

Melina BATH MP

EASTERN VICTORIA REGION
SHADOW MINISTER FOR
PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT, ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS
& OUTDOOR RECREATION



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Once again, another year is closing. For many it has been a year of challenge, with household budgets stretched thin with rising costs and taxes.

In addition to my Public Land Management and Aboriginal Affairs Shadow responsibilities, I have been entrusted with the Outdoor Recreation portfolio.

These portfolios enabled me to travel across Victoria championing access to public land, traditional recreational pastimes and our vision for tackling disadvantage and governing for all Victorians equally.

Championing rural fairness

As Shadow Minister for Public Land Management and Outdoor Recreation, I've been championing practical policies.

I led debate opposing the Parks and Public Land Legislation Amendment Bill, calling for balanced measures that protect bush user access.

In Parliament, I fought to safeguard frontline Fisheries Officers and pressed for licensing renewal systems that ensure regional hunters aren't disadvantaged by digital only processes.

With less than a year until the 2026 state election, The Nationals are strong in our resolve for a fresh start as the Allan Government continues to fail regional Victorians.

Whichever way you choose to celebrate Christmas, may your heart be filled with peace and hope and may it be a joyful time for you and your loved ones.

Mel xx



Remembrance Day 2025

As a Nationals MP, it's an honour to commemorate those who served and sacrificed for our freedoms. On November 11, communities attended local RSL services in moving tributes of courage and resilience.

I was privileged to join the unveiling of a plaque honouring Private William 'Bill' Mathews, who fought with the 22nd Battalion at Bullecourt in WWI. The plaque is as a lasting tribute to his service and sacrifice. I thank the Phillip Island RSL for their dedication.

Our RSLs are vital in preserving this legacy and supporting veterans for generations to come.



Bushfire preparedness

I've raised urgent concerns in Parliament and the media about Victoria's fire preparedness. With a high risk summer ahead, our state remains underprepared. Over 300 Forest Fire Management trucks remain grounded, forcing the Allan Government to borrow decommissioned vehicles from interstate.

Fuel reduction is dangerously behind schedule, with only 1 percent of public land treated despite the Bushfires Royal Commission's 5 percent target. CFA and SES volunteers face ageing equipment and limited support, while families and farmers are hit with higher costs under Labor's new Emergency Services Tax - a tax The Nationals will scrap in government.

We will keep fighting for fleet readiness, credible fuel reduction programs and properly resourced emergency services. Please take time to prepare your property and review your fire plan this summer.



Do you need any help with any state government matter?

Melina Bath MP

The Nationals' Member for
Eastern Victoria Region



Gippsland public hospital deficits



Seven Gippsland public hospitals are in deficit, putting patients and access to healthcare at risk.

Longer wait times and reduced care in our regional hospitals are unacceptable.

As your Nationals MP, I'm demanding transparency and a long term plan to fix this crisis. Residents deserve quality health care close to home, and I'll keep fighting to make it happen.

Improving childcare access

Families in rural Victoria face severe childcare shortages, making it harder for parents to return to work and businesses to attract staff. I will continue to advocate for practical solutions to increase availability and affordability of childcare across regional communities. Accessible childcare is essential for supporting families, boosting workforce participation and strengthening local economies.

Thank you eastern Victoria

Every week I meet incredible people – teachers going above and beyond, small businesses creating jobs, volunteers strengthening communities.

I think of families doing it tough, young people chasing opportunities and older Victorians whose wisdom matters. Every conversation reminds me why I fight for regional Victoria. Thank you.

Celebrating our farmers



During National Agriculture Week, I proudly acknowledged the resilience and innovation of our farmers.

They drive jobs, exports and regional prosperity, while stewarding our land with care for future generations.

I'll continue advocating for policies that support primary producers and safeguard our farmland.

Repealing treaty

We opposed Labor's flawed and deeply divisive Statewide Treaty legislation in Parliament. We will repeal Treaty within the first 100 days after the November 2026 state election in government.

Labor has played partisan politics, even using its apology as a political tool. A good government should unite Victorians, not divide us.

We're committed to Closing the Gap by prioritising health, education and opportunity to deliver real outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians.



Busy in Bass



Newhaven Jetty win!

After 18 months of community action and Nationals advocacy, we forced the government to commit state funding for a major upgrade and reopening of the Newhaven Jetty.

The community never gave up on saving this historic jetty – a much loved, accessible fishing platform. Together with residents, we launched petitions and held rallies to expose Labor's refusal to listen or act, ensuring this beautiful public jetty wasn't lost forever.

Labor's long overdue backflip is a huge victory for locals and proof that when residents and The Nationals unite, we make a real difference.

Phillip Island Road safety



The Allan Government has failed to deliver critical upgrades to Phillip Island Road at San Remo, despite years of mounting safety concerns and advocacy.

The RACV ranks this road among Victoria's most dangerous, with worsening congestion compromising safety and liveability. Despite being Bass Coast's top road priority and shovel ready for over a decade, it continues to be ignored.

I remain committed to advocating for locals and holding Labor to account on this vital upgrade.