



# Battle lines drawn

■ Education, health and drag strip key pledges



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The race for the seat of Kalgoorlie is likely to be a tight finish, with the WA Nationals Wendy Duncan and the Liberals' Melissa Price battling for first place.

Both frontrunners have battled for the seat over the last few months in a furiously competed campaign.

For the WA Nationals, the major election commitment for the region is the \$150 million Goldfields Revitalisation Fund.

But Ms Duncan said the region would benefit directly from a number of her party's policies. This includes funding for visitor centres, local pools and for pastoral bio-security from the

Nationals' \$300m agricultural policy.

Regional emergency services volunteers will receive an annual \$2000 fuel card under the WA Nationals.

Ms Duncan has made a pitch for people to become "defenders" of Royalties for Regions which was introduced after her party won the balance of power at the 2008 election.

She said the major political parties would spend R4R on roads and infrastructure and would "mainstream" the fund. "R4R is \$1 billion a year, which sounds like a lot, but really isn't," she said.

"If you start spending it on roads and infrastructure you will lose those

things which make a place a better place to live."

She also said R4R was not legislatively safe and could be overturned if a party had the numbers in Parliament. However, WA Labor and the Liberals have repeatedly denied R4R was at risk during the campaign.

Ms Price said her tilt for the seat had gone "much better than expected" and said the Liberals had picked up a number of Labor voters.

The Liberals have pledged \$48m for an upgrade of passing lanes on the Great Eastern Highway and \$45m to rebuild the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community High School.



The Liberals will also commit \$7.8m for a Goldfields Emergency Telehealth Service, to employ three emergency specialists for the Kalgoorlie Hospital, and \$2m towards the construction of a drag strip.

Ms Price's campaign has received backing from Mines Minister Norman Moore and Federal Opposition leader Tony Abbott.

Mr Moore said Ms Price could one day be a Mines Minister.

"With Melissa's strong mining background and her experience she is

very well positioned to take up a future senior position in the Liberal Party if elected," he said.

WA Labor candidate Terrence Winner said he was confident he could be victorious tomorrow.

"It has been a long campaign and I am glad it is over," he said. "But it has forced Kalgoorlie to stand up." His party's major promise for the region is \$3m for the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme.

Both the Liberals and WA Nationals say they have a solution for the

Goldfields Arts Centre. The Liberals have pledged \$5 million for repairs, plus an annual \$300,000 a year for recurrent funding. The WA Nationals say funding for the GAC upgrade could come from the Goldfields fund, while its \$16m regional arts policy would provide the recurrent funding.

The other candidates for Kalgoorlie are Tim Hall for the Greens and Ross Patterson for the Australian Christians.

