

### Mining tax not good for O'Connor

I remain fundamentally opposed to a mining tax. Western Australia does not need a new mining tax, but we do need a fairer share of what our state delivers to the Federal coffers. A mining tax will not just affect mining companies; it will seep through the economy at all levels. WA is a resource rich state and we need to

ensure this wealth works to benefit all Western Australians. Investment in infrastructure and services is vital to encourage people to live, work and invest in regional WA. I will continue to put forward my thoughts on the Mining Tax to the Government.

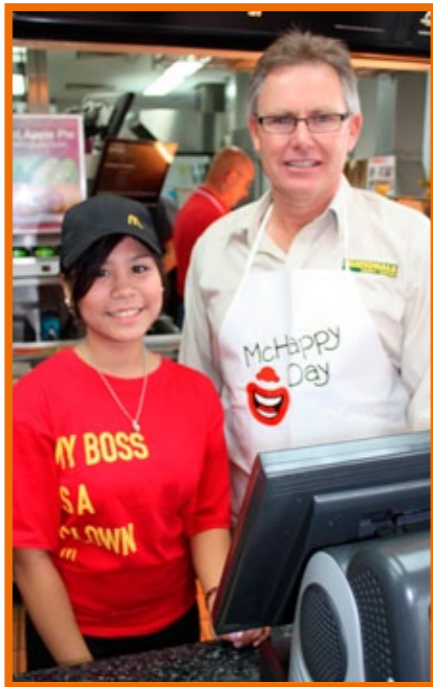
### McHappy day

On November 13, I volunteered at McDonalds Albany to help raise funds for McHappy day.

I was joined by volunteers from various Albany community groups, including the local fire brigade, and the Albany speedway.

A total of \$1730 was raised by the Albany McDonalds through donations, the purchase of Big Macs and crazy straws, to go towards Ronald McDonald Houses across Australia, and more than \$2.3 million in total was raised by McDonalds' stores in Australia.

I had a great time working behind the counter and serving at the drive-thru window and I look forward to helping out on McHappy day again next year.



### New electorate offices open

My electorate offices are now operational in Albany and Kalgoorlie-Boulder. I am dividing time between my offices and the wider electorate, when Parliament is not sitting in Canberra. If you have an issue or concern please contact my staff at the office nearest to you.

#### ALBANY OFFICE

Shop 5 The Link Shopping Centre,  
St Emilie Way,  
Albany WA 6330  
Postal Address: PO Box 5077  
Albany WA 6332  
Phone: (08) 9847 4467  
or 1300 301 868  
Fax: (08) 9847 4480

#### KALGOORLIE-BOULDER OFFICE

345 Hannan Street  
Kalgoorlie WA 6430  
Postal address:  
PO Box 10415 Kalgoorlie WA 6433  
Phone: (08) 9021 1241  
or 1300 772 061  
Fax: (08) 9021 1506

## Tony's Welcome

Welcome to my first newsletter. It has been an exciting and hectic few months since my election as the Member for O'Connor. I've enjoyed many opportunities to travel throughout the electorate, in between parliamentary sittings in Canberra. December looks to be a busy month with lots of school awards nights and presentations, plus the official opening of my two electorate offices. I look forward to visiting more regional towns in the New Year. Please don't hesitate to write, email or call if you have any federal issues you would like to discuss.



### Maiden speech

It was a great honour to deliver my maiden speech to Federal Parliament on Monday October 25, watched by family members, Nationals WA representatives and a large cross-section of Parliamentary Members from all political parties. After introducing the history of the O'Connor electorate and my own background, I took the opportunity to continue my calls for Western Australia to get its fair share of federal funding. My speech covered a range of issues, including regional health, education, infrastructure, the current drought conditions and salinity. I also highlighted the success of Royalties for Regions and the vision and leadership of The Nationals WA. I am very proud to be the first Nationals WA Federal Member to sit in the House of Representatives in 34 years. For more on Tony's maiden speech visit [www.tonymcrook.com.au](http://www.tonymcrook.com.au)

### Best wishes for the coming Festive Season

It has been a very eventful 2010. As the busy Christmas season approaches, I extend my best wishes to you for a happy and safe festive season. I look forward to representing you in 2011 and working to address important issues for regional Australia. Merry Christmas and a very happy new year!

### New website now online

My new website is now operational. The site features information about me and the O'Connor electorate, as well as the latest news, a photo gallery and useful links. Check it out at

[www.tonymcrook.com.au](http://www.tonymcrook.com.au)



### Dry Seasons Assistance Package to help farmers

The State Government has recently unveiled a \$5 million Dry Season Assistance Package to assist more than 100 drought-affected shires in WA, many of which fall into the electorate of O'Connor.

