

International Travel Report

United Kingdom

23 June – 24 July

Type of business: Electorate

Bev McArthur MP



Visited the British House of Lords for briefings on women's rights and gender policy, including issues relating to transitioning, hosted by Baroness Anne Jenkin. We were joined by Rebecca Paul, MP for Reigate, and author Helen Joyce – the meeting provided a valuable perspective on contemporary debates in the UK and lessons for Victoria.



With Jimmy Hymøller, a Danish teacher and former headmaster, who has done exceptional work improving school attendance and educational outcomes among native Greenlandic children, offering insights potentially relevant to supporting Indigenous and regional students in Victoria.



Met Conservative MP Stephen Barclay in London, to discuss policy matters of mutual interest, including local government and regional development. His experience across major cabinet portfolios provided valuable insight into intergovernmental coordination and delivering services to regional communities.



Grateful for the opportunity to meet Kelli How, Vice-President LNG Portfolio and Growth at Shell, to discuss the politics and economics of energy in Australia and globally. Her insights on LNG production, markets, and energy security are highly relevant to Victoria's energy transition, regional development, and industrial policy.

Reason for travel

To engage with UK parliamentarians, European educators, and industry leaders on local government, gender and women's rights policy, international energy markets, and indigenous education. To build networks, learning from international experience, and informing policy solutions relevant to Victoria.

Dates and locations on which business was conducted (travel diary)

Tuesday 15 July, Itilleq, Greenland

Jimmy Hymøller – Education Consultant, Government of Greenland.

Monday 21 July, 9.30am

Shell Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 7NA

Meeting with Kelli How, Vice-President LNG Portfolio and Growth.

Monday 21 July, p.m.

Royal Overseas League, St James's, London SW1A 1LR

Briefing with Helen Joyce, author, journalist, gender-critical activist supporting women's rights.

Monday 21 July, p.m.

House of Lords, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA

Meeting with Baroness Ann Jenkin, Rebecca Paul MP and Helen Joyce.

Monday 21 July, 3pm, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Cancelled on the day due to shadow cabinet reshuffle

Meeting with Kevin Hollinrake MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and David Simonds CBE MP, Shadow Minister of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Tuesday 22 July, morning

Royal Overseas League, St James's, London SW1A 1LR

Meeting with the Right Hon. Steve Barclay MP

The town, city or suburb in which the accommodation was located; and the value of the accommodation (if claiming the cost of accommodation)

Accommodation not claimed.

The mode and value of commercial transport (if claiming the cost of commercial transport)

International flights claimed for - **\$7722.92**

(Premium Economy Qantas)

Member's objectives

To broaden my understanding of how other countries manage local government, regional development, and social policy, and to bring back practical insights and lessons that can help inform my work representing Victoria's regional communities.

Parliaments and other organisations visited (if any)

- **UK House of Lords** – Briefings on women's rights and gender policy with Baroness Anne Jenkin, Helen Joyce and Rebecca Paul MP.
- **UK House of Commons** – Visited. Meeting (cancelled) with Conservative shadow Local Government ministers cancelled due to shadow cabinet reshuffle.
- **Royal Overseas League Club, London** – Briefing on gender and transitioning issues with Helen Joyce; separate meeting with Conservative MP Stephen Barclay on local government and regional policy.
- **Shell, London (Shell Centre)** – Meeting with Kelli How, VP LNG Portfolio and Growth, on energy markets and policy.
- **Itilleq, Greenland** – Visit to local school and discussion with teacher/headmaster Jimmy Hymøller on Indigenous education.

Persons met in relation to the reason for the travel and the assistance or information obtained from such persons

Tuesday 15 July, Itilleq, Greenland

Jimmy Hymøller – Education Consultant, Government of Greenland.

I met Jimmy Hymøller, a teacher and former headmaster, to discuss education in remote and Indigenous communities. He shared his experience and academic research, addressing why many students struggle to progress beyond primary school, and highlighted approaches that give all children equal opportunities, regardless of family background. Our discussion also focused on strategies to get children in remote, traditionally fishing and hunting communities to attend school and keep them engaged, even when education was not something experienced by their parents. These insights into how stable home and school environments, combined with culturally sensitive teaching methods, might improve educational outcomes could be directly relevant to supporting Victoria's Indigenous and regional students.

Monday 21 July, 9.30am, Shell Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 7NA

Meeting with Kelli How, Vice-President LNG Portfolio and Growth.

