

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Volunteers deserve special thanks

This week is National Volunteer Week and I would like to say thank you to all our dedicated volunteers in the Bunbury community.

There are literally hundreds of people in our city who selflessly give of their time and energy in a wide range of areas.

While many local volunteers have been publicly recognised over the years and more recently for their efforts, I believe a collective thank you for all “vollies” is in order.

Whether they are able to spare an hour, a day or a week is irrelevant – the act of giving up one’s own time to help others is commendable.

And whether involved in working with the needy, fighting fires, helping in emergencies or playing music for people in aged homes, all voluntary work has an enormous value that cannot be measured in dollars or time alone.

Statistics show that 36 per cent of Australians aged over 18 undertake some type of formal voluntary work, at an average “value” of \$24.09 an hour.

Each year volunteers contribute billions of dollars to our State and national economies.

Studies also show that not only do volunteers help improve their communities, but they also help themselves in terms of leading happier, more fulfilled lives.

Volunteers deserve to be recognised not just this week, but every day.

I hope people take the time and effort to acknowledge the array of dedicated volunteers who truly give our community its heart and soul.

Expectations for responsible budget

I am sure many Bunbury people will be eagerly waiting to find out which projects will be delivered for the city when the State Budget is announced tomorrow.

I have previously met with every Government minister to discuss Bunbury’s needs and will continue to push the case for important projects in our city.

A number of promises have already been fulfilled, with architects announced for the new \$15m cancer radiation facility at the South West Health Campus and work commencing on Stage 1 of the Port Access Road.

Funding has been delivered to support the Choose Respect initiative and \$390,000 has been allocated for the expansion and monitoring of the city’s Closed Circuit Television network.

Other Statewide election promises already delivered which have direct benefits for Bunbury residents include the \$500 aged pensioner fuel card, seniors’ cost of living rebate and free travel on local buses for pensioners.

Of course, we are only eight months into a four-year term of government and not everything can be delivered overnight.

Most people realise that Bunbury, WA, Australia and the world are all in a completely different financial position than they were a year ago and the State Budget needs to be responsible in its spending.

I can assure you we are doing our best to deliver on promises in what is an uncertain economic climate. Rest assured that the State is in the best hands to deal with the challenges of the future.

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