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John Castrilli's Community News



John Castrilli MLA - Representing the People of Bunbury

Funding to keep community strong

More than \$516million will be spent on South West infrastructure and capital works projects as part of the State Budget announced last month.

Bunbury MLA John Castrilli said that in the same way a household budget needed to be responsible with money spent, a State Budget needed to carefully manage a range of competing priorities.

"It troubles me to see local people struggling to keep up with 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," Mr Castrilli said.

"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, where staff provide 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.

"Many people have already contacted my office to apply for Seniors cards, which some residents did not realise they were eligible for."

This year's Budget contains \$516.5 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 surrounding areas 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 plan-

ning 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 as well as educating and training our younger generations," Mr Castrilli said.
- "It will also cater for our growing population and overall, help people enjoy a high quality of life in Bunbury and surrounding areas."

For more information on local projects funded under the State Budget go to www.johncastrilli.com.au

Extra funding for emergency services in this year's State budget means work will continue to improve fire response times in Bunbury and surrounds.

State funds of \$5.1million will go towards completing a new \$6million career fire station in Australind.

Overall funding will help ensure firefighters across WA are well prepared for emergencies, with \$26.7million allocated over four years for new and replacement vehicles including light tankers, medium pumpers and general purpose appliances.

Essential emergency equipment including breathing suits and communication networks will also be upgraded and improved.

Almost \$5million in 2011-12 will go towards recruiting more career Fire and Rescue Service firefighters.



John Castrilli is pleased extra money was included in this year's State Budget to support the vital work of career firefighters such as Dave Young from the Bunbury station.

Grant aids new technology for Advocacy

A funding injection from Lotterywest will assist local disability services provider Advocacy South West as it continues to grow.

The organisation has received a grant of \$37,000 to improve its office administration and IT systems as it provides services to more than 100 local residents and their families.

John Castrilli presented the cheque on Thursday to Advocacy chief executive officer Peta Kierath, who was delighted they will now be able to upgrade their communication systems.

"Advocacy is doing a wonderful job in assisting people from Bunbury and the South West to make the most out of opportunities in their lives," Mr Castrilli said.

"There is currently a waiting list for Advocacy services and the funding will help the organisation continue to tailor its services directly to clients.

"By assisting people with disabilities to be more widely in-



Advocacy SW chief executive officer Peta Kierath celebrates receiving a \$37,000 Lotterywest grant which will be used for a new IT system for the organisation.

involved in the community, not only are Advocacy helping their clients but they are also improving the

understanding and range of different abilities within our community."

Hi-tech dolphins on display

Bunbury's new state-of-the-art 'digital dolphinarium' was officially opened last week, cementing the Dolphin Discovery Centre's position as a tourist drawcard for the city.

Attending the opening with Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls, John Castrilli said he was pleased to see the centre's expansion taking shape.

"Our local dolphins offer a unique experience to visitors and residents alike," Mr Castrilli said.

"But because they are wild animals, people cannot always see them near the beach so the dolphin theatre fills a need by offering a 3D experience of dolphins and helping educate people about their lives."



Nominate a special senior

Nominations are now open for the WA Seniors Awards 2011.

The awards recognise seniors across the State who are helping make their communities stronger, as well as people of all ages who work to improve the lives of seniors.

Last year John Castrilli nominated local cyclist and cancer survivor Brian Kennedy, who not only won his category, but was also honoured with the title of WA Senior of the Year 2010. For more information go to www.communities.wa.gov.au/seniors or call 9791 3636

Education awards open

Our local schools are doing a wonderful job in helping shape young lives and the WA Education Awards are a great opportunity to recognise outstanding teachers and schools.

There are categories to award the primary and secondary School of the Year and Principal of the Year, along with the Premier's award for primary and secondary teachers.

There are also awards for Beginning Teacher of the Year and School Support Staff Member of the Year to recognise the wide range of staff making a difference in schools.

For more details go to www.de.t.wa.edu.au/educationawards or call John Castrilli's office on 9791 3636.

Cardiac unit a first for regional WA

Bunbury's range of medical facilities will soon be increased to include a cardiac unit, after a funding boost of \$5million through Royalties for Regions.

The 'R4R' funding will assist St John of God hospital to build a new cardiac care unit at the South West Health Campus, which will treat both private and public patients.

Bunbury MLA John Castrilli said the project was a prime example of how Royalties for Regions funding could be successfully used in a partnership with the non-government sector.

"I look forward to seeing this facility open in 2012 to diversify the range of health treatment options we have available in Bunbury," Mr Castrilli said.

"The 6-bed coronary care unit will treat patients who are experiencing chest pains or have had a heart attack, offering care close to home and reducing the stress of travelling to Perth."

While some patients will still need to travel to Perth, the unit will offer a high level of emergency care for many people from across the South West.

"This is another fantastic example of the increasing range of health facilities in Bunbury which will soon benefit local residents, with the radiotherapy centre due to open soon and plans underway for a comprehensive cancer centre at St John of God hospital," Mr Castrilli said.



John Castrilli meets with St John of God Health Care Group CEO Dr Michael Stanford, Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls and SJOG Hospital Bunbury CEO Mark Grime, during the announcement of the hospital's cardiac unit.

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