Baldivis Children’s Forest Launch

Introduction

• Good morning, and thank you for that introduction and warm welcome.

• Ngala Kadditj Noongar mort kayan kadak nidja boodja

• I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, the Noongar people, and pay my respects to their elders, past and present.

• Can I also acknowledge:
  • The Hon Reece Whitby MLA, member for Baldivis,
  • Mr Tim Hill, Chair - Baldivis Children’s Forest,
  • Our Junior Rangers
  • and fellow friends of the Baldivis Children’s Forest.

• It is great to be here with you today to help launch this grant for the construction of an environmental education centre at the Baldivis Children’s Forest

• This grant is part of the McGowan Government’s Local Projects, Local Jobs program - which is about supporting a range of projects across Western Australia.
• These grants are for important, grassroots initiatives and programs that will make a big difference to local communities.

• The Local Projects, Local Jobs program will assist many different local community organisations including sporting groups, local governments, and non for profit service providers and will deliver much-needed upgrades to community facilities, road safety improvements and expansions of programs.

• As Minister for the Environment, I am pleased that the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions will assist the Baldivis Children’s Forest to complete these important works for the Baldivis community.

• I would also like to thank the local member, Mr Reece Whitby, for his involvement in this project.

• I thank you for your efforts to make Baldivis Children’s Forest an even more attractive venue for the people of Western Australia.
**Potential Q&A - Local Projects, Local Jobs.**

**What is LPLJ?**

The McGowan Government’s Local Projects, Local Jobs program is about supporting a range of projects across Western Australia for important, grassroots initiatives and programs that will make a big difference to local communities.

The program will assist many different local community organisations including sporting groups, local governments, and non for profit service providers and will deliver much-needed upgrades to community facilities, road safety improvements and expansions of programs.

**How much has been allocated for LPLJ state-wide? (and in the environment).**

There are more than 750 LPLJ grants totalling over $38m ($28m in metro grants, $10m in regional grants).

There are 21 LPLJ grants in the environment portfolio, 13 metro and eight regional, totalling $1.85m

**Was this an election commitment?**

Yes.

**Can you give me an example of another LPLJ project being delivered?**

Wilson Wetlands - Allocation to local environment group for planting/maintenance of bushland site.
DRAFT MEDIA STATEMENT

Baldivis children’s forest to get education centre

Award-winning environmental conservation and education community group, Baldivis Children’s Forest, has received a $200,000 grant to build an education centre.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment and Baldivis MLA Reece Whitby said the grant was part of the McGowan Government’s Local Projects, Local Jobs program, which supports a range of projects across Western Australia.

“Baldivis Children’s Forest has been an environmental education hub for children and the wider community since 2000, and this bushland reserve will now have the capacity to build an environmental education centre,” he said.

“The centre will include a classroom and administration centre, ensuring it has a permanent facility to continue hosting best-practice educational programs that promote conservation and environmental sustainability and Aboriginal cultural values.

“Encouraging children to connect with nature is one of the best things we can do to conserve the environment for current and future generations, so I am pleased that the Labor Government is able to help this dedicated community organisation make a difference.”

The Baldivis Children’s Forest sits on 19ha of revegetated bushland. Administration of the site is currently run from a sea container.

Local Projects, Local Jobs grants support local communities by providing funding to important grassroots initiatives and programs.

The program will assist community organisations including sporting groups, local governments, and not-for-profit service providers and will deliver much-needed upgrades to community facilities, road safety improvements and expansions of programs.

Media contact: