



# The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP

Member for Vacluse



6 July 2022

## Statement by the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP

I have made the exceptionally difficult decision not to recontest the Seat of Vacluse at the next State election in March 2023.

I have had almost twelve amazing years representing my local area as their MP, serving as a Minister in the Liberal Coalition Government across four portfolios and as Parliamentary Secretary to two Premiers. Most proudly, I served as both the first female Attorney General and the first female Liberal Sports Minister in NSW.

I have given everything I have to this calling - my heart, energy and passion - and I have loved every minute of it. That said, I know in my heart that this is the right time to retire. It is the time for someone else to take my place and for me to do something new.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the people of the Electorate of Vacluse who elected me three times to be their representative in the NSW Parliament. You inspire me every day and serving you is such a great privilege.

We have achieved so much together – upgrades to our public transport network, local schools, parks, playgrounds, hospitals, cycleways and roads and better protecting our natural environment and heritage. Together, we also made it through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding has also been increased for domestic violence and mental health support and for our homelessness services.

As the State's first female Attorney General I am thankful to have led reforms to support child victims in child sexual assault proceedings and as Environment Minister to have introduced the Return and Earn container deposit litter reduction scheme. Over the last three years, I have led the State's first \$60 million accelerating R&D Action Plan in a major boost for science and innovation which received an additional investment of over \$480 million in the NSW 2022-23 Budget.

I owe a debt of deep gratitude to all the people who supported me in the role. It has been a team effort and I could not have done it without you.

I thank my family – my husband Alex and children Nicholas and Georgina - who have always provided me with unconditional love and support while serving in the role.

I am deeply grateful to the Liberal Party and to the Vacluse State Electorate Conference, so ably led by President Janet McDonald AO and Treasurer Darel Hughes, for the opportunity to serve in the NSW Parliament.

I also want to thank my loyal and exceptional staff both past and present, my Parliamentary colleagues and the public servants with whom I have worked.

I am very optimistic about the future of this great State under the Liberal Nationals Government and leadership of Dom Perrottet as Premier. I truly believe that NSW is a place

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where every person, irrespective of their background and circumstances, has the best opportunities to live, work and raise a family.

I will continue to serve out my term as the Member for Vaucluse and as Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier in the lead up to the 2023 State Election.

Thank you again for giving me the honour of serving you as the Member of Vaucluse.

Here's a link to the Premier's Statement on my news: <https://bit.ly/3ajKZr8>

## **Ministerial Achievements**

### ***First female Attorney General in NSW***

- Introduced specialist Child Sexual Assault Pilot Scheme - reducing the trauma experienced by child victims in child sexual assault proceedings by allowing them to:
  - have their evidence pre-recorded in the absence of a jury; and
  - be supported by "Children's Champions" – specially trained and accredited communication specialists – during their interviews with police and in court;
  - have their cases heard by two new specialist child sexual assault District Court judges
- [Allowing an appeal](#) to the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal for a retrial of the three Bowraville child murder to give the [families access to the justice](#) they deserved

### ***Science & Innovation – delivered the first NSW accelerating R&D Action Plan***

- Delivered the [Turning Ideas into Jobs: Accelerating R&D in NSW Action Plan](#) launched as Government policy in 2021 which accelerates the translation and commercialisation of NSW R&D to create jobs and new industries to drive our State's economy
- Secured \$62 million to fund the Action Plan priorities includes a \$24 million Small Business Innovation Research Program, \$28 million Bushfire Response R&D Mission and a \$8 million Emerging Industries Infrastructure Fund
- Secured \$96 million for an RNA Pilot Manufacturing Facility to help translate NSW's mRNA and RNA research strengths into a biotech industry including for vaccines and therapeutics, together with \$119 million in the 2022-23 NSW Budget to fund local RNA research
- Delivered the nation's first 20-year NSW R&D Roadmap to guide our R&D investment and activities to drive economic growth
- Secured an additional \$484 million in the 2022-23 NSW Budget for research translation and commercialisation and to expand collaboration where NSW has a competitive advantage including for emerging digital technologies.

### ***Environment – introduced Return and Earn the NSW container deposit scheme***

- Delivered the State's first container deposit scheme, [Return and Earn](#) the largest litter reduction scheme to be introduced in NSW, supporting the circular economy
- Before Return and Earn, more than 160 million drink containers littered our streets, beaches, waterways and parks costing more than \$162 million a year to manage
- Return and Earn encourages people to recycle their drink containers by offering a 10c refund for depositing eligible drink containers at over 600 NSW return sites
- More than \$30 million has been raised for charities, schools and sporting groups via donations through the scheme
- Through Return and Earn the goal to reduce NSW litter volume by 40% by 2020 has been exceeded with a 52% reduction in the volume of drink container litter and over 7.6 billion containers recycled

## **Local Community Achievements**

- Secured \$80 million to close the wastewater outfalls at Diamond Bay and Vaucluse – ending the decades of untreated wastewater being pumped into our ocean, meaning cleaner beaches and better protection of our marine life
- Delivered \$26 million for disability access including lifts at Edgecliff Station – giving residents easier, safer access between the train, shops and bus station at our major transport hub
- Delivered new Rose Bay ferry wharf and two upgraded ferry wharves underway at Double Bay and Darling Point with over 150 additional and extended ferry services – giving residents a quicker, better way to travel
- Secured \$17 million for Bellevue Hill Public School upgrade, four extra classrooms for Bondi Public School and multipurpose sport courts and covered outdoor learning areas for Rose Bay Secondary College
- Improved the water quality at Rose Bay Beach together with residents with the NSW State of the Beaches Report rating now 'good', up from 'poor'
- Transferred the state heritage listed Strickland House Estate, Vaucluse into the National Parks Estate – protecting it in perpetuity for future generations; state heritage listings for Nielsen Park, Hermitage Walk, Rushcutters Bay Park and Rose Bay Sea Wall and Promenade
- Introduced a clearway eastbound on New South Head Road - reducing travel times for motorists to get to work, take their children to school and get home
- Supported North Bondi SLC with funding to build their new iconic club house so they have the best facilities to do the job of saving lives

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