

2025 Federal Parliament Advocacy Trip – Media Release

28 August 2025

Peninsula priorities on notice for Ministers, decision-makers in capital

The Committee for Frankston & Mornington Peninsula (CFMP) led a local delegation to Federal Parliament this week to advocate for support, funding and clarity around election commitments for our region.

Joining Committee CEO Josh Sinclair were Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor, Cr Anthony Marsh; Frankston City Mayor, Cr Kris Bolam; Mornington Peninsula Shire CEO, Mark Stoermer; and Frankston City Advocacy Officer, Kristen Thomson. The trip was coordinated and facilitated by CFMP and Jodie Belyea, Member for Dunkley; and Zoe McKenzie, Member for Flinders.

The purpose of this advocacy visit was to present a united approach to advocacy across key policy areas that impact our region – including infrastructure, housing, health and ageing, and environment.

Meetings were held with key decision-makers from government and the Opposition, including:

- The Hon. Clare O’Neil MP – Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Cities
- Senator The Hon. Murray Watt – Minister for Environment
- The Hon. Catherine King MP – Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development (Senior Advisor)
- The Hon. Sam Rae MP – Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians (Senior Advisor)
- Senator Anne Ruston – Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing
- Senator Andrew Bragg – Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness
- Dr Anne Webster MP – Shadow Minister for Local Government and Regional Development

Discussions with these Ministers ranged from election commitments to be delivered across Dunkley and Flinders, ongoing challenges our region continues to face in key areas, and opportunities for the federal government to directly support the region over the next three years.

The alignment of local council and industry on advocacy objectives is a powerful tool when it comes to successfully lobbying the government to take notice of our region above others.

Joint advocacy approaches and delegations of this type occur in Federal Parliament every week. As the peak advocacy body for our region, the Committee takes its role in facilitating opportunities like this very seriously – and we’re delighted both councils could join these efforts.

Key to this also is strong bi-partisanship. The Committee would like to once again acknowledge or deep appreciation for both Jodie Belyea and Zoe McKenzie for their support in our ongoing work and coordinating this trip.

This joint advocacy trip followed one arranged by the Committee last year with Mornington Peninsula Shire, and is a pivotal example of the importance of the relationship between industry and local government across our region.

Quotes attributable to Josh Sinclair, CEO of the Committee for Frankston & Mornington Peninsula

"I want to thank our local Members of Parliament for helping facilitate these pivotal conversations in Canberra."

"Joint advocacy with council at the highest levels of government demonstrate the importance and impact the Committee and council partnership has for our community."

"Together with both local mayors, our region presented a united and collaborative approach to key opportunities for the federal government to sink their teeth into on the Peninsula."

"Whether it's \$50m in road upgrades along Nepean Highway, investment in diverse housing options, or support for health and ageing projects – the federal government now knows clearly what our region needs to enhance liveability and ensure the Peninsula remains a great place to live and work."

Quotes attributable to Zoe McKenzie, Federal Member for Flinders

"I am so grateful to both the Shire and Committee for coming to Canberra."

"I stand up for Flinders every day, making the argument for the investment we need in infrastructure, transport, health and education facilities, as well as our roads and community and sporting assets."

"When others from the Peninsula join me to make these arguments face to face with decision makers from both parties of government, it helps to ensure what we need and why we need it!"

Quotes attributable to Jodie Belyea, Federal Member for Dunkley

"I am proud to have facilitated a successful joint delegation with both councils and CFMP, advocating for our region's priorities."

"It's another important step to ensure Frankston- Mornington Peninsula is a thriving region for businesses, organisations, and residents"

2025 Federal Parliament Advocacy Trip Report

The Committee for Frankston & Mornington Peninsula (CFMP) led a local delegation to Federal Parliament on 25 August 2025 to advocate for federal funding, support and policy outcomes that benefit our region.

The delegation was facilitated by local Federal Members of Parliament Jodie Belyea (Dunkley) and Zoe McKenzie (Flinders); and Committee CEO, Josh Sinclair.

