



Ellis heads Liberal ticket

OPPOSITION local government spokesman Brian Ellis MLC has won pre-selection for the top position on the Liberal ticket for the Agricultural Region at the next election.

A third generation farmer and former Moora Shire deputy president, Mr Ellis took his seat in Parliament last August after the sudden resignation of the Margaret Rowe MLC.

"I believe the pre-selection decision is recognition of my proven commitment to give the Agricultural Region strong representation," Mr Ellis said.

"As far as the electorate is concerned, I think country people are wary of political promises made at a distance, and want to know that their representative has a hands-on approach.

"I have centred my activity at Geraldton, so that residents can have ready access to my assistance through my electorate office."

This year, Mr Ellis plans to go to all the regional field days, arrive a day in advance so people who live in the districts can discuss local concerns.

Many shires have listed their concerns to be part of the inaugural Mid West and Wheatbelt policy which Mr Ellis is currently developing.

"Matters regional councils have raised include the need for more police officers to reduce response times; poor provision of health services; the urgent need for more accommodation for teachers, police officers and health professionals; the huge cost of headworks and the negative

impact this has on regional development: cost-shifting from federal and state governments and delays planning approval delays," mr Ellis said.

"These confirm the need for a strong bush voice in the Parliament, and this will be even more important after the next election when the country vote will be squeezed out by Minister McGinty's legislation."

Meanwhile, The Nationals WA have endorsed four more candidates to contest the next State election at which the party will attempt to gain the balance of power in both Houses of Parliament.

In the second round of pre-selections, candidates were endorsed for the electorates of Eyre and Albany, and for the number one position on the Mining and Pastoral ticket.

Small business owner and Boulder resident Suzie Williams, 36, will contest Eyre, incorporating Boulder, Coolgardie, Southern Cross, Norseman, Ravensthorpe and Esperance.

Albany will be contested by 20-year-old Sam Harma who is originally from Mount Barker and is currently completing a double major in Mass Communications and Arts at Murdoch University.

He retains a connection with the Great Southern region through his family.

The Nationals' ticket for the Mining and Pastoral Region will be headed by current Agricultural Region MLC and party state president Wendy Duncan.

Ms Duncan, a long-time resident of Esperance, was raised on station country north of Kalgoorlie.



□ Brian Ellis