

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

The past few weeks have been busy for me, both in State Parliament and back here in Bunbury.

So today, I will use this column to briefly outline a few of the most pertinent issues affecting the South West.

If you feel strongly about any of these or want to let me know your views or experiences, I encourage you to call my office or email me through my website.

Bunbury waterfront plans

I am extremely passionate about the need to revitalise our waterfront and capitalise on the unique aquatic assets we have in Bunbury.

However the State Government's 30-year waterfront development plan, currently on display at the City of Bunbury, must be closely scrutinised by our community.

I fear this plan would make way for a high-rise, concrete jungle from shoreline to shoreline.

Instead, I firmly believe, this city would be better served by a plan which capitalises on the recreational allure of our waterfront to create family-friendly areas that will enhance our lifestyle and tourism potential.

There is room for some residential development but allowing a sea of high rises which block our scenic waterways is not the way to go.

I encourage residents to examine the plans and have their say before the June 6 deadline.

During the first round of consultation, the average age of those who responded was 55.

So this time around, I encourage people of all ages, especially those with young children, to let the State Government know your vision for our waterfront.

Assaults on police

In State Parliament this week, I threw my support behind a bill which would introduce mandatory prison sentences for people who assault police.

I did this to advocate on behalf the South West Police officers who are regularly and maliciously assaulted on the job.

Since mid-2006, there have been 66 assaults on South West Police Officers and the lax penalties for those offenders were downright injustices.

Our justice system must protect those who are employed to protect us.

Support for teachers

South West teachers are stepping up their fight for better pay and conditions and I this week reiterated my support for their cause.

Along with my colleague, Shadow Education Minister Peter Collier, I have called and will continue to call on the State Government to end its neglect of our public education system and recognise the value of the teaching profession because it is their job to shape our future generation.

www.johncastrilli.com.au

Ph: 97913636 Fax: 97913313