

Hon Brian Ellis MLC

# On Track

Summer 2008

Member for the Agricultural Region : Shadow Minister for Mid-West and Wheatbelt



## Life prepared me for decisive action at short notice.

My father died when he was quite young and I suddenly found myself at an early age supporting a new family and running a farming business. Despite the unexpected responsibility, I faced the challenge and the property succeeded in my hands.

In July last year I again made a sudden and decisive life change when Hon Margaret Rowe MLC resigned from Parliament and I was elected at short notice as a Member for the Agricultural Region. Since then I have been appointed Shadow Minister for the Mid-West and Wheatbelt.

My sincere thanks to all those, particularly Hon Bruce Donaldson MLC, who have steered me in the right direction. Although my new journey started unexpectedly I am 'On Track' for the Liberal Party and the people of the Agricultural Region.



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## No road is too long or too dusty

**MY ELECTORATE is one of the largest in WA, extending from Kalbarri to Esperance and stretching across the entire Wheatbelt.**

It is a huge area to cover, and fortunately I put in some long-distance training when I was Director of the Wheatbelt Area Consultative Committee, which covered an area about double the size of Tasmania.

During that time, and since I became a Member for the Agricultural Region, I have travelled many dusty miles to listen face-to-face to the concerns of country people.

My extensive Local Government experience also served as great preparation for my parliamentary role, as I am now responsible for matters affecting 68 local government areas. These include Geraldton-Greenough, where I have located my electorate office, and Moora where I was a Shire Councillor for nine years (including five years as Deputy Shire President and seven years as Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee).

I am quietly proud that my hard work was recognised with a Distinguished Service Award from the WA Local Government Association for Services to the Community, and I am offering my Agricultural Region constituents the same dedication.

As a third generation farmer I have brought a strong bush voice to Parliament – but I am also taking a strong Parliamentary voice to the bush.

### JULY

- 17 Morawa – drought meeting
- 19 Swearing In Ceremony
- 24 Geraldton – first electorate staff meeting
- 30 Cunderdin Branch AGM
- 31 Geraldton – residents' meeting

### AUGUST

- 2 Katanning Branch AGM
- 3 Moora Shire
- 8 Geraldton City Council
- 13 Kojonup AGM
- 14 Maiden Speech
- 21 Geraldton Branch meeting
- 25 Dalwallinu Show
- 27 Gingin – Private Property Rights meeting
- 29 Dowerin Field Day

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 Geraldton – Wilson Tuckey's campaign launch and Walkaway Branch AGM
- 5 Newdegate Field Day
- 7 Morawa Branch AGM
- 10 Perth – opening of Peter Collier's new office
- 14 Bruce Rock – establishing Branch
- 23 Geraldton – Clay Target presentations
- 24 Three Springs Shire and Moora Branch AGM
- 28 Dumbleyung – Combined Councils meeting and Boyup Brook Branch dinner

### OCTOBER

- 3 Perth – Royal Show – Agricultural Society cocktail party
- 5 Chittering Shire CEO – meeting
- 8 Geraldton City Council sundowner
- 10 Dalwallinu – pre-election function
- 11 Dongara – Tidy Town presentation then Geraldton
- 12 Moora Shire presentation
- 19 Esperance Show
- 20 Opened Bindoon Show
- 26 Eneabba – power station opening



### NOVEMBER

- 6 Boyup Brook Show
- 7 Geraldton
- 9 Cue – speech at Cue Parliament
- 12 Gingin Branch AGM
- 16 Cunderdin Agricultural School graduation
- 22 Perth – Local Government Christmas function
- 24 Moora, Miling and Bindi Bindi

### DECEMBER

- 11 Dongara High School presentation
- 12 Jurien Bay – High School graduation and Miling Primary School
- 13 Mullewa High School graduation and Geraldton staff meeting
- 14 Northam Branch function

### JANUARY

- 14 Moora
- 15-16 Geraldton

NB: This is an abbreviated diary and does not include all Geraldton visits.



## Keeping the Liberal flag flying in Geraldton

**MY DECISION to locate my electorate office in Geraldton means the Liberal message reaches well over thirty thousand residents in a major regional city which would otherwise be a Labor and National Party stronghold at the State level.**

Despite a very full end to the Parliamentary year, including four straight sitting weeks in November-December, I spent 37 days bringing a strong local presence to Geraldton, as well as travelling to many other regional towns. I believe that, with sound planning and strong determination, it is possible to ‘walk the walk’ in the bush as well as ‘talk the talk’ in the city.

The Geraldton office keeps me face to face with regional issues and also gives residents two welcoming local faces to help them with their concerns. My electorate officer Sally Short and relieving electorate officer Jenny Wilson have lived in the town for many years, have a valuable knowledge of local issues, and are happy to work outside office hours to ensure I am well-represented.

In order to maximise my Parliamentary effectiveness and regional media presence I have recently appointed a Research Officer, Anita Dalton, who has seventeen years’ experience working for Liberal State Members (all of whom have served as Ministers) and a lifetime association with Geraldton where she was born and educated. Anita, who specialises in parliamentary questions, speech writing, press releases and research, works from my research office directly across the road from Parliament House – a huge asset when Parliament is sitting. She has already made the first of regular planned trips to Geraldton.

My new Geraldton electorate office is nearing completion and we are looking forward moving and to the official opening this autumn. My complete team will be on hand, including my wife Margaret who is taking an active interest in my parliamentary responsibilities and accompanies me regularly on country trips.

# Making your voice heard in the Parliament

## ISSUES I have raised in Parliament since my election include:

- Police Recruitment
- WA Dairy Industry – Growth Opportunities
- GM Crops – Moratorium
- Department of Health – Employees
- Broadband Internet – Use of Future Funds
- Mid-West Region – Predicted Population
- Oakajee Port and Indian Ocean Drive – Setback Requirements
- Australian Agricultural Contracts Ltd
- Sheep Industry – Viability
- Regional Rail Infrastructure – Rescue Package
- West Coast Demersal Scalefish Management Plan
- Beef Prices – Farm Weekly Report
- Mid West Iron Ore Ranges Review – Indigenous Heritage Values
- Mining Approvals – Parallel Processing
- Fishing Industry Management – Public Briefings
- Education Services – Disparity
- Butter Shortage
- Buy Local Policy – Mid West CCI
- Fisheries – Frequency of Creel Surveys
- Teachers – Cost of Recruitment
- Teachers – Geraldton
- Drought – Cash Payments to Farmers
- Midwest Corporation – Permit to Transport Ore
- Department of Education and Training, Department of Education Services – Annual Reports
- Infrastructure Projects – Funding
- Oakajee Port Development
- Fair Employment Advocate – Discussion Paper
- Regional Services and Infrastructure
- Kojareena Satellite Ground Station – Expansion
- Mining Approvals
- Three Springs Police Station – Additional Officer

