



Opportunity for briefings on WA grain rail system review

REGIONAL communities will be given the opportunity for briefings and information sessions on the review of the WA grain rail system.

Department of Transport officers and the chairman of the Strategic Grain Network Committee will be available to explain the content and detail of the SGNC report.

They will also answer questions about its findings.

Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis, whose family continues to grow grain at Bindi Bindi, said he welcomed Transport Minister Simon O'Brien's deci-

sion to take the issue to the shires that had a direct interest.

"I am pleased to see that the Minister has written to all the relevant local governments through the WA Local Government Association offering briefings and information sessions with the authors of the report," Mr Ellis said.

"There have been some misconceptions that the preliminary announcements made in January were the full package and there was a need for reassurance in this regard.

"I am pleased to see that the Minister is stressing that these were just an immediate

response and that long-term funding decisions will be made after further analysis.

"The community briefings are a fantastic chance for local communities to have some input into the 'big picture' and I urge shire councils and local grain growers to seize the opportunity to have a say."

Mr Ellis said he was aware Minister O'Brien had worked hard to secure the initial funds at a time of economic constraint and he appreciated his commitment to work with the Federal Government to tackle the longer term issues identified in the report.