



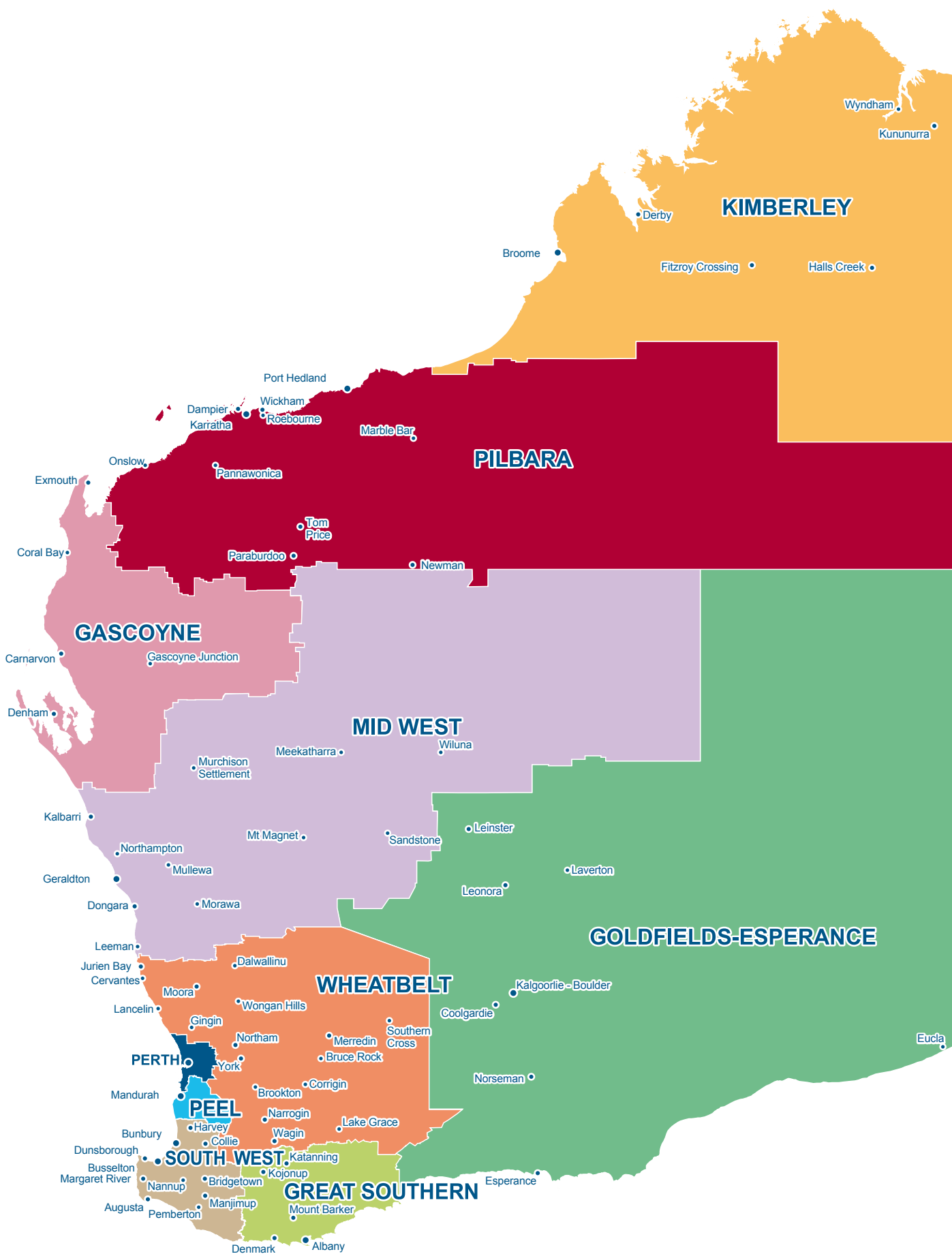
Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Regional Development and Lands**



Royalties for Regions

Giving back to WA communities





Contents

MINISTER'S MESSAGE	4
A NEW APPROACH	4
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRUST	4
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL	5
MAKING IT HAPPEN	5
THE THREE FUNDS	6
COUNTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND	6
REGIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND	6
REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND HEADWORKS FUND	7
ASSESSING NEW PROPOSALS	7
STATE-WIDE PROGRAMS BENEFITTING COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA	8
HEALTH	8
EDUCATION	9
TRAINING	10
ENVIRONMENT AND CONVERSATION	11
TRANSPORT	12
TOURISM	13
ARTS & CULTURE	14
ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES	15
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRES	16
ATTRACTING AND RETAINING KEY PERSONNEL IN REGIONAL WA	17
REGIONAL WORKERS INCENTIVE	17
MAJOR PROJECTS IN THE REGIONS	18
SUPERTOWNS	18
WORLD-CLASS ORD-EAST KIMBERLEY EXPANSION	18
MID WEST INVESTMENT PLAN	18
PILBARA CITIES - INVIGORATING THE PILBARA	19
GASCOYNE REVITALISATION	19
REGIONAL GRANTS SCHEME AND COUNTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND	20
SOUTH WEST REGION	20
KIMBERLEY REGION	20
MIDWEST REGION	20
GASCOYNE REGION	21
GREAT SOUTHERN REGION	21
PILBARA REGION	21
COUNTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND	22
WHEATBELT REGION	22
PEEL REGION	23
GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE REGION	23



Hon. Brendon Grylls MLA
Minister for Regional Development; Lands

Minister's Message

Royalties for Regions is an historic agreement that underlines the State Government's long-term focus on regional development throughout Western Australia.

Through Royalties for Regions 25 per cent of the State's mining and onshore petroleum royalties, which is equivalent to approximately 5 per cent of the State's budget will be returned to the State's regional areas each year as an additional investment in projects, infrastructure and community services.

