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## Jodi McKay out to capture Heathcote



St George &amp; Sutherland Shire Leader, Sydney

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NEW State Labor leader Jodi McKay has wasted little time in embarking on a mission to win the seat of Heathcote at the next election, which is three and a half years away.

Ms McKay, who took over the job at the end of June, visited Engadine on Monday to meet with community groups.

Sitting Liberal member Lee Evans retained Heathcote at this year's election, winning 55 per cent of the vote, two party preferred, with a 2.6 per cent swing away from the Liberals.

"The swing was positive, but if we are to form government we need to win Heathcote," Ms McKay said.

"I will be spending a lot of time here, as will the shadow ministers."

Ms McKay said Maryanne Stuart, the Labor candidate at the last two elections, "will keep us informed of what's happening in the local area".

Upper house MP, Mark Buttigieg, who is a former shire councillor, would also represent Labor in the seat.

Ms McKay said an electoral redistribution would be carried out before the next election, with proposed boundary changes due to be released in mid-2021.

"We will choose our candidates after that," she said.

Ms McKay met with residents over the Heathcote Hall redevelopment proposal. "They have been treated badly by the state planning system and let down by their local member," she said.

— MURRAY TREMBATH



**QUICK OFF BLOCKS:** Jodi McKay at Engadine during her first visit as Labor leader to the shire. **Picture:** John Veage