



Mid West royalties boost: MP

THE Mid West will benefit from the Royalties for Regions scheme, according to a Liberal MP.

While details on how the scheme will be distributed are yet to be nussed out, Brian Ellis reassured residents in the region that they would not miss out.

The Member for the Agricultural Region said it was too early to say exactly what the Mid West would receive, but what is known is that the Royal Flying Doctor Service will get a substantial boost.

Mr Ellis warned, however, that there may be some short-term pain for

Perth in order to provide the country with more gain.

“Some projects may need to be reshuffled so they don’t all demand funding from the treasury at the same time,” he said.

“It is projected the surplus will run out in 2011-12 and while major projects in the metro area shouldn’t be forgotten about, things like developments on the football stadium and the museum may need to be reshuffled or put-off for a bit so the regions can have their royalties,” he said.

His comments came after spokesperson for

the WA Greens Paul Llewellyn said the Royalties for Regions scheme couldn’t work.

“That money (from mining) isn’t WA’s money, it goes into a national pool and the royalties that come back to the State are proportionate to the State’s population.

“If the Royalties for Regions scheme goes ahead it will bankrupt the State. The case (for mining royalties in WA) is similar to the Bass Strait oil royalties which were shared throughout all of Australia.

“The Tasmanian gov-

ernment couldn’t just decide to keep all the royalties because the Bass Strait is close to Tasmania,” he said.

Premier-elect Colin Barnett rejected the scheme earlier this year, but has now said it is important to help regional areas in need of funding.

Mr Barnett also conceded other projects would need to go on hold for the scheme to work but said the changes would not be huge and people in Perth would not suffer as a result.

— Megan Bailey



Brian Ellis.