

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

Important Budget funding delivered

A range of projects funded in this year's State Budget are set to deliver big improvements for residents of Bunbury and surrounds.

Important works in the areas of health, education and transport have been funded and add to the list of many election promises already delivered for Bunbury.

I am proud to be able to say that all the projects I promised for Bunbury have either been completed or have had funding allocated and are progressing well in terms of planning.

Of course, it is physically impossible for everything to be delivered straight away.

Major infrastructure and health upgrades require a significant amount of planning before construction can start.

Important allocations in the 2010-11 State Budget include:

- \$23.7 m for various transport projects including Eelup Stage 1, Outer Ring Road and Port Access Road
- \$11.5 m for construction of Bunbury's cancer radiotherapy centre
- \$16m for Stage 1 of Picton Water Treatment Plant, supplying water to Bunbury and Australind
- \$4 m towards projects at Bunbury Port
- \$4.1 m towards planning for a redesigned Bunbury Waterfront project, following analysis of public submissions
- \$6.3 m for automotive training facilities at South West Regional College of TAFE

This comes on top of many projects already underway in Bunbury which have received State funding, including:

- Upgrades to Withers, Bunbury and South Bunbury primary schools and Bunbury Senior High School
- Land for a high-care accommodation facility for young people with neurological conditions (funding delivered and land already purchased)
- \$350,000 for a new TS Bunbury Naval Cadets headquarters (funding delivered and project completed)
- Construction of a new athletics track at Hay Park (nearing completion)

In addition, the Country Age Pension Fuel Card, which helped about 3000 pensioners in Bunbury alone during its first year, has been expanded to include people receiving a Disability or Carer payment.

The Seniors Cost of Living rebate also will continue this year, after already providing a financial boost to 18,000 seniors in the South West.

I understand that there are many people doing it tough in Bunbury, and am pleased the State Government has also decided to expand the Hardship Utilities Grant Scheme to assist people in need.

It is certainly no mean feat to deliver a Budget for the entire State that takes into account the different needs of our city and regional areas, and everyone from school students to pensioners.

In the same way as balancing a household budget, the State Government has to juggle a range of projects and services, while continuing to be responsible with spending and "living within our means".