Joining the advocacy trip were:

- Mornington Peninsula Shire Mayor, Cr Anthony Marsh
- Mornington Peninsula Shire CEO, Mark Stoermer
- Frankston City Mayor, Cr Kris Bolam
- Frankston City Advocacy Officer, Kristen Thomson

Together with both local governments, industry, and our local Members of Parliament – the purpose of this visit was to present a united approach to advocacy

Meetings were held with each Minister or Shadow Minister relating to their portfolio and commitments or issues across Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula, which cover both the electorates of Dunkley and Flinders.



Meeting with Senator the Hon. Murray Watt – Minister for Environment

Jodie Belyea hosted CFMP CEO, MP Shire Mayor and MP Shire CEO for a meeting with the Minister for Environment, Murray Watt.

The discussion was mostly focused on the Commonwealth's recent decision to determine the proposed **Victorian Renewable Energy Terminal** in Hastings as a '**controlled action**'.

The Minister talked through the process and bilateral agreement the Commonwealth has with the Victorian Government, who will now oversee the Environmental Effects Statement requirements.

The Committee spoke about its support of the Federal Government's ambitious renewable energy and net zero targets, and the region's close-proximity to the nation's most advanced offshore wind zone off the coast of Gippsland.

We acknowledged the importance and significance of Western Port's unique biosphere and Ramsar wetlands, and how our region can further support the federal government in achieving it's ambitious climate targets.

The delegation thanked the Minister for being so generous with his time.



Meeting with the Office of the Hon. Sam Rae – Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Australia

Jodie Belyea hosted CFMP CEO, Shire Mayor, Shire CEO, Frankston City Mayor and Frankston City's advocacy officer for a meeting with a senior staff member of the office of the Hon. Sam Rae, Minister for Aged Care and Seniors Australia.

This discussion was largely around the **National Centre for Healthy Ageing (NCHA)** at Frankston Hospital.

The NCHA is a partnership between Peninsula Health and Monash University that conducts nation-leading research through digital health technologies and clinical trials. It helps optimise innovative care and gives locals the opportunity to stay at home longer and avoid aged care and hospital admissions.

The centre received \$32 million in funding from the former Health Minister and local Member, the Hon. Greg Hunt, before it received support once again following a review when the Labor Government was elected in 2022. This was due to the support and advocacy of the late Peta Murphy.

We discussed the work the NCHA does in supporting the Federal Government's aged care and healthy ageing priorities – a key policy area of focus for the Albanese Government.

The Committee led discussions on behalf of our membership, including Monash University and Peninsula Health, and acknowledged that more than 27% of residents on the Mornington Peninsula are over the age of 65 (15% in Metropolitan Melbourne).

All those attending the meeting were fully supportive of the work the NCHA does and will seek to support any federal support sought by the centre going forward. We also are incredibly grateful to the advocacy and support from Jodie Belyea on this issue.

The delegation did raise the condition of **Rosebud Hospital**, noting that it is a matter for the Victorian Government. However, at the last State Election, the Victorian Opposition did propose a significant redevelopment of the hospital which was dependent on a shared one-third share of Commonwealth funding.

The delegation thanked the senior representative from the Minister's office for his time.

Meeting with the Hon. Clare O’Neil MP – Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Cities

Jodie Belyea hosted CFMP CEO, Shire Mayor, Shire CEO, Frankston City Mayor, and Frankston City Advocacy Officer for a discussion with the Minister for Housing, the Hon. Clare O’Neil.

This discussion centred around government housing and **investment opportunities within the Frankston Metropolitan Activity Centre (FMAC)** of Frankston City.

Frankston City acknowledged that the council is undergoing a ‘town-to-city’ transformation, and to meet housing targets set by the Victorian Government it expects the city centre to be pivotal. The Minister acknowledged this and encouraged council to work with the local Member on identifying solutions that are investment-ready.

Discussion then turned to the **homelessness challenges** across our region, including the Mornington Peninsula. The Mornington Peninsula has the highest recorded number of homeless people and those sleeping rough in Metropolitan Melbourne. Figures from Launch ZERO Mornington Peninsula indicate that in June this year, the number of actively homeless increased to 110.

The Minister encouraged the Shire to continue advocating and applying for housing and homelessness and crisis support through federal government programs like the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF).

