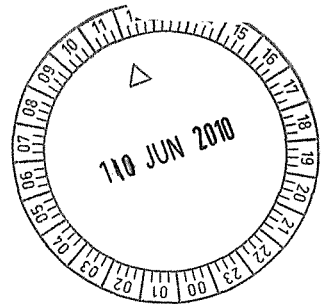


The Chairperson,  
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations,  
(Sitting at Jurien Bay 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.)



Dear Madam,

As a senior citizen my days of worrying about the education ;of children are long past – but as a taxpayer I have an interest in how ;my dollars are disbursed –and the proposal to withdraw funding for years 11 and 12 at 21 country district high schools can best be described as a shambles.

Firstly – Dongara is one of the high schools listed, yet the enclosed press release from the office of Jim Chown M.L.C. notes that thirty million dollars is to be allocated for redevelopment of the Dongara District High School.

Secondly – the enclosed cutting from the “West Australian” defies logic. For the \$511,000 budgeted over two years for transport, surely some sort of computer/video link system could be set up to enable the few students involved to remain in Wyndham; attend the existing classrooms, yet still benefit from the course4s offered at Kununurra. Even if such an arrangement meant employing a mentor/monitor to supervise the students at Wyndham.

Thirdly – the marked paragraph on the cutting from “West Australian” 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010 beggars belief. The provision of two transportable administration buildings at a school with an enrolment of eleven students can only be described as “Overkill” – either that, or a shocking waste of public money !

Yours faithfully,

*J.F. Brown*  
(Mrs. J.F. Brown)

11<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.

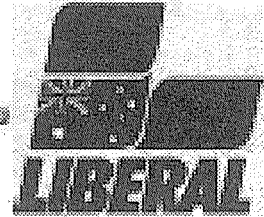


# JIM CHOWN MLC

Member for Agricultural Region

T: 9481 0062 F: 9521 1267 @ jim.chown@mp.wa.gov.au

5 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 6005



## Police and Emergency Services;

- ◆ \$8.7 million expansion of the Perth Metropolitan Radio Network (PMR north to Lancelin and east to Northam;
- ◆ \$80.3million over four years to upgrade communications systems for regional police and emergency services;
- ◆ Significant increases in funding for volunteer emergency service units to accelerate the replacement of overage bushfire brigade appliances, provide additional bushfire appliances and State emergency vehicles in high risk areas, the replacement of strategic regional assets, the provision of fit-for-purpose facilities and garaging for both services and the provision of a first response bushfire fighting capability for vulnerable remote communities (\$10million in 2010-11 and a further \$30million from 2011-14);
- ◆ Significant enhancement to local government's fire management capabilities through the extension of the Community Emergency Services Officers Program at a gross cost of \$2.9million in 2010-11;
- ◆ \$800,000 to train regional Justices of the Peace.

## Health and Disability Services

- ◆ Work will start on the \$9million Upper Great Southern District (including Narrogin) redevelopment project;
- ◆ Work will start on the \$9million Eastern Wheatbelt District (including Merredin) Stage 1 redevelopment project;
- ◆ \$8.5 million over three years for the Rural Generalist Pathways program to support training of junior doctors in regional areas;
- ◆ \$9 million continued support for the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme;
- ◆ \$9.3 million in continued support for the Royal Flying Doctor Service;
- ◆ \$26 million over four years for St. John Ambulance country services;
- ◆ The establishment in the Wheatbelt of a respite care home for people living with disabilities.

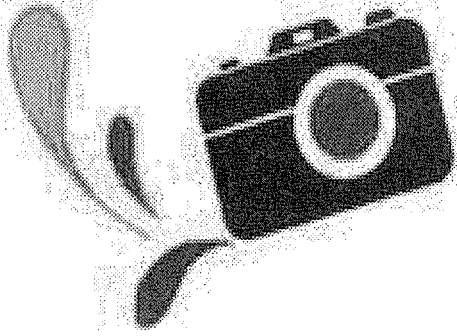
## Education

- ◆ \$100 million upgrade for regional schools including \$30million for the redevelopment of Dongara District High School.
- ◆ \$52 million over four years for the establishment of Regional Residential College Upgrades - (\$2.5million)
- ◆ \$28 million over four years for the Responsible Parenting Program Responsible Parenting Program - (\$2.8 million)
- ◆ Ongoing funding of \$1.9 million for the Boarding Away from Home Allowance;
- ◆ \$628,000 for the Better Beginnings - Early Literacy program;

