

2005-06 BUDGET, SOUTH WEST REGION

**242. Mr M.P. MURRAY to the Minister for Peel and the South West:**

How has the south west fared in the 2005-06 state budget?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for Collie-Wellington for the question. He is an excellent contributor in this house and a great advocate for the south west because he constantly achieves things for his constituency. Last Friday, as part of my role as Minister for the South West, I went to Bunbury.

**Mr T.R. Buswell** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I call the member for Vasse to order for the second time.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The member for Vasse was not there. His imagination is as fertile as that of his leader. I went to the budget breakfast and spoke about the budget and all the good initiatives that this government will implement in the south west. In particular, I spoke about the infrastructure the government will provide for the ever-growing area of greater Bunbury. At that breakfast, and over previous months, people had expressed concern that, because the member for Bunbury is not a member of the Labor Party, the government might not meet its pre-election commitments. That concern originated from the member for Leschenault. As is his wont, he stirs up ill feeling, spreads rumours and makes innuendos.

In the 2005-06 budget, the government has committed many millions of dollars to the south west and to the Bunbury area. What has been the response of the member for Leschenault to all those commitments? An article in yesterday's Bunbury paper reads -

Mr Sullivan said Labor's budget commitments to the south west were a cynical exercise by Treasurer Eric Ripper to win support for Labor in the region at the next state election.

Prior to the budget announcement, the member for Leschenault said that if the government failed to deliver on its budget commitments, it would let down the people in the south west. However, after the budget, he has described the government's undertaking to deliver on its commitments as a cynical exercise to win votes. How can the government win with that kind of logic by the member for Leschenault? No wonder the Leader of the Opposition is so bereft of help when he has role models like the member for Leschenault.

The government's budget commitments for the south west are as follows: \$70.7 million for power upgrades.

**Mr A.J. Carpenter:** Cynical.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Yes, cynical. The government has allocated \$22.6 million for Water Corporation capital expenditure.

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** More cynicism. An amount of \$4 million will be spent on the start of the Perth-Bunbury highway, to be followed by a total of \$170 million to be spent on that highway, \$6.3 million on the Bunbury port, \$2.9 million on the Margaret River District Hospital and \$8 million on mental health services in Bunbury.

**Mr P.D. Omodei:** Where?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition should take notice of that commitment. An amount of \$2.5 million will be spent on a dental clinic in Bunbury, \$6.5 million on a linear accelerator to provide radiography treatment for cancer victims at the Bunbury Regional Hospital, \$22.7 million on school improvements in Bunbury, a new police station in Harvey - the member for Collie-Wellington's electorate - and a new Fire and Emergency Services Authority headquarters in Bunbury. According to the member for Leschenault, all this expenditure represents a cynical exercise. However, it is about delivering on financial commitments for the south west and it is about a good budget that can deliver capital works and services for people in the regions.