

Parliament House Notes

Our second Advocacy Meeting for 2019 saw 14 Chambers represented by 25 people in attendance. A great opportunity to meet with the decision makers of the State to share views and concerns, represent our members and all regional communities, as well as discuss ways we can work together.



Gathered at Parliament House
31 OCTOBER 2019

Hon Michelle Roberts

Minister for Police; Road Safety

- WA is the largest policing jurisdiction in the world – responding to needs beyond tradition policing roles in small towns
- Police roles in country WA are more sort out that working in large policing districts in metro
- Announced few days ago deploying new police dogs to country regions – Geraldton & Kalgoorlie before end of year.
- WA police been innovative with dogs - changed breed – highly intelligent, now able to be dual trained in drug detection/crime as well as general duties – for the first time in regions. Successfully been used by US military in major operations.
- 18 months training and stick with same trainer for duration of their time with the WA police
- Vacancies for police in small towns - 40% down on usual – currently additional 120 officers in regional WA than 3 years ago
- Political interference is not done here in WA – recommendations are only made to Commissioner of Police to employ on a needs basis
- Country car crashes and fatalities are one of the biggest problems – Indian Ocean Road – need to provide better advice to foreign drivers in WA and city drivers on country roads. Done analysis on all crashes on Indian ocean road - Generally not about skills, it's about inattention - large percentage of country people are killed in their own postcode or neighbouring ones.
- Speaking to commissioner about sharing officers between regional towns when required to cover shifts from absent officers due to leave or court appearances etc
- Vastly less people drinking and driving
- Fatigue is a lot harder to deal with – road safety experts don't believe increasing speeds will reduce fatigue risk – recommendation is for people to take more breaks

Hon Liza Harvey MLA

Leader of the Opposition; Shadow Minister for Public Sector Management; Jobs and Trade; Federal-State Relations; Citizenship & Multicultural Affairs

- Suspended standing orders putting pressure on Community Services Minister re: Working With Children Cards.
- Looking at Broadband services issues in the regions
- Mining is going well in WA but isn't translating to overall economy
- Want more onshore gas vs offshore as royalties go to regions rather than Federal Government

Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA

Minister for Tourism; Racing & Gaming; Small Business; Defence Issues; Citizenship & Multicultural Interests

- Biggest rise of Payroll Tax Threshold ever in the state – 1000 no longer paying it, 11000 will have reduction
- 200million additional for maintenance in schools – changed restrictions around these funds - Principals can now make decisions and hire local contractors
- 80million into hospital maintenance mainly in regions, hospitals have control over expenditure
- 177 new liquor licenses issued to low risk business since changes now - no public interest assessment required
- Reduction in TAFE fees
- Amendment to SBDC act to empower Commissioner to investigate matters – and impose consequences
- Funds will be retained in trust should a company go bust the money will be there to pay them out
- Projects 1.5mil + MUST have a project bank account

Hon Mia Davies MLA

Leader of the Nationals WA

- Welcome the payroll tax threshold rise will continue to push for lift to 1mil in 2020
- Looking at model currently used by Vic for payroll tax thresholds in the region determined by number of employees
- Key commitment from state conference integrity of the 1.6billion RFR (only 3% of whole state budget) returned
- Creating a portfolio called Regional Cities – thought on how to grow these cities and how they interreact with their hinterlands – thinking about infrastructure which needs to go in
- Will need to go back and look at Regional Development Commission models

Hon Mark McGowan MLA

Premier; Minister for Public Sector Management; State Development, Jobs and Trade; Federal-State Relations

- Acknowledge instability internationally – keeping up strong relationships with other countries in particular China – trading relationship responsible for quarter of jobs in WA. 81bil worth of products. Sell us 4.5bil
- Stability in government is important – only state in country with debt trending down – lifts credit rating and reduces interest bills
- 5 things done with current financial situation – maintenance spend on schools, stamp duty cuts for high rise, payroll tax, jobs act passed – emphasis on local content requirements now written into contracts



- Largest road spend in regions – 2bil + - working with commonwealth on this
- SBDC working closely with JTSI to try and simplify the administrative side of tendering for projects especially for smaller tenders
- 4% of farmland in WA is owned by Foreign Ownership
- Jetstar said the current terminal in Busselton is sufficient and they did not want the new terminal to be built

Hon David Templeman MLA

Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture & the Arts

- 3000 submissions for review of Local Government Act
- Now in next stage of reviewing submissions and submitting a green bill
- Newly elected Local Government councillors must undertake training under the act
- Advocating that shires having sustainability issues need to collaborate with neighbouring shires
- Using the natural and the built assets help tell the story of your community
- New museum opening late next year
- Touring boost of 8mil per year means the state collection of art is getting out to the regions