

Mia's Message

Many projects that started when The Nationals were in Government have come to fruition over the past 12 months. Underpinned by Royalties for Regions, it has been with great pride and shared excitement that I've joined with the community to celebrate the completion and opening of these facilities.

The Narembeen St John Ambulance and Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade building,



Beverley Cornerstone project, Boddington Sport and Recreation Centre, and under the Southern Inland Health Initiative the Bruce Rock, Corrigin, Kondinin and Narembeen Hospital upgrades are all examples of how Royalties for Regions helped to transform our communities. And despite reductions in funding by Minister Alannah MacTiernan, the CEACA aged care project in the eastern Wheatbelt is well underway.

From Opposition we continue to fight for improvements to health, education and community services – and we were pleased the Labor Government came to its senses and re-instated funding for our CRC network as a result of sustained community effort and pressure from The Nationals.

It's hard not to be cynical about this Labor Government's metro-focus, but we will continue to work with you to fight for a fair share for regional WA.

I wish to sincerely thank my hard working Electorate Office staff Kath Brown and Michelle Alvaro in Merredin and Rhonda Lawrence in Northam for all their work throughout the year supporting our electorate. On a personal note, our family has felt the collective support of the community following the loss of my beloved Dad Dexter earlier in the year. Thank you – he loved regional WA and he loved the people that fought hard to make it a great place to live, work and invest.

Wishing you all a happy and safe Christmas.



HEALTHY WHEATBELT: HOSPITAL UPGRADES COMPLETE

The biggest capital investment in Wheatbelt health is well underway with works at the Kondinin and Corrigin Health Service redevelopments now complete. They are just two of the 23 small hospitals and health centres across the Wheatbelt that have benefited from the \$300m Royalties for Regions Southern Inland Health Initiative started by The Nationals in Government.

Improvements to infrastructure were made to both sites, along with the investment in digital and information systems to support the future use of wireless digital processes.

The \$3.1 million Kondinin Health Service upgrade saw the installation of a new multi-purpose

consultation room, a triage room, an observation room, a new palliative care bedroom with a courtyard view, a refurbished kitchen, new offices and a communications room for information technology.

The \$4.5 million Corrigin Health Service upgrade includes a new resuscitation room and a new triage room in the emergency department, three new rooms to provide telehealth consultations, a refurbished staff station, medications room, kitchen, medical records room and a new communications room for information technology.

Works at the two major regional hospitals in Northam and Merredin hospitals are ongoing.



Mia with WA Country Health staff and Corrigin residents at the official opening of the upgraded facilities.



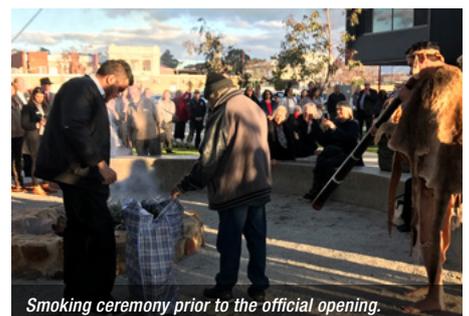
Mia with volunteer Margaret McAndrew displaying an early 'meals-on-wheels' container, Corrigin.

BILYA KOORT BOODJA



Mia and respected elder Frank Davis.

Northam's Aboriginal and Environment Interpretive Centre is now officially open! The regional tourist attraction offers an interactive educational experience that recognises the rich Aboriginal and environmental presence in the Nyoongar Ballardong region. The Centre will protect, celebrate and share the culture of the Nyoongar people and it was a privilege to join the community for the official opening.



Smoking ceremony prior to the official opening.

WHEATBELT BUSINESS AWARDS

Congratulations to all nominees and category winners at the recently held Wheatbelt Business Network Excellence Awards. Held in Dowerin, the awards showcase the incredible talent and hard work of our small business sector in the region. Small business is the foundation of our local economy, creating local jobs and helping to create more vibrant communities. Bruce Rock Engineering took out the major award, up against some impressive competition.



Young Entrepreneur of the Year business owners Steven and Christy Petchell of Petchell Mechanical.

MOORA COLLEGE



Shane Love MLA, Mia, Peter Rundle MLA, Martin Aldridge MLC, Nick Fardell, Terry Redman MLA and Vince Catania MLA at the Moora Residential College.

The Nationals WA welcomed the announcement by Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack and Federal Leader of The Nationals to fully refurbish Moora Residential College. The State Labor Government refused to reverse its cruel cuts, and we campaigned long and hard to retain this important education facility. I know how important education is for all regional communities – it's hard to understand why Labor has chosen to target regional education services.

TAB SALE MUST BENEFIT INDUSTRY

The Nationals WA will only support the McGowan Government's proposed sale of the WA TAB if it is on the industry's terms and strengthens country racing across the State. We will need to see the finer details relating to the conditions of the sale before committing support to the package.

With three race tracks operating in the Avon Valley, the industry contributes a significant amount to the local Wheatbelt economy. The Nationals spokesman for Racing & Gaming Hon Colin Holt, joined me at the Northam Cup and we will continue to consult on this matter.

CUNDERDIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



Mia with students Amy Lane, Lachlan Sims and Design & Technology Teacher Brandon Skinner.

I always enjoy visiting Cunderdin Agricultural College and the Open Day is a great opportunity to meet with students, their families and staff. These colleges are so important, whether it's learning a trade or developing skills for a career in agriculture. That's why The Nationals continue to fight the McGowan Labor Government's cuts to regional education, including cuts to the Agricultural College Trust Fund.



Hon Colin de Grussa MLC in the butcher shop with Layne Thornton and College butcher Lindsay Jones.



