



20 May 2010

State Budget Benefits to Riverton Electorate

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton welcomed the second Liberal/National State Budget, saying it was a strong budget that provides a variety of measures to benefit the local community.

"Our schools will benefit enormously from a variety of funding, including \$98m over the next four years for 428 additional teachers, education assistants and school support staff, and the provision of \$13.9m over two years to provide additional resources to help schools deal with the growing number of 457 visa students who have English needs," said Dr Nahan.

"In addition, \$19.3million over the next five years will assist schools to implement the Independent Public Schools program that gives them more autonomy and flexibility. Rossmoyne Senior High School has moved to Independent Public School status and both Willetton and Lynwood Senior High Schools have made application to do so too."

"Furthermore, \$22m over the next four years will be spent to help schools manage the needs of the students in the half cohort to ensure they are not disadvantaged in their access to programs and services."

Dr Nahan said a further \$6million in funding had been provided towards the development stage of the \$551m Roe Highway Extension from the Kwinana Freeway through to Stock Road.

"Most people understand the overwhelming need for the highway's extension because of the congestion on our local roads. I have been very pleased to see the strong community engagement in this project through the consultation phase and the ongoing funding will allow that process to continue," said Dr Nahan.

Dr Nahan said many other improvements in services to the community were contained in the Budget, including an unprecedented \$3.5billion over four years for health infrastructure.

"More than \$150m will also be spent over four years for new and expanded ambulance services, \$50 million over four years has been set aside for Community Child Health Services and a stand-alone mental health budget will be established to assist with the growing number of people who are needing mental health services," said Dr Nahan.

"In addition, the \$12.6m in State Government rebates and hardship measures provided last year to offset the rise in electricity prices has been increased and expanded to provide assistance for people finding it difficult to pay other utility bills, such as their water bills as well."

"The Budget allocates \$26.8million to continue the WA Seniors Card Cost of Living Rebate and it is expected that 245,000 WA Seniors Card holders will receive their rebates from July. The amount is indexed to CPI so this year it will be \$104.80 for singles and \$157.22 for couples."

Dr Nahan said he was pleased to see that more than \$128million will be invested to boost frontline emergency services in Western Australia over the next four years.

“This funding will provide for new facilities, additional fire fighters and a permanent increase in the air services fleet to help emergency services staff protect the community in times of need, such as fire, flood and storm damage,” said Dr Nahan.

“I believe this is a very positive budget for the local community and it will allow the State Government to continue to support jobs and build for the future.”

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