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Significant Benefit to Electorate From State Budget

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton welcomed the first Liberal/National State Budget, which provided major funding of \$14 million for improvements to Rossmoyne Senior High School, a \$551.4 million commitment to build the Roe Highway Extension and \$140 million to provide much-needed assistance to small and medium sized businesses.

"These are very large capital expenditures that will benefit many members of the local community. It will help to stimulate the economy and provide significant infrastructure improvements in the local area and much-needed jobs," said Dr Nahan.

Dr Nahan said Rossmoyne Senior High School's allocation of \$14 million will go a long way towards redeveloping the school.

"The school has been in need of major works and the allocation of \$13 million for an upgrade and a further \$1 million for additions and improvements is a wonderful outcome for the school and its students," said Dr Nahan.

"I have a very strong relationship with all of the schools in my electorate. As local primary schools are benefitting from significant Federal funding at the moment, my aim over the next 12 months will be to secure funding allocations for Lynwood and Willetton Senior High Schools in the next budget so that they can improve their facilities too."

Dr Nahan said the Liberal/National Government had fulfilled its election promise with the budget allocation of \$551.4 million to complete the Roe Highway extension from the Kwinana Freeway through to Stock Road.

"Most people recognise the natural environment around the Roe Highway extension is highly valued but they also understand the overwhelming need for the highway's extension. More than \$8.8 million has been provided in 2009-10 for preliminary works with other allocations of \$66 million, \$49 million and \$41 million over the following three years," said Dr Nahan.

"Roe Highway is a strategic link in Perth's road network and the only effective, long term solution to reducing traffic, particularly heavy truck traffic from our suburban roads like Leach Highway and South Street. These continued improvements to our roads will provide jobs and help shield the State from the global economic downturn."

Dr Nahan said he was pleased to see measures of around \$140 million had also been announced to help small and medium-sized businesses.

"It is a very challenging economic climate for small businesses at the moment and these new measures, including training and support initiatives for employers and employees, and payroll and land tax relief, will be very welcome," said Dr Nahan.

"These new measures include a one-off payroll tax rebate for small and medium-sized businesses worth \$100 million and land tax measures valued at \$20 million over the next four years."

"A \$10.6 million allocation over two years has been made for rebates on workers' compensation premiums for first year apprentices and trainees, and \$5.7 million has been allocated over the next two years to provide pathways for people disadvantaged in the labour market."

"Seniors Card holders will also benefit from significant new rebates and concessions worth \$172.5 million over five years and the provision of a new senior's \$200 rebate per household for the installation or purchase of home security devices."

"I believe this is a very positive budget for the local community and the State. It will support jobs and build for the future. It has a record expenditure next financial year of \$8.3 billion on infrastructure and it has a budget surplus of \$409 million – the largest of any government in Australia."

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