

New Mid-West health service model consultation

Friday, 18 March 2016

- **\$12 million for redevelopment of Dongara and Mullewa health services**
- **Community consultation to start end of this month**
- **Southern Inland Health Initiative made possible by Royalties for Regions**

Extensive refurbishments will convert Mullewa Health Service and the Dongara Eneabba Mingnew Health Service into contemporary primary health centres, creating fit-for-purpose health facilities for local communities.

The \$12 million refurbishments are part of the \$500 million Southern Inland Health Initiative, made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

Health Minister Kim Hames said innovative primary health centre facilities would help to address the increasing incidence of chronic health conditions and support the attraction and retention of GPs in the regions.

"The new primary health centre model being introduced at Mullewa and Dongara will focus on delivering an extensive range of primary health services focused on the promotion of good health, the prevention and early detection of illness, and effective management of chronic disease," Dr Hames said.

"The primary health model offers a sustainable solution for delivering health services that meet the needs of the local community into the future."

Regional Development Minister Terry Redman said the new primary health centres would provide a greater range of services specific to the needs of local communities.



Hon Kim Hames MB BS JP
MLA
Former Minister for Health;
Tourism



Hon Terry Redman MLA
Former Minister for Regional
Development; Lands;
Minister Assisting the
Minister for State
Development

"These modern facilities will help ensure we can continue to attract and retain quality medical professionals into the Mid-West region," Mr Redman said.

"A robust health service will contribute towards a better quality of life and I am pleased Royalties for Regions is delivering tangible benefits to regional residents."

The next phase of the planning process is community consultation. Community members are invited to attend information sessions at 4.30pm on Wednesday March 30 at the Mullewa District Office and at 5pm on Thursday March 31 at The Ocean Room, Dongara Recreation Centre.

Fact File

- **Construction at Dongara and Mullewa expected to start in second half of 2017**
- **To find out more about the Southern Inland Health Initiative, visit
<http://www.health.wa.gov.au/southerninland>**
- **The program is part of the Government's Bigger Picture in Health. For more information, visit
<http://getthebiggerpicture.health.wa.gov.au>**

Health Minister's office - 6552 5300

Regional Development Minister's office - 6552 6700

Attachment No.NM29A - Media Release - 7 September 2021

Push for State Budget to get back to basics

ELISE VAN AKEN

A boost to health services, road upgrades and revitalised public housing are at the top of two local politicians' wishlists for this week's State Budget.

Moore MLA and Deputy Opposition Leader Shane Love and City of Greater Geraldton Mayor Shane Van Styn both hope "basic projects" in their communities will be addressed in the 2021-22 Budget, to be announced on Thursday.

Recent pre-budget announcements for Geraldton and the Mid West have included \$790,000 for stage two of widening Brand Highway between Lockyer Road and Barrett Drive in Wandina, and the construction of a left-turn pocket into Barrett Drive, part of the State-Commonwealth joint \$104.5 million cyclone Seroja disaster recovery package, and various smaller grants for local schools and sporting clubs. Mr Love said bolstered health services were at the top of his wishlist for the Mid West, with an over-

haul of the Mullewa Hospital an urgent priority as it had been six years since funding was promised.

"It's been waiting far too long and it's in an urgent and desperate need," he said.

"It's a real concern that it will be pushed back further.

"It was going to cost \$6 million when it was first announced in 2016, but to do works now with cost escalations, you're not going to get much for that."

Mr Love said a focus on delivering mental health services, vaccines and health messaging to regional communities in the region, such as Chapman Valley, which had the lowest vaccine rate in the State, should also be a priority.

"Those people have to travel to Geraldton to get most of their services, and they are falling through the cracks," he said.

His other Budget hopes included action on the Northampton Bypass road, upgrades to Mullewa Mora-wa Road and a share of recently announced social

housing upgrades.

"It will be interesting to see the timing of the rollout for some of the projects for cyclone Seroja recovery, but I do acknowledge the State and Government joint package was quite intensive," Mr Love said.

Mr Van Styn expressed similar hopes for Geraldton, saying funding for coastal protection works was also a priority. "I hope the Geraldton Hospital upgrades are in the Budget, including an uplift in the amount provided given cost increases since it was announced five years ago," he said.

