

John Castrilli MLA



Representing the people of Bunbury

New laws target drink-drivers

New legislation to be debated in Parliament will strengthen laws on drink-driving offenders and allow police to suspend their licences on the spot.

Motorists caught with a blood alcohol content above 0.08 would lose their licences immediately at the roadside, with police able to issue a notice which immediately disqualifies the person for two months.

There have been too many cases in the past of people caught drink-driving, but who continue to keep driving – and in some cases drink-driving – in the interim period before their case goes to court.

In my view this is unacceptable and puts the community at risk.

The Road Traffic Legislation Amendment (Disqualification by Notice) Bill 2010 would also make it harder for people to obtain extraordinary licences.

The new legislation would tighten the standards so extraordinary licences would only be issued where people could demonstrate extreme hardship.

These measures would act as a strong deterrent to people and make them think twice about getting behind the wheel if they've been drinking.

Time to save water

From this Friday, residents in Bunbury and surrounds will be restricted to one day per week of sprinkler usage.

The restrictions will apply throughout October and November in an effort to save water in the lead-up to summer.

While I understand that some residents would like to be able to use sprinklers more frequently, we have had the second-driest winter on record, with run-off into dams the lowest since 1913.

It is vital that we act now to save water so that harsher restrictions are not needed this summer.

But there are a range of measures you can take to reduce water usage and still maintain a healthy garden.

More information on your rostered sprinkler day and water-saving techniques is available at www.water.wa.gov.au

Young leaders of the future

On Friday I had the pleasure of meeting Jack James, a talented football player and coach who won the Marist Clubman of the Year award.

I was proud to be able to sponsor this award, which recognises the values of good sportsmanship and respect within the club.

As well as coaching a Marist junior team, Jack plays for South Bunbury and will play in his first South West Football League grand final at the age of 17, while also being head-down in his Year 12 TEE studies.

I also met some enthusiastic young sportspeople who take part in the Bunbury Education District Junior Sport Leadership program, which is run through Adam Road Primary School.

They all showed positive attitudes and a maturity beyond their years, which is evidence of the leadership values that this program instils in students, as well as enhancing their sporting development.