

STATE GOVERNMENT AFFIRMS COASTAL ROAD

The Premier Hon. Alan Carpenter, at an announcement in Geraldton, affirmed the pre 2005 Election commitment made by former Premier Hon. Geoff Gallop, to fund and construct the remaining leg of Indian Ocean Drive, from north of Lancelin to Cervantes, by committing another \$110 million to the project.

A coastal road linking the major towns from Lancelin to Dongara had been muted for over two decades and has been constructed in stages from north to south. The remaining 65 kilometers through an "A" class nature reserve (Nambung National Park) was approved by both Houses of Parliament, but has remained "unfunded" until the Gallop Government's commitment prior to the 2005 State Election.

The 4 December announcement comes as a huge relief for the coastal communities north of Perth, all the way to Geraldton.

According to David Lantzke (General Manager of the Ardross Group, owners of the 9000 lot Turquoise Coast Development in Jurien Bay), the news means that the vision of the coastal Shires on the Central Coast to Geraldton could be now realised.

"An immense amount of work has been expended by Local Governments, in persuading the Government of the day to help convert what must be one of the longest cul-de-sac's (terminating at Lancelin), into a through road. It provides for better access to health facilities at Joondalup for residents for the coastal towns north of Lancelin and in addition, paves the way for tourist operators to gain greater confidence in the region as a place to invest in the tourist infrastructure, which will kick-on job creation".

"A huge pat on the back is owed to the Shires of Gingin, and Dandaragan, as well as the City of Geraldton-Greenough, for their vision and persistence in tackling this long-term project. The State Government should also be congratulated on having honoured their commitment."

Finalisation of the road link is expected to reduce the car trip time between Perth CBD and Jurien Bay by 30 minutes and facilitate greater separation between heavy haulage traffic on the Brand Highway and tourist traffic, such as caravans and buses, utilising Indian Ocean Drive.

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