This assistance will support the communities struggling with one of the worst seasons on record.

This package includes \$2 million for Community Service Grants, \$1 million for Social Support Service Grants, \$1 million to help with the

installation of high volume water tanks, \$500,000 to support rural small business, and \$200,000 for a Rural Financial Counselling Program.

Further information is available on the Department of Agriculture and Food website at [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au) and click on 'Dealing with the dry season' or phone 1800 198 231.

I will continue to liaise closely with the State and Federal Governments on this matter.



## Indigenous Australians to be included in Constitution

I have endorsed the recent move from the Prime Minister to see Indigenous Australians included in the Australian Constitution. The Prime Minister announced the Federal Government will be establishing a panel of Indigenous and community leaders, constitutional experts and Parliamentary Members to work towards a referendum on this issue. I see this as a positive move that will only serve to strengthen the bonds between all Australians and look forward to seeing this new panel established.



Tony Crook MP visits the Walitj Aboriginal Corporation farm with Oscar Colbung (WAC Chairman) and Kelly Flugge (Southern Agricultural Indigenous Landholder Service).

## Doctor shortage and local government Standing committee

Many country local governments in O'Connor are doing a fantastic job finding doctors, providing houses and motor vehicles, supplying surgeries, and supplementing their doctor's salaries. This should not be the role of local government. Doctor and health services are the Federal Government's responsibility and

more needs to be done to help these communities and ease the burden on local governments. Since raising this issue in Question Time, I am pleased to say I have opened a dialogue with the Health Minister, Nicola Roxon, and look forward to resolving some of these issues.

I was recently appointed to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry. This Committee will examine a range of issues related to primary industries. I look forward to working with MP's from all political persuasions on the Committee, to get the best outcomes for regional Australia.

## The Esperance and Albany Agricultural Shows

I recently attended the Esperance Agricultural Show and the Albany Agricultural Show, where I was able to meet with locals and hear about the issues concerning them. Attending events like this is a great way to get involved with the community and receive advice on the work I am doing in Parliament. I have received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the Royalties for Regions program, which is why I will continue to fight to ensure that WA gets a fair deal from the Commonwealth.



Tony Crook MP meets with constituents at the Esperance and Albany Agricultural Shows.



## Opening of the Mount Barker Cemetery extension

I recently travelled to Mount Barker to meet with the Shire and attend the opening of the extension to the Mount Barker Cemetery. The new cemetery was required as the current site has nearly reached capacity, after more than 100 years of use. When fully developed, the new site will have room for 1518 burial plots, areas for internment of ashes, and an area dedicated to 'Natural Earth Burials'. The cemetery was jointly funded by Royalties for Regions (\$300,000) and the Federal Government (\$100,000).



Plantagenet Deputy Shire President Michael Skinner and Tony Crook MP officially open the new extensions to the Mount Barker cemetery.

## Wellstead Community Resource Centre opening

I recently attended the opening of the Wellstead Community Resource Centre. It was great to meet with locals in the area, who made me very welcome. The Community Resource Centre lives up to its name and offers a great service to the town. The helpful staff are always on hand to help and the centre boasted an impressive library. The centre received Royalties for Regions funding, highlighting the important work this program is doing to make regional WA a better place to work and live.



At the opening of the Wellstead Community Resource Centre: Tony Crook MP, Tanya Hitzert, Bernadette O'Meara, Margaret Gorman (WCRC Chairperson) and Bruce Manning (CEO, Great Southern Development Commission).

## Youth Allowance reform needed

I have received feedback from all areas of the electorate about Youth Allowance. Regional students often miss out on federal assistance, and this needs to be addressed as soon as possible to ensure all students can access higher education. Unfortunately there is no "quick fix" and progress will require a major overhaul. I have discussed this

issue with Senator Fiona Nash, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Education and she has put forward a Private Senators Bill in the hope of beginning the reform process. I recently supported a motion in the House of Representatives to assist in this process. Please contact me with your concerns regarding Youth Allowance.



Member of RSL Albany Sub Branch, Laurie Fraser, and Tony Crook MP at the Albany Remembrance Day ceremony.



Bob Iffla from Western Australia Farming Federation and Tony Crook MP meet at a Drought Relief meeting in Kulin in September



Nationals WA supporters from Esperance met Tony Crook MP at an Esperance Branch luncheon at the Gibson Soak Hotel in October.