

## MEDIA STATEMENT



# Tony Simpson MLA

## Shadow Minister for Consumer Protection; Forestry; Volunteers; IT & Communications

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14 May 2007

### **Lazy budget lacks vision for WA's ICT future**

The future of innovation and economic growth in WA has been undermined in The Carpenter Government's 2007/08 Budget.

Shadow IT and Communications Minister Tony Simpson said Eric Ripper and Francis Logan's latest budget attempts lacked vision and provided nothing to encourage the ICT industry to grow and innovate.

Mr Simpson said the ICT funding had dropped in real terms from the previous year with spending on Industry and Development services declining by nearly \$600,000.

"This is a Government that claims to be preparing our State's economy for 'beyond the boom', with biotechnology and ICT spearheading that charge, but Eric Ripper and Francis Logan are not creating any new initiatives to make sure that ICT moves ahead.

"What the State Government needs to do now is to support the development of these industries and provide them with an environment they can succeed in."

Mr Simpson said the Carpenter Government's clear lack of commitment to the industry was highlighted in its track record on ICT spending.

"Disgracefully, the money that was budgeted to support the industry was only partially spent last year, with almost \$30 million of the \$71 million of the funds budgeted for Science and Innovation Promotion and Support left unspent.

"The same was done the year before, with over \$17 million in funds left unspent.

"We must now ask the Government where nearly \$50 million in taxpayers money has gone over the past two years.

"Why was it not spent on shoring up the State's future by investing in science and technology to ensure the prosperity of our State?"

*\*pp230-236 2007-08 WA State Budget*

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