Geraldton Mount Magnet road and Brand Highway upgrades, with continued improvement on North West Coastal Highway, is needed and I want to see Spalding (public housing) prioritised.

"With the way the economy is and the difficulty sourcing materials and contractors to do work, we're OK with the level of spending we've received in the past because we may not be able to spend given the pressure that's been applied."

Hospital works high on State Budget wish list

PHOEBE PIN

Additional funding for the Geraldton hospital redevelopment has been touted as one of the most significant funding commitments for the Mid West in the upcoming State Budget, but community leaders say they will read the fine print to determine how and when the cash will be spent.

Health Minister Amber-Jade Sanderson was in Geraldton last week to announce the \$49.4 million funding boost for Geraldton Health Campus upgrades, bringing the cost of the project up to \$122.7 million.

Soaring material prices and skilled labour shortages exacerbated by the COVID pandemic were blamed for the budget blowout and Ms Sanderson could not say when tools would hit the ground to start stage two of the project.

But City of Greater Geraldton Mayor Shane Van Styn said last week's funding pledge was the 16th made in the five years since the State first committed to the upgrades and it was now time to get tools on the ground.

"They promised the hospital five years ago before costs went up, before COVID, before the skills crisis, it was all there and it just didn't happen," he said.

He would also like to see funding allocated for the construction of the long-talked-about inner bypass road to reduce traffic through Geraldton, and the restoration of the Community Sport and Recreation Facility Fund to what it was before the McGowan Government came into power. "The cost of all these sporting facilities have increased, and government programs that local governments apply for need to be radically increased because

they are facing the same cost problems as everyone else," he said.

Member for Moore Shane Love said top of his Budget wish-list was funding for power infrastructure upgrades for the Mid West.

"We know that the power infrastructure in the Mid West is in a pretty diabolical state and we need some really serious thought about investment there to shore up power supplies and make sure we have systems people can rely upon," he said. Mr Love welcomed the additional cash allocated to the Geraldton hospital redevelopment but said upgrades to the Mullewa Hospital had stalled since State funding was promised in 2016.

"Mullewa Health Centre seems to be the forgotten baby of the health program in WA. I really

want to see some effort there to resolve that situation and get some decent health services for the people of Mullewa," he said.

He called for clarity on what support would be available to cyclone Seroja victims in the following 12 months and echoed Mr Van Styn's request for road improvements across the Mid West.

"The Bunbury Outer Ring Road is being given hundreds of millions of dollars more for its completion even though they haven't even settled on environmental approvals for the southern section of that road, and yet we see absolutely no development to upgrade the road network around Northampton and surrounds," he said.

Member for the Agricultural Region Steve Martin said if the

State Government really was serious about Oakaje, a significant investment into developing the site as a renewable energy hub should be made in the Budget.

"If there is not money there for it now, we should be questioning if there ever will be. A few million dollars for an access road is not enough," he said.

With many in the Mid West struggling under cost-of-living pressures, Mr Martin called for targeted relief for those affected to be included in the Budget.

He said a "perfect storm" of supply chain delays, labour shortages and skyrocketing material prices continued to put pressure on WA's strained construction industry.

The State Budget will be delivered on Thursday.



The Geraldton Health Campus. Picture: Lisa Favazzo



Member for Moore Shane Love.



Liberal MLC Steve Martin.



Geraldton Mayor Shane Van Styn.

WHAT WE KNOW IS IN THE 2022-23 STATE BUDGET FOR THE MID WEST AND GASCOYNE

- An extra \$49.4 million for Geraldton Health Campus upgrades, bringing project funding total to \$122.7m.
- More than \$11m to expand Target 120 youth crime reduction program to nine new locations, including Carnarvon.

- About \$46m for seven additional grain rail siding upgrades at locations including Mingenew and Perenjori North.
- A \$60m promise to upgrade the Midland Line between Carnamah and Mingenew to allow heavier

- trains and a 20 per cent increase in train loads.
- More than \$30m for extra paid paramedics and ambulances in the bush. However, it is not known how many (if any) additional resources will be allocated to the Mid West and Gascoyne.

- About \$11m to ensure there is a nurse 24/7 at every emergency department in the regions.
- More than \$5m to continue the 24/7 WA Country Health Service mental health emergency telehealth service.