

<b>Member</b>	Matt Fregon	<b>Electorate</b>	Ashwood/Mount Waverley
<b>Period</b>	01 April 2023 to 30 June 2023		

<b>Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$11,310.60
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$925.61

<b>Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$0.00
Member did not receive the motor vehicle allowance in the previous quarter and member has elected to receive the motor vehicle allowance for this quarter	No

<b>Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	\$0.00
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	n/a

<b>Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation
Total number of nights for travel allowance claims			0		
Total amount paid to member for travel allowance			\$0.00		

<b>Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport
Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims			0		
Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance			\$0.00		

<b>Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims</b>			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
10-Feb-23	19-Feb-23	Flights to India to engage in Electorate business exploring trade and investment opportunities.	\$5,136.09
Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims			9
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance			\$5,136.09
See attached travel report for further details			

# Matt Fregon MP

STATE MEMBER FOR ASHWOOD



## PARLIAMENTARY TRAVEL REPORT

### India

10 February 2023 - 19 February 2023

#### Attendees

Mr Matt Fregon MP, Member for Ashwood District  
Mr Lee Tarlamis OMP MP, Member for South-Eastern Metropolitan Region  
Mr Meng Heang Tak, Member for Clarinda  
Mr Dylan Wight, Member for Tarneit

#### Itinerary- base cities

Thiruvananthapuram  
Bangalore  
Hyderabad  
Gujarat  
Andhra  
Tirupati  
Delhi  
Agra  
Kerala

## **Statement of Objectives**

As the Member for Ashwood District, encompassing the suburbs of Mount Waverley and Ashwood, as well as sections of Burwood, Chadstone, Glen Iris and Ashburton, the Indian diaspora is one of the most numerically significant, with the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne housing the largest concentration of Indian-born people in Victoria, as well as those of Indian heritage. Annually, the electorate hosts and celebrates several important Indian cultural festivals, including Diwali, Holi, Navratri and Vasakhi.

Trade between India and Victoria is an important element of both countries' economies. Victoria is India's largest trading partner, with two-way merchandise trade reaching \$ 20.6 billion in 2019-20 [1]. India is Victoria's second-largest merchandise trading partner, with merchandise exports valued at \$9.1 billion in 2019-20 [2].

This significant trade relationship is driven by the Government's commitment to liberalising and diversifying trade with India. Victoria's exports to India include coal, gold, wine and educational services, while major imports from India include gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, apparel and processed foods. By forging strong economic links with India, Victoria has increased bilateral trade, investment and tourism. Victoria also has a growing bilateral relationship with India in the education sector, with Victoria's International Education Strategy focusing on India as a priority market. Victoria has made significant investments in India, such as the Melbourne-Mumbai air freight corridor. This corridor has enabled the transport of Indian perishables, such as seafood, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, to Victoria, creating economic opportunities for both countries.

Additionally, the Victoria-India Business Council was established in 2019 to further develop Victoria-India ties. This council offers an opportunity to build stronger economic ties between the two countries, improve trade in both directions, promote cooperation and create new business opportunities. As a result, trade between Victoria and India has been successful in creating jobs, boosting the local economy and increasing investment. However, there is more that can be achieved in each of these areas.

As the Member for Ashwood District and previously in my role as the Member for Mount Waverley District, I have been actively engaged in community discussions about ways to further enhance our cross-cultural connections within our region. To better understand a significant community in my electorate and investigate trade, education and tourism opportunities, I undertook travel to India on electorate business to learn about Indian culture, the India-Victoria relationship, business connections and areas of shared interest and partnership.

This report will outline policy discussions and meetings that were conducted during the travel duration.

## **Summary of meetings and visits:**

### **Day1 – 10.2.23**

Melbourne – Sydney – Bangalore  
Stayed at Radisson Blu Atria Bengaluru

### **Day 2 – 11.2.23**

Bengaluru – Hyderabad (Flight)  
Stayed at Marigold Hotel

### **Day 3 – 12.2.23**

Hyderabad

- Bowenpally Vegetable Market - Waste to Energy plant
- Toured the market where they utilise a waste to energy plant to produce biogas

### **Waste to Energy plant – Bowenpally Vegetable Market**

The anaerobic system from AES is prefabricated and delivered to the site prepared for operation. Applications using small – to large-scale feedstocks can use this solution.