Nationals Senate candidate Nick Fardell, Lisa Fardell, Mia and Rob Tinetti at the 2018 Northam Cup.

NEW HOME FOR NAREMBEEN EMERGENCY SERVICES

I joined the community to celebrate the official opening of the Narembeem Volunteer Emergency Services Centre in September this year. The new building is the new home for St John and the Narembeem Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, two dedicated groups of volunteers who play a key role in the delivery of emergency services in Narembeem and the surrounding communities.

\$250,000 from Royalties for Regions, delivered by The Nationals in Government, was added to Department of Fire & Emergency Services \$258,000, St John Narembeem \$100,000 and Narembeem Bush Fire Brigade \$30,000 to fund this project.



Shire of Narembeem Freeman Melvin Bristow, Halley Cowan, Stephen Padfield and Shire President Cr Rhonda Cole officially opened the \$717,000 emergency centre.

WHEATBELT SECONDARY FREIGHT NETWORK

While he was in town for The Nationals WA State Conference I arranged for Deputy Prime Minister Hon Michael McCormack to meet with the project team driving the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network project. It is being supported by 42 Wheatbelt local governments and is a project of strategic importance for the region.

It will require support from both the State and Federal Government to proceed, so I have also raised the issue with the State Minister in Parliament on a number of occasions.

The Wheatbelt region produces 41 percent of the State's total gross value of agriculture

production, worth \$3.35 billion in 2015/16 alone. The proposal is to upgrade a network of Local Government roads that connect with State and National highways to optimise access for heavy vehicles in the region. Local Governments in the Wheatbelt are spending more than \$100m per year maintaining roads. To make this expenditure more efficient, some roads need to be upgraded to a higher standard as they were not designed for the purposes for which they are now used. If we are successful in securing funding, the project, to be completed over a number of years will contribute to lower freight costs, lower road network operating costs and a safer road network.



Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack and Mia were provided with a briefing from Garrick Yandle (Dandaragan), Amanda Walker (Wheatbelt RDA), Cr Ricky Storer (Koorda), Cr Katrina Crute (Brookton) while in Manjimup for The Nationals WA State Conference.

CITY SAFETY AHEAD OF COUNTRY LIVES

The McGowan Labor Government has pulled more than \$10 million out of a road safety fund to pay for a new police helicopter against the expert advice of the Road Safety Council (RSC). Our police and road safety spokesman Martin Aldridge MLC said the decision was extraordinary as the helicopter will mostly be used in the metro area. Advice from the RSC included the following statement: 'When assessed against the principles normally used to consider RTTA funding proposals, the Council was not able to identify evidence of quantifiable road safety and cost benefits'. The Minister's cost-shift has undoubtedly put regional road users in WA at risk.

FIREARMS FIX

Since 2017, WA firearms dealers have found it difficult to transport firearms to and from manufacturers, other dealers, and customers after a policy change meant Australia Post was no longer an approved carrier. The Nationals WA responded quickly to find a solution, and we've welcomed the recent announcement by Federal Nationals Minister for Regional Services Hon Bridget McKenzie to reinstate Australia Post as a secure and workable transport solution.

Q&A WITH THE KIDS

I had a great time meeting kids from Mukinbudin on a recent visit to Parliament House, and spending some time at Kellerberrin DHS talking about my role as a Member of Parliament. Don't hesitate to contact my office if your school would like me to visit!



Mukinbudin District High School at Parliament House.



Kellerberrin District High School students.

CALL TO SPEED UP ANTI-VENOM ROLLOUT

The Nationals WA have called on the McGowan Government to accelerate an expanded rollout of antivenom stocks across regional Western Australia as the weather warms up and snakes become more active. Under questioning by Nationals health spokesperson Martin Aldridge MLC the Minister confirmed that WA Country Health Service would progressively expand antivenom stock across 81 regional sites to ensure patients who present with snake bites are covered across more of the State. For more information about first aid for snake bite visit www.stjohn.org.au.



▲ Mia with Graham Dolton, Aub Tompkin and John Lesley Smith. Photo credit: Karen Slater.



▲ Mia with Wundowie Progress Association members Lisa Biglin, Kerry Congdon and President Dave Galloway at the 2018 Iron Festival.



▲ Mia catching up with Wyalkatchem District High School students at the 2018 Dowerin Field Days.



▲ I joined the community for the official opening of the Bencubbin Multipurpose Complex, providing a great space for sporting and community groups in the Shire of Mount Marshall.



▲ We need to talk about domestic violence. The Purple Bench initiative aims to change public perceptions in relation to violence against women and children. Bruce Rock was the first regional community in WA to participate in the project – well done!



▲ I was proud to support the Pingelly Shire as Minister for Forestry on this ambitious project, their new Recreation & Cultural Centre is breathtaking. A fantastic use of a sustainable resource – plantation timber.

LIVE EXPORT IN FOCUS

The last six months have been a tumultuous time for the thousands of West Australians whose lives are connected to the live export trade. The recommendations of the Moss Review are a stark reminder that everyone in the sector has a responsibility to act with integrity to ensure live export has a sustainable future. We know there's been great frustration with the lack of communication and consistency from the regulator, and these concerns, along with others have been raised directly with the Department and Federal Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud. Colin de Grussa MLC and Pete Rundle MLA travelled to Canberra recently, and we hosted the Minister here in WA for a series of meetings with stakeholders in early November. With 85 percent of the live sheep trade in Western Australia, and many businesses and communities reliant on its success, The Nationals will continue to support the industry.



Minister Littleproud, Mia and Colin de Grussa MLC during visit to the Wheatbelt, hosted by WA Farmers.



Group of farmers with representatives of GRDC and Minister Littleproud on Duncan Young's property, Beverley.

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THE NATIONALS for Regional WA