

First week of the school year brings brilliant opportunities

1 Back to school this week and it was brilliant to see our full-time kindergarten pilot kicking off. This was a key commitment we made at the last election. It is all about supporting West Australian families with more choice and flexibility in those early years.

2 Ensuring our kids have access to quality education is a high priority for our Government, and we can't do that without our incredible teachers. I am happy to say we have about 2000 more teachers across WA compared with the same time last year.

3 While we have been employing thousands of extra nurses, doctors and teachers, the Opposition has

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been criticising the increase in the public sector. Over 70 per cent of growth has been in health and education. We have also brought services back into public hands, like hospital services and road maintenance.

4 The Fremantle Traffic Bridge officially closed on Sunday. Every day will be different but so far, we've seen good results.

Thank you to Fremantle residents and anyone who commutes to and from

Fremantle regularly for their patience.

5 It was fantastic to join community members for one last bus ride over the bridge on Sunday. There were many different stories shared about people's connections to the bridge. Two of the best were from Maureen and Sam. They were both born on the bridge, just 64 years apart!

6 Speaking of bridges, we marked a major milestone on the Mandurah Estuary Bridge duplication this week. Traffic has now switched on to the new bridge for the first time, which will reduce congestion and support future growth in the region. I know the Mandurah and Dawesville

communities have been eagerly anticipating the new bridge.

7 In case you missed it, we've announced full strength beers will now be available in all public bars at Optus Stadium. This is about providing choice and improving fan experience. It just makes sense when you consider full-strength beer is already available in all corporate areas at Optus Stadium.

8 I can also confirm the paper cups at Optus Stadium will be replaced with new reusable plastic cups. Just another way we're improving the fan experience. The changes will take effect from the first home games of the upcoming AFL season.

9 On the topic of improving fan experience, early site establishment started this week on Perth Park. This will be an amazing precinct and a hub for community, entertainment, culture, arts, and sport, while also delivering major economic returns.

10 Tuesday night was the last game of my daughter's six-a-side soccer competition.

As the coach of her team, it was a proud moment to see the girls make the grand final second year running. Will report back next week on how we did!

Go the Smurfs!

Rita Saffioti is Deputy Premier

