



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

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BUDGET BENEFITS NORTHWEST

WA Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston today welcomed the benefits which the Northwest will receive under the Howard Government's 2007-08 Federal Budget.

Senator Eggleston said that, along with profiting from national Budget initiatives such as increased tax thresholds and child care tax rebates, people in the Northwest can also look forward to benefits designed specifically for their region.

"The Northwest will be safer under the 2007-08 Budget thanks to funding of \$31.7 million over four years to increase patrols off the Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island marine reserves," Senator Eggleston said.

"The Northwest will also share in \$243.0 million to help plan for a Kununurra Bypass on the Victoria Highway."

Senator Eggleston said the Northwest would benefit from various initiatives under the 2007-08 Budget that were designed for all Australians living in regional and rural areas.

"The health of Australians living in regional and remote areas looks to improve under the Federal Budget with millions going to provide mental health support and services for people in drought-affected regions, as well as increased funding for the *Rural Retention Programme* and to expand the Rural Women's GP service."

"The Royal Flying Doctor Service will also be protected under the Budget with \$156.6 million being provided over five years to ensure the service continues for rural and remote communities."

The Senator said that Indigenous Australians in the Northwest were also big winners under the 2007-08 Budget.

"A new secondary education hostel for Indigenous Australians will be built in Kununurra from Federal Budget funding," Senator Eggleston said.

"The Budget also looks to improve the living standards of Indigenous Australians living in remote communities with hundreds of millions of dollars going to improving existing primary health care service delivery, to continue the *National Illicit Drug Strategy* and to fund projects which will attract, engage and support Indigenous adults in remote communities to take up training."

Senator Eggleston said he was also pleased with the \$37.4 million that will be invested in *Health @ Home Plus* which will provide regular visits by health professionals and support teams for Indigenous children between the ages of 0 and 8 living in outer regional and remote areas.