

John Castrilli's Community News



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John Castrilli: Member for Bunbury | *Representing the people of Bunbury*

People power saves Yarragadee

THE recent decision to shelve plans to tap the Yarragadee aquifer is a great victory for the people of the South West, according to Bunbury MLA John Castrilli.

"This is a great victory for the Friends of the Yarragadee and everyone else who stood up for what they believed in," he said.

On May 15 the State Government announced that a new desalination plant would be built in Binningup to

meet the State's growing water needs.

The plant was chosen over the disastrous plan to tap the Yarragadee aquifer; a proposal Mr Castrilli has been fighting against since his time as Mayor.

"I hope this proposal does not return to haunt us again – the Premier has not ruled out the Yarragadee in future water supply plans and that raises many questions," Mr Castrilli said.

On top of that Mr Castrilli urged a timely and drastic overhaul of the

Government's water conservation program to bring WA in-line with global standards.

"Currently huge volumes of rain are running off into rivers and the ocean from Perth streets, water that could be trapped and recycled," he said.

Mr Castrilli said the South West community needed to also ensure that all environmental impacts are fully investigated for the desalination plant.

Budget fails the South West

WHEN you live in the fastest growing regional centre in Australia there are certain services and infrastructure you expect governments to provide.

What we can expect is adequate education facilities, safe roads, hospitals which do not have to send you to Perth for straightforward treatments and a public housing network without a waiting list up to three and a half years long.

The population and economy are booming yet the State Budget 2007-08 has failed to provide funding for key infrastructure projects to support this growth.

Instead – a measly 4 per cent of the overall capital works expenditure will go to the region in the coming financial year.

It was disheartening to find that all but two projects, of any note, in this Budget had already been announced in budgets dating back to 2001.

I welcomed the \$1.26 million contribution to the TAFE college and \$4.6 million for the Bunbury Back Beach redevelopment but clearly those sweeteners are not enough to sustain a community the size and with the rapid expansion of the South West.

Education

- The \$1.5 million upgrade of Bunbury Senior High School announced in this Budget was due to be finished in June, 2006 yet no ground works have yet been done.

- The \$1.4 million allocation to Newton Moore Senior High School was an old promise which should have been completed already but has not yet started. Now the project is facing cost blowouts and could have to be scaled back despite already having to cut off \$1 million worth of works.

- Another old project re-announced is Manea College and this is yet another disaster. According to the budget \$6.5 million has already been spent, however again, no ground works have begun.

Health

- A much-needed ureterorenoscope for Bunbury Regional Hospital was not listed in this year's Budget. An ureterorenoscope is expected to cost less than \$100,000 and the South West campus has the services of two urological surgeons. Without this necessary piece of equipment to treat kidney stones, patients have to travel to Perth.

- The \$300,000 allocation to the intensive care unit for Bunbury Regional Hospital is yet another unfulfilled promise. This project should have been completed by the end of the 2006-07 financial year.

- At the last election the Labor Government promised \$6.5 million for cancer treatment at Bunbury Regional Hospital. Again – we wait. Patients are still being forced to travel to Perth for life-saving treatment. While the total cost of the project has risen to \$8.5 million, just \$660,000 was set-aside in this Budget.

Infrastructure:

- Eelup roundabout is the State's worst in terms of accident frequency. The construction of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road and Stages 1 and 2 of the Port Access Road would address this major safety issue by moving heavy traffic onto the Port Access Road. Sadly no commitment to this was evident in the 2007-08 Budget.

- In the 2006-07 Budget, just over \$35 million was the expected expenditure of the State's Infill Sewerage program. This is a program that is many years behind schedule. In 1998-99 \$96.3 million was spent on the infill sewerage program yet this year only \$30 million has been allocated.

- This year marks the 20th year of the current Australind train and while the Labor Government has invested in new carpet and other refurbishments, it appears nothing has been budgeted to replace the ageing rolling stock. On top of that nothing has been allocated to upgrade the track as was again promised in the 2004 election.

