

## FACTS ABOUT O'CONNOR

- O'Connor is Australia's third largest seat with a total area of 909,000 square kilometres.
- In second place is Lingiari in the Northern Territory, and the largest Federal electorate is Durack in WA, with a total area of more than 1.5 million square kilometres.
- O'Connor was named after CY O'Connor - WA's Chief Engineer in the 1890s.
- CY O'Connor was responsible for developing the Fremantle Harbour and the Goldfields Water Pipeline - two key projects for our State which are still in use today.
- O'Connor is home to several world-famous landmarks, including the Super Pit in Kalgoorlie, Wave Rock near Hyden, Dog Rock in Albany, and the Great Australian Bight.
- A number of O'Connor residents have gone on to fame and fortune, including Nobel Prize winner Barry Marshall; Rockstar Tim Rogers; Author Tim Winton; and West Coast Eagles forward Quinten Lynch.

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



## O'Connor Online

Have you visited [www.tonymcrook.com.au](http://www.tonymcrook.com.au) yet?

You can find a range of information about O'Connor and about Tony Crook, including media and speeches, as well as information about the GST Rip-Off, the Local Sporting Champions program, and discussion papers on the hot topics.



## Bring ABC Radio National to Bridgetown

At the request of Bridgetown residents I have launched a petition to deliver ABC Radio National to the area.

There is still time to sign the petition, which is located at the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Visitors Centre and the Balingup Visitors Centre.

Copies of the petition and more information about ABC Radio National can be found online at [www.tonymcrook.com.au](http://www.tonymcrook.com.au)

## Local Sporting Champions Grants

If you are a young person aged 12-18 and you need to travel to take part in a State or National sporting event, you may be able to access funding to help you meet the costs of travel and accommodation.

The O'Connor Local Sporting Champions panel has assisted a total of 22 individuals and one team with grants as part of the 2010-11 funding cycle.

Visit my website, [www.tonymcrook.com.au](http://www.tonymcrook.com.au) to find out more.

## Electorate Office Details

### ALBANY OFFICE

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A newsletter from **TONY CROOK** MP

## Tony's welcome

It has now been more than 12 months since I was inducted into the House of Representatives as your Federal Member for O'Connor.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience - whether it is debating policy in Canberra or travelling throughout O'Connor to learn about the issues that are important to your community.

While the past year has seen a very unique political landscape unfold, it is the coming 12 months that will truly deliver challenges for regional Western Australia.

The Labor Government continues to threaten regional WA by pressing ahead with the Carbon Tax and the Minerals Resource Rent Tax.

I am also disappointed that the Coalition have not lent their support to ensuring WA receives a fair share of GST returns.

These issues are of major concern for the people of regional WA, and I will continue to take a stand where the major parties will not to secure a better deal for our state.

Both major parties must realise there is more to Australia than just the Eastern States.



## In this Issue:

- Albany Anzac Funding
- Carbon Tax costly
- Fly in Fly out inquiry
- Andrew Wilkie Visit
- Youth Allowance Review
- Facts about O'Connor

## Reverse the GST Rip-Off

I have recently tabled my first Private Member's Motion in Parliament, calling on the Federal Government to Reverse Western Australia's GST Rip-Off.

This motion calls for a 75 per cent floor to be placed on GST returns for all States and Territories.

In WA, this would see an additional \$4 billion coming back into our State over the next two years.

Unless a floor on GST is introduced, every person in WA will continue to contribute to the Federal Government coffers, without a fair return.

It is estimated around \$6000 per household will be lost in the next two years because of this Rip-Off.

Western Australians are happy to contribute a fair share to the Commonwealth, but we must draw a line in the sand around what that fair share is.

The WA Premier Colin Barnett, the WA Treasurer Christian Porter, and the Leader of The Nationals WA Brendon Grylls all agree this floor should be set at 75 per cent.

A GST floor will allow all States and Territories to continue to benefit from the GST, and ensure no State is ripped-off as Western Australia has been and continues to be.

A GST floor is truly in the best interests of our State, and I look

forward to the support of all Western Australian Members of Parliament in supporting this motion when it is debated in Parliament in coming weeks.

More information on WA's GST Rip-Off can be found at [www.tonymcrook.com.au](http://www.tonymcrook.com.au)



Tony Crook calls on the Federal Government to Reverse the GST Rip-Off

## Prime Minister visits O'Connor

In August the Prime Minister of Australia, Julia Gillard, visited Esperance and Albany at my invitation to discuss key projects in the electorate.

This visit was the first visit by any Prime Minister to Esperance or Albany for more than 30 years.

Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region, Wendy Duncan, joined the Prime Minister and I on a tour of Esperance, including a visit to the

Esperance Port, the foreshore, and the Tanker Jetty to discuss funding opportunities for these projects.

In Albany, the Prime Minister visited Mount Clarence to learn about Albany's plans for the Centenary of Anzac in 2014.

Securing a visit from the Prime Minister was a wonderful opportunity, and ensures the issues of O'Connor are firmly recognised at the highest level of Government.