I am especially proud that Royalties for Regions is putting money back into regional communities. Royalties for Regions projects are being implemented right across the State, giving people in regional areas new opportunities to help shape their own future and plan for longer-term sustainable development. It is exciting to see these initiatives getting under way based on the Royalties for Regions commitment to support projects and services determined and driven by the regional communities themselves. The work being done through Royalties for Regions is bringing real hope and a genuine sense of excitement to people living, working and investing in regional WA.

A new approach

Royalties for Regions is a long-term vision for Western Australia, one that recognises that the sustainable development of regional Western Australia is vital to the State's future.

A total of \$6.1 billion has been budgeted through the Royalties for Regions fund for the period between 2008-09 to 2014-15, with \$1.49 billion allocated to 2011-12. Funding continues to be distributed across nine regions of Western Australia through three funds, which are administered by the Department of Regional Development and Lands.

It is a plan for the whole of Western Australia, with a focus on building communities in regional areas through six policy objectives:

- building capacity in regional communities;
- retaining benefits in regional communities;
- improving services to regional communities;
- attaining sustainability;
- expanding opportunity; and
- growing prosperity.

On 3 December 2009, the State Government's Royalties for Regions Bill was given Royal Assent and commenced. The *Royalties for Regions Act 2009* provides for the establishment of the Royalties for Regions Fund to promote and facilitate economic, business and social development in regional Western Australia. The Act also established the Western Australian Regional Development Trust. The Act provides a legislative base for the Royalties for Regions program's continuing operation.

Western Australian Regional Development Trust

The Western Australian Regional Development Trust was established with the purpose of providing high-level, independent and impartial advice and recommendations to the Minister for Regional Development; Lands on the Royalties for Regions Fund. This includes providing advice on the allocation of money from the Fund and on the allocation of money between the Fund's subsidiary accounts. The Trust is required to report to Parliament each year.

Appointments to the Trust were initially made in June 2010. The Minister announced the appointment of former Western Australian Senator and Rhodes Scholar Andrew Murray as Chair of the Trust. Other Trust members include:

- Sue Middleton, Deputy Chair;
- Paul Rosair, Trust Member;
- Tim Shanahan, Trust Member;
- Peter Rundle, Trust Member.



ANDREW MURRAY



SUE MIDDLETON



PAUL ROSAIR



TIM SHANAHAN



PETER RUNDLE

Regional Development Council

Regional Development Council is an advisory body established under Part 4 Section 33 of the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*. The Council consists of the chairs of the nine Regional Development Commissions and two local government representatives.

Chaired by Ian Fletcher, the Regional Development Council supports both the larger Royalties for Regions Action Agenda funding programs and the Regional Grants Scheme.

The council reports back to government on regional issues as well as develops proactive documents such as the Regional Development Policy Framework which was released in January 2011.

Under Ian Fletcher, the Council is reviewing its operations as a result of the Regional Development Commission review recommendations.



Making it happen...

The initial work on Royalties for Regions was carried out by the Regional Investment Division¹ in the Department of Local Government and Regional Development. On 1 July 2009 the division became part of the new Department of Regional Development and Lands.

The division's work is based on the central principles underpinning Royalties for Regions. They are:

- strategic projects in regional Western Australia are a priority;
- local decision-making in regional areas is fundamental; and
- State Government department administration and processes should provide for and support decision making in regional areas.

In line with these principles, the division works closely with other organisations implementing Royalties for Regions initiatives. They include the State's nine Regional Development Commissions, community, business and industry, community resource centres, non-government organisations and other State Government departments and local governments.

These alliances help ensure there is a strong focus on supporting local decision-making for regional expenditure and increasing the capacity of local governments (for example, through the Country Local Government Fund) and the Regional Development Commissions (through the Regional Grants Scheme).

The three funds

Royalties for Regions distributes benefits to regional communities through three funds - the Country Local Government Fund, the Regional Community Services Fund and the Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund.

The three funds support strong and vibrant regional communities by:

- improving infrastructure and headworks;
- establishing across government strategic and community service projects;
- providing a range of contestable grant opportunities; and
- building capacity in local communities.

1. THE COUNTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND

The Country Local Government Fund supports local governments in the nine regions defined in the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*. The fund enables money to be provided direct to country local governments for them to provide and renew infrastructure.

The Country Local Government Fund aims to:

- address local infrastructure requirements;
- improve asset management and capacity building in the sector; and
- encourage standardised asset management practices and improved strategic regional governance in local government.

The fund supports additional expenditure by councils on planned infrastructure needs and can be used for buildings and infrastructure including roads, bridges, drainage, parks, footpaths and cycle ways, airports and sewerage.

Money from the fund cannot be used for non-infrastructure items such as buying plant and equipment, employing staff, engaging consultants or retiring debt.

2. THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND

The Regional Community Services Fund is designed to improve the access to services in the regions. It supports services that have shown they are effective in enhancing the quality of life for residents in regional areas and in providing better access to government services and infrastructure.

The Regional Community Services Fund aims to:

- assist regional communities achieve improved access to a range of community services;
- assist regional communities overcome disadvantages caused by remoteness; and
- attract and retain essential regional government employees.

Some of the projects the fund supports include the:

- Country Age Pension Fuel Card;
- Southern Inland Health Initiative;
- Royal Flying Doctor Service;
- Patient Assisted Travel Scheme;
- Boarding Away from Home Allowance;
- Community Resource Centres (formerly Telecentres);
- St John Ambulance Services in Country WA; and
- Regional Men's Health.

As well as funding a range of individual strategic projects, the Regional Community Services Fund also includes an annual allocation for Strategic Regional Projects. The Regional Development Council supports both the larger Royalties for Regions Action Agenda funding programs and the Regional Grants Scheme. The action agenda sets out the policy and project priorities that the Council has identified as vital to ensuring regional WA is a place where people want to live and invest.



