



# District high school cuts anger opposition

WA Labor has vowed to fight the state government's broken promise to a number of district high schools.

In a budget estimates hearing recently, it was revealed vital funds of \$19.25 million promised in November 2012 to schools in Gingin, Toodyay, York, Boddington, Wyndham and Yanchep had been axed, with the Jurien Bay District High School having its allocation cut by \$1m.

It is understood hundreds of thousands of dollars had already been spent on planning and design of the upgrades.

Labor member for the agricultural region Darren West described the cuts to district high schools as cruel and "yet another Liberal National broken promise".

"The Liberals and Nationals have no shame as they make lavish promises before an election which they have no intention of keeping," Mr West said.

The government should reinstate the funding it promised and show some commitment to regional education.

"Even worse are comments by the National Party, accusing the government of diverting the funding from Regional WA to the metropolitan area and attempting to avoid any responsibility in the process."

Mr West said it was about time the National Party recognised it was part of the government.

"They have three ministers sitting at the Cabinet table and have every opportunity to fight for the funding of these schools at the highest level."

The district high school cuts include:

❑ Gingin DHS \$3m for home economics upgrade, change rooms and an arts space and media studio;

❑ Boddington DHS, \$1.5m for arts space and media studio;

❑ York DHS, \$750,000 for workshop fit out and arts space;

❑ Toodyay DHS, \$500,000 for performing arts area;

❑ Wyndham DHS, \$2m for science lab, home economics room technology systems

❑ Yanchep DHS, \$10.5m for science labs, D and T workshops, arts facilities and change rooms/ toilets.

❑ Jurien Bay DHS, \$1m for performing arts centre (\$1.5m was the original commitment).

"Funding for education is core government business and these upgrades were urgently needed in order to give our kids facilities comparable to those in the city,"

Mr West said.

"My message is simple, give the money back."

Regional WA schools had already suffered cuts of about \$340 per primary and \$425 per secondary student.

"Enough is enough, education is an investment and not a cost," Mr West said.