

## **PORTFOLIO REPORTS - STATE COUNCIL**

### **RURAL & REMOTE SCHOOLS REPORT**

**Karina Walter – Portfolio Holder, March 2019**

2018 Conference motions addressed the following topics: camp schools, staff housing and agriculture schools/colleges. Letters were written to the Minister of Education and Training Hon. Sue Ellery, with replies received.

In October, ICPA (WA) State Council met with Fairbridge WA CEO David Russell to discuss the future management of the six Camp Schools. In 2018 Fairbridge were awarded the management of the Department of Education Camp Schools in the locations of Point Peron, Geraldton, Dampier, Kalgoorlie, Bridgetown and Pemberton and have entered into a lease for three (3) lots of five (5) years and have a commitment with the Education Department to keep all six (6) camp schools open. Management of these facilities commenced on 1st January 2019.

Fairbridge WA have guaranteed there will be no change to the cost of accommodation, meals or activities for the six (6) camp schools for the next year. It is anticipated there will be a CPI increase in charges from 2020.

They are committed to ensuring all activities at the camps are mapped to the Australian Curriculum with no changes to the base activities that are currently being performed. In the future additional activities will be offered. Presently Fairbridge WA, in conjunction with Curtin University, are developing a framework for an indigenous program.

I attended the PEAC showcase on Agriculture with another State Councillor. It is an exciting new program run by the Education Department to expand student's knowledge on the Agriculture industry and how widespread and diverse it is. It is a very creative program that gets students engaging in Agriculture.

After considering the findings of the Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education, the Government will invest \$42 million to expand accessibility for regional, rural and remote students through the creation of 500 Commonwealth supported sub-bachelor places, and a further 500 additional Commonwealth supported bachelor places for students at regional study hubs. To support these students, funding of \$16.7 million is available for the development of up to eight regional hubs.

There has also been a continued study into Australia's Rural School Challenge and what can be done to better equip smaller schools and make them attractive for people to want to go and teach.