

IN THE PAST TWO YEARS – THE MEMBER FOR INDI HAS ASKED FOR MORE THAN \$1.8 BILLION WORTH OF FUNDING FOR PROJECTS SHE’S SELECTED

- *The total pre-election Budget funding requests for projects selected by the Member for Indi add up \$845,228,750.*
- *The total 2026 Budget funding requests for projects selected by the Member for Indi add up \$972,132,000*

On the 9th September, 2026, the Member for Indi called for “Greater transparency about how funding decisions are made against selection criteria”.

She also said “Australians are increasingly fed up with a self-serving political establishment, and pork barrelling only further undermines trust in government and our democracy”.

“March 17, 2025 – Haines puts priority projects to Treasurer ahead of budget”

<https://www.helenhaines.org/media/haines-puts-priority-projects-to-treasurer-ahead-of-budget/>

2025 Helen Haines Budget Submission

<https://www.helenhaines.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Indi-Budget-Submission-2025.pdf>

In the lead up to the election, the Member for Indi wrote to Treasurer Jim Chalmers requesting more than \$845,000,000 of Commonwealth funding for local projects.

- It remains unclear what due diligence the Member for Indi has done in selecting these projects, including funding for ski resorts, sporting facilities, the Prosecco Trail, and Bellbridge Boathouse.
- It is unclear whether these projects she has selected would be considered value for money.
- It is unclear what interests the Member has in businesses, community groups, sporting organisations or clubs that would benefit from these wide ranging and expensive projects she has flagged as worthy of funding.

Some examples –

\$10,000,000 requested for Prosecco Road Tourism Project

Given she has pushed for funding for this project, has Member for Indi ever visited, received undeclared gifts including wine or food, held business interests with, received political donations from, or had professional or personal associations with any local companies or organisations on Prosecco Road?

The Member has declared gifts of three bottles of wine from relevant businesses.

ADDITION Item	Details
11. Gifts	11-Sep-23 Chocolate concentrate \$14 from the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP)
	15-Oct-23 Book: 'Consent Laid Bare' from Chanel Contos
	19-Oct-23 Book: 'Movement' and keep cup from the Amy Gillett Foundation
	09-Nov-23 Framed photo from NESAY
	28-Nov-23 2x bottles of Prosecco from Dal Zotto family
12. Travel or hospitality	28-Nov-23 Plum Pudding from CropLife Australia
	11-Sep-23 Dinner with Business Council of Australia from Pyne & Partners
13. Memberships	18-Sep-23 Member of Nurses Memorial Trust

ADDITION Item	Details
11. Gifts	30-Jan-25 Bottle of Limited Release Albarino wine (value \$30) from Brown Family Wines

Does the Member have further connections to Dal Zotto Wines, Brown Brothers, Pizzini Wines, Darling Estate Wines, Milawa Gourmet Region Association, Moodemere Estate, Hurdle Creek Still, Chrismont, Poltini Wines, Gracebrook Vineyards, La Cantina King Valley, King River Brewing, Hobbledehoy Café and Distillery, Milawa Mustards, Milawa Cheese Company or the King Valley Tourism Association who would all benefit from the funding she requested?

<https://www.facebook.com/dalzotto.wines/posts/pfbid026rPFYo4tcLpzxCY1vz3Nd9TvCRhZ5ta43nBQbAYCJqc2P6z6HdcMAwsKsNz95PUvI>

\$8,000,000 requested for Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment – Stage 2.

Given she has pushed for funding for this project, has the Member for Indi ever visited, been a member of, donated to, or have any personal or professional connection with any of the employees or Board of Benalla Art Gallery?

Have these interests been declared before she requested the significant funding?

<https://www.facebook.com/helenhainesindi/posts/pfbid0B9VbCJWyeqZmBEGLYw6oXqCsTkuvexKpuTQCMitmF7WQDCpVuUCT295ASpZhcAVqI>

\$10,000,000 requested Benalla Indoor Recreation

Given she has pushed for funding for this project, has the Member for Indi ever visited, been a member of, played with, trained with, watched games, donated to, been beneficiaries of any club jerseys or other equipment, or has any other personal or professional connection with any of the teams that use Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre and would therefore benefit from funding?

- All Blacks Football Netball Club
- Bushrangers Cricket Club
- Benalla Gymnastics Club
- Benalla Squash and Racquetball Association
- Benalla Lawn Tennis Association
- Benalla Basketball Association
- Benalla Badminton Association
- Benalla Table Tennis Association
- Benalla Netball Association

\$28,500,000 requested for Mount Buller Ski Resort

ADDITION Item	Details
12. Travel or hospitality	Lift Pass Mt Buller Ski Resort self and spouse July 8 2022 Myrtleford Football Club Mental Health Awareness Lunch July 9 2022 Save the Children Fund Parliamentary Delegation to Fiji- Airfares and Accommodation July 17 -22

What has been declared is that in July 2022 the Member for Indi was gifted lift passes at Mount Buller Ski Resort for her and her spouse.

In 2025, the Member for Indi has asked the Treasurer to spend a combined \$28,500,500 on two projects to “meet the needs of the growing visitor market in Victoria's busiest alpine resort”.