The action agenda is structured around six key priority areas:

- Housing and Services;
- Employment, Infrastructure and Skills;
- Health;
- Education;
- Social and Environmental Amenity; and
- Leadership and Decision Making.

The money in the Regional Grants Scheme is for community, public, and private organisations to improve and develop infrastructure and services in the regions. Requests for applications for grants are advertised widely to regional communities when the grant money is available.

Western Australia's nine Regional Development Commissions administer the Regional Grants Scheme, including assessing applications and determining grants.

Contact details for the Commissions are on the back of this brochure.

3. THE REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND HEADWORKS FUND

The Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund supports large-scale, strategic regional infrastructure and headworks projects that are acknowledged as being of strategic importance to Western Australia.

The fund aims to support strong investment in regional WA and help leverage investment from other sources for projects that will contribute to the development of regional infrastructure and headworks.

It also supports planning for infrastructure at the regional level and encourages regional communities to develop infrastructure projects that benefit local organisations and communities.

Some initiatives supported by the Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund include:

- The Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project;
- Pilbara Cities;
- Housing for essential workers;
- The Exploration Incentive Scheme;
- The Northern Towns Development Fund;
- Gascoyne Revitalisation;
- The Bunbury to Albany Gas Pipeline;
- The upgrade of the Nickol Bay Hospital;
- The redevelopment of the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital;
- The Albany Regional Hospital;
- Upgrades to regional airports (the Regional Airports Development Scheme);
- South Hedland Town Centre Revitalisation;
- Pilbara Water Opportunities Initiative;
- West Pilbara Water; and
- Mid West Investment plan.



Assessing new proposals

Most of the Royalties for Regions funds are allocated to specific commitments, projects and programs. These include the Regional Grants Scheme which provides funding through a publicly advertised grants scheme. (See the Regional Community Services Fund¹)

New proposals should be assessed through this scheme. Contact the relevant Regional Development Commission for more information. Other State-wide initiatives are subject to normal government assessment processes.

An important feature of Royalties for Regions is that it has been established to supplement – not supplant – the existing provision of basic, essential infrastructure and services provided by Government throughout regional Western Australia.

State-wide programs benefiting communities in Western Australia

Health

REGIONAL HEALTH INVESTMENT

Over \$1billion has been budgeted through Royalties for Regions funding for regional health projects for the period 2008-09 to 2014-15. The new Southern Inland Health Initiative, totalling \$538million, will dramatically improve Southern inland clinical services and encompasses:

- District Medical Workforce Investment Program;
- District Hospital Investment Program;
- Primary Health Centres Demonstration Program;
- Small Hospital and Nursing Post Refurbishment Program;
- Telehealth Investment Program; and
- Regional Residential Aged and Dementia Care Investment Program.

The initiative seeks to boost medical access and services in the Great Southern, Mid West, Goldfields, South West and Wheatbelt regions. Incentives will be provided and 26 facilities will be upgraded in an effort to address the problem of retaining and attracting practitioners and primary health care staff in our regions.

In addition, \$136million has been allocated over four years for the continued development of Kalgoorlie, Albany, and Esperance Hospitals, and the Busselton Health Campus.

ENHANCING ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

Royalties for Regions has committed \$35.5million over four years to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) to help support aero-medical evacuations and a new medical jet which will greatly improve emergency response capability and reduce flight times for patients.

The RFDS flights which transport trauma patients are some of the longest medical retrieval flights in the world. The funding will ensure patients needing to be transferred to Perth from hospitals in regional WA will have access to a safe and appropriate level of service.

PATIENT ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEME

The Patient Assisted Travel Scheme gives assistance to permanent country residents living in regional areas who need to travel more than 100km (one way) to access specialist medical treatment not available in their local area via telehealth or a visiting service.

Country patients travelling more than 70kms to access specialist medical treatment for cancer or dialysis, where the health service is unable to provide a transport service, are also eligible.

Royalties for Regions funding of \$55.7million allocated from 2008-09 to 2013-14 has revitalised the service to country patients through increased subsidy rates, increased support particularly for those undertaking cancer treatment, the aged and disabled and simplification of the program through better administrative processes.

For more information visit www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au

ST JOHN AMBULANCE SERVICES IN COUNTRY WA

St John Ambulance will receive \$32.2million in support from Royalties for Regions to enhance and significantly improve ambulance services available to country residents in a number of locations in regional WA.

Funding will support employment of community paramedics state-wide; increasing volunteer membership, staff and volunteer support; implementation of an Aboriginal Community Subsidy Fund; enhancement of ambulance services in Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Wyndham; establishment of ambulance services in Nullagine and Marble Bar; and improved transport co-ordination system.



Education

REGIONAL SCHOOLS

A Regional Schools Plan, totalling \$100.5million over four years, commenced in 2010-11 to provide new and upgraded buildings and facilities for schools in regional Western Australia.

The Regional Schools Plan includes Esperance Primary, Derby and Denmark District High Schools, and Broome, Carnarvon, Hedland, Karratha, Pinjarra, Collie, Merredin, Northam, Narrogin and Katanning Senior High Schools.

A further \$51.9million over four years will provide for upgrades at regional residential colleges.

ASSISTING STUDENTS LIVING AWAY FROM HOME

Royalties for Regions has topped up The Boarding Away from Home Allowance with \$13.1million in funding. This service helps more than 2,000 students from isolated areas to attend public and private schools and gain access to a quality secondary education.

Not only will the program provide students with up to \$2,295 in benefits each year but also will provide 85 additional single-bed units for students and six staff accommodation units.

FOODBANK

Foodbank is a non-denominational, charitable organisation that sources donated and surplus foods from the food and grocery industry, to distribute to welfare and community agencies that provide food assistance to people in need.

The Foodbank WA School Breakfast Program commenced in 2001 with 11 schools. In 2008 the initiative reached 277 schools (240 being public schools) and 11,455 students. The program targets schools with a low Socio Economic Index ranking.

