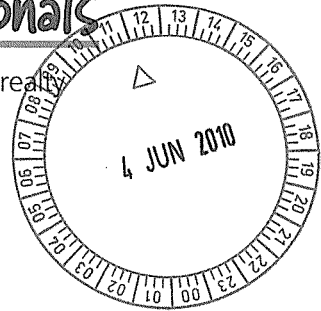


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**Committee Estimates and Financial Operations**

Ian Kelly (Principal/Director) Professionals Jurien Bayview Realty  
1A – 34 Bashford Street  
Jurien Bay WA 6516  
9652 2055 Fax: 9652 2066 [jurienbayviewrealty@bigpond.com](mailto:jurienbayviewrealty@bigpond.com)

**Inquiry into the Removal of Senior School Allocation Funding for Year 11 and 12 Courses at District High Schools**

**My submission to the Committee is to show my total unbelief that the funding for Years 11 & 12 at Jurien Bay District High School should be removed!**

- A) Successive Governments have made commitments for Jurien Bay to become a major Sub Regional centre, being located approximately halfway between Geraldton and Perth. One Jurien Bay land developer has received Planning Approval of a Structure Plan which incorporates around 8,000 residential lots and encompasses 5 additional Primary Schools and an additional High School. In my 12 years as a resident and business person, the population of the town has doubled and there are reports that the population could double again in the next 5 years. Therefore, I cannot see any reason for withdrawing high school services to a town that is growing rapidly and I believe the Government should be looking at making Jurien Bay a Senior High School as soon as possible!
- B) The issue of withdrawing years 11 & 12 is personally relevant to ourselves as we have a daughter who is hoping to complete years 11 & 12 here in Jurien Bay next year. She has done all her schooling in Jurien Bay and we have constantly been told by the Education Department that years 11 & 12 will remain available to students here. Unfortunately, we have not planned to have her leave the town and can't afford Boarding School options.

On the broader issue of the impact on the Community, we have seen families already leave the district because of this decision. We also know that there are many other families who are looking at options which include selling their businesses and relocating to larger towns or cities. As far as our own business goes, the question of "what are the schooling options?" is very common when people are first looking at moving to Jurien Bay. The provision of Years 11 & 12 are vital for most people when deciding whether to move here. The current decision has impacted on the business community already and the outlook for the town has been seriously affected.

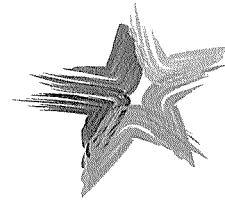


shop 1a 34  
bashford street  
jurien bay wa 6516

po box 64  
www.jurienbay.com  
www.jurienbayholidays.com

p (08) 9652 2055  
f (08) 9652 2066  
e [jurienbayviewrealty@bigpond.com](mailto:jurienbayviewrealty@bigpond.com)

licensed real estate and business agents. licensee: jbv Pty Ltd (a.c.n 104 428 300) (abn 97 700 429 816)  
t.c. 48260 a/t/f i.l. & j.b.kelly family trust. director: ian l. kelly(adv.cert.bus.re)



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- C) I heard of this decision through rumours and we have heard more rumours that our daughter would have to travel over 1 hour on the bus to Moora to attend school. The Education Department have misled parents over the years if they are not continuing with the full provision of years 11 & 12 in Jurien Bay. They have not given any advice or contacted the parents in any way to offer advice. The impact to the community is that we will not only lose more families from the town, but there will be less families coming to town and the town will be left with teenagers being absent from the community, who are meant to become our next generation of workers and business people.
- D) Funding for Years 11 & 12 need to be fully reinstated urgently so the school can progress into a Senior High School sooner than later!

Yours faithfully

Ian Kelly



shop 1a 34  
bashford street  
jurien bay wa 6516

po box 64  
w [www.jurienbay.com](http://www.jurienbay.com)  
[www.jurienbayholidays.com](http://www.jurienbayholidays.com)

p (08) 9652 2055  
f (08) 9652 2066  
e [jurienbayviewrealty@bigpond.com](mailto:jurienbayviewrealty@bigpond.com)

licensed real estate and business agents. licensee: jbrvpty ltd (a.c.n 104 428 300) (abn 97 700 429 816)  
t.c. 48260 a/t/f i.l. & j.b.kelly family trust. director: ian l. kelly(adv.cert.bus.re)