MEMBER FOR INDI'S PRE-ELECTION BUDGET REQUESTS

- Myrtleford Mountain View Children's Centre – Requested \$4,230,000
- Bright Waterfront Precinct Master Plan – Requested \$4,000,000
- Alpine Better Places Harrietville – Requested \$4,000,000
- Alpine Better Places Tawonga – Requested \$3,500,000
- Kiewa River Trail – Requested \$1,800,000
- Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre – Requested \$10,000,000
- Rail Precinct Upgrade – Requested \$1,500,000
- Benalla CBD Upgrade – Requested \$6,000,000
- Benalla Urban Growth Strategy – West Drainage – Requested \$10,000,000
- Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment – Stage 2 – Requested \$8,000,000
- Beechworth Early Years Hub - \$8,000,000
- Chiltern Community Precinct Master Plan Development – Requested \$1,390,000
- Tangambalanga Community Hub – Requested \$10,000,000
- Barnawartha Youth Precinct – Requested \$500,000

- Indigo Shire walkability improvement – Requested \$3,600,000
- Emergency Services Precinct - Resilience and Recovery Centre – Requested \$4,000,000
- Gough's Bay Cycling Trails – Requested \$2,000,000
- Roundabout Design and Construction – Requested \$6,000,000
- Bonnie Doon Recreation Reserve Netball Court Redevelopment – Requested \$1,000,000
- Tourism, Accessibility and Road Safety Infrastructure Package – Requested \$20,000,000
- Activating Lake Eildon Masterplan Implementation – Requested \$49,000,000
- Planning for the Kinglake Rangers – Growth and Food Bowl – Requested \$2,000,000
- Kinglake Memorial Reserve Master Plan Implementation – Requested \$1,800,000
- Rural Road Rehabilitation and Resilience Program – Requested \$10,000,000
- Foundational energy infrastructure upgrades for reliable power supply – Requested \$30,000,000
- Chinaman's Bridge demolition – Requested \$1,300,000
- Kirwans Bridge rehabilitation – Requested \$13,000,000
- Stage Three of Greening Euroa – Water Security – Requested \$3,800,000
- Road maintenance funding – Requested \$50,000,000
- Bellbridge Boathouse – Requested \$5,000,000
- High Country Rail Trail Extension – Requested \$20,000,000
- Corryong Integrated Community Centre – Requested \$8,000,000
- Telecommunications Towers and Last Mile Connectivity Program – Requested \$3,000,000
- Organics Processing Plant – Requested \$6,000,000
- Prosecco Road Tourism Project – Requested \$10,000,000
- Wangaratta Ovens College Site Redevelopment – Requested \$4,108,750
- Infrastructure to unlock housing growth – Requested \$100,000,000
- Wangaratta Creative Precinct expansion – Requested \$10,000,000
- Community and Senior Citizens Hub in City Community Precinct – Requested \$10,000,000
- Enabling Housing Infrastructure – Civil infrastructure for urban intensification on Wodonga city centre – Requested \$5,000,000
- Community Centres in Baranduda Leneva Growth Corridor – Requested \$7,000,000
- Inland Port – Pilot study for Quarantine Inspection Facility – Requested \$3,000,000
- Hydrogen Highway Activation – Refuelling facilities at the LOGIC Fatigue Management Centre – Requested \$600,000
- Albury Wodonga Regional Foodshare – Foodshare Precinct – Requested \$15,000,000
- Mt Hotham Business, Visitor and Community Centre – Requested \$20,000,000
- Hotham Heaven Walk and Trails Upgrade – Requested \$23,000,000
- Falls Creek Emergency Response Village Road Connections – Requested \$3,100,000
- Falls Creek Alpine Community Sports and Events Hub – Requested \$3,900,000
- Mt Buller Central Village Precinct – the Hub – Requested \$22,500,000
- Building Mt Buller capacity, accessibility and visitation – Requested \$6,000,000
- Mt Stirling Visitor Arrival Experience – Requested \$2,700,000
- Integrated Power Solution – Requested up to \$5,000,000
- Potable Water Supply – Requested up to \$1,000,000
- Visitor Experience Building Project – Requested up to \$10,000,000
- Visitor Welcome Hub, Indoor Recreation and Conference Facility – Requested up to \$8,000,000
- Renewable Energy Power Solution – Requested up to \$5,000,000

- Albury and Wodonga Campuses Paediatric Unit – Requested \$6,600,000
- Albury and Wodonga Campuses Operating Theatre – Requested \$1,500,000
- Albury and Wodonga Campuses Refurbishment and Expansion of Transit Lounge – Requested \$4,700,000
- Albury and Wodonga Education, Training and Research Facility – Requested \$1,900,000
- Albury and Wodonga Regional Health Research and Education Capital – Stage 1 Planning and Design – Requested \$600,000
- Albury and Wodonga Key Health Worker Accommodation – Requested up to \$15,000,000
- Albury and Wodonga Eating Disorders Treatment and Coordination – Requested \$2,600,000
- Tourism North East Delivering Key Worker Housing – Requested \$3,000,000
- Activating King Valley Prosecco Road – Requested \$13,000,000
- Ride High Country – Requested \$4,000,000
- Murray to Mountains Rail Trail Enhancing Project – Rutherglen Silo Community Arts Precinct – Requested \$11,500,000
- Wodonga TAFE Logic Innovation Precinct – Vehicle technology supporting Zero Emissions – Requested \$6,500,000
- Wodonga TAFE Advanced Manufacturing Centre of Excellence – Requested \$18,500,000
- Wodonga TAFE Integrated Health Technologies and Innovation Hub – Requested \$21,000,000
- Wangaratta and Benalla Water Security – Requested \$60,000,000
- Wodonga Trunk Sewer – Requested \$32,500,000
- Water Security for Small Towns on Unregulated Rivers – Requested \$55,000,000

2026 Indi Budget Submission

<https://consult.treasury.gov.au/2026-27-pre-budget-submissions/pre-budget-submissions/view/1354>

The Member for Indi made more than \$972,000,000 of requests for Commonwealth funding in 2026, including;

- \$13,000,000 to increase visitation to the King Valley Prosecco Road
- Up to \$2,000,000 for a Night Tobogganing and Lights Show at Mount Hotham
- \$2,500,000 for Chiltern Recreation Reserve for upgrades to football, netball and cricket club facilities.