

SOUTHERN RIVER COLLEGE — MUSIC FOCUS PROGRAM

Statement by Member for Gosnells

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12.20 pm]: On Wednesday, 9 April, I attended the Southern River College music focus program's "Concert on the Green". The event was a tremendous display of the musical talent of SRC students, their good taste in performance choices and the splendid support given by parents and staff. I acknowledge the role of Mrs Emma Pearsall and the school's music committee, the passion and commitment of the teaching staff, including Mr Terry Healey, and especially the leadership of the school's principal, Mrs Everal Pearse.

I sit on the SRC school council, so I am well aware of the school's needs. As a mostly 1970s-built secondary school, SRC should be set for a major refurbishment. But this appears to be another Barnett government broken promise. Parts of the school's facilities are crumbling, yet there is no money to refurbish or to expand for year 7s starting in secondary school next year, and no money to support the big upswing in the school's popularity. Relating back to the "Concert on the Green", there is a major need for a performing arts centre. People would be appalled if they saw the conditions under which SRC's music, drama, and media department currently operates. There is also an urgent need for the refurbishment of science rooms, and there was a promise that this would happen in 2011, but the Department of Education spent the money elsewhere—even though architects had developed plans. Other areas needing urgent action include the school's facade and the netball and tennis courts—they are a mess and need resurfacing or moving to a new position—as well as improving the road traffic and parking problems on Southern River Road and fixing the earth science, engineering and robotics specialist room setup. Action is needed because SRC is a school of choice. It has more than 700 students currently enrolled, and it is getting great results.