

NOTES ON DAVID TEMPLEMAN'S

ADDRESS TO PPG AGM 18.11.07

David opened the session by acknowledging the Noongar owners of the land and the passing of Joe Walley.

He spoke of the importance of the Peel region and of Mandurah, revealing that he is soon to become a father, which has emphasised the importance of what we leave to future generations.

The 8 or 9 months as Minister for the Environment has seen some very important "Bills" passed, or not passed - as with the refusal to allow tapping of the Yarragadee aquifer.

The "Waste Avoidance/Recovery Bill" is vital as W.A. is among the highest producers of waste in the world.

We need to reduce our "Environmental Footprint", with changes in all areas - from source to treatment. Pressure to address the problem needs to be applied to business, which must be held responsible for their contributory role (preferably voluntarily, but mandatory initiatives are available). Support and co-operation is needed from the community.

On the agenda next year will be the "Biodiversity Conservation Bill" which will update previous legislation and include consideration of Climate Change.

We face many challenges, including facing how we change behaviour, especially at times of high growth with increased personal incomes (for many), expectation of access to resources and balance that with environmental constraints. The resource sector generates \$48 billion in revenue, especially in the West Kimberley sector with offshore gas. The question is how to make use of these resources without damaging the environment.

The Midwest Region is also a "resource rich" mining area with unique flora and the unique Banded Limestone Formations.

David vows he will not stand by and allow the extinction of any species.

Whilst the Peel may no longer be the fastest growing region, the population explosion is very significant to effects on the Peel Harvey Catchment (human impact is far greater than rural/farm impact.) Population has risen from 50,000 in 1998 to just over 60,000 now. There will be (and needs to be) more scientific involvement in the Peel on various indicators, such as water use/bore salinity, estuary quality, fish and crabbing research. Scientific study is needed to back up anecdotal evidence of fish and crab depletion. Announcements will soon be made concerning governance of the Peel-Harvey Catchment and waterways.

Evidence is clear that Climate Change is a fact - United Nations experts agree that most forecasts are too conservative. We must change our behaviour but IT IS NOT TOO LATE! We must seize every opportunity. There are some great things happening and all levels of government has acknowledged the truth of climate change, but some sectors slow to react, so business and industry may need to forge ahead to influence government.

We must act now for the future.

PPG must continue to support and increase its encouragement of environmental programs within the schools. Many schools are doing great things eg Nth Dandalup, Riverside, Greenfields, Nth Mandurah. Compliments provide encouragement to the students - "little stuff" helps.

Support environmentally friendly businesses.

Water is a critical resource. Rainfall is reduced by 10 - 12% over the past 30 years and runoff into dams is suffering (now about 45% after one of the better winters for years). The desalination plant is a big help and "Desal 2" near Binningup will help the situation, although it is not entirely popular with everyone. What is more ugly, a desalination plant or dying vegetation? We need to decide what is important.

There is the need to prioritize requirements. Perhaps we should reduce excess lawns and stop watering verges so that we can retain some parks and playgrounds. Perhaps we need to include remnant bushland as part of Public Open Space allowance when developing subdivisions.

Is the cost of water still too cheap? Many people still waste water. We are far luckier than other states where, in many areas, the use of sprinklers is totally banned and greywater has to be used to save gardens (and even street/park trees in some areas).

We are faced with unique opportunities to

- Educate the general community to understand the impacts on the estuary
- Ask the important questions about population density as urban development increases on the coastal strip, east towards Pinjarra and east of the estuary
- Educate locals to the unique qualities of our flora and fauna.

PPG is an example that behaviour change works!