



New network structure welcomed

THE chair of the Rural & Remote Education Advisory Council (RREAC) has welcomed a new school network structure announced by the Minister for Education on Tuesday.

Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis, who chaired his first RREAC meeting last month, said the new structure will have particular benefits for rural and remote schools.

Under the new structure, there will be six non metropolitan network regions including the Mid-West, Wheatbelt, Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields and South-West.

Mr Ellis said there would be regional education offices in each region, and smaller, local education offices will continue where district offices currently operate.

Each network will have up to 20 schools across the six new rural education regions.

Rural and remote schools will benefit particularly because each region will have a Network Principal who will continue to administer their own school but will also assist other schools.

"I am particularly pleased that professionals such as school psychologists and specialist

teachers working with students with disability will be placed in schools rather than in district offices," Mr Ellis said.

"This means they can work direct with country students and their families on a daily basis."

Mr Ellis said regional families could also look forward to a greater curriculum choice for their children and a smoother transition between primary and secondary school.

Recruiting for regional executive directors, who will become a member of the Department of Education's Corporate Executive, will begin immediately.