

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

Royalties for Regions helps deliver another RFDS plane

Nationals MPs were proud to welcome a new medical jet to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) fleet this week. Hon Brendon Grylls MLA, Hon Wendy Duncan MLC, Vince Catania MLA and Hon Mia Davies MLC attended the ceremony on Wednesday to announce \$3 million funding from *Royalties for Regions*. The medical jet was in addition to three new RFDS turboprop aircraft funded by the \$29.9million boost from *Royalties for Regions*. Special guest Shane Jacobson introduced guests from Cobra Station, 400 km east of Carnarvon, Sandfire Roadhouse, between Broome and Port Headland and Muntadgin in the north-eastern Wheatbelt who had each made use of the RFDS a number of times.

Agriculture Minister welcomes Southern Rangelands report

Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman this week welcomed a report examining the sustainability of Western Australia's southern rangelands pastoral industry. The Southern Rangelands Pastoral Advisory Group, chaired by Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region Wendy Duncan, undertook the review encompassing the Gascoyne, Murchison and Goldfields-Nullarbor regions. The review identified key issues in the Rangelands, including land tenure, opportunities for diversification and wild dog numbers. Wendy said she would continue to work closely with industry and the Minister to deliver on the report's recommendations.

Retail trading hours

The Nationals are maintaining a core election promise to oppose the deregulation of trading hours. Leader of The Nationals WA Brendon Grylls said the Liberal Party was aware of The Nationals' stance on retail trading hours when they agreed to form an alliance at the last election. The Nationals support small business. The debate is being driven by big business and is about increasing market share for Coles and Woolworths, rather than increased convenience for consumers.



Above: Paul Rosiar (Department of Regional Development and Lands), Tony Crook (Chair of RFDS Western Operations), Shane Jacobson (Australian actor and special guest), Hon Mia Davies MLC, Hon Wendy Duncan MLC and Richard Alder (board member of RFDS Western Operations)

Member for Agricultural Region meets with key Mid West stakeholders

Hon Mia Davies MLC and representatives from the Mid West Development Commission and the Shire of Perenjori, Morawa and Three Springs hosted a roundtable to discuss how inland communities in the Mid West can maximise the benefits from resources projects in the area. The group met with key representatives from housing and lands agencies and the Gindalbie / Karara joint venture to discuss how these communities can partner with the mining sector to prepare for the construction and operation of mining in the region.

NEWS HEADLINES

Kemerton industrial estate positioned to meet growing market demand, Grylls

Opposition has short memory on mental health, Davies

Minister introduces changes to combat sports legislation, Waldron

Support for Small Food Awards, Redman

New RFDS jet ready for take-off, Grylls

Southern rangelands review complete, Redman

Minister releases Beef Stocktake Report recommendations, Redman

Pastoral Review Calls for Action on Wild Dogs, Tenure and Diversification, Duncan

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

WHAT'S NEXT

16 Oct – Brendon hosting Wheatbelt Art Prize in Merredin

16 Oct – Colin at the 90th anniversary celebrations of the NSW Nationals in Sydney

17 Oct – Brendon and Wendy visiting Ravensthorpe

17 Oct – Brendon, Wendy and Mia attending Esperance Show and Esperance dinner

17 Oct – Tuck at Narrogin Show

17 Oct – Grant at Bindoon Agricultural Show

18 Oct – Grant participating in Relay for Life in Geraldton

20 Oct – MPs at Regional Parliament and Nationals Business Breakfast in Bunbury

22 Oct – Terry at WAFarmers Lower SW Zone Meeting

23 Oct – Vince opening Carnarvon Cultural Centre

23 Oct – Mia attending York Jazz Festival

Insight into GM technology

Hon Philip Gardiner MLC and Hon Mia Davies MLC attended a GM forum hosted by Minister for Agriculture Terry Redman on Monday 12 October. The future role of genetically modified crops such as GM canola in Western Australia is an important issue for agriculture and food industries. This forum explored the regulatory process for approving GM products and the risks and benefits of allowing farmers to access the technology.

New sport and recreation policy to engage youth

Minister for Sport and Recreation Tuck Waldron this week announced new sport and recreation programs, which will play an important role in tackling anti-social behavior. Minister Waldron said sport and recreation provides fun, safe and healthy entertainment and projects like the Midnight Basketball tournaments that have been running in Geraldton and Midland are a good example of the way sport can help to engage this section of the community.



Above: Tuck with members of the Midland Midnight Basketball referees group and the Perth Wildcats

Member for South West celebrates Manjimup Saleyards anniversary

Hon Colin Holt MLC attended the one year anniversary of the Manjimup Saleyards being purchased by local farmers this week. The Manjimup Shire received \$1.5 million from *Royalties for Regions* to bring the saleyards up to worksafe standards. *Royalties for Regions* funding has allowed this local piece of infrastructure to grow and prosper.

Quairading Land Conservation Committee meeting

Hon Max Trenorden MLC attended the Quairading Land Conservation District Committee seminar today. The seminar discussed issues including improving catchment sustainability, salinity and methods to halt salt encroachment and strategies for improving soil health through natural means. The Nationals believe strongly in improving environmental management practices and have committed \$30 million to protect and enhance natural resources.

Member for Moore gets creative at Dalwallinu Arts Festival

Member for Moore Grant Woodhams attended the Dalwallinu Arts Festival this week. There was a great range of art, craft and photography on display. Grant also received lessons on how to play music on instruments made of recycled materials

Royalties for Regions legislation enters the Upper House

The Royalties for Regions Bill was read into the Legislative Council this week by Hon Wendy Duncan MLC, making it one step closer to being enshrined in State law. The Bill passed through the Legislative Assembly in September.

Mental Health Debate

Member for the Agricultural Region Mia Davies has criticised the Labor Party's short memory during this week's Urgency Motion in the Legislative Council on funding for mental health. In 2003, the Labor Party announced cuts of up to \$11.7 million to the health budget targeting non-government organisations and services they classed as non-essential. The Nationals opposed the cuts while in Opposition and provided a strong voice for service providers such as Lifeline WA and ARAFMI. Mia said funding to prevent and address mental illness needed to be maintained, particularly in regional and remote parts of the State.

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