This funding will ensure the program can expand to additional schools in remote and regional areas of Western Australia.

A total of \$1.56million will support this proposal, with Royalties for Regions contributing 50 per cent (\$780,000), and the Department of Education providing the balance of the funds required over the four years.

BETTER BEGINNINGS – EARLY LITERACY

Royalties for Regions funding will be utilised to extend the reach of the Better Beginnings - Early Literacy program to include children aged 4-5 years throughout regional and remote Western Australia.

Better Beginnings is a universal literacy program for children from birth to five years and their families. It aims to develop early literacy skills in young children through fostering a love of books and language.

Better Beginnings builds on parents' role as their child's first teacher by providing high quality literacy materials and nurturing settings to create positive first experiences around books and language.

The program's objectives are to:

- Introduce children to developmentally appropriate books and language activities;
- Support parents in modelling early literacy practices and raise awareness of the value and pleasure of reading and sharing stories with children; and
- Link families to the resources and services that libraries offer people of all ages.





Training

An allocation of \$136million across for the next four years will help develop skills and training facilities in regional Western Australia and will assist a range of initiatives including:

- the future development of the Muresk education precinct;
- student accommodation in Kalgoorlie;
- skills development for Indigenous trainees;
- trade workshops;
- improving access to trades training programs; and
- other high demand programs to address critical skills shortages.

PINJARRA TRAINING FACILITY

Royalties for Regions will provide \$100,000 in funding towards a training facility in Pinjarra to provide formal training for apprentices in a unique partnership between the State Government and local business.

Polytechnic West, who will deliver the training program, will train apprentices in the mining sector in areas such as mechanical and electrical engineering as well as heavy duty automotive training. Apprentices will receive formal training and experience hands-on training on modern equipment in the Murray Engineering workshop.

The facility has adopted best environmental practices and has the potential to accommodate up to 300 apprentices. With first class training and safety standards, the Murray Engineering workshop has the prospect of becoming a centre of excellence for Western Australian mining apprenticeship training.





Environment and Conversation

WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

A total of \$78.2million has been allocated for water and natural resource management initiatives that help to improve outcomes in water supply and management, assisting industry and supporting State economic development. There will be four focus areas of this funding including:

- Regional water availability planning and investigation;
- Regional Economic Development – Water Opportunities;
- Gascoyne Food Bowl; and
- Regional Natural Resource Management.

The program of works will have a strategic focus to deliver greater access to information around water availability and supply options and to manage water supply for future developments.

CONSERVATION PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE AND ROADS

National parks and other conservation reserves are the basis for much of Western Australia's tourism profile around the world and are popular destinations for local holidays and recreational activities, attracting 14 million visits in 2010.

The allocation of \$20million over four years from Royalties for Regions to the Conservation Parks Infrastructure and Roads Initiative is an investment in both conservation and a nature-based tourism industry and will:

- promote WA's parks as a key resource for the expanding nature-based recreation and tourism industries, while maintaining their conservation value;
- improve access to low-cost caravan and camping opportunities in natural areas throughout WA;
- improve the safety and level of road access to parks and other natural areas in WA;
- deliver improvements in park management and infrastructure to increase the quality of experiences for park visitors; and
- create regional employment opportunities, especially for Aboriginal people.

Funding of up to \$2million per site is required to provide base services including power, water and waste treatment.

Investment will also be made to upgrade roads (including new alignments) and maintain existing roads. Park infrastructure upgrades and parks' promotion will be undertaken at priority sites to improve visitor experience and safety with improvements such as parking areas, walk trails, visitor risk management and interpretation.

MID WEST SOLAR FARM

The Mid West region will receive \$10million in funding for the construction, commission and operation of a 10MV Solar Photovoltaic Power Station. When completed, the project will supply commercial-scale quantities of renewable electricity into the South West Interconnected System. The Project will also produce Renewable Energy Certificates and Capacity Credits.

MARINE PARKS MANAGEMENT

An allocation of \$16.1million during the next four years will help establish two new marine parks, one in the South West (Capes Marine Park) and the other in the Pilbara (Dampier Archipelago).

The funding will be split between the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Department of Fisheries and will allow for the establishment of the two new parks and new management area and their associated management plans.

LIVING LAKES

Living Lakes proposes to enhance existing lake systems and create permanent and accessible water bodies in the Wheatbelt and adjoining regions, by using engineering solutions such as weirs, channels and canals. These natural lakes will be transformed into permanent living reservoirs that will re-establish the native flora and fauna and will attract people, industry, services and recreational facilities to the area. Living Lakes intends to offer another incentive to live in regional communities and an opportunity to diversify the economy of the area.

In 2010-11 an initial allocation of \$200,000 was made to identify suitable water bodies with potential to attract investment for the creation of eco-tourism and lifestyle developments and recreational pursuits. Royalties for Regions will allocate \$1.4million in 2011-12 to support the development of identified water bodies.



Transport

COUNTRY AGE PENSION FUEL CARD

The Country Age Pension Fuel Card provides transport support for aged pensioners living in country areas that do not have access to extensive public transport and rely on their own means to travel.

This program supports eligible pensioners with \$500 per year towards the cost of fuel and taxi travel from participating providers.

To be eligible for a Country Age Pension Fuel Card you must be receiving an Age Pension from Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs (Age Service Pension or Social Security Age Pension).

Additional categories have been added to the initiative with the inclusion of four semi-rural country postcodes (6124, 6125, 6126, 6211) and country pensioners who receive the Centrelink income support pension or benefit categories Widow B, Disability Support, Carer Payment and Wife pension.

The fuel card scheme policy currently includes country pensioners who receive Centrelink Age pension and Department of Veteran's Affairs Service pension, Social Security Age pension and Income Support Supplement pension.