Public housing:

While the lack of affordable housing has placed Public Housing in crisis mode, there has been a severe lack of planning and foresight from this State Government to address the shortage of available stock. Stock numbers are lower today than in many years instead of increasing in line with population growth, and the Department of Housing and Works in the South West are not even able to fulfil their target of 75 days to house priority-listed people. Non-priority-listed people are waiting up to three and a half years.

City-centric focus puts infants at risk

BUNBURY MLA John Castrilli brought another worrying disparity between health services in Perth and regional WA to the attention of the Labor Government this month.

Mr Castrilli MLA was shocked to discover that babies born in Perth's public hospitals were being offered free hearing screenings to identify hearing difficulties yet those tests were not available free in Bunbury.

"The tests are offered at St John of God Bunbury at a cost of \$65, however babies born in public hospitals have to seek out the service out and have the test completed as an outpatient for the same cost," Mr Castrilli said.

Sadly most parents of children born in public hospitals in the region are unaware the tests exist.

For more information contact Mr Castrilli's office on 9791 3636.



Bunbury's Rhys McAtee was born in St John of God Hospital and was lucky enough to have the vital infant hearing screening however babies born in public hospitals are not so lucky.

Meeting deemed a big success

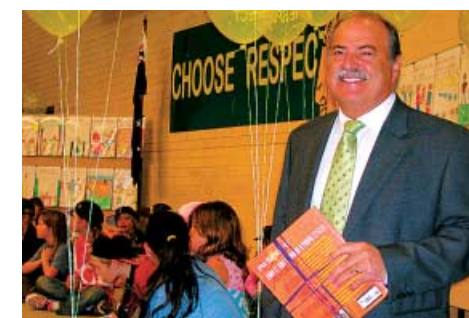
A BIG and vocal group attended the latest of Bunbury MLA John Castrilli's community morning teas held this month for the residents of South Bunbury.

As was the case with previous morning teas held in other suburbs, the over-riding concern from residents was the lack of pedestrian crossings on busy roads and hoon drivers "terrorising" the neighbourhoods.

Residents now have the opportunity to assist Police by being able to report speeding vehicles which will allow Police to target these repeat offenders.



Bunbury MLA John Castrilli organised a community meeting for South Bunbury residents to garner opinions and concerns on a wide range of issues.



Bunbury MLA John Castrilli welcomes a new program at Carey Park Primary School which fosters the focus on respect in the community.

"Choose Respect" Program Praised

AN active and innovative program to educate and encourage children to respect others was applauded by Bunbury MLA John Castrilli following its launch this month.

The school is focussing on fostering a culture of respect among the whole school community.

The program is a fundamental shift from focusing on the negative behaviour of bullying to calling young people out to "Choose Respect".

"A lack of respect in the community is an issue often raised by people I speak to," Mr Castrilli said.

"The program Carey Park Primary School is running is wonderful and I hope it spreads throughout the community."

Two centenaries celebrated

TWO Bunbury residents recently celebrated their 100th birthdays.

Wattle Hill Lodge resident Esther Offer celebrated her centenary on April 30 And Katherine Handley, of Elanora Villas celebrated her special day on May 14.

Bunbury MLA John Castrilli paid a visit to both ladies to wish them a happy birthday, congratulate them on the impressive milestone and present them with bouquets. Sadly Mrs Handley passed away this week, John sends his sincere condolences to her loving family.



Elanora Villas residents Margaret Bulman and Fred Kearney thank Bunbury MLA John Castrilli for his help in boosting the safety for seniors crossing Hastie Street.

Hastie Street Action

A PUSH to increase safety for seniors living on Hastie Street proved successful recently.

The triumph followed a request by Bunbury MLA John Castrilli, in response to concerns from residents and staff at Elanora Villas.

It led to an 'Aged' sign being erected and a reduction in the speed limit to 40kmh along a stretch of the street with additional signs to go up in coming weeks.

Mr Castrilli worked with the City of Bunbury and thanked the City for its assistance.

The residents of Elanora Villas believed the signage was important to make motorists aware of seniors crossing the street, some of which were in gophers.



Wattle Hill Lodge resident Esther Offer celebrates her 100th birthday on April 30.



Katherine Handley, of Elanora Villas spent her 100th birthday surrounded by family such as her daughter Maxine Etheridge.