Kitchen waste, such as leftover cooked food, fruit and vegetable peels, waste cooking oil and grease, and organic wastewater like ganji (rice water), may all be efficiently digested by the design to produce biogas and bio-fertilizer.

T3 is an effective solution for disposing of organic waste, removing odour, flies, and disposal costs.

It is also a great alternative fuel source. LPG is replaced by biogas, which is stored and used as fuel for cooking.

This highly nutrient-dense liquid fertiliser can be pumped for use in fields, gardens, and landscape areas. The fertiliser is odourless, pathogen-free, and plant-ready.

- Ahuja Engineering – T3 (Trash To Treasure) Solutions
- Meeting and hospitality with Mr Krishna Reddy CEO, Megha Engineering Infrastructure Ltd

## **Meeting with Megha Engineering Infrastructure Limited (MEIL)**

MEIL is a diverse industrial conglomerate, established in 1989. It is a rapidly expanding global corporation that has finished numerous iconic projects that reflect historical changes and celebrate economic and cultural progress.

To enhance people's quality of life, it has also constructed numerous significant infrastructure projects around the world. Water management, engineering, construction, manufacturing, transportation, hydrocarbons, power, process industries, and defence are just a few of MEIL's key business segments.

MEIL works to make use of local technological advancements for the benefit of everyone in society.

MEIL is interested in exploring opportunities for its expansion in Australia with its base in Victoria which has the potential to attract large-scale investment and job creation.

### **Day 4 – 13.2.23**

Hyderabad – Vijayawada (Car)

- Meeting at APIIC Head office
- Meeting at AP State Council for Higher Education
- Meeting with Gudivada Amarnath, Minister of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications
- Y V Subba Reddy, TTD Chairman
- Meeting with Mr Y.S.Jaganmohan Reddy, CM of Andhra Pradesh -
- Meeting at APNRT

Vijayawada – Tirupati (Flight)

Stayed at TSR Guest House

### **Day 5 – 14.2.23**

- Visit to Holy shrine of Lord Venkateswara Swamy at Tirumala
- Joined colleagues and friends on the pilgrimage walk to the temple in the morning

## **Visit to Holy Shrine of Lord Venkateswara Swamy**

Sri Venkateswara Swami Vaari Temple is a Hindu temple situated in the hill town of Tirumala in the Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh.

The temple is devoted to Sri Venkateswara, a manifestation of Vishnu who is thought to have come to earth to deliver humanity from the trials and tribulations

of the Kali Yuga. As a result, the area was given the name Kaliyuga Vaikuntha, and the local deity is known as Kaliyuga Prathyaksha Daivam.

The Temple is constructed using South Indian architecture and is believed to have begun construction in 300 CE.

Tirupati – Hyderabad (Flight)  
Stayed at Hyatt Place

- Meeting with Film producers from the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce, organized by President.
- Meeting with Vijayendra Prasad – Prominent Film writer and Director – Telugu Film Industry
- Father of S.S. Rajamouli

### **Meeting with Telugu Film Producers Council**

Telugu cinema, also known as Tollywood, is the segment of Indian cinema dedicated to the production of motion pictures in the Telugu language, widely spoken in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Hyderabad's Film Nagar is home to the Telugu film industry. Telugu cinema has the largest box office as of 2021 among Indian film industries. The maximum number of tickets sold for Telugu movies in 2022, totalling 23.3 crores (233 million).

There are opportunities for Victoria to secure the hosting of future major events such as the South Indian Movie Awards – one of the most prominent entertainment awards ceremonies that reward the artistic and technical achievements of the South Indian film industry and the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL) – inspired by the popularity of the Indian Premier League (official T20 League Tournament of India), with franchises in major Indian cities.

### **Day 6 – 15.2.23**

Hyderabad – Ahmedabad (Flight)

- Pacific Group of Companies - Meeting with Gujarat CM did not occur, delayed by the response from MEA and AHC

Ahmedabad – Delhi (Flight)

Stayed at The Ashok Hotel

### **Day 7 – 16.2.23**

Delhi – Agra – Delhi (Car)

- Visit to Taj Mahal and Masjid/ mosque at the Taj Mahal
- Visit to Bangla Sahib Gurudwara
- Indo-Australian Congregation Meeting  
Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi - Hon'ble – Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture  
Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad MP- Lok Sabha – Parliament of India  
Mr. Prakash Javadekar MP- Rajya Sabha – Parliament of India  
Mr. Vivek Tankha MP - Rajya Sabha – Parliament of India

### **Visit to Taj Mahal and Masjid/Mosque**

The Taj Mahal is an Islamic marble mausoleum located in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, beside the Yamuna River.

