.

Ted also delivered \$5 million for a business case for rail duplication to Nambour and is still waiting to see what Queensland Labor has done with this money.

"Labor has consistently put the infrastructure needs of the Sunshine Coast last."

"This is the true cost of Labor's inaction," said Ted.

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# FAMILY CARS TO COST MORE




**LEARN MORE ON  
LABOR'S CAR  
AND UTE TAX  
HERE**




bitly

Labor's proposed new tax on the family car will increase prices.

Landcruiser could rise by as much as \$25,000 under Labor's new tax.

Ted visited local car dealer Brett Mills, from Ken Mills Toyota Maroochydore recently. The price of a Toyota

"The last thing Australians need is a new tax which will make life even harder in a cost of living crisis!", Ted said.

# SCHOOL LEADERS IMPRESS

Ted O'Brien recently brought together school leaders from across seven local high schools, to discuss local and national issues.

Students also heard from local Paralympian Jenna Jones who shared her journey and thoughts on what makes a great leader.

Following the event, Ted said that, "the insights and intellect of the students was truly inspirational."

Thanks to Sunshine Coast Grammar, Coolum State High School, Nambour State College, Matthew Flinders Anglican College, Burnside State High School, Nambour Christian College, and Suncoast Christian College.



# OUT & with ABOUT Ted

Ted is always out and about in the community.

To invite Ted to your event please email him:  
[ted.obrien.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:ted.obrien.mp@aph.gov.au)



*Ted talks to hundreds of constituents during his road trips across the electorate, including this one at Cotton Tree in January.*



*Ted's 2024 Seniors Forum, held at the Nambour RSL, explored how older Australians can best access services.*



*Ted welcomed Sen Michaelia Cash, Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations to talk to local businesses.*

# SUNSHINE COAST SENIORS FORUM



Ted's 2024 Seniors Forum, Maximising Services: Making the System Work For You, was attended by over 100 locals.

Since 2017, Ted O'Brien has invited Sunshine Coast residents to an annual Seniors Forum to discuss topics relevant to older Australians.

The theme of this year's forum was Maximising Services: Making the System Work For You. Ted brought together speakers from aged care services, government support, finance, and legal to discuss relevant issues as older Australians move through retirement and beyond.

Over 100 locals attended the forum at the Nambour RSL, which was jointly hosted by the Blackall Range Care Group.

The presenters' top tips for accessing services were:

1. Apply for My Aged Care when you are eligible: it's better to have the funding and not need it, than need the funding and not have it;

2. Ask for advice from Centrelink about eligibility for assistance: you don't know what you don't know;
3. Be across your finances: know incomings and outgoings and get advice on how to structure your affairs to maximise government support; and
4. Don't DIY law: get legal advice on drafting your Will and related matters.

A big thank you to guest speakers Krystall Hall (Blackall Range Care Group), Narelle Cooper (CAPA Services), Lachlan Money (Stream Financial), and Tove Easton (Easton Lawyers). Thanks also to Lenore Simpson and the team at Blackall Range Care for co-hosting the forum; and to Carol Cashman and the Fairfax Seniors Advisory Committee.

# AUSTRALIA'S ENERGY FUTURE IS ALL ABOUT THE MIX

As Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Ted O'Brien is in the advanced stages of developing the Coalition's 'all-of-the-above' cheaper and cleaner energy policy to reduce prices, restore reliability, and cut emissions.

Ted continues to be a strong advocate for the inclusion of zero emissions nuclear energy as part of Australia's future energy mix.

"Zero-emissions nuclear energy should be considered alongside renewables and abated gas, and we should not be closing our baseload power stations prematurely.

"What we have seen across the world is that countries are moving towards zero-emissions nuclear energy because it gets prices down, keeps the lights on, and doesn't generate any emissions", said Ted.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COALITION'S CLEAN ENERGY POLICY PLANS HERE**



Ted speaks to hundreds of school children at Parliament House, including Immanuel College who visited recently.



Ted visited the Coolool Women's Shed during their open day and to celebrate International Women's Day 2024.



Ted welcomed Australia's newest citizens at the Australia Day citizenship ceremony held on the Sunshine Coast.



Ted joined in the celebrations when Coolool Wedge Bodysurfing was announced as host of the 2025 World Bodysurfing championships.



# ANZAC DAY

*Lest We Forget*

## LOCAL SERVICES

THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2024

Please consider attending a local service. I recommend checking service and event times closer to the date. For updated information, go to: [www.rslqld.org/whats-on/anzac-day](http://www.rslqld.org/whats-on/anzac-day)

### Bli Bli

TBC Main Service. Bli Bli Cenotaph, Avenue of Honour, 125 Parklakes Drive, Bli Bli.

### Buderim

5:15am Dawn Service. Buderim Village Park, 5 Church Street, Buderim.  
8:30am ANZAC Day March. Woolworths Carpark, 67 Burnett Street, Buderim.  
9:00am Main Service. Buderim Mountain State School Pine Forest, 42 Main Street, Buderim.

