

2025 CAMPAIGN PLATFORM

Helen Haines MP

Independent Federal Member for Indi

Housing

1. Address the housing supply issue by creating a **\$2 billion Regional Housing Infrastructure Fund**, which will help provide essential infrastructure for new homes in regional areas.

Integrity

2. Establish an independent **Whistleblower Protection Authority** to give protection, oversight and enforcement for private and public sector whistleblowers.
3. Pass a **Bill to End Pork Barrelling**, which will stop the misuse of public money and make sure funding goes to projects that deserve it.
4. Remove the **exceptional circumstances test required for NACC public hearings**, so that the NACC can hold public hearings when it is in the public interest to do so.

Cost of Living

5. Limit the worst excesses of corporate power in critical sectors by **legislating an economy-wide divestiture power** and protect supermarket suppliers and consumers by establishing a **Supermarket Ombudsman**.
6. Lower household energy bills by **funding cheaper home batteries** and other energy efficient technology through an interest-free loan scheme.
7. Lower small business and primary producer energy bills by **creating a Small Business and Primary Producer Energy Incentive** for businesses with annual turnover of up to \$50 million and all primary producers to provide support for electrification, energy efficiency technologies, and soil health and carbon sequestration.

Climate Change and Energy

8. **Triple micro-grid funding to \$150 million** to help regional, edge-of-grid towns access reliable and secure power supply.
9. **Extend the Renewable Heat Industrial Decarbonisation Program**, by advocating for \$2 million over three years to support manufacturers to find the right technology to transition away from gas.

Health

10. **Secure Commonwealth funding for a single-site, greenfield hospital at Albury Wodonga.**
11. **Establish a \$2 billion Building Rural Hospitals Fund** to provide competitive, needs-based investment for new buildings, equipment and planning.
12. **Secure \$33 million for rural universities to train more healthcare workers**, plus \$52 million for extra Commonwealth Supported Places at rural universities in medicine, nursing and allied health.
13. **Secure prac payments for allied health students (including psychologists) and medical students** to urgently address workforce shortages and cost-of-living pressures for students.

Regional Development

14. Improve access to phone and internet services by **establishing an ongoing Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund grant program** that will deliver \$50 million a year for community groups and local governments.
15. Require a **minimum of 24 hours backup power** for critical phone towers in bushfire-prone areas.
16. Fix our road network by **providing \$500 million per year to the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program**.

Early Education and Childcare

17. **Establish an ongoing non-competitive grant program for ECEC providers** in thin markets to address inadequate supply of childcare in the regions and **increase capital grants for new and upgraded childcare centres** to \$1 billion.