The Taj Mahal, which draws 6 million tourists a year and is regarded as the best example of contemporary Mughal architecture, has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

India has a long and diverse architectural history that includes Indo-Saracenic, Hindu, Mughal, Sikh, and other architectural styles.

### **Day 8 – 17.2.23**

Delhi – Thiruvananthapuram (Flight)

- Visit to Kerala Secretariat Annexe II
- Meeting with Mr. Mohammed Riyas – Minister for Tourism and PWD Kerala State Government
- Visit to Kerala Legislative Assembly
- Visit to Secretariat Main Block
- Meeting with Principal Secretaries – Fisheries; Law;
- Travel to Kovalam beach

### **Meeting with Mr Mohammad Riyas – Minister for Tourism and Public Works Department**

The Kerala Government's Department of Tourism is a significant government Ministry that oversees and controls tourism in Kerala.

Kerala Tourism is the nation's fastest-growing state department of tourism, and the Ministry has frequently been cited as a crucial division that worked assiduously to elevate Kerala Tourism to the status of one of the Top 100 Super brands.

Victoria is the home for most Malayalees in Australia with a large proportion of them being in the healthcare sector as nurses and midwives.

The Minister expressed interest in setting up a Tourism Club to promote tourism and business relationship between Kerala and Victoria.

### **Meeting with Principal Secretaries – Fisheries and Law**

Dredging activities – most finished fishing harbours and fish landing facilities need regular maintenance dredging to keep the required draught in the approach and base channels. The hygienic level of operation in the harbours that have been fully and partially commissioned also has to alter.

The Department of Fisheries are interested in the establishment of Marine National Parks, dealing with issues of costal erosion, and acquiring equipment to better communicate with their fishing fleets.

They are seeking guidance and the establishment of an information exchange program with Victoria as a jurisdiction who have already successful established Marine National Parks and has been taking steps to address issues of costal erosion in some locations around our State.

### **Visit to Kerala Legislative Assembly**

The state legislature of Kerala, India, is known as the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

The Legislative Assembly is made up of 140 members who represent constituencies all throughout Kerala.

We undertook a tour of the State Legislature at the behest of Kerala legislators which is an impressive building that is only 25 years old.

Stayed at KTDC Mascot Hotel

## **Day 9 - 18.2.23**

Kerala – Delhi (Flight)

- Elecrama 2023

Elecrama is the flagship showcase of the Indian Electrical Industry ecosystem and the largest standalone show in the electrical and allied equipment industry and also the largest T&D show in the world.

During this event we meet with the event organisers and toured the impressive displays from companies attending from around the globe, including Australia.

## **Day 10 – 19.2.23**

Delhi – Hong Kong - Melbourne (Cathay Pacific)

## **Conclusion**

India and Victoria have a long history of strong commercial and social relations. With increasing new arrivals who have emigrated from India, we annually welcome many students choosing Victoria for tertiary study and further education opportunities.

Post-pandemic, we have been presented with new challenges, most notably, key industries like healthcare, tourism, hospitality and construction have reported that pre-existing talent shortages have worsened. As we navigate changes to the labour market and ways in which we can rebuild and revive these sectors in Victoria, this presents an opportunity for a recovery led by enhanced productivity and innovation. It also presents opportunity for partnership with countries like India.

## Photo Gallery



Taj Mahal, Agra



Bowenpally Market Waste to Energy Plant



The Legislative Assembly of Kerala



Indo-Australian Congregation Meeting



Meeting with the Minister for Tourism and PWD, Kerala

## References:

1. **East India Company , The**  
<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9781315845364/east-india-company-philip-lawson> Accessed 2023-03-04
2. **A Study on the Bilateral Trade Relations between China and ASEAN Ten Countries Based on Lotka-Volterra Model.**  
<https://www.preprints.org/manuscript/202211.0216> Accessed 2023-03-04