



Wednesday, 24 November 2021

## STATEMENT FROM THE PREMIER

Dustin Halse, Member for Ringwood, has advised me that he will not be seeking re-election in 2022.

Over the last three years, Dustin has been a passionate and committed representative and advocate for his local community – however, his commitment to improving opportunities for working people is long standing.

Driving fairer outcomes for his constituents has been at the centre of his time as a Labor member of parliament. His connection to his community and passion for delivering jobs, infrastructure and services for the eastern suburbs has made a significant and positive difference for those he has served.

That strong and articulate advocacy has helped deliver upgrades for every single one of the government secondary schools in his electorate – so all students in his community can have access to the best facilities and the quality education they deserve.

I know Dustin is rightly incredibly proud of the new kids emergency department at Maroondah Hospital and the dedicated care it will provide to families in Melbourne's east once complete.

He has worked hard with his community to secure the removal of two dangerous and congested level crossings – at Bedford Road and Dublin Road – which will improve travel times and provide good, secure jobs and traineeships for locals.

Dustin has also been an unwavering advocate for reforming our mental health system and has actively challenged the stigma around mental illness by sharing his own experiences. In doing so, he has no doubt helped others to talk openly about their own mental health and wellbeing.

I wish Dustin and his family the very best for the future. I know he will keep living his values, and thank him for his contribution to the Parliament, his community, and the labour movement.