

# Hon Mia Davies MLA

Member for Central Wheatbelt

Shadow Minister for Mines & Petroleum; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs; Women's Interests

CENTRAL WHEATBELT  
NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2024



## MIA'S MESSAGE

Welcome to my latest newsletter, coming to you as we enter winter with the hope of much needed rain. It's just over a year since I announced that I would not be re-contesting the next State election, but I can assure you my team and I are still working hard to serve the electorate. You can find out more in this edition about my response to the Cook Government's State budget, policies the Opposition have

announced, the latest in Parliament and what's happening across the electorate. I know cost of living, housing and worker shortages continue to put pressure on households and businesses – people are really feeling the pinch when it comes to managing their household budgets. In addition, the anxiety and anger being felt across the electorate by those impacted by the disgraceful decision to end live sheep export is palpable. Please don't hesitate to contact me or my office if you have issues you need assistance with – we are here to help.

## LOCAL HERO GRANTS

Forty community groups in the electorate were successful in the latest round of Mia's Local Hero Grants. \$58,000 in small grants has been awarded to 300 community groups over 9 funding rounds. Some of the successful recipients include Beverley CRC, Nungarin CWA, and Quairading Playgroup. Keep your eyes peeled for the next round!



Grant recipients Kellerberrin Playgroup.



## LIVE EXPORT



In just four years live sheep export will be cancelled by the Federal Labor Government leaving farming families, transporters, livestock agents, feed suppliers, wool buyers, livestock vets, and regional communities in dire straits. This decision will have lasting ramifications across regional WA, and despite the Premier's rhetoric, the State Labor Government have done nothing to help.

The piddling \$107m announced will not meet current or future needs of industry, and forty per

cent is for existing Federal programs like Austrade, counselling, and "funding to review the standards and guidelines for land transport of sheep".

As your local Member I stand proudly alongside the industry and people who rely on it. I take every opportunity in the Parliament and media to raise the issue – you can watch these on my Facebook page and help share and spread the message. Please help us keep the pressure on to **#keepthesheep**.



Bevan Eatts, Peter Rundle MLA, Mia, Paul Brown, Shane Love MLA Leader of the Opposition, Julie Freeman, Julie Kirby & Lachlan Hunter

# STATE BUDGET FAILS WHEATBELT

Despite posting a whopping \$3.2 billion surplus, the 2024/25 State Budget has done little to support Western Australian's struggling with the increasing cost-of-living crisis. Treasurer Saffioti's first budget made it clear that the gargantuan METRONET project, now blown out to \$12.6 billion, is more important to Labor than supporting WA families. Beyond an inflationary and non-means-tested electricity credit, there was little to ease the pressure which continues to mount for households, and while I have no doubt the credit will be welcome relief to many, it just masks the fact that power, water, the emergency services levy, driver's licenses, and car registrations are all going up. There were no major projects or initiatives announced for the Central Wheatbelt electorate, despite the state of our roads, the lack of housing and poor power infrastructure. All the Government could muster was \$15m to start planning for water infrastructure upgrades.

↑ Metronet

↑ Water charges

↑ Drivers license & car registration

↑ Emergency Services Levy

⇒ \$400 electricity credit

✗ New social housing

✗ Farm water grant scheme

✗ Major projects

## TRAVEL CARD WIN-AT LAST!

Every year for the past seven years I have called on the Labor Government to increase the Country Aged Pension Fuel Card and link it to CPI. For seven years they ignored our advocacy, until now, in an election year. I am pleased our eligible regional pensioners will receive an extra \$100 – it's the very least this Government could do given the massive amount they are spending on public transport in Perth! You can contact the Country Age Pension Fuel Card Information Line on 1300 666 609.



Hon. Martin Aldridge, Mia & Shane Love MLA Leader of the Opposition

Leader of the Opposition Shane Love recently announced that if The Nationals WA are returned to Government, we'd take a fresh approach to disaster management.

A WA Resilience & Recovery Agency, modelled on similar agencies already operating successfully in other jurisdictions, would ensure WA communities could rebuild, recover, and reconnect sooner and more effectively in the aftermath of a disaster.

The agency would also take the lead in administering funding following disasters,

ensuring it reaches those in need in a timely manner, reducing the haphazard approach to recovery grants, and providing greater transparency and accountability. A dedicated recovery capability will take pressure off local governments, emergency service volunteers, community groups and other agencies.

After the State Government's woeful response to Cyclone Seroja, which saw just \$8.8 million out of a promised \$104.5 million Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements package reach the ground, we need a change.

# MORTLOCK GARDENS GREEN LIGHT

I'm pleased to announce after many months of correspondence, raising the issue in Parliament on a number of occasions, and the advocacy of the Avon Community Development Foundation, the second stage of Mortlock Gardens housing project in Northam is underway. The State Government should be making it easier for these projects to proceed – not put blocks in the way – I'm glad the Minister and Department finally got on board with the vision to create much needed housing for the community.



Avon Community Development Foundation housing project



I recently took the opportunity to acknowledge past and present members of the CWA in Parliament. For 100 years they have campaigned for issues they believe in to persuade the Government to change or introduce new policy, fundraised to support worthy causes, and created a network to rally around those who need assistance. Confident, articulate women with a purpose are a force to be reckoned with. In its own practical and pragmatic way, CWA has created a space for women to build their skills and confidence, and better our community.

## BODDINGTON AGED CARE

The community of Boddington has tirelessly advocated for an aged care facility for the seniors that have contributed so much over their lives in the district. While investments over the years have built independent living units and innovative service support like the Ageing in Place care model have assisted, there are still too many of our seniors having

to leave the district when they need the support of family and friends. On my recent visit to Boddington, candidate for Central Wheatbelt Lachlan Hunter and I met with the Shire and local residents – and I will be raising the matter with the Minister for Health and in Parliament to support your call for better aged care services in the town.



Lily Gillis, Mia & Liz Nairn

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Over the past three months I have hit the road between Parliamentary sitting weeks to meet with local Shire's and community groups throughout the electorate. With 27 in the Central Wheatbelt it takes some time, but I appreciate the time Councillors and staff take to meet with myself and Lachlan Hunter.



Shire of Westonia



# | OUT AND ABOUT |



▲ Lee Steel and Helen Morton, along with the Pingelly Somerset Alliance, have been the driving force behind the 'Staying In Place' model of care in regional WA, and there are now 42 communities across WA using this innovative model to deliver aged care services to the home.



▲ My colleague Hon Martin Aldridge thoughtfully arranged for the Parliamentary Library to accept a copy of Corrigin's 'Voices from the Smoke' book, compiled after the February firestorm in 2022. He spoke about the fire and the launch of the book in Parliament – you can check out Hansard if you want to learn more.



▲ My Local Hero Grants have helped the Brookton Community Garden purchase much needed equipment, and it was great to catch up with them and the Men's Shed on a recent visit to Brookton with the candidate for Central Wheatbelt Lachlan Hunter.

Thanks to the Shire of Mukinbudin for meeting with Lachlan Hunter and I, along with community members on issues like school bus services, power supply, water supply and land availability.



▲ As Netball WA celebrates its centenary, the Northam Netball Association has celebrated its own milestone of 75 years recently. Life members were honoured with a special morning tea, and I had the pleasure of officially launching the 2024 season.



▲ Lachlan Hunter and I spent some time with the Merredin and Boddington Men's Shed on our travels – thank you to the 'shedders' who showed us around and had a chat, it's always great to catch up on what's important in your towns.

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