

Dear ERA

I am a councillor (Elected Member) with the City of Bunbury and have held that role for the last 2-1/2 years. My personal view (and I am not talking on behalf of the City) is that Bunbury has done extremely poorly under the Royalties for Regions banner and that other regions have prospered greatly and enjoy some terrific new infrastructure. The problem was the need was so great, not everything could be done at once and who would deny Karratha their turn to attract some funding? Nobody, I am sure. The time has come, though, for Bunbury to receive her fair share and I would think in the 2014/15 period about \$30M would be a great start. Our Leschenault Inlet has a wonderful concept plan and Casuarina Harbour and Koombana Beach need multi-million dollar investments (including two marinas).

I understand the current Government has tried to water down R4R by directing the funding to areas traditionally funded out of various other programmes and general revenue. This has disturbed me but I do think it vital that politicians, of all persuasions, accept the view that 25% of the State's revenue should be quarantined for use in non-metropolitan areas. A simple fairness test should come to the conclusion that 75% of the State's revenue for the metropolitan area is sufficient and "they" should learn to live within their means.

Now I understand that the ERA is not political and nor is Mr Rowe but surely the fairness test is a no-brainer? Why shouldn't 98% of the State receive 25% of the revenue and the metropolitan area scrape by with 75%?

Why should the City expect more than they are already receiving? Are they not satisfied with the Fiona Stanley Hospital, the new Children's Hospital, Elizabeth Quays & the new Football Stadium? Now I understand that country folk can get to use these facilities sometimes but, in the main, they are being constructed for the domestic population of "Perth".

Can you please review your recommendations with regards to Royalties for Regions? It is vital that the whole State shares in the available funding for the good of all people who live in this great place and that should be a "right" not something that comes and goes with changes in Government.

Many thanks for receiving my submission.

Kind regards

Cr Murray Cook JP