



Full house for Grylls Business Breakfast at UWA University Club

Brendon Grylls told 160 guests at a Business Breakfast on Wednesday that the Liberal-National alliance was working well and delivering good outcomes for the State. He covered a wide range of issues, including the newly signed Gorgon deal, retail trading hours, local government reform and The Nationals key election commitment of Royalties for Regions. He also laid out his vision for regional communities in WA and

placed strong emphasis on the relationship between traditional land owners and the Government saying that the improvement of lives of indigenous people should be a priority for every Member of Parliament. He encouraged grassroots organisations to lead the charge on finding solutions for their own communities saying that he would work with them to achieve positive change and growth.

News headlines

Hon Brendon Grylls MLA

- Full house for Grylls breakfast

Hon Wendy Duncan MLC

- Petition supports Anglican school

Hon Terry Redman MLA

- Grain Food Innovation centre to boost State's international markets
- Government forgives industry biosecurity debt

General News

- Nationals announce nominees for Federal seats of Durak and O'Connor.

For more information go to www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au



Hon Terry Redman inspecting a GM canola crop with Andrew Gillam in Geraldton

Clean slate for footrot and bedstraw

Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman has decided to forgive the \$1.5million debt owed by the farming industry to the State Government for the footrot and bedstraw eradication programs. Terry said that wiping the debt was a gesture of goodwill and will help make a fresh start for industry. The debt was inhibiting real discussion about the future of funding arrangements for biosecurity and was contributing to industry uncertainty. More information can be found at www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au

Nationals honour election promise

This week The Nationals and the Labor Party voted to uphold the wishes of a majority of the population who voted no in the 2005 referendum on the deregulation of trading hours. The Nationals WA opposition is based on:

- The potential for market dominance by the major supermarket chains and the flow-on impacts of this on small and medium sized businesses (81 per cent of all businesses in WA);
- Evidence that extended hours does not result in increased consumer spending, just a spread of the spend across a longer time period; and
- Support for WA suppliers, who would face additional challenges in getting their product on the supermarket shelves if the market was dominated by Coles and Woolworths.

Mandatory Sentencing

The Criminal Code Amendment Bill 2008 has been introduced into the Legislative Council for debate this week. Nationals MPs received briefings from key stakeholders, including the WA Police Union of Workers, The Law Society and a range of academic experts. The legislation provides for a mandatory sentence of 12 months imprisonment for people charged with assault against police

officers, ambulance officers, court officials and transit guards. The Nationals raised a number of issues during the debate, including the importance of:

- an education campaign in conjunction with the introduction of the legislation
- Government to ensure it is achieving the outcomes desired; and
- ensuring the regulations guiding the Police Service in charging offenders do not result in vexatious or inappropriate application.

Busy in Moore electorate

Member for Moore and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Hon Grant Woodhams has had a busy week both in Parliament and his electorate. On Monday he was at the Geraldton University Centre update and then out in Mullewa to meet with the Midwest Employment and Economic Development Aboriginal Corporation. After three busy days in Parliament, Grant was in Chittering to meet with the CEO John Merrick and then in Moora to meet with John Longman from the Moore Catchment Council. To cap it all off, Grant attended the opening of the Morowa Youth Centre, which is designed to improve the lives of young people in the region.

Grain foods being developed for international markets

More WA grain will be headed for international markets, after a collaboration agreement was reached between the Department of Agriculture, CSIRO and Curtin University this week. Minister for Agriculture and Food Terry Redman said as part of the agreement, a new Centre for Grain Food Innovation will be established in South Perth. The centre will work to address the perception in South East Asian markets that WA wheat supposedly doesn't bake well and will provide SE Asian flour processors with a better understanding of our wheat.

What's on next...

21 Aug: The Nationals annual Federal Council, Canberra

26-27 Aug: MPs attending Dowerin Field Days

8-10 Sept: Parliament sitting