



**OFFICE OF STUART GRIMLEY MP**  
Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Stuart Grimley on 2019 State Budget: Armstrong Creek & Surf Coast**

Member for Western Victoria Stuart Grimley has welcomed the 2019 State Budget with the Surf Coast and Armstrong Creek receiving many green lights for projects however only 'planning' funds for many others.

Mr Grimley's biggest achievement was successfully advocating for the \$14.5m allocated to supporting emergency service workers getting access to mental health support 'without the wait'. It was only recently that Mr Grimley moved a motion that recognised the need for emergency service workers to have the presumption that the presence of mental illness was as a result of working on the frontline – which passed unanimously.

Bellbrae Primary School will receive \$9.1m in funding and Armstrong Creek Secondary School will begin construction as expected. The Armstrong Creek Fire Station will become a reality, following a \$15.8m in the Budget. Mr Grimley says these are all valuable pieces of infrastructure which are needed as population booms.

Mr Grimley also welcomes the allocated \$2m to plan for the Waurn Ponds Rail Duplication Project which will benefit Surf Coast residents who commute to the city but also those further down the train line. \$100m has also been allocated to plan the separation of the Geelong (and Ballarat) line from the metropolitan service, but unfortunately not to build it.

Similarly on roads, \$400,000 has been provided to 'plan' the duplication and upgrade of Barwon Heads Road, but no funding to physically begin the \$318m upgrade which is being desperately called upon by all 3217 residents.

#### **Mr Grimley Stated:**

"I'm ecstatic that something I lobbied the Government so hard for [presumptive legislation for emergency service workers] was included in the Budget to the tune of \$14.5m. As a policeman up until I was elected, I know the trauma that can be witnessed by frontline workers.

I'm glad to see education - and particularly schools - playing a particular focus in the Budget. As a former principal I place huge importance on regional public schools having competitive facilities to city and independent schools.

Living in Armstrong Creek, I can see every day how much our community is growing. I'm glad we'll be seeing a fire station after a tragedy in the area late last year.

It's great to see significant funding towards rail funding but \$100m to plan for a separation of the metro and rural lines seems exorbitant.

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