### Coolum

4:45am ANZAC Day March. Car park behind RSL, Seacove Lane, Coolum.  
5:00am Dawn Service. Cenotaph, 1906 David Low Way, Coolum Beach.

### Eumundi

7:30am ANZAC Day March. Cnr Napier Road and Longergan Lane, Eumundi.  
8:00am Main Service. Eumundi Amphitheatre.

### Kenilworth

7:30am Breakfast. Kenilworth Town Park.  
8:30am ANZAC Day March. Kenilworth Town Park.

### Mapleton

9:30am ANZAC Day March. Cnr Wilga Court and Flaxton Drive, Mapleton.  
10:00am Main Service. RSL Memorial Park, 8 Flaxton Drive, Mapleton.

### Maroochydore

TBC Dawn Service. Cenotaph, The Esplanade, Maroochydore.  
TBC ANZAC Day March. Outside the RSL, Maroochydore.  
TBC Main Service. Cenotaph, The Esplanade, Maroochydore.

### Montville

5:30am Dawn Service. Montville Memorial Gates, Memorial Close, Montville Hall.

### Mudjimba

5:30am Dawn Service. Power Memorial Park, The Esplanade, Mudjimba.  
10:30am ANZAC Day March. Cnr Coolibah Street and Mudjimba Beach Road, Mudjimba.  
11:00am Main Service. Power Memorial Park, The Esplanade, Mudjimba.

### Nambour

5:15am Dawn Service. Walls of Remembrance, Quota Memorial Park, Nambour.  
8:30am ANZAC Day March. Cnr Ann and Howard Streets, Nambour.  
9:00am Main Service. Quota Memorial Park, Matthew Street, Nambour.

### Verrierdale

5:45am Dawn Service. Verrierdale Hall, 460 Verrierdale Road, Verrierdale.

### Yandina

10:45am ANZAC Day March. Cnr Farrell and Stevens Streets, Yandina.  
11:00am Main Service. Yandina Cenotaph, Stevens Street, Yandina.

TBC - please check times closer to 25 April at [tedobrien.com.au](http://tedobrien.com.au)

## 80th Anniversary D-Day

Its codename was "Operation Neptune", but it would be etched into the pages of history as D-Day. The 6 June 1944 is often considered the turning point of World War II; and marked the first step toward the liberation of western Europe from the clutches of the horrors of Nazism.

This year we remember the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when over 6,000 ships and other landing craft were accompanied by about 10,000 aircraft, as they converged on the beaches of Normandy, in northern France. In the skies were thousands of Australian airmen risking their lives as they provided support for what would become the largest ever amphibious landing.

With over 130,000 Allied troops deployed, Winston Churchill declared it "much the greatest thing we have ever attempted".

Approximately 3,200 Australians participated in the D-Day landings, with thousands more serving in the days and weeks that followed as a part of the wider Normandy campaign, known as Operation Overlord.



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Inset: Broken propeller from RAAF spitfire on D-Day.



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Members of the Royal Australian Navy served with the Royal Navy; while a small number of Australian soldiers were attached to the British Army.

It was in the skies, however, that our nation gave its strongest support to D-Day, with 1,800 Australian airmen on attachment to the Royal Air Force, and a further 1,000 flying with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) squadrons.

The RAAF's No. 453 Squadron famously flew their spitfires as a part of the Allies' 171 fighter and fighter-bomber squadrons.

On D-Day itself, 13 Australians sacrificed their lives while hundreds more would die as a part of the Normandy campaign. In terms of casualties, June 1944 represents the worst month in the history of the RAAF. It would be another eleven months before World War II in Europe came to an end; and three months again until victory in the Pacific. In all, 39,657 Australians would lose their life in service during World War II.

## Discovery of Montevideo Maru wreckage

The sinking of the MV Montevideo Maru remains the deadliest maritime disaster in Australia's history. The final toll has never been confirmed; but it is estimated 845 military personnel and over 200 civilians lost their lives.

Last year, in April 2023, peace was brought to hundreds of Australian families when the wreckage was finally located 4,000 metres below the South China Sea; and 80 years after the disaster.

The Montevideo Maru was routinely used by Imperial Japan to transport troops throughout south-east Asia during World War II. In June 1942, members of the Australian 2/22nd Battalion; No.1 Independent Company; and a group of captured civilian prisoners were ordered to board the ship. Eight days into its voyage, the vessel (not marked as carrying prisoners of war) was spotted



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by the American submarine USS Sturgeon which fired torpedos striking at 2:29am. MV Montevideo Maru sunk in less than 11 minutes, with reports that there was no assistance to help the prisoners abandon the sinking ship. Over 1,000 men, overwhelmingly Australian, lost their lives with the wreckage not being discovered for over 80 years.



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With thanks and appreciation to the Australian War Memorial.