Rachel
WESTAWAY MP
LIBERAL MEMBER FOR PRAHRAN
Shadow Assistant Minister to the Leader of the Opposition (Metropolitan)
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Friday, 30 October 2026

Jess Wilson-led Liberal and Nationals Government to deliver $10 million Chapel Street Rescue Package

A Jess Wilson-led Liberal and Nationals Government will restore one of Melbourne's most iconic retail, dining and culture strips through a $10 million Chapel Street Rescue Package.

After more than a decade of neglect by Labor and the Greens, the package brings together community safety, crime prevention, mental health support, public amenity and the arts in a single coordinated plan for the precinct.

At its heart is live, around the clock CCTV monitoring. Twenty-two new cameras across the greater Chapel Street precinct will be watched 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so incidents are seen and responded to as they happen rather than reviewed after the event.

Member for Prahran Rachel Westaway said: "After more than a decade of neglect by Labor and the Greens, Chapel Street deserves a fresh start. This precinct should be a place where businesses can thrive, residents feel safe and visitors want to return.

"Cameras that are watched live, not reviewed after the fact, more police on the beat and better lighting will make a real difference to how people feel on Chapel Street after dark. Only a Jess Wilson-led Liberal and Nationals Government will deliver the coordinated revitalisation this precinct needs.

"I have consistently advocated for practical improvements to Chapel Street, including better lighting, monitored CCTV, cleaner streets and stronger support for local traders, who have been left to deal with the consequences of years of neglect.

"This is about more than fixing individual problems. It is about restoring confidence in Chapel Street, bringing people back to our shops, restaurants and venues, and working with local businesses and the community to secure a vibrant future for the precinct."

The Chapel Street Rescue Package will:

- Purchase 22 new CCTV cameras for deployment across the greater Chapel Street precinct.
- Fund 24/7 CCTV monitoring for four years, in a joint 60/40 arrangement with the City of Stonnington.
- Deploy two noise activated cameras in the precinct as an anti-hoon measure.
- Restore Prahran Police Station to its full complement under our Safer Communities Plan to deliver an additional 3,000 Victoria Police officers.
- Deliver a $1.5 million lighting and renewal program for Chapel Street, directed at crime prevention and community safety after dark.
- Allocate $650,000 to a mental health pilot for the precinct, connecting people with the right support.

Revitalise Prahran Market:

- Provide up to $4.5 million, matched 50:50 by the City of Stonnington, to redevelop the Elizabeth Street façade, internal tenancies and roof, unlocking night-time trading and creating a combined market and hospitality precinct with alfresco dining in the style of Europe's great markets.
- Invest $500,000 in street renewal and seating, precinct marketing and events, and dedicated rideshare pick-up points.
- Commitment to heritage list the Prahran Market site to protect the Market's purpose, not just its façade.

Secure the arts precinct:

- Protect the Melbourne Polytechnic Prahran campus in the planning scheme for arts, education, community services and facilities, ruling out residential redevelopment of the site and giving every tenant, investor and partner certainty, at no capital cost to the State.
- Commit $1.5 million to a master plan for the precinct, developed with the three anchor tenants, the National Institute of Circus Arts, Gymnastics Victoria and the Patrick School of the Arts, together with the City of Stonnington and Prahran High School.

Bring life back to empty shopfronts:

- Deliver a $300,000 grants program with the RMIT School of Fashion and Textiles to establish pop-up stores in vacant Chapel Street shopfronts, where students and recent graduates can showcase and sell their work.

This is all part of our plan to give Victoria the fresh start it deserves.

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