

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Royalties boost for Bunbury

I am delighted with the range of community-based projects set to be funded in Bunbury through Royalties for Regions.

I have long called for more recognition of the importance of Bunbury and regional areas to the prosperity of our State.

The Liberal-National Government's commitment to delivering on its Royalties for Regions promise further affirms the Government's recognition of the significant role of regional people and communities.

A total of \$540,899 will be delivered for Bunbury-based projects through the South West Regional Grants Scheme across a wide range of areas.

The Val Lishman Health Research Foundation will receive \$147,198 towards medical research for the detection of Familial Hypercholesterolaemia, an inherited form of high cholesterol.

This research has the potential to improve the health and quality of life not just of Bunbury residents, but of people across Australia.

Another major funding boost in Bunbury is \$132,067 to Morrissey Homestead for its day centre expansion.

Morrissey Homestead is an invaluable community organisation which is experiencing increased demand for its disability services and social support, hence the need to upgrade facilities.

Other projects to be funded in Bunbury cover areas including health, accommodation, youth, the arts, community facilities and a project to attract more doctors to the region.

Grants to help celebrate WA

Western Australia's third annual WA Week celebrations will be held in October, and grants are available to help fund activities which celebrate our State.

I encourage local not-for-profit community groups and organisations to apply, with grants of up to \$1000 available to coordinate a WA week project or event between October 19-25.

Applications close on July 23. More information and application forms are available at www.celebratewa.com.au

Hardship assistance available

There is no doubt the current economic climate, redundancies and increased costs of living are having an impact on household finances.

In recognition of this, the State Government has increased utility assistance for WA's most financially disadvantaged families and individuals.

Local residents can apply to access the Hardship Utility Grant Scheme (HUGS) if they need help to pay utility bills such as electricity, gas and water.

I urge people experiencing genuine hardship who are unable to pay an account or are in danger of disconnection or supply restriction, to speak to their utility provider as the first step.

They can then be referred to a HUGS-registered financial counselling service for their application to be progressed.

These counsellors have the expertise to help people overcome financial hardship and minimise similar situations in future.

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