

A weekly e-newsletter from the Parliamentary National Party of Western Australia

The Nationals WA Annual State Conference in Albany

The Annual State Conference of The Nationals WA attracted a great crowd in Albany last weekend. All Nationals MPs attended, along with Party members, delegates and local business representatives. The President's Sundowner commenced proceedings on Friday night, followed by an address about mental health from Professor Geoff Riley at the Young Nationals Breakfast. The State Conference on Saturday was followed by the Leader's Gala Dinner, a highlight of the conference where guests enjoyed local produce and heard from mining identity Professor Clive Palmer.



Above: The Nationals WA State Conference in Albany



Above: Hon Terry Waldron MLA, Hon Mia Davies MLC, Dexter Davies, Hon Brendon Grylls MLA, Hon Grant Woodhams MLA and Tom Davies

Call for Federal Royalties for Regions plan

The Nationals WA have called on the Federal Government to back Royalties for Regions by providing matched funding. During The Nationals State Conference last weekend Brendon Grylls urged Federal Nationals representatives to commit to a policy based on dollar-for-dollar investment in Royalties for Regions. Brendon said the WA Nationals Federal election campaign is unashamedly based around a demand for greater share of funding

from the Commonwealth. He said given the significant impact Royalties for Regions is having in regional WA there is potential to leverage funding from current and future Federal Governments.



Above: Hon Brendon Grylls MLA, Sue Muntz (Bruce Rock), Marg Agnew (Esperance), Allan Holmes (Pingaring) and Hon Wendy Duncan MLC

Members meet with WAFarmers

Hon Philip Gardiner MLC and Agriculture Minister Terry Redman attended a meeting with WAFarmers representatives on Tuesday, following the recent meeting in Kulin to discuss challenges facing Wheatbelt farmers. Mr Redman said he had spoken to a wide range of farmers, consultants, rural counsellors and farming organisations in order to form an assessment of the prospects for the 2010 farming season. The State Government has established a 'one stop shop' hotline for farmers seeking business or personal advice. Free call 1800 198 231 to access this service.

NEWS HEADLINES

Yalgoo Active Water Playground Announced, Catania

Roebourne Aquatic Centre Upgrade Announced, Catania

The Nationals WA call for Federal Royalties for Regions plan, Grylls

Buy local scheme to get boost from industry, Redman

Next four weeks crucial time for decisions in the Wheatbelt, Redman

For more information visit www.wa.gov.au or www.nationalswa.com

WHAT'S NEXT

2 April – Good Friday

3 April – Tuck in Hyden

4 April – Easter Sunday

2 – 4 April – Wendy in Esperance

6 April – Vince in Karratha

6 April – Vince in Mt Magnet, Cue and Meekatharra

7 and 8 April – Mia in Geraldton

7 April – East Kimberly Nationals WA Branch meeting

7 April – Colin in south West meeting with B-max Resources

10 April – Tuck in Williams and Narrogin

Member for Wagin attends Seniors Expo in Katanning

Member for Wagin Terry Waldron attended the Katanning Seniors Expo today. This event is sponsored by the Shire of Katanning and Lotterywest and provides the opportunity for older people to access information about products, services and facilities.

Women in agriculture workshop

Hon Mia Davies MLC attended the Australian Women in Agriculture workshop this week. The workshop brought together women from across the State to share their skills and learn from each other. The group learnt about liaising with government, networking and getting the most out of community and industry groups.



Above: Hon Mia Davies, Colleen Broad, Suzanne Woods, Pat Hughes and Angela Byron (DAFF)

Country Local Government Fund details released

The Department of Regional Development and Lands this week wrote to Local Governments with more information about the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund. Visit www.royaltiesforregions.wa.gov.au/Content/TheFunds/CLGF.aspx for more information.

Buy local scheme to get boost from industry

Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman announced today that the popular Buy West Eat Best brand, which is helping consumers easily identify local produce, will be transferred to industry. The program has been so successful that West Australian food growers, manufacturers and retailers are now

keen to take over the program. A new Buy West Eat Best entity will be established comprising shareholders from the food industry.

Catania announces Yalgoo Active Water Playground

Member for North West, Vincent Catania this week announced the Shire of Yalgoo had received \$139,044 for the construction of a new active water playground. The grant was one of the community sport and recreation projects funded through the Department of Sport and Recreation's Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

Blackwood-Stirling visits

Member for Blackwood-Stirling Terry Redman will travel to Bridgetown, Nannup, Manjimup and Northcliffe today to meet with constituents. Terry will discuss issues including forestry, agriculture, roads, small business, health services and tourism with community groups and individuals.

Legislative Council members defend RfR

The Labor Party has again criticised Royalties for Regions as a waste of money on the basis that it would be better spent reducing electricity bills and addressing homelessness. It is yet another indication that Party's dominated by metropolitan Members of Parliament do not understand the true value of the program, which is delivering vital funds across all portfolios of Government, including health, education, arts and culture, justice and other services.

Members attend Kimberley / Pilbara Joint Forum

Member for the North West Vincent Catania and Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region Wendy Duncan hosted a breakfast at Parliament this week for delegates attending the Kimberley / Pilbara Joint Forum. This Forum is an annual Pilbara Regional Council event to examine issues affecting the North West.

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