

9 May 2008

State Budget fails the Hills

Hills MP Tony Simpson has criticised Treasurer Eric Ripper for ignoring the needs of the Hills in the latest State Budget.

“Our community has been totally ignored in this State Budget,” said Mr Simpson.

“There is nothing in this budget for an extension of the Tonkin Highway, even though this road is badly needed to take large trucks off of the South Western Highway.

“There was nothing in this budget for Chidlow Primary School, even though it has been near the top of the work list for the Swan District for ten years, or for Byford, even though the two primary schools in the area are full to the lid.

“Instead of investing in permanent buildings to teach our children in, the Government has allocated \$4 million to pay for demountable classrooms and \$9 million to move them around the State.

“This opportunity to increase the level of policing in the area was also ignored.

“No specific initiatives to increase policing in Mundaring were listed in the budget. This is something that really disappoints me.

“Serpentine-Jarrahdale was also ignored.

“The officers at Mundijong Police Station are forced to work in sub-standard conditions, in a 50 year old building, with no commitment from the Government for a new police station.

“This Budget also failed to invest in power supply for the Hills, even though many of the towns along the Scarp suffer more frequent and longer power outages than almost any other communities in Perth.

“Three of the five suburbs are worst affected by power outages are in the Hills. In 2007, Mundaring was the second worst affected, with Stoneville second and Chidlow fourth.

“Roleystone, Byford, Serpentine, Mundijong and Jarrahdale also suffer more frequent and longer power outages than almost any other communities in Perth.

“This is while the State Government spends \$4.8 million undergrounding the residential power supply in Mount Pleasant and Como. Areas that do not have anywhere near the number of power outages that the outer suburbs of Perth and the towns of the Hills experience.

“This at a time when the State Government sits on a surplus of \$2 billion. Do we need more evidence that the State Government does not care about our communities?

“I will not stop working for our community until it receives the services and infrastructure that it needs.”

Working for our local community