Discussion on the politics and economics of energy – exploration, production, domestic and industrial sales. In the UK, European, and World Market – as well as domestically – Kelli has until recently been working for Shell in Queensland. I took the chance to talk about the politics and economics of energy in the UK, Europe and globally. Kelli has direct experience of Australia's LNG industry and the difficulties of balancing exports with local supply. That perspective is highly relevant to Victoria, where we are dealing with rising energy bills, falling gas production and major debates over transmission projects and the renewable rollout. The discussion was a chance to hear how a global energy company thinks about security of supply, investment and regulation, and how international trends, e.g. Europe's recent energy crisis, and Victoria (and the rest of the world's) dilemma between climate driven net-zero policies and keeping industry viable/competitive.

These insights are important in helping me test government policy, stand up for affordable and reliable energy in regional communities, and think about how Victoria can stay competitive during the energy transition.

Monday 21 July, p.m.

Royal Overseas League, St James's, London SW1A 1LR

Briefing with Helen Joyce, author, journalist, gender-critical activist supporting women's rights.

Monday 21 July, House of Lords, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA.

Meeting with Baroness Ann Jenkin, Rebecca Paul MP, and Helen Joyce.

Discussed women's rights/transitioning issues. An opportunity to engage with the UK's most prominent voices on women's rights and gender policy. Baroness Jenkin has been instrumental in transforming equality within the UK Conservative Party, co-founding *Women2Win* with Theresa May and playing a pivotal role in increasing the number of female MPs. Rebecca Paul is a successful young woman in British politics, recently elected as MP for Reigate. Helen Joyce is internationally recognised as the author of the influential bestseller *Trans: When Ideology Meets Reality* and a leading commentator on gender and women's rights – famously successfully fighting a legal case in this area.

Meeting with them provided the opportunity to learn from their achievements, explore how these debates are being navigated in the UK, and consider the implications for public policy and political representation in Victoria.

Monday 21 July, Portcullis House, UK Parliament Estate

CANCELLED: Meeting with Kevin Hollinrake MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and David Simonds CBE MP, Shadow Minister of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Unfortunately this meeting with the two most senior politicians in the corresponding portfolio to my own, had to be cancelled on the day, owing to a shadow cabinet reshuffle!

This was particularly disappointing as it would have been a directly helpful meeting:

Their portfolios are closely analogous to my own responsibilities in Victoria, making it a valuable opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest. The focus would have been on local government, devolution, and regional development - how the UK manages the delivery of services to regional communities, supports local councils, and balances central and local decision-making. Engaging with them would have provided insights directly relevant to strengthening governance, service delivery, and regional representation in Victoria.

Tuesday 22 July, morning, Royal Overseas League, St James's, London SW1A 1LR

Meeting with the Right Hon. Steve Barclay MP

- Senior Conservative MP, currently in Opposition
- Former Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Former Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
- Former Chief Secretary to the Treasury
- Former Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

I met Steve Barclay to discuss policy matters of mutual interest, particularly around local government and regional development. With his experience across key cabinet portfolios, he was able to share perspectives on how the UK has approached devolution, service delivery, and the financial sustainability of local councils. These insights are directly relevant to Victoria, where local government is under growing pressure, and where lessons from the UK can help inform policy on strengthening regional communities and improving intergovernmental coordination.

Reference to documents or publications obtained or considered to be of interest in a Parliamentary sense

No formal documents or publications were collected during this trip. The real value came from the meetings themselves – i.e. the discussions, ideas shared and noted, and the connections and networks made with senior politicians and policymakers/educators/industry leaders.

These conversations gave me practical insights and first-hand perspectives that are directly relevant to my work in Victoria, helping me consider policy issues and approaches that could be applied at home.

Summaries of the study areas pursued in the countries visited

Local government, regional development, and service delivery; energy markets and policy; women's rights and gender issues; and education in remote and Indigenous communities, exploring how other countries address these challenges and what lessons could be applied in Victoria.

Summary of the results achieved and any recommendations arising

The trip provided valuable insights into approaches in the UK to local government, regional development, energy policy, and gender and women's rights, as well as education in Greenland and other remote communities. Key outcomes included a clearer understanding of how UK local governments operate, fund services, and engage with their communities, practical lessons on improving education access and outcomes for remote and Indigenous students, and perspectives on energy security and market management. Recommendations arising include examining UK approaches to strengthen Victoria's local government performance, supporting regional communities through targeted initiatives, and applying

lessons from international energy policy to ensure affordable and reliable supply nationally, as well as in regional areas like Western Victoria Region.