For more information visit www.RoyaltiesforRegions.wa.gov.au

REGIONAL AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

Regional Western Australian local governments and other airport operators will be sharing up to \$26.5million in State Government and Royalties for Regions funding to improve airport infrastructure.

The Regional Airports Development Scheme (RADS) grants will improve regional Flying Doctor access, enhance regional development and help boost tourism in the regions.

For more information on the RADS program visit the Department of Transport website at www.transport.wa.gov.au/aviation



RECREATIONAL BOATING FACILITIES SCHEME

The Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme (RBFS) is a State Government grants program that provides adequate and safe facilities to meet the growing demand for new boating facilities and the continued improvement of existing infrastructure.

\$20million in Royalties for Regions funding has been allocated over the next four years to invest in Western Australia's recreational boating infrastructure and will give boat users greater access to WA's remarkable coastline.

For more information on the RBFS program check out the Department of Transport website at www.transport.wa.gov.au/rbfs



Tourism

Royalties for Regions funding of \$40million over four years has provided a significant boost to regional events through Eventscorp's Regional Events Program. This shows the State Government's commitment to regional events and communities, making regional WA a vibrant and exciting place to visit, as well as a great place to live.

BUNBURY'S DOLPHIN DISCOVERY CENTRE

Established in the early 1990s, Bunbury's award-winning Dolphin Discovery Centre has received \$173,000 in funding for the development of a 360-degree theatre or 'digital dolphinarium' as part of the centre's major refurbishment.

Dedicated entirely to dolphin research, the not-for-profit ecotourism facility gives people the opportunity to learn about and interact with wild bottlenose dolphins.

Opened in January 2011, the one-of-a-kind theatre is the only experience of its kind in Australia and will create a contemporary year-round experience for visitors at this popular tourist attraction.

AUGUSTA'S JEWEL CAVE

Augusta's Jewel Cave received \$443,828 in Royalties for Regions funding to help transform the popular tourist attraction, with upgrades made to both preserve and enhance the ancient wonder.

The multi-million dollar redevelopment resulted in 50-year-old buildings and associated infrastructure being removed, a new cave entrance and tunnel constructed, and a striking new visitor centre housing a cafe, shop and interpretative display built.

With buildings removed, the new entrance allows natural filtration of water back into the cave, protecting threatened ecological communities. The cave is Western Australia's biggest show cave and this project aimed to conserve the heritage of one of WA's natural and iconic tourist attractions.

KARRATHA BMX CLUB

The Shire of Roebourne received \$19,640 in Royalties for Regions funding for the development of the Karratha BMX Club and Grand Stand and is one of several community well-being projects aimed to improve public amenity and lifestyle options for Shire residents.

The challenging free-form BMX track is part of the Bulgarra Sporting Precinct project and was designed in conjunction with users to provide a central and first class facility for BMX riders.





SCREENWEST – DRIFT

ScreenWest's production of *Drift* received \$750,000 in Royalties for Regions funding and would see about 100 technicians, including local crew and emerging Western Australian filmmakers, gaining invaluable on-set learning opportunities.

A high-profile project, it not only has potential for skills development for the WA screen industry but is a unique opportunity to put the international spotlight on Margaret River and the South West region's stunning coastline and bring a raft of economic and promotional benefits to the region.

Arts and Culture

The Department of Regional Development and Lands and the Department of Culture and the Arts have been working collaboratively since 2005 to ensure opportunities for large scale performances were available to regional communities.

The Departments recently signed a further four year agreement, allocating \$1.4million dollars to enable the State's flagship Major Performing Arts Companies to run public performances and school based workshops in regional communities. This exciting cross government partnership will encourage more regional students and community members to experience high quality performances in their local venues.

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC

The Perth Theatre Trust received Royalties for Regions funding to secure the resources and infrastructure to broadcast a performance of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra on Friday 30 September 2011. The simulcast provided an opportunity for regional communities to be part of a world class orchestra performance in real time.

The objective of the project was to utilise technology via high quality video and audio to present a world class orchestra to regional centres and the broader community. The targeted audience groups comprised regional entertainment centres (Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Merredin, Esperance, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Exmouth, Margaret River, Moora and Port Hedland), local Community Resource Centres and regional residents with access to appropriate satellite decoding devices.

Support from the public for the event was strong and feedback established there was a deep enthusiasm and appreciation of the overall inclusiveness that community members felt as a result of the simulcast.



Aboriginal Initiatives

Royalties for Regions has allocated \$58.4million in 2011-12 and a total of \$162.9million to 2014-15 to implement a range of initiatives for Aboriginal people. Some projects include:

REMOTE INDIGENOUS HEALTH CLINICS

WA Country Health will receive \$150,000 in 2010-11 with a total of \$22million over four years for the upgrade of a number of Remote Indigenous Health Clinics.

Access to appropriate health clinic infrastructure in remote locations is critical to the achievement of National and State priorities for Indigenous health.

These priorities focus on closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage, and in particular, improving primary health care in remote locations, improving child and maternal health care, better management of chronic disease and improved prevention and screening. The key objective of the redevelopment of remote Indigenous health clinics is to optimise access to quality primary health care.



CLONTARF COLLEGES

The Clontarf Foundation aims to actively engage Aboriginal students in targeted schools through the establishment of eight additional Clontarf Academies in Carnarvon, Newman, Northam, Wyndham, Katanning, Derby, Roebourne Karratha and Fitzroy Crossing. Royalties for Regions has allocated a total of \$5.04million over three years to assist with this expansion.

It is estimated that 60% of young Aboriginal people are not staying in school until year 12 with only around 50% participating in education, training or meaningful employment. These figures are approximately 30 percentage points lower than those for non-Aboriginal young people.

Accordingly, the Clontarf Foundation aims to actively engage Aboriginal male students to maximise their attendance and promote positive participation and achievement in school, training and prospective employment.

The Academies aim to achieve the following outcomes for participants:

- improved school attendance;
- increased participation in education;
- higher levels of engagement;
- improved levels of attainment; and
- better future prospects through effective transitions and pathways.

