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THURSDAY

May 19, 2005

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Perth, Western Australia • \$1



But in Perth St Mary's future starts to take shape

Senator Chris Ellison (left), Archbishop Barry Hickey and Senator Ian Campbell discuss the model for the completion of St Mary's Cathedral last week after Senator Campbell, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage had announced a \$3 million grant towards the cost of the work.

The money was allocated in Senator

Campbell's portfolio in last week's Federal budget. Senator Ellison, who is Minister for Justice and Customs, had presented the Archbishop's request for assistance to the Prime Minister last year.

Senator Campbell said that cathedrals played a community role in addition to their particular religious role in all of Australia's capital cities

and it was important for the community to preserve and enhance these outstanding buildings. Archbishop Hickey thanked the two WA Senators for their assistance in the project.

He said the plans were now before the Perth City Council for approval. It is hoped construction will start in January next year, with completion about 18 months later.