Jodie Belyea confirmed planning is underway for a Housing Roundtable to be held in Dunkley with the Minister at a date to be confirmed.

The delegation thanked the Minister for being so generous with her time.

Meeting with the office of the Hon. Catherine King MP – Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

Jodie Belyea facilitated a meeting with a senior infrastructure advisor from the Office of the Hon. Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development. This meeting included the CFMP CEO, Shire Mayor, Shire CEO, Frankston City Mayor, and Frankston City Advocacy Officer.

The delegation discussed in detailed the Federal Government's budgeted **\$50 million commitment to upgrades along Nepean Highway / Overton Road**. This package was announced prior to the election, and detail and scoping of the work to be delivered will be assessed by the Victorian Government in conjunction with local council and stakeholders.

This project was the single largest funding commitment for our region, and it is crucial that all levels of government work collaboratively together to ensure the funding delivers tangible benefits for residents and business.

Discussion then turned towards upgrading public transport on the Mornington Peninsula, including the **Stony point uplift** project identified in the Victorian Government's businesses case from 2019.

All attendees agreed that the electrification and duplication of the Frankston line to Baxter is not a short or medium term solution given the lack of political will, government funding and priorities, and community appetite. All attendees agreed that alternative options to improving the Stony Point line should be further explored and advocated.

The Mornington Peninsula Shire then discussed the **Emil Madsen Reserve** pavilion redevelopment in Mount Eliza, and the **commitments made by the Labor Party for Flinders**. The Minister's office confirmed that these commitments would be delivered in the mid-year economic fiscal outlook in December.

The Committee then sought clarification of what upgrades were planned for **Western Port Highway** following the \$10 million election commitment by the Federal Government to that stretch of road. Details on this announcement are part of conversations ongoing between the Commonwealth and State.

The delegation thanked the senior advisor for his time.

Meeting with Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston – Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing

Zoe McKenzie hosted the CFMP CEO, Shire Mayor and Shire CEO for a discussion with the Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing, Senator Anne Ruston.

The significant need to redevelop **Rosebud Hospital** was raised as a key local community issue for both community and industry. It was noted that this is entirely within the remit of the Victorian Government, and representations will be made to them in the lead up to the State Election in November 2026. However, it was noted that a previous commitment by the Victorian Opposition was made in 2022 which required joint funding from the Commonwealth.

The discussion then turned to the **National Centre for Healthy Ageing** in Frankston and the nation-leading work being undertaken in partnership between Peninsula Health and Monash University. The Senator indicated she valued the work the NCHA did and acknowledged its significance to our region.

The attendees then thanked the Shadow Minister for her time.



Meeting with Dr Anne Webster – Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Local Government

Zoe McKenzie hosted the CFMP CEO, Shire Mayor and Shire CEO for a discussion with the Shadow Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, Dr Anne Webster MP.

The Committee was **Designated Area Migration Agreements (DAMA)** as a significant opportunity for the Mornington Peninsula Shire to be included in to help address workforce shortages across agriculture, horticulture, tourism and hospitality. The Minister acknowledged the importance of those for peri-urban and peri-rural areas like the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

The Minister prompted discussions around **local government sustainability** and financial assistance grants from the federal government.

Conversation also took place in relation to the inequity in funding our region receives compared to other parts of Melbourne and regional Victoria.

The delegation then thanked the Shadow Minister for being so generous with her time.



Meeting with Senator Andrew Bragg – Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness

Zoe McKenzie hosted the CFMP CEO, Shire Mayor and Shire CEO for a discussion with the Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Senator Andrew Bragg.

Homelessness on the Mornington Peninsula was the primary focus of the conversation, given the Mornington Peninsula's serious challenges in this space.

The delegation went through some of the practical responses to housing concerns and crisis support that the Federal Government could provide assistance with, and the Shadow Minister gave his assurance that he would support requests for assistance in this space through the Federal MP's office.

An ongoing challenge is the perception of the Mornington Peninsula Shire as a wealthy area for Melbourne's rich and powerful – when in reality the socio-economic disadvantage in some areas, including the highest homelessness and sleeping rough rate in Melbourne, is the worst in the state.

The delegation thanked the Shadow Minister for his time.

