

John Castrilli MLA



Budget delivers for local community

It is never possible to please everyone when a State Budget is handed down, but this year's goes a long way towards balancing the requirements of the WA economy with the needs of people in the most disadvantaged sectors of our community.

In the same way as a household budget needs to be responsible with money spent, a State Budget needs to carefully manage a range of competing priorities.

It pains me to see local people struggling to keep up with rises in the cost of living, so I was pleased that the State Budget includes a major commitment to help those in our community who are doing it tough.

There will be an extra \$1 billion spent State-wide on social services, including the biggest-ever injection of funding into the not-for-profit sector, providing vital help to our most vulnerable and disadvantaged citizens.

On an individual level there will be more money for the Hardship Utilities Grant Scheme which helps people struggling to pay their bills, increased eligibility for the Seniors Card, and a higher annual payment under the Seniors Cost of Living Rebate.

This year's Budget also contains \$516 million in capital works projects for the South West, targeting critical areas of need such as our health, education and transport systems.

A snapshot of funding for projects in Bunbury and surrounds includes:

- \$11.5m towards expanding the Bunbury hospital emergency department from 15 to 27 beds
- \$8m for completion of the Bunbury cancer radiotherapy facility
- \$10.6m for Stage 1 of Bunbury Waterfront Project, to include development areas for commercial, residential, tourism and public uses
- \$62.5m on building and upgrading SW schools (including \$7m to start construction of East Dalyellup Primary School and \$5m towards planning for the second stage of the \$30m Dalyellup College)
- \$25.9m for Stage 1 of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road
- \$11.7m for Port Access Road Stage 2
- \$5.1m for new Career Fire and Rescue Service in Australind
- \$14m for Stage 1 of Eelup Roundabout Project
- \$13.4m for South West Institute of Technology's Heavy Duty Automotive trade training centre
- \$7.4 m to improve safety with upgrades to Coalfields Highway

These projects are all extremely important to our local community and will help create jobs, educate and train our younger generations, cater for our growing population and overall, help people enjoy a high quality of life in our wonderful city.