

JOHN BARILARO

MEMBER FOR MONARO



It is hard to believe that 2020 is over and we are already well into 2021. I hope that over the Christmas and New Year break you had the chance to take a break and spend time with those who matter most to you.

2021 will mark ten years as your local member and I am thankful for the opportunity to work with the community. Over the past decade we have achieved a lot for the region. Together we have overcome many challenges and had some massive wins for the community.

I am proud to have worked alongside our community to deliver much needed infrastructure, improve our local roads, build new schools and invest in our future. I am also very excited about what is ahead for our community.

In the last ten years there have been major upgrades to both the Kings and Monaro Highways, significantly improving the safety of our journeys. We have seen investment in our local roads, including the duplication of Old Cooma Road and the sealing of Jerangle Road. In 2020 we opened the Ellerton Drive Extension which was a highlight of my career.

We have seen significant investment in our healthcare facilities, including the opening of Jindabyne's HealthOne, the Cooma Hospital redevelopment and a CT scanner for Queanbeyan Hospital. Braidwood Multipurpose Service (MPS) is undergoing significant upgrades and both the Bombala MPS and Delegate MPS received new medical equipment thanks to \$105,000 in funding.

Monaro has also seen some of the biggest education investments ever in the last decade with new schools on the way for Bungendore, Jerrabomberra, Googong and Jindabyne. The Finigan School of Distance Education was delivered, Karabar High school had a major makeover and Monaro High School has had a total of \$47 million invested to ensure our students receive the best education close to home.

Recently, I was fortunate to join the Snowy Mountains Neighbourhood Centre to announce more than \$28,200 in funding to begin work on the 'Brighter Life Expansion Project'. I also had the opportunity to catch up with members of the Cooma Stallions, Bombala Blue Heelers and the Snowy River Bears to announce \$12,000 in funding for ground hire fees. This grassroots funding is making a massive difference in our community, and is particularly welcome after the challenges over the past twelve months.

As our region continues its recovery from drought, bushfires and floods and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, I am looking forward to delivering a better future for our region

As always, if there is anything I can assist with, please do not hesitate to drop into my office, send me an email at monaro@parliament.nsw.gov.au or give me a call on (02) 6299 4899.

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Special Activation Precinct

THE alpine towns of Jindabyne, Perisher and Thredbo will be eagerly awaiting the draft masterplan for the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct (SAP) which is due for release and public exhibition in May or June.

This is a unique masterplan for the area, and the SAP is government's response to creating opportunities, creating growth, and more importantly creating jobs in NSW.

This plan started as a Jindabyne Masterplan, but has grown to incorporate Thredbo and Perisher as they are all interlinked with tourism, which is the main driver of economy.

The original idea of the plan was looking ahead at the expected growth of Jindabyne and creating a year round economy for Jindabyne with a focus on summer and better interaction with Lake Jindabyne.

A key part of the SAP is government front loading all the studies creating a masterplan, plus fast tracking planning processes if they are consistent with the masterplan.

In short, if a developer has a project that aligns within SAP recommendations, they could be up and running months or years ahead of normal time frames.

This is evident with the relocation of the Jindabyne Central School. The primary and high school will be relocated from the centre of Jindabyne to the Sport and Recreation grounds just out of town. This relocation is in progress with the

new school to be ready for occupation in 2023.

The Sport and Recreation Centre will also become a major education hub including an elite training facility for winter athletes.

With the inclusion of a state-of-the-art bag jump, and a revamped gym and training facility, the precinct will be a great pathway for athletes, and a great training camp for visiting groups.

At a recent meeting, Anthea Sargant, executive director regions and key sites for the NSW government commented on the planning process saying if any development had issues that would normally extend the DA process.

"What we're doing through this project is we are doing all the studies up front, so a DA won't be required. We are changing planning policy and streamline planning processes," said Anthea.

Government will lead some of the development, particular around infrastructure. They have just started a business plan to look at finances of each specific section of the plan.

One of the main projects they have revealed is the 'Southern Connector' road that would see an alternative route from the Jindabyne dam wall, via the Barry Way and joining Kosciuszko Road near the Essential Energy building at Widows Creek.