Nationals WA Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region Wendy Duncan and Tony Crook take Prime Minister Julia Gillard on a tour of the Esperance Port

## Out and about in the community



Tony Crook addresses the Parliamentary Committee on Health and Ageing as part of an inquiry into overseas-trained doctors and the regional doctor shortage.



Tony Crook meets Charissa Wright - an O'Connor resident participating in the Investing in Youth Forum in Canberra.



Tony Crook meets with Wheatbelt resident Caroline Robinson - the Rural Woman of the Year award recipient.



Member for Wagin Tuck Waldron and Tony Crook meet with a constituent at the Newdegate Field Days.



Tony Crook and Prime Minister Julia Gillard meet with students from John Calvin School Albany on top of Mount Clarence.

## Funding announced for Albany Anzac commemorations

I was very pleased to secure \$250,000 in Federal Government funding towards the Albany Anzac Alliance and their plans for the Centenary of Anzac commemorations in 2014.

Federal Minister for Veteran's Affairs, Warren Snowden, visited Albany to announce the funding atop Mount Clarence.

This critical funding will be used for a scoping study into developing an Anzac Commemorative Centre in Albany to allow visitors to track the journey of Australian soldiers throughout WWI.

Albany has a very rich Anzac heritage and I will continue to lobby to ensure the region is recognised as part of the Centenary of Anzac in 2014.



Tony Crook with Albany MLA Peter Watson, Federal Minister for Veterans Affairs Warren Snowden, Albany Anzac Alliance Chairman Peter Aspinall.

## Andrew Wilkie visits WA mine-sites

At my invitation, key crossbench MP Andrew Wilkie visited Western Australia to learn more about the Mining Tax, and how this may impact regional communities in O'Connor.

Mr Wilkie and I visited mine-sites across WA - travelling to the Pilbara and the Goldfields to meet with

representatives from the resources sector and discuss the challenges they will face under the Mining Tax.

The Mining Tax poses a significant threat to WA's economy, and I will leverage my position on the Crossbench to fight against this anti-WA tax.

## Fruit growers disappointed

I am very disappointed at the Federal Government's decision to allow New Zealand apples to be imported into Australia under substandard quarantine regulations.

This could open the doors to a range of foreign pests and diseases, including Fire Blight and leaf midge.

There must be tighter bio-security requirements on imported fruit coming to Australia to protect our growers.



Tony Crook takes Independent MP Andrew Wilkie on a tour of the Super Pit in Kalgoorlie.

## Out and about in the community



Tony Crook meets with some young supporters at the Newdegate Field Days.



Tony Crook, Terry Leslie and Member for Kalgoorlie John Bowler at Blackstone School.



Tony meets with the Dalai Lama at Parliament House in Canberra.



Tony Crook and his wife Karen received Kalgoorlie-Boulder's Debutantes at the Debutante Ball.

## Regional communities to be hit by Carbon Tax

The Labor Government plans to penalise regional communities by cutting diesel fuel rebates as part of the Carbon Tax package.

This rebate cut will harm regional communities by targeting small mining operations, local governments and service providers, as well as impacting on the construction, manufacturing and retail industries.

While the Labor Government claims that the Carbon Tax will only impact big polluters, many small businesses in the regions will be impacted by this move.

The Labor Government also plans on removing the rebate for heavy on-road vehicles by 2014.

The flow-on effect of this decision will hit families in the form of an increased cost to fuel and groceries, and it will hit businesses who will have to pay more for freight.

The Labor Government needs to understand that a tax on heavy vehicles is a tax on regional communities.

I will continue to oppose the Carbon Tax in the best interests of all regional Western Australians.

## Fly-in, Fly-out Committee Inquiry

I have recently been appointed to a Committee for Regional Australia inquiry focussing on fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) workforces in Australia.

The inquiry will examine a range of issues related to FIFO including the social impact on towns, the impact on individuals, and the availability of services and housing in the regions.

Further information on the inquiry can be found online at [www.aph.gov.au/fifo](http://www.aph.gov.au/fifo).

## Youth Allowance Review

The Federal Government has recently announced the findings of their Youth Allowance Review, and the results are disappointing to say the least.

The Review offered no changes to assist regional students living in O'Connor when accessing higher education.

The Federal Government has missed a real opportunity to address the issue of access to Youth Allowance and has seriously let down our regional students by failing to address the inflexible eligibility criteria.

Regional families need to be afforded

support to ensure their children have the best possible chance to access higher education - they should not be forced to fit a square peg into a round hole when seeking financial assistance for their children's futures.

As it currently stands, the Youth Allowance system disadvantages our regional students when compared to their metropolitan counterparts.

I encourage all families who are disadvantaged by being unable to access Youth Allowance to contact my office and I will continue to lobby the Federal Government on this important issue.

## Did you know?

2011 is the 110 Year Anniversary of the Australian Flag?

Residents and community organisations based in O'Connor can obtain Australian flags, Aboriginal flags and Torres Strait Islander flags from my offices in Kalgoorlie or Albany.

My office can also provide resources relating to Australia, including copies of the Australian Anthem on CD and DVD, and photographs of the Queen.