A Service Agreement between the Department of Education and the Clontarf Foundation has facilitated consultation to identify schools that will be engaged in this program.

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

Aboriginal people residing in remote and regional communities and in town based reserves are at significant risk due to critical infrastructure and essential services failures. \$10 million in funding has been provided to address this issue and to establish the Aboriginal Community Response Fund.

The fund will focus on enabling an immediate response to emerging crises and critical infrastructure needs in Aboriginal Communities. It will be administered through the Department of Indigenous Affairs and coordinated through the State Government's Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee to provide a timely response outside of existing program and budget constraints.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRES

All Community Resources Centres across Western Australia form part of the Western Australian Community Resource Network, which is supported by the Department of Regional Development and Lands. Funding via the State Government's Royalties for Regions program allows our CRCs greater access to government services, as well as providing for training and capacity building activities.

The 107 Centres are all incorporated, not-for-profit organisations that are independently owned and operated by local people who understand their area, and know the people in their community.

These friendly, locally owned centres not only provide a wide array of information and community-based services, they help bring the people of regional Western Australia together through:

- public internet connections;
- video conferencing services; and
- the Westlink interactive satellite network.



In addition, CRCs provide a central, easily accessible point for local people, businesses and visitors to access a comprehensive collection of essential information on government services. Many of our CRCs also include agencies for services such as Medicare, Centrelink, licensing and training organisations, as well as banks, post offices and visitor centres.

It's easy to see why, in many towns across our state, the Community Resource Centre is the hub of the community.





ATTRACTING AND RETAINING KEY PERSONNEL IN REGIONAL WA

A major goal of the Western Australian State Government is to attract and retain workers such as nurses, teachers and police officers to live and work in remote and regional Western Australia.

Many people enjoy living and working in the regions due to lifestyle and career opportunities, however the issue of available housing sometimes acts as a barrier to retain workers.

In 2009, the State Government announced a major stimulus package that includes the provision of \$210million in Royalties for Regions funding for the Government Regional Officers Housing (GROH) program to deliver 400 properties to house government employees. To 2014-15 the total allocated for Housing for Workers is \$565.5million.

For more information on the GROH program check out the Department of Housing website at www.dhw.wa.gov.au

REGIONAL WORKERS INCENTIVE

The Regional Workers Incentive provides a benefit to public sector employees located in the regions.

\$26.1million in 2011-12 and \$137.9million budgeted to 2014-15 will provide increased district allowances for public sector workers in regional WA as part of the process to attract and retain over 7,000 public sector workers who provide essential government services in the north of the State.

Major projects happening in the regions

SUPERTOWNS

SuperTowns is an exciting State Government initiative to begin the process of enhancing and stimulating growth in key regional towns in the southern half of the State. This initiative will play a pivotal role to capture opportunities from forecast growth, which is predicted to double over the next 30-40 years.

Boddington, Collie, Esperance, Jurien Bay, Katanning, Manjimup, Margaret River, Morawa and Northam have been selected in the first round of the initiative, which will give local communities the opportunity to plan and implement projects and services, to offer more choices for people living in regional areas and an attractive alternative to living in the metropolitan area.

Through Royalties for Regions, \$80million is available to SuperTowns for transformational projects and \$5.5million will be made available to assist with strategic planning in these communities.

This initiative represents a great opportunity for Local governments, Regional Development Commissions, local governments and other State Government agencies to work together to improve amenity, infrastructure and services, not only in the chosen SuperTown but also in surrounding communities.

WORLD-CLASS ORD-EAST KIMBERLEY EXPANSION

The \$415million Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project is jointly funded by Royalties for Regions and the Australian Government, to increase the Ord River irrigation area from 14,000ha to 29,000ha.

The vision is to create a strong, vibrant and sustainable centre in the East Kimberley region, based on agriculture and enhanced social infrastructure. The Project also includes a substantial commitment to social and community infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and housing.

The expansion is a key priority of the State Government's Royalties for Regions initiative, recognising regional centres as the backbone of the Western Australian economy.

The \$415million investment has two components:

Ord Irrigation Expansion Project (OIEP)

The Western Australian Government, through the Royalties for Regions fund, will invest \$220million on developing and delivering agricultural land and supporting infrastructure, including off-farm water supply, drainage and roads.

East Kimberley Development Package (EKDP)

The Australian Government will spend \$195million on 27 specific projects to assist in addressing social and economic disadvantage within the Indigenous population and the current deficiencies in the available social, community and common-use infrastructure in the East Kimberley.

MID WEST INVESTMENT PLAN

The \$220million Mid West Investment Plan funded by Royalties for Regions will be utilised for attracting Government and private investment in the economic social and community infrastructure of the region. Over the next five years projects funded under the Plan will:

- increase economic and socio-economic development capability and capacity;
- enhance the liveability of the communities, catering for changes in population and promoting long term sustainability; and
- provide employment opportunities for local businesses in the planning, construction and operational stages of the proposed initiatives.

The projects will generate the following broad sub-regional outcomes:

- Murchison – revitalisation of the social and community infrastructure;
- North Midlands - an opportunity for communities to capture the benefits and grow in parallel with industry in the sub-region; and
- Batavia - The growth through the hinterland and expansion of Geraldton as the key service centre will create opportunity for prosperity.





PILBARA CITIES INITIATIVE – INVIGORATING THE PILBARA

The \$1.2billion Pilbara Cities Vision will transform the isolated towns of the Pilbara, spanning some 500,000 square kilometres, into vibrant cities supporting populations of 50,000 in each of Karratha and Port and South Hedland and 15,000 in Newman.

