



## **JASON WOOD MP**

Federal Member for La Trobe

Assistant Minister for Customs, Community Safety & Multicultural Affairs

together with

Liberal Candidate for Bruce, **JAMES MOODY &**

Liberal Candidate for Holt, **RANJ PERERA**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **BUDDHIST VIHARA TEMPLE IN BERWICK**

Buddhist community members in the electorate of La Trobe have been given some good news, with \$1 million in funding announced by the Morrison Government for upgrades to security measures at the Buddhist Vihara Temple in Berwick.

The Buddhist Temple, located at 125 Homestead Road in Berwick, is home to a Buddhist and Sinhalese Language School with 481 students registered to date, as well as home to resident monks. The Temple conducts many events on a weekly, monthly, and annual basis for the benefit of the worshippers and public to enjoy.

A re-elected Morrison Government will provide \$1 million of funding to the Temple to provide much needed security fences, remote-control gates at the four entrances, CCTV cameras at entrance, footpath lighting and a security system for the new language school building currently under construction.

This much needed funding will provide necessary security at the Temple, especially around the perimeter of the premises to significantly improve the safety for children and visitors. Outdoor and footpath lighting will also ensure that community members can enjoy many Buddhist ceremonies which can occur in the evening.

The South-East of Melbourne is a diverse, thriving region and is home to many multicultural communities, including the Buddhist community, who have sought much needed funding for the safety and security of their Temple. The Temple is sure to continue being a great asset for the entire community in the South-East of Melbourne.

### **Quotes Attributable to JASON WOOD MP:**

“Since being elected as the Federal Member for La Trobe, I have supported our growing multicultural community. La Trobe has seen an influx of multicultural families who deserve the best possible facilities.

These new security measures will provide the Buddhist and wider community with an engaging space to congregate, learn, support, and celebrate that is secure. It will be a centre for sharing and promoting culture, language, and traditions, which will immensely contribute to the cultural diversity and vibrancy of our multicultural nation.

All Australians deserve to feel safe and secure in their communities. Valuable security measures at the Buddhist Vihara Temple provides the security infrastructure needed to ensure participants and resident monks feel safe while attending temple.

The measures also deliver protected premises of the Language School whereby students and teachers can effectively teach and attend the school. Lastly, the security measures prevent unwarranted and unauthorised access into the premises, particularly during night times.

It is important that we have strong law enforcement and security infrastructure measures in place.

I'm proud to have advocated strongly for necessary security measures at the Temple in my electorate of La Trobe. The Temple is sure to continue being be a valuable asset for the community of South-East of Melbourne.”

### **Quotes Attributable to Ranj Perera, Liberal Candidate for Holt:**

“I am delighted that the vibrant and dedicated Buddhist Vihara Temple in Berwick has been granted this fantastic funding opportunity improve the security measures at their premises.

The Temple provides all facets of Buddhist worshipping to the congregation and to the wider South East community in Melbourne, and deserve to come together to celebrate Buddhist traditions and festivals in a safe and secure environment.

Thanks to the \$1 million in Morrison Government funding, the Temple security upgrades can assist with safely providing Sinhalese language at the purpose built Language School for 481 students, secure facilities for the resident monks and prevent unwarranted and unauthorised access into the Temple premises, particularly during the evening.”