

# Minister gets update on Moora projects

By **BELINDA MORRISSY**

CHILDCARE and roads were the hot topics during Federal Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Kristy McBain's visit to Moora last week.

Ms McBain joined Shire of Moora president Tracy Lefroy to inspect the progress of major projects being undertaken by the Shire and to discuss the region's priorities.

The minister confirmed a total Federal spend of close to \$5 million over the next five years in the shire.

A new childhood education and health centre is set to receive \$800,000 as part of the government plan to improve access to childcare in regional communities.

The centre, which is expected to open early next year, will offer early childhood education care, before and after school programs and a range of early intervention services including learning and developmental delay assessments, vision services, hearing and speech services.

Delivered through Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, the funding is kickstarting key works, including framing, electrical wiring, plumbing and hydraulic services, and airconditioning, along with upgrades to the access driveway and carpark facilities.

To improve the safety of local roads within the shire, Ms McBain announced more than \$4.1m in Roads to Recovery funding over the next five years, a boost of more than \$1.7m.

Two kilometres of Old Geraldton Road was sealed earlier this year by \$475,216 in Federal funding, with \$174,124 supporting widening and sealing works on Koojan West Road.

Ms McBain enjoyed her visit to Moora to represent the government.

"From improving access



□ Federal Minister for Regional Development and Local Government Kristy McBain (left), joined Shire of Moora president Tracy Lefroy to visit some of the major projects being undertaken by the shire and to discuss the region's priorities.

to early education services, to making rural roads safer for the heavy vehicles that underpin the Northern Wheatbelt's major agricultural sector funding increases from the Albanese government are getting local priority projects off the ground in this region," Ms McBain said.

"By working with the Shire of Moora to improve the safety and accessibility of their local road networks for heavy vehicles, we're ensuring that this region can unlock the economic opportunities that will come with our Future Made in Australia plan.

"It's fantastic to be in town, to see local-led projects progressing, and to discuss the Shire of Moora's forward priorities because when we work together, we get the best outcomes for our regional communities."

Ms Lefroy welcomed the visit and the chance to showcase the local projects and discuss current and future funding and collaboration opportunities.

"It's fantastic to welcome



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minister McBain to the Shire of Moora to highlight the significant progress we're making with jointly funded projects, and to discuss our future priorities," Ms Lefroy said.

"With the community calling on the Shire of Moora to provide more services than ever before, we're strengthening our partnership with the Australian

Government to ensure that we can continue to deliver the projects locals want to get off the ground.

"With so much of our region reliant on the safe passage of heavy vehicles, the Roads to Recovery funding increase will make a significant impact in how we continue to improve our local road network, and we thank the Australian Government for this."