**HON. JULIAN HILL MP**

**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BRUCE**

**MARY DOYLE MP**

**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR ASTON**

**SUPPORTING THE HINDU MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY HUB FOR THE BASIN**

A re-elected Albanese Labor Government will support the final stages of construction of the community hub at the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Hindu Temple in The Basin, in Victoria’s Eastern suburbs.

This $2 million election commitment will help complete this vital piece of community infrastructure. It will provide a central location for community members to access services, programs and gather to socialise.

The new community hub will be a significant expansion of the limited community space at the temple which has over 75,000 devotees visiting annually, the project reflects Labor’s ongoing commitment to ensuring there is spaces to support growing multicultural communities in Victoria’s Eastern Suburbs.

The hub will serve the local community by providing a space for youth development and mental health programs, language education classes, senior citizens groups, interfaith dialogues, and much more for both the Hindu and the broader community.

Envisaged as an adaptable space, the hub will be used by the whole community and able to facilitate emergency relief and other efforts in times of crisis.

This commitment is in addition to the initial $1.5 million of federal funding which has already been secured for the project.

Consistent with past practice, election commitments will be delivered in line with Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles.

**Comments attributable to Hon Julian Hill MP, Federal Member for Bruce:**

“Melbourne’s fast growing Hindu community has worked so hard for years to bring this project to reality. It’s now ready to go and this election commitment will bridge the final funding gap so the project can proceed.

“Federal Labor is proud to support the Hindu community of Melbourne and acknowledges the enormous effort including community fundraising that has got the project to this point.”

**Comments attributable to Mary Doyle MP, Federal Member for Aston:**

 "The Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Hindu Temple has a long history in The Basin, and I am proud to support this important and vital piece of community infrastructure.

"This is such a vibrant and active community, with many local residents who will be able to access this hub, which will provide an inclusive and diverse space for everyone."

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