



# Media Release

## Senator Alan Eggleston

**Liberal Senator for Western Australia  
Chair of the Senate Economics References Committee**

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### **Durack conference inspires lively debate**

5/04/2011

West Australian Senator Alan Eggleston took the opportunity to listen to grassroots issues, ideas and concerns last weekend, at the annual Liberal Party Durack Division Conference held in Exmouth.

“People came from far and wide across Australia’s largest electorate to attend the conference, all people who have survived and thrived in our land of extremes,” Senator Eggleston said.

Kununarra, Port Hedland, Walkaway, Dalwallinu and Moora were just a few of the regional towns represented at the conference, which guaranteed a wide variety of topical issues came up for discussion.

“As a federalist, I was heartened to see a motion passed opposing any referendum for constitutional recognition of local government. The ALP are pushing for direct funding to local councils from Canberra, undermining the crucial role State Government plays in funding decisions,” Senator Eggleston said.

WA Liberal Party vice-president and Durack Division President Gordon Thomson said party members unanimously passed a motion opposing a carbon tax.

“A carbon tax would have a massive and direct impact on Durack, which is host to many lucrative mining, oil and gas, and agricultural industries,” Thomson said.

“As was reflected at the conference, Durack is made up of a great mix of people and lifestyles —from pastoralists to small business owners, miners, fishermen, farmers and retirees.”

To be expected at a regional meeting, motions were also put forward and passed requesting upgrades to The Great Northern Highway and that affordable land and housing issues be addressed.

Senator Eggleston also attended a Tourism Council WA forum on Friday, which heard from federal and state politicians, Exmouth business owners and locals.

“Exmouth has a great potential to grow and expand alongside opportunities in the oil and petroleum industries. We heard from the Tourism Council that it would be a perfect home base for fly in fly out workers working throughout the North West,” Senator Eggleston said.

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