Core projects have already commenced through community development plans such as the Karratha City of the North Master Plan, Newman Town Centre Revitalisation, Hedland's Future Today, the Shire of Ashburton Strategic Plan and the Pilbara Area Consultative Committee's Pilbara Plan. Recent exciting developments include:

- the commencement of the \$130million underground power project to secure the power supply for the cyclone-affected coastal communities of Karratha, Roebourne, South Hedland and Onslow;
- land releases for South Hedland's town centre and relocation of the Port Hedland Waste Water Treatment Plant which will provide up to 2,500 new dwellings;
- Karratha CBD Redevelopment – Partnership with Landcorp to redevelop the Karratha CBD and Mulataga with funding support of \$130 million;
- a partnership plan between industry and government for the Dampier township, including marina living; and
- a multi-million dollar neighbourhood centre to deliver 10ha of medium density housing, commercial and retail space in the western suburb of Tambrey.

GASCOYNE REVITALISATION

\$174.9million over five years is provided including \$67.9million in 2011-12 to fund initiatives identified by the four local government authorities of Carnarvon, Exmouth, Shark Bay and Upper Gascoyne and the Gascoyne Development Commission in the Gascoyne Regional Development Plan 2010-2020.

This also includes part-funding from Royalties for Regions for the Carnarvon Police and Justice Complex (\$9.5million), Carnarvon Hospital (\$20.8million) and Exmouth Clinic (\$8.1million).



Regional Grant Scheme

The Regional Grants Scheme is a Royalties for Regions initiative that aims to improve economic and community infrastructure and services in regional Western Australia.

The State's nine Regional Development Commissions administer the scheme with support from the Department of Regional Development and Lands.

The funding provides assistance for infrastructure, services and community projects, including the provisions of headworks and support for broad development of the community.

Since 2008, the scheme has delivered:

- \$36.7million to over 320 projects in 2008-2009;
- \$45million was allocated to more than 233 projects in 2009-2010; and
- 2010-11 funding round saw \$15million allocated to 123 projects across rural and regional Western Australia.

The following provides some examples of the successful projects being implemented region-wide through the Regional Grants Scheme.

SOUTH WEST - EATON OVAL

The Eaton Oval Upgrade is one of 17 projects to benefit through the third round of the South West Regional Grants Scheme.

The Shire of Dardanup's population expected to nearly double to about 22,000 by 2016, this project will help to meet the demand for recreational facilities in the area and will enable the facility to be used by a greater number of sporting and community groups.

KIMBERLEY - DERBY MEMORIAL SWIMMING POOL

The Regional Grant Scheme provided \$145,000 in funding for the upgrade of the Derby Memorial Swimming Pool which includes a 25 metre pool with retractable shade over the length of the pool, shaded wading pool, refreshment area and an extensive lawn area.

The Derby Memorial Pool is a Royal Life Saving Society endorsed swim school and lessons are conducted in series throughout the year. These swim schools cater for newborns and toddlers through to adults.

MID WEST - AQUACULTURE TRIAL

Private enterprise and State government agencies have been working together on an important marine aquaculture trial in the State's Mid West. The trial will establish the procedures and collaboration needed to start an industry that grows market sized fish from locally caught broodstock.

Aquaculture accounts for around 50% of total fish production globally, up from only 4% in 1970; with industry experts suggesting the Mid West is ideally positioned to contribute to this increase in global aquaculture supply. The potential of marine finfish aquaculture along the WA coastline is believed to be much larger than WA's entire "wild-catch" fisheries, with the warm, clean, deep and protected waters providing ideal conditions for many marine aquaculture projects.

With funding support from the Royalties for Regions Regional Grants Scheme, there has been a heavy investment in research personnel and equipment over recent years to enable it to provide valuable support to the local fishing industry.



GASCOYNE - GASCOYNE FOOD COUNCIL

The Gascoyne Food Plan is an initiative of the Carnarvon Growers Association, with funding provided by Royalties for Regions and aims to shift the focus of Carnarvon's produce from production to marketing. It focuses on bringing together primary industry groups and the Gascoyne community to achieve recognition of the region's products and receive premium prices.

The group focuses on production and development – looking at quality and consistency of product coming from Carnarvon and developing best practice, development of a Carnarvon Market Information Service, supply chain networks and regional marketing to showcase Carnarvon's produce and build on new opportunities.



GREAT SOUTHERN - MUNDA BIDDI TRAIL EXTENSION

Through the Regional Grants Scheme, \$1.5million of funding was provided towards the extension of the Munda Biddi Trail from Nannup to Albany. The funding will help the Department of Environment and Conservation's \$6million project to extend the off-road cycle touring trail into a 1,000km track running from Mundaring to Albany.

Similar funding was committed through the South West Development Commission for trail works within the South West region, Nannup to Nornalup. Work has started on the Great Southern sections of the trail and the project is expected to finish in 2012.

PILBARA - MARTU SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The Regional Grants Scheme provided \$100,000 to the Martu School Holiday Program.

The program is managed by the Martu People and is proving a success in diverting children away from crime in Jigalong, and the Yiriman Project in Fitzroy Valley is helping connect at-risk young people with their culture and their elders. The program also helps to create new job opportunities for young people in some of the most remote communities in Australia.



