



Spring 2011

HON Bill Marmion MLA BE MBA

Member for Nedlands

A newsletter for the residents of Crawley, Daglish, Dalkeith, Jolimont, Karrakatta, Nedlands, Shenton Park, Subiaco and parts of Claremont, Floreat, Mt Claremont, Wembley and West Leederville

Spring 2011 Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring edition of my newsletter. Much has happened in the Nedlands electorate over the past 12 months with many of the issues affecting Nedlands constituents being finally laid to rest. On the legislation front key Liberal-National milestones have now been met.

On a local level I was proud to congratulate the City of Nedlands in officially becoming a Waterwise Council. To be eligible, the City of Nedlands had to demonstrate how they were going to achieve improved water management at a corporate and community level. They were able to do this as well as taking some important steps in improving the irrigation of parks and gardens, including planting native and Waterwise species in public open spaces.

I was also very pleased as Minister for the Environment to announce a new resource to the Waste Wise Schools program currently being undertaken by Hollywood Primary School. These two new curriculum-linked online resources have been developed to help schools run a waste audit to determine the amount and type of waste produced and the also to help schools hold a healthy Zero Waste lunch to reduce packaging and food waste.

The issue of councils has received a lot of publicity in Nedlands. In June the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. John Castrilli announced the appointment of a high level independent panel to examine the social, economic and environmental challenges facing Perth. The panel will be responsible for recommending appropriate boundaries and governance models for local governments in the Perth metropolitan area.

I was glad to hear that it will be chaired by former UWA Vice Chancellor Alan Robson. Professor Robson is a highly respected member of the community and will bring

a wealth of experience to the board. The panel will directly engage with the local community, local governments, peak bodies, and government agencies and departments.

At the beginning of July, I released the latest round of funding to address river foreshore management. I was very pleased to see that two projects put forward by the City of Nedlands, were awarded funding.

Under the Swan River Trust Riverbank funding the City of Nedlands were awarded \$67,500 for revegetation and bank stabilisation at Point Resolution Reserve and under the Swan River Trust Proactive Emergency Works they were awarded \$250,000 for repairs and replacement to sections of the river wall, west of Perth Flying Squadron Yacht Club.

Construction on the QEII Medical Centre redevelopment continues to progress with construction of the much needed carpark due to begin in September. The project will see a new multi-deck car park with more than 3,000 bays constructed on the site, increasing the total number of car bays on the QEII Medical Centre to 5,100. It will ensure there is adequate parking available to accommodate patients, visitors and priority staff of existing and future facilities on the site. Completing this project will take a huge amount of pressure off the current parking situation in and around the QEII precinct.

My electorate office will be in constant contact with the relevant ministers and offices to ensure that they are up to date on the various stages of construction. I am sure that it will be a bit chaotic in the initial stages of construction and I ask the electorate for a degree of compassion towards hospital staff, patients and construction workers during this time.



As you are no doubt aware, the winter sprinkler bans have finished and the normal 2 day per week rosters for scheme users and 3 days for bore users has resumed. Despite this I urge all residents to only use sprinklers sparingly in spring particularly if there is regular rainfall. Our water supply is limited and we all need to conserve our most precious resource.

Kind regards

Bill Marmion

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Wastewater Treatment

Wastewater is the water that has been used by the community. It includes water used in the home in the toilet, shower, sink and washing machine, and the liquid from some industrial processes. It should not be confused with stormwater which, as the name implies, is rainfall runoff collected in storm drains and other catchments.

Wastewater is 99.97 per cent water by mass. The remaining 0.03 per cent is organic and inorganic matter that is either dissolved or suspended in the water. The concentration of these materials is very small and is measured in milligrams per litre (or parts per million) of water (mg/L). After treatment, the effluent is returned to the environment in a way that is safe for our health and for the environment.

Every day, the people of Western Australia discharge more than 405 million litres of wastewater into the wastewater systems. This is equivalent to about 162 Olympic-sized swimming pools. Most of this water is transported through pipes to treatment plants, where it is treated to required standards before being returned to the water cycle.

The Subiaco Wastewater Treatment Plant, located on the corner of Brockway Road and Lemnos Street in Subiaco, services the Perth central area. The secondary wastewater separated from the mixed liquid flows to the final wastewater pumping station and is pumped via the ocean outfall to Swanbourne Beach where it is discharged 1100 metres out and 10 metres below the surface of the ocean. The wastewater outlet is 1km offshore from Swanbourne. Every day, about 55 million litres of wastewater is discharged. The water at the outlet is about 10 metres deep.

The marine environment at Swanbourne comprises of mainly rocky limestone reef and sand habitats. Some seagrass meadows grow to the south of the outlet. The impacts of this wastewater discharge on the marine environment are monitored by the PLOOM program. Wastewater discharged at Swanbourne contains higher levels of nutrients (mainly nitrogen and phosphorus) than the surrounding coastal waters. A nutrient plume extends between 500 metres and 2.5 kilometres from the wastewater outlet. The concentrations of nutrients in this plume are generally lower than at Ocean Reef.