## Agriculture and Food

- ◆ \$9.05million over four years (\$2.35million in 2010-11) to develop and adopt genetically modified technology into WA farming systems including \$3million towards infrastructure in Merredin and Katanning to evaluate the use of GM crops in varying climates;
- ◆ \$5.5million in 2010-11 joint State and Federal funds towards a pilot program of drought reform measures in WA;
- ◆ \$4.8million in 2010-11 for wild dog management and to upgrade the State Barrier Fence to wild dog standard;

# Precious Pix



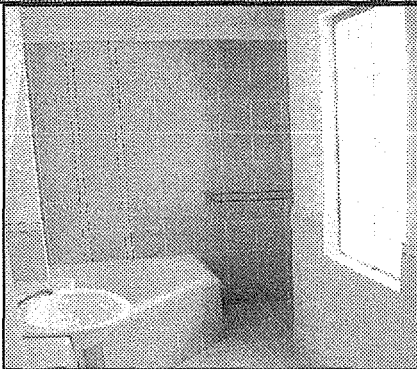
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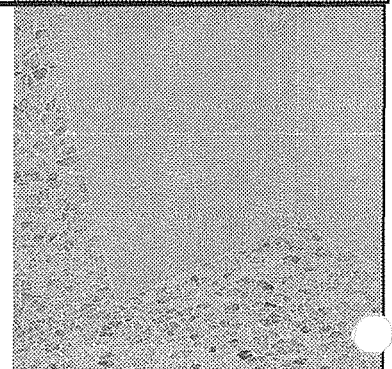


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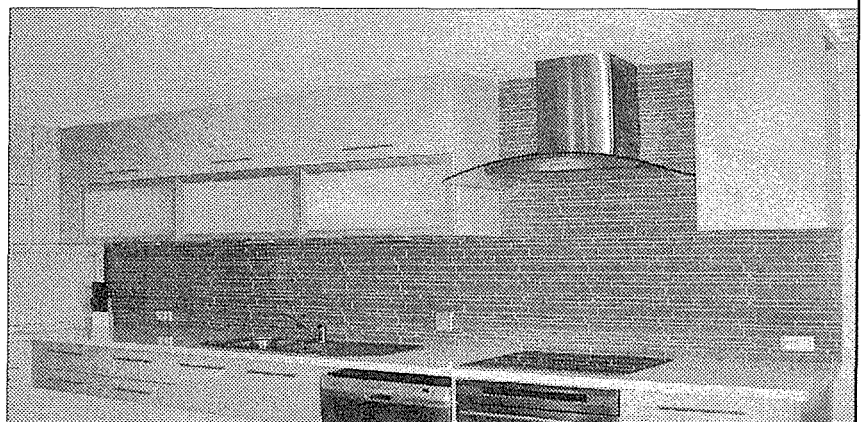
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# \$350,000 for school with shaky future

JESSICA STRUTT

A remote Aboriginal school with just 11 students will get a new \$350,000 Federally-funded library even though the State Government is refusing to upgrade dangerous houses in the community because its future is in doubt.

*The West Australian* has confirmed the Yintarri Remote Community School, in the dysfunctional community of Coonana, will get a new library under the Rudd Government's Building the Education Revolution scheme — part of its \$42 billion economic stimulus package.

*The West Australian* this week revealed that a City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder report warned 21 damaged houses in the community were unfit for habitation and posed a risk to residents, especially children.

Sources have said the community, 180km east of Kalgoorlie, could be closed. The Department of Housing said this week the future of Coonana was being considered.

General manager of service delivery Steve Parry said the department was reluctant to commit significant taxpayers' funds to the refurbishment of the homes until the

future of the community was resolved. Coonana's population has dropped significantly, the entire community is littered with rubbish, smashed houses and car bodies, and it resembles a war zone.

Goldfields District Education Office director Larry Hamilton said the Education Department was concerned about a drop in enrolments at the Yintarri school.

He said 11 students were enrolled at the school but because of the transient nature of the community, the number attending each day fluctuated. The school recently got two new transportable administration buildings, funded by the State Government.

Federal Education Minister Julia Gillard's office refused to answer questions about the library funding, saying they had to be put to the State, which managed BER projects.