Waterwise Garden and Walk Trail

This project
is funded by
Royalties for Regions
A Western Australia
Government program

Country Local Government Fund

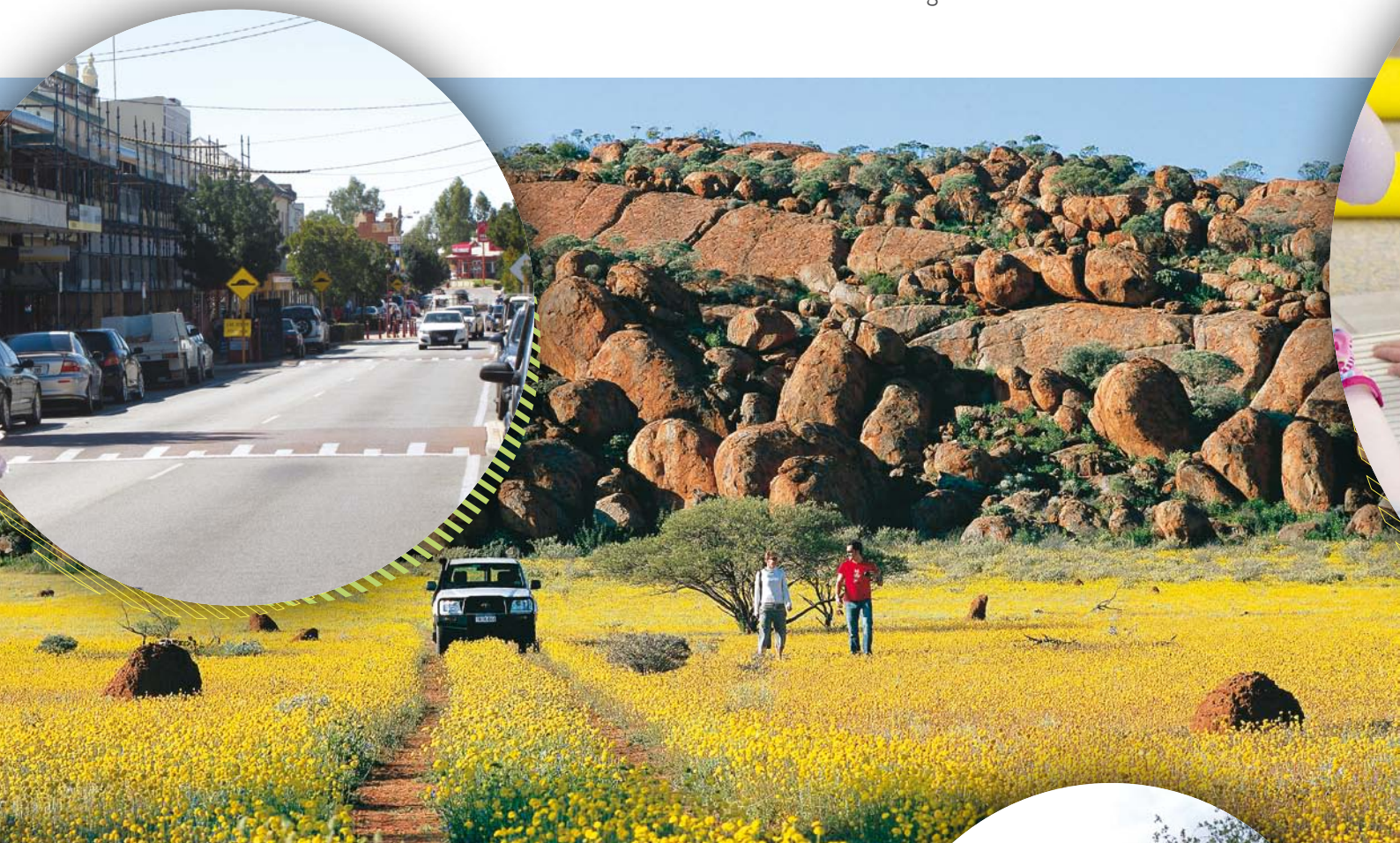
The Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) aims to support local government to provide and renew infrastructure and is one of three funds under the *Royalties for Regions Act 2009*.

By 2014-15 the fund will have invested more than \$552million through 109 local governments, in nine different regions. In 2010-2011 funding was allocated to the following recipients:

- **Local Governments** who received \$60million in funding to help towards the cost of implementing their forward capital works plans, a prerequisite to access individual local government allocations.

- **Regional Groups/Regional Development Commissions** were allocated \$33million to invest in regionally significant infrastructure projects.
- **Department of Regional Development and Lands** received an allocation of \$730,000 for CLGF administration.
- **Department of Local Government** was provided with \$10.578million to deliver complementary capacity building initiatives with a particular focus on strategic and asset management planning.

The following provides some examples of the successful projects being implemented region-wide through both the CLGF and the Regional Grants Scheme.



WHEATBELT - NARROGIN TOWN HALL

The CLGF has provided \$100,000 towards the \$1.3million restoration project of Narrogin's Town Hall, to ensure the conservation and continued usage of the iconic building.

Officially opened 1908, it is a major venue for social occasions and in the past has been used as council offices, a library, art gallery, movie theatre and a bank. Narrogin Town Hall project is one of 14 successful community project proposals to be implemented for 2010-2011.





PEEL – MURRAY LEISURE CENTRE

The Shire of Murray received \$834,000 under the CLGF to progress the multi-million dollar Murray Aquatic Centre project.

The Royalties for Regions CLGF allocation will contribute to the \$1.4million cost of covering and enclosing the swimming pools later this year. The \$7.2million project has provided new aquatic facilities including a 25 metre heated eight lane pool; a children's leisure pool and the region's first hydrotherapy pool.

As one of the fastest growing regions, these recreational facilities are essential to the health and wellbeing of growing communities. The Murray Aquatic Centre project offers an extensive range of sport, recreation and leisure programs to the general public, schools, clubs, and organisations within the Shire of Murray.

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE - LEONORA SPORTING COMPLEX

The development of a \$1.1million Leonora Sporting Complex in the Shire of Leonora was supported by CLGF funding. The new sporting complex includes kitchen facilities, enabling catering at school carnivals, as well as meeting rooms for community planning and engagement meetings and for local sporting clubs to utilise during events and competitions.

The much needed facility will promote physical activity and foster a greater sense of community.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Website: www.gdc.wa.gov.au

GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Telephone: (08) 9080 5000
Website: www.gedc.wa.gov.au

GREAT SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Telephone: (08) 9842 4888
Website: www.gsdc.wa.gov.au

KIMBERLEY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Telephone: (08) 9168 1044
Website: www.kimberley.wa.gov.au

MID WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Telephