



Flying polly visit through the region

By Merrel Pond

LAST Tuesday morning a TransWA busload of visiting politicians and ministers arrived in Moora for a tour of the town and to meet with shire councillors and local community representatives.

Included in the tour of the midwest was Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Tourism Dr Kim Hames who flew into Moora in time to meet the bus travellers.

The tour of the region was organised by MLC Jim Chown, who said it was a great opportunity for the visitors to see first-hand what is happening throughout this part of WA.

“The group could look at the roads, see progress that is being made, what needs more funding and to discuss issues with local shires and communities,” he said.

“The most important issues that are always at the forefront of most people living in country WA are health and transport.

“This is why it was very important for both these ministers in Troy Buswell and Dr Hames coming on the three-day trip.”

One of the questions asked of Mr Buswell was when would the upgrades to the Great Northern Highway be completed, particularly to the section between Bindi Bindi and Miling which

is already subjected to extremely high traffic volumes.

The minister said he understood the concerns about the road and that the government is fully aware of the problem and accepts the amount of traffic is only going to become greater.

“The problem we have is that there is no unallocated federal funding for the Great Northern Highway in the current budget and probably won’t be until at least 2013,” Mr Buswell said.

“We realise that this is unacceptable and we do understand your dilemma.

“We have been working on an Agricultural and Regional Network plan for infrastructure on regional roads.

“At the moment the plan will be in two stages and we are progressing to put forward to federal and state government to get this funding,” Mr Buswell said.

Mr Buswell also spoke of the issues raised concerning three-tier railways and foreign ownership of farming land and congratulated Moora on a great tour of the town and was amazed how much it had progressed since his last visit.

One of the most significant aspects recognised by all the visitors was the fact that Moora was in great need of regional development.

“These are good challenges to have and good for a healthy community,” Mr Buswell said.

One of the questions put to Dr Hames was regarding the concern and lack of federal funding to provide more aged care beds which are a priority for the community.

Dr Hames said funding beds was a joint state and federal responsibility.

Currently Moora has a Memorandum of Understanding with the shires of Wongan-Ballidu and Dandaragan to support a future resource centre for aged care.

It was pointed out to Dr Hames there was concerns from the community that if private funding was sourced for the addition of more aged care facilities, that the Moora Hospital could lose funding through its multi-purpose service status.

Dr Hames did not think that this would be an issue.

The community of Moora stated that they wish to be recognised as the northern hub for community health services, Dr Hames said he would consider this suggestion.

The tour left Moora to travel to Carnamah for lunch before travelling to Dongara for an overnight stay.

On Wednesday they planned to visit Perenjori and Dalwallinu and on Thursday they were to travel to Wongan Hills and visit the Dowerin Field Day.



Stopover: On their whistlestop tour of the midwest a TransWA busload of politicians and ministers stopped in Moora for morning tea and to meet with shire councillors and community members. Cr Jim Pond, Member for the Agricultural Region Brian Ellis, parliamentary secretary to the premier John McGrath, Member for the Agricultural Region Jim Chown, shire president Sheryl Bryan, Cr Chris Hawkins and Minister for Transport Troy Buswell.