



# \$9m pledge for Peel

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The Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire Council is struggling to put in place many planning requirements for such a fast growth area because of the huge cost involved in producing the plans and staff shortages.

Detailed area planning of the Byford town centre is about to start, with the Mundijong Structure Plan at a cost of \$825,650 and further plans and studies will be required as Byford and Mundijong expand.

The council joined an alliance of 30 of the fastest growing local government areas Australia-wide to seek Federal Government funds both for planning and infrastructure.

They argued that federal funds are distributed disproportionately.

Serpentine Jarrahdale residents each receive just \$13 a year, while some eastern states regions receive as much as \$80 per person.

Mayor Linton Reynolds represented nine WA local governments at a Fund the Gap summit in Canberra in August and the Serpentine Jarrahdale council joined a Peel region delegation to both political parties recently.

As a result of that trip the federal spokesman for regional development Simon Crean pledged \$9.8 million to be spent across the region on a number of initiatives.

In Byford, a historical homestead built in the 1940s would be restored and modified for community use with a grant of \$275,000.

Percy's Place was saved from demolition by the council when the surrounding land was developed as an urban estate.

A \$200,000 Water Cycle Management Plan for the Peel Harvey Catchment Council will develop sewerage and water re-use options for the town of Mundijong, which will grow from its population of 2000 to 30,000 by 2015.

The region would also benefit from the development of climate change strategies.

The redevelopment of Kwinana and Waroona town centres and the revitalisation of Mandurah central business district will enhance key facilities and infrastructure to help meet the needs of these fast growing communities, under the Labor proposal.

Council chief executive Joanne Abbiss said she felt Labor put forward a good case but nothing was promised until Mr Crean visited the region last week.

"He really did have a focus on local issues and local solutions and understood the difficulty of funding in growth areas," she said.

These projects would be funded under Labor's proposed Living Regions program.