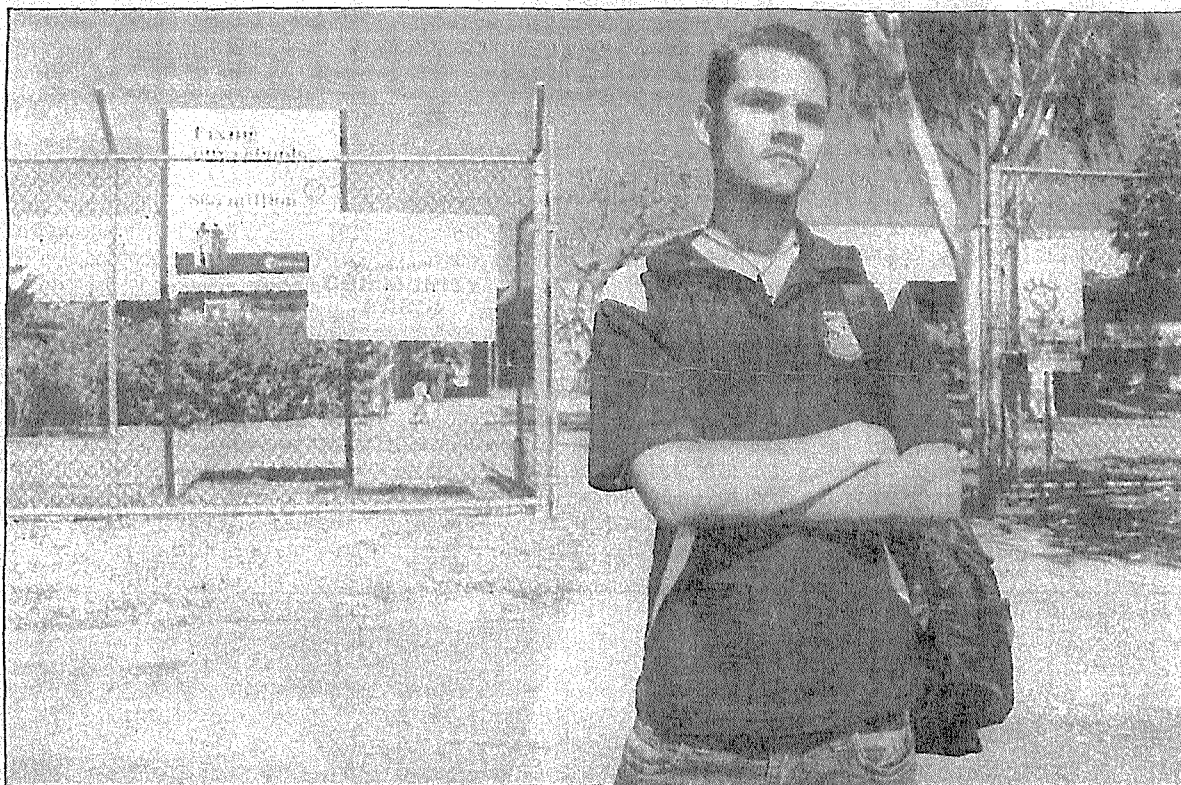
WA Education Department director of infrastructure James Thom said the \$350,000 would fund the library, due to be delivered within the next fortnight, and transportation costs.

"The department is aware of the issues at Yintarri and the new library and administration buildings could be relocated if the community was to close," Mr Thom said.



# News

the west



Early exit: Wyndham student Bradley Lippitt quit school because of the 1000km-a-week bus travel.

Picture: Nathan Dyer

## 1000km too much for remote student

NATHAN DYER

Up until three weeks ago, Bradley Lippitt was attending Year 12 at Kununurra District High School.

But after travelling 1000km to school each week for six months, the 16-year-old has quit school, saying the daily bus trip from Wyndham to Kununurra had simply become "too hard".

Wyndham senior school students have been travelling by bus to Kununurra since the Education Department decided last year to stop funding

Year 11 and 12 classes at Wyndham District High School.

It is understood just one student is now using the bus regularly to attend classes in Kununurra. Earlier this year, the Public Transport Authority confirmed the Wyndham school bus service was costing the Government \$511,000 over two years.

Bradley said others had quit school because of the bus travel. "Although most people have just moved away to boarding school . . . there are a lot of kids not schooling at all," he said.

Bradley's mother, Margie, said

although her son's decision to drop out of school was disappointing, she understood his reasons.

Kununurra District High School principal Matt Wren said a participation officer was working with Wyndham parents and students to address their concerns.

He was aware of four Wyndham senior school students not attending school.

A parliamentary inquiry will investigate the State Government's decision to end Year 11 and 12 courses at 21 country high schools.