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John Castrilli's Community News

John Castrilli MLA - Representing the People of Bunbury



College Grove offer on table

After more than two years of negotiations towards securing a land swap arrangement, a major milestone was reached recently when the State Government formally presented an offer to the City of Bunbury.

"The offer of the land parcels for exchange was a positive step forward and I am pleased this milestone has been reached," Bunbury MLA John Castrilli said.

This land exchange was proposed by Mr Castrilli to protect bushland after the environmental sen-

sitivity of the land became apparent.

The area is home to Carnaby's black cockatoos and ringtail possums and is a key component of the region's biodiversity.

"While it is impossible to put a dollar figure on the value of the environment, I sought to secure a land swap to help compensate the City of Bunbury for lost revenue from the planned future subdivision," Mr Castrilli said.

The land is not owned by the City of Bunbury, but is Crown land that

was to be developed as a Joint Venture (JV) made up of Landcorp, Department of Regional Development and the City of Bunbury.

While stopping any further development would mean that all three parties of the JV would incur losses, the current land swap arrangement seeks only to compensate the City of Bunbury.

There have unfortunately been a number of incorrect and misleading comments put forward, however the offer would see the City of Bunbury acquire three lots of land in

freehold, at Koombana Drive, La-treille Road and Geographe Way.

Currently the JV has outstanding debt while awaiting the sale of 43 lots which have already been developed. The JV is also required to extend Somerville Drive through to Robertson Drive. To enable the JV to undertake this work as soon as possible, the State Government has offered to provide the \$2.8m up front.

"The safety of residents has been put foremost with the funding to bring forward the construction of a

second access road to the suburb," Mr Castrilli said.

"This is extremely important for College Grove residents in terms of traffic management, congestion and emergency exits."

The State Government has also offered an additional parcel of land in Carey Street to the JV, of which the City is a partner, to enable the JV to develop and provide income to clear their outstanding debts and repay the \$2.8m cost of the Somerville Drive extension.



John Castrilli comes to grips with the Tesla Coil at the Scitech roadshow, watched by Bunbury Catholic College students Lauren Smaniotto, Phoebe Spice and Rebecca Griffin.

Hands-on science

Local students got a 'hands on' experience of a range of careers in science, technology and mathematical fields when the Scitech Science Awareness Festival visited Bunbury schools at the end of Term 2.

John Castrilli was pleased to speak at the roadshow which aims to promote 'STEM Careers' in science, technology, engineering and maths.

The travelling festival also shows students that these careers can be possible in their local areas and don't always mean moving to Perth for study or work.

"We are also very lucky here in

Bunbury to have some of the best science teachers in the country, which is acknowledged with several national and international awards to prove it," Mr Castrilli said.

"I am pleased that the work of our great teachers, and the opportunities available to local students, is being backed up by visiting events such as the Scitech festival."

Local exhibitors included the Department of Fisheries and the Dolphin Discovery Centre, and Mr Castrilli said it was encouraging to see students enthralled by so many different learning experiences.

Stage 1 work underway on Eelup Project

Many people by now will have seen the work underway at Eelup roundabout to build a slip-lane for traffic heading south.

This is the first part of Stage 1 of the Eelup Project, which aims to improve safety and congestion at the black-spot intersection.

Following construction of the slip-

lane, work will begin to signalise the intersection with a new form of short-interval lights designed to keep the traffic flowing smoothly and safely.

"This has been designed by highly experienced Main Roads staff and I am confident that Stage 1 will have a significant impact on reducing crashes at the site," Mr Castrilli said.

Dream is building at Treendale site

Work is progressing quickly on the South West's new residential care facility for young people with acquired brain injuries or degenerative neurological conditions.

John Castrilli visited the site in mid-July with MS Society of WA chief executive officer Marcus Stafford and both were delighted to see the facility taking shape.

"I am absolutely thrilled to see the bricks going up, various tradespeople busy on the site, and the vision now becoming a reality," Mr Castrilli said.

"It was a dream-come-true to be able to visit the facility and lay some bricks in the walls to help mark this milestone."

Once completed, the building will have 2000sq m under the roof and comprise 11 individual high-support accommodation units and 9 respite units.



John Castrilli and MS Society CEO Marcus Stafford on site.

The 4000sq m block was provided by the State Government and the facility is being built and managed by the Multiple Sclerosis Society of WA.

"It's been a few years since John and I sat down and chatted about the dream over a cup of coffee," MS Society CEO Marcus Stafford said.

"We both believe that Bunbury is a crucial part of our State's future and this facility supports that view, allowing people with disabilities to enjoy a peaceful quality of life in their local community."

Anyone wanting to find out more about the registration process can contact Sue Shapland on 9365 4869 or their Disability Services Commission local area coordinator.

"Demand for places is expected to be high, with several Bunbury people already expressing an interest in living in the facility once it's opened in 2012," Mr Castrilli said.

"I would urge anyone interested in the facility to start making inquiries sooner rather than later."

Range of health services increasing

Bunbury's range of facilities to treat cancer and support patients fighting the disease has received a huge boost in recent months.

The long-awaited South West Radiation Oncology Service has opened its doors to patients, providing the only radiotherapy service outside the Perth area.

"This is something I have been pushing for over many years and I am absolutely thrilled this state-of-the-art centre is now seeing local patients," Mr Castrilli said.

"It has marked another important milestone in increasing Bunbury's suite of medical services and support facilities.

"When I recently visited the radiotherapy centre with local cancer survivor Willie Drew, it really hit home what a difference this facility will make to people's lives."

"It's not just about providing life-saving treatment closer to home, it

also gives people confidence in the fact we have some of WA's best medical professionals living and working in our region."

In addition to the Radiation Oncology Service, an official opening and launch celebration was held last month for the Solariscare Cancer Support Centre.

"Solariscare provides a range of complementary therapies for people who are having cancer treatments, and is a welcoming and relaxing place where patients and their families can also simply talk with other people who are going through similar experience," Mr Castrilli said.

"Through therapies and relaxing treatments such as massage, aromatherapy, and also counselling if needed, the centre is giving cancer patients a range of ways they can improve their overall feeling of wellbeing, both during and after treatment.



John Castrilli with volunteer Noel Mary O'Connell, Solariscare Foundation CEO David Edwards and South West coordinator Carline Turner during the centre's opening celebrations.

New laws helping protect our police officers

John Castrilli has welcomed the news that assaults against police officers have continued to decline.

Recent figures show a 13 per cent decrease for the first five months of 2011 compared to the same period in 2010.

This is above and beyond the fall of nearly 30 per cent in the first year

following the State Government's introduction in September 2009 of mandatory sentences for serious assaults against police officers.

"It is vital that we help protect the people who protect our community, and this law sends a clear message to the public that serious assaults on WA Police officers will not be toler-

ated by our community or the courts," Mr Castrilli said.

"Despite criticism by the Opposition when mandatory sentencing was introduced, the legislation has produced successful outcomes for the police, other public officers and our community."

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