At the Subiaco Waste Water Treatment Plant

Transperth Bus #24 Changes from Claremont

As a part of the State Governments Budget announcement and ongoing commitment to meet the challenges of improving public transport services, Transperth is implementing changes to one of its bus services from Claremont.

Bus Route 24 operating between Claremont Station and East Perth currently operates every hour during off peak periods on weekdays. Commencing Monday 1st August 2011 Route 24 will now operate services every 30 minutes during off peak periods and weekdays.

Seniors Safety and Security Rebate Expanded

In 2009, the State Government introduced the Seniors Safety and Security Rebate enabling Seniors Card holders to claim a rebate of up to \$200 per household towards buying and installing eligible home security devices. The Safety and Security Rebate has now been expanded to include items that prevent electrical faults and provide warnings of a fire.

WA Seniors Card Holders can claim a rebate of up to \$200 per household for the purchase and installation of electrical and fire safety items. This is in addition to the assistance for home security devices. Both components of the Safety and Security Scheme will end on 30 June 2012 and seniors Card Holders must lodge an application prior to March 31 2012.

Claim forms are available at all Australia Post outlets and can be downloaded from www.seniorscard.wa.gov.au

Funding for Foreshore restoration announced

I was delighted to recently announce a total \$912,761 funding grants for 12 priority local projects to address erosion control, revegetation, weed control, riverwall repair and preparation of foreshore management plans. These projects are another example of the State Government working closely with local government, along with environmental and foreshore protection groups, to ensure our rivers and shorelines are preserved for generations to come.

Locally we will see that essential foreshore restoration works in the Swan Canning Riverpark will be completed in the City of Nedlands thanks to a \$67,500 State Government grant. The funding will be used for revegetation and bank stabilisation at Point Resolution Reserve. A further \$250,000 from the Swan River Trust Proactive Emergency Works will go towards repairs and replacement to sections of the river wall, west of Perth Flying Squadron Yacht Club. The works will be undertaken through partnership arrangements with local and State Government agencies and the Swan River Trust's Riverbank Program.

Foreshore protection and rehabilitation is integral to the Trust's work and this funding will boost the capacity of land managers to significantly improve shoreline conditions. Since 2002 almost \$8 million has been distributed across 162 projects.



Inspecting the riverwall with Donna Faragher

Resources help schools become waste wise

In June I was delighted to announced new resources for schools to promote waste reduction and recycling as part of the Waste Wise Schools program. Two new curriculum-linked online resources had been developed, one to help schools run a waste audit to determine the amount and type of waste produced and the other to help schools hold a healthy Zero Waste lunch to reduce packaging and food waste.

These new toolkits build on resources introduced last year, including an operating practices manual, curriculum-linked activity guides and fact sheets that include topics such as climate change, littering and general waste minimisation. In 2010, an accreditation scheme was also introduced to recognise schools that form a Waste Wise committee, run a waste audit and provide a waste policy and plan.

The Waste Wise Schools program encourages participating schools to reduce their waste by implementing the three 'R's - reduce, re-use and recycle - while developing positive environmental values in students and school communities.

More than 600 schools across Western Australia are currently involved in the program which is run by the Department of Environment and Conservation and is

primarily funded by the Waste Authority through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery account.

To find out more about the Waste Wise Schools program or to find Waste Wise schools in your area visit <http://www.wastewise.wa.gov.au> or phone 6467 5167.



WA'S NEW MAJOR WATER SUPPLY SECURED

The Liberal-led State Government and Premier Barnett are securing our State's future water needs by **doubling the capacity of WA's Southern Seawater Desalination Plant (SSDP)**.

Work is beginning immediately to provide an **additional 100 billion litres of drinking water a year** to WA communities stretching from Perth to the Goldfields.

Long-term forecasts show action is needed now to ensure security for our supply of drinking water to Perth, Mandurah, the Goldfields and towns along the way to Kalgoorlie-Boulder.



- ✓ The first stage of the new plant near Binningup has been built over the past two and a half years at a cost of \$955million. It has **just started supplying water ahead of schedule and within budget** and will be fully commissioned before the end of 2011.
- ✓ The expansion will start delivering **drinking water by December 2012**
- ✓ The project represents a **\$450million investment in our water security** as part of the Water Corp's \$3.6billion four-year capital works program.
- ✓ The decision to expand the plant now means the already established, skilled workforce at the SSDP site can continue work, reducing costs.
- ✓ Once the expansion is completed, **half of the water needed annually to supply Perth and surrounding areas will be supplied from sources independent of rainfall.**

Other options for future water sources, including recycling through groundwater replenishment, will continue to be investigated as part of the Liberal-led State Government's commitment to WA's water security.

Securing Western Australia's water future

Stop Press: We rely on rainfall to soak the catchments surrounding our dams so they receive a steady inflow over the winter months. We have received 582.2mm of rain so far this year (January to August). Nearly half of the water that supplies Perth comes from dams in the Darling Range and the South West of the State. The total capacity of our Perth and South West dams is 622 gigalitres. Currently the combined storage is 196.14 gigalitres, 31.5% of their total capacity. As a result we all still need to conserve water where ever possible. For suggestions on how to be more water wise go to <http://www.watercorporation.com.au>.

