

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Drive safe during 'silly season'

With Christmas functions now in full swing, it's time to think about whether you will organise a skipper or get a taxi home if you've been drinking.

As part of a Statewide crackdown, Bunbury police will be putting in many extra hours this festive season in an attempt to keep our roads safe.

The unprecedented road blitz, launched last week by Police Minister Rob Johnson, means the Government will fund an extra 5500 policing hours to crack down on drink-driving and other offences on suburban streets and regional roads.

Bunbury police know the back streets and shortcuts used by people trying to avoid booze buses and patrol cars.

Drivers will be stopped anywhere, any time – so if you drink and drive there is a very good chance you will be caught.

Police aren't trying to stop people from having a good time – they are trying to stop crashes and tragedies on our roads, as nobody wants to remember Christmas as a time of road trauma.

Remember, our roads are only as safe as the people using them, so please don't drink and drive.

New fire control measures

WA is facing a severe bushfire season which could be the worst in many years.

While some parts of Bunbury are more fire-prone than others, I urge everyone, no matter where you live or what your fire experience has been, to prepare.

Identify your risk, clean up your property and gutters, and keep fire safety in mind if travelling further afield to regional areas over the holidays.

The State Government has put in place a range of new measures to help protect people and property from the devastation of bushfires.

These include:

- Changes to the Bush Fire Act to introduce total fire bans, new arrangements for controlling major fires, changes to the definition of the word 'property' as part of the State Government's ongoing fight against arson and a revised fire danger rating system to include 'severe' and 'catastrophic';
- A successful trial of StateAlert, a new system which will send warnings to communities where lives may be at risk from a quickly-developing emergency;
- The "Prepare, Act, Survive strategy", which puts more emphasis on leaving homes during a bushfire.

More information can be found on FESA's website at www.fesa.wa.gov.au