

Nationals stand firm on retail trading hours

Nationals' MPs have reaffirmed their opposition to extended shopping hours, saying they would not abandon the position the Party campaigned on at the last State election. Members in the Legislative Council rejected a Liberal Party motion calling for the Labor Party to change their policy position and support the deregulation of trading

hours. Member for the South West Region Colin Holt said the issue was not only for city members to decide because the effects of deregulation would reach into the regions, with particular impact on small businesses and primary producers who supplied fresh produce into the grocery sector. Evidence from other jurisdictions has shown

deregulated shopping hours resulted in the same spend by consumers over a longer period of time, meaning revenue to small businesses would not increase, despite higher costs associated with remaining open longer.

News headlines

- \$14million funding boost to WA lupin research, Redman
- \$1.2million to prepare for locust plague, Redman
- Call for Expressions of Interest for Ord Expansion project head contractor, Grylls
- New appointments to SW Development Commission board, Grylls
- State-wide strategy for suicide prevention welcomed, Davies
- Nationals stand firm on retail trading hours, Holt

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What's next ...

- 12 July: Philip Gardiner to open the Northam Show
- 12 July: Grant Woodhams attending the North Midlands and Northampton Show
- 12 July: Vince Catania attending the Carnarvon Cup
- 12 July: The Nationals WA Gala Ball, Burswood Entertainment Complex
- 15-17 July: Parliament sitting
- 16 July: Business Breakfast with guest speaker Hon Terry Redman MLA, Minister for Agriculture, Food & Forestry
- 17-18 July: Mia Davies, Philip Gardiner and Grant Woodhams attending Mingenew Field Days

Wheatbelt women's conference, Northam

Hon Mia Davies attended the Women Leading Change Regional Conference in Northam on Wednesday. Delegates from across the wheatbelt discussed critical issues, including climate change and the impact it may have on sustainability in rural areas; building resilient communities; and financial planning. Mia welcomed the opportunity to participate in the forum and share ideas on how delegates to the Congerence were helping their communities grow.

Health service in Esperance saved

Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region, Wendy Duncan welcomed the reinstatement of the Esperance Patient Assisted Travel Scheme office, following a review by the WA Country Health Service. Wendy congratulated the Esperance community on its efforts, including a petition with more than 3000 signatures, to save this vital service.

WA strawberries leading the bunch

Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman (pictured above right) opened a new state-of-the-art strawberry packing house in Wanneroo this week. The facility is the first central packing house in WA, meaning all strawberries will be packed in the same rapidly cooled facility, rather than on farm. Terry also launched a new strawberry variety, Juliette, which is early maturing with excellent flavour and a longer shelf life. Terry said strawberries

are one of the state's most valuable fruit exports, contributing about 80 per cent of Australia's strawberry exports.



Member for Wagin opens new tourist drive

Minister for Sport and Recreation Terry Waldron will open the Hotham Way Tourist drive in Boddington this Saturday, 12 September 2009. The tourist drive, from Pingelly to Pinjarra, will encourage people to explore the Eastern wheatbelt. A convoy of vintage cars, bikes and machinery will drive from Pinjarra and Pingelly to meet in Boddington for the opening.

Inspection of GM canola trials in Cunderdin

Terry Redman and Phil Gardiner Cunderdin this week to inspect the GM canola trials in the area. Neighbouring growers took the opportunity to speak to Terry and Phil about their experiences and expectations for GM canola.



Right: Phil Gardiner, Terry Redman and grower David Fulwood inspect the GM canola at Cunderdin

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Increased funding for pests in Agricultural Region

Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman this week announced \$1.2million to help control locusts. Terry said locust plagues cause extensive damage to crops and gardens. Surveys indicate more than 15 shires in the State's grain growing areas and south coast are at risk from locust hatchings this spring. Terry also announced \$44,000 for the Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group to help tackle wild dogs in the area. The Ravensthorpe group is the first to receive the new funding, which had been matched by community funds.

Davies welcomes State-wide strategy for suicide prevention

Member for the Agricultural Region Mia Davies has welcomed the announcement of a new \$13 million State Government strategy to help prevent suicide across Western Australia. Suicide rates in rural and remote areas are significantly greater than in urban populations, especially amongst young men. More Australians suicide each year than are killed on our roads. Mia said that regional people were more likely to brush issues aside with a 'she'll be right' attitude believing they can cope without appropriate help. Mia said that in the same way women learn how to examine themselves to detect early signs of breast cancer, there were behaviours to look for or recognise in a person who may be suicidal and every mother, father and friend should know these symptoms and where to go for help.

Member for Moore busy in his electorate

Hon Grant Woodhams has been travelling extensively through his region this week. He has attended various sporting events, including the Kalbarri District High School's annual sports day where he presented the medals and fired the starting gun.



Above: Hon Grant Woodhams in Kalbarri

Dung beetles on the menu

This week Member for South West Region Colin Holt has met with a representative from UWA to talk about dung beetles. Spring is the time for fly number build up in the South West, and WA needs a spring active dung beetle as one of the tools to combat fly numbers. While we may never see the end of the 'great aussie salute', this is an environmental, social and tourism issue and it would be nice to have a summer bbq without a fly getting stuck in the sauce of the kid's sausage sizzle. Colin said will be pursuing the issue with the Federal Government.

Mobile office heads to Onslow

Member for the North West, Vince Catania MLA will take his mobile office to Onslow this week. Vince will hold a community gathering and meet with constituents in Onslow on 18 September 2009.