

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Budget fails region

The State Budget was released last week but unfortunately I was again disappointed by its failure to recognise the importance of our region to the State's economy.

In real terms, this Budget returns just 0.6 per cent in capital works to the South West despite the fact we produce 14 per cent of the State's GDP.

The State Government last week touted a \$515 million package for the South West but when you take out key water and power supply projects which are designed for the State – only \$46 million remains.

Such projects lumped into the '\$515 million' package include the Binningup Desalination Plant and Muja Power Station upgrade.

However my biggest concern from this year's Budget however was its failure of our health system.

Out of a \$7.6 billion Budget, only \$1.2 million was set aside for Bunbury's ailing health system.

Key promises which haven't been delivered now include the vital radiology cancer treatment centre and an Intensive Care Unit at the South West Health Campus.

Funding for critical child health services, such as an infant hearing test program for regional WA, are also missing from this Budget.

For information on other elements of the State Budget relating to Bunbury visit www.johncastrilli.com.au.

Burden on courts eased

While there were many fundamental absences from this year's State Budget, the South West was allocated funding for a much-needed third magistrate.

This is a big win for the region which should dramatically reduce the extensive wait for trials at Bunbury Magistrates Court.

There remains a need for a separate Family Court Registrar but this allocation is an important first step.

I welcome the State Government's eventual recognition of the need to ease the pressure on our overburdened court.

Gordon embodied volunteer spirit

This week we celebrate National Volunteer Week and in doing so, we recognise the hundreds of volunteers who form the backbone of our community.

However this year I wish to single out the extraordinary efforts of one distinguished and much-loved volunteer in our community.

That person is Gordon Franklin, who sadly passed away on May 5, after more than 55 years of service to the Bunbury Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service.

Gordon embodied the true spirit of volunteering through his tireless and selfless dedication to the service and safety of our community.

His long list of medals and honours is just one testament to his enormous contributions. The big hole he has left within the region's Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service is another.

My thoughts are with his wife Robyn, four children and nine grandchildren during this sad time.

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