



14 May 2010

Upcoming State Budget

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said the upcoming State Budget, to be released on 20 May 2010, would be a tight but responsible Budget.

"Revenue is down following the effects of the Global Financial Crisis but I am confident that the State Government will allocate monies to the highest value use throughout the State, including the electorate of Riverton," said Dr Nahan.

"The State Government's biggest single long term commitment in this area is the Extension of the Roe Highway from the Kwinana Freeway through to Stock Road. Last Budget, \$20m was allocated for the initial design, development and public consultation phase of this \$551.4million project and that work is continuing."

Dr Nahan said recently, Minister for Culture and the Arts, John Day, confirmed increased funding would be included in the State Budget for local libraries.

"I was particularly pleased to see that the funding for public library resources will increase by more than 40 per cent to \$9.307 million in 2010-11 and that for the first time ever, the funding will be indexed to the CPI for the following three years," said Dr Nahan.

"In 2008, the previous Labor Government secretly took \$4.355 million from the WA Symphony Orchestra accommodation fund to prop up library funding. That was not good fiscal management and it left a large funding hole that this State Government has had to fix."

Dr Nahan acknowledged that more than \$17 million had been allocated via State and Commonwealth funding over the last year to local schools for much needed improvements.

"Over the last 12 months, most local schools have received around \$200,000 towards improvements to their facilities," said Dr Nahan.

"Last year Rossmoyne Senior High School received a \$14million State Budget commitment for a major upgrade to the school and that funding was over a two year period so that will continue this upcoming financial year."

"Other State Budget initiatives include more than \$800 million in the disability and community support sector, the Cost of Living rebate for seniors, the country aged pension fuel card, and the ongoing provision of the free off-peak public transport trips for seniors."

Dr Nahan, who is an Economist, said he believes the Federal Government's proposed Resources Super Profits Tax is a blatant attack on the WA economy.

"It will harm growth in WA, reduce the revenue flowing to WA and undermine our ability to provide essential services to the people of Western Australia," said Dr Nahan.

"It is a misguided attempt to rob Peter to pay Paul and it will severely restrict the one sector that pulled Australia out of the full effects of the GFC. It is foolhardy in the extreme."

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