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## **School Bus Fleet Safety Upgrade Completed Years Early**

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said early completion of a \$22 million drive to replace the fleet of public school-owned buses has boosted the safety of students.

"I welcome the news from Premier Colin Barnett and Minister Constable that 150 school buses owned by the Department of Education have been replaced with new vehicles fitted with seatbelts, five years ahead of the program's original planned completion date of 2015," said Dr Nahan.

"School bus safety came into the spotlight in the aftermath of a serious crash in Baldvis in late 2005. The bus, owned by a private school in Mandurah, collided with a truck and the 27 students on board were saved by their seatbelts."

"The safety of our students is important and that is why the Department of Education fast-tracked the program."

Dr Nahan said the new buses, some of which replaced vehicles that were up to 40 years old, were distributed to public schools around the State in time for the start of the 2010 school year.

"Seventy six new buses were provided to public schools in the metropolitan area, with 88 supplied to regional schools, agricultural colleges and residential student hostels. The buses will be used to transport students to and from school and for school activities such as excursions and camps," said Dr Nahan.

"Parents can be assured that students using these buses will be transported in safety and comfort."

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