Their reasoning does seem sound, they want to create a better town centre for Jindabyne that is devoid



of some of the current traffic. The end goal would see Kosciuszko Road through Jindabyne reduced as a the main throughfare.

This will cause debate no doubt, but it could be wise to see the full plan and see all the individual reasoning behind the theory. While it does seem all feasible, such a road would come at a huge cost, and does that expense come from the expected \$200 million money pot, or would it be taken from another government finance stream.

The planning team have yet to commence a business study on the impacts of this Southern Connector with businesses in town.



LINK: The plan will suggest how the Lake Jindabyne can be better connected with the town.

Masterplan



There are numerous ideas on the drawing board at present, including a mountain bike park from Widows Creek south westerly within that vacant land running near parallel with the Alpine Way. There has been a suggestion a gondola could service this park.

There have been consultants dissecting all aspects of the plan and they are using research looking at other alpine regions across the world. Their projections say that summer tourism could overtake winter tourism in the coming decades, and the masterplan has a 40 year vision.

Transport has been looked at, including the possibility of a park and ride bus service for winter to Perisher and Thredbo, plus traffic issues in the mountains at both

resorts. We take a closer look at Perisher Valley on pages 38 and 39.

Thredbo has seen continued growth in summer particular, which has been great for the area as a whole. What their specific SAP plans might be for Thredbo in the future are yet to be revealed in detail.

All of the technical consultants have factored in climate change and how they see that affecting the alpine area. Hence their thoughts on boosting summer.

The Lake Jindabyne foreshore will have a huge makeover, but the exact detail is unknown apart from extensive landscaping and widening of riding and walking paths. There was an idea to have a suspension bridge from Banjo Paterson Park to the Tyrolean side, but you would

■ FUTURE: The SAP masterplan will detail a 40 year vision Jindabyne, Thredbo and Perisher.

think engineering and costs may see this scrutinised.

For Jindabyne town centre, there will be a big push to make the CBD area of Nugget's Crossing and Town Centre more connected.

Don't be surprised to see suggestions for the Snowy Region Visitor Centre National Parks office site to be re purposed as a major visitor centre incorporating the Snowy Heritage Centre. At present up to 70 staff work in these offices in total.

The idea actually makes good senses, considering they want to shut Thredbo Terrace at Kosciuszko Road and make it pedestrian only around the parks building, plus create a town square where the Memorial Hall parking area currently sits. This would link the two town areas. Buildings such as Mitre 10 would obviously be relocated if this was to eventuate.

The Leesville Estate has been mentioned to allow for a greater industrial space. There is some vacant land in the vicinity now, it could be rezoned to suit. The SAP will present all rezoning as part of their masterplan.

New residential zones will be proposed for areas west of the Barry Way behind the Nettin Circuit area, plus other land in East Jindabyne near the pumping station on the lake. The higher elevations of Tyrolean could also see more development.

Naturally all of this has to be finalised, and the majority of available land is Snowy Hydro owned.

The amount of fine detail has yet to be divulged, hence why the plan will be released later than expected. There are still numerous studies to be completed and information to be digested.

Key points of interest would be topics such as:

- Culture and Celebration of Aboriginal History
- Eco Tourism
- Aged Care
- Better Pedestrian and Connectivity in Town
- Increase Greenways between Residential Areas
- Increase Resorts Accommodation Capacity
- Southern Connector (Jindabyne by-pass)
- Improve Public Transport Between Jindabyne and Resorts
- Parking Strategy in Jindabyne
- Improve Digital Connectivity
- Rethink Zoning Permissions
- Plan for TAFE and University Programming at Sport & Rec
- Identify Sites for Affordable Housing
- Provide More High Quality Tourism Accommodation
- Limit Urban Sprawl in Jindabyne
- Explore Opportunities for Renewable Energy
- Develop a New Carrying Capacity Model for Kosciuszko National Park
- Look at New Airport Site

The Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct (SAP) is a 40 year masterplan to create year round tourism. The masterplan will be revealed for public exhibition in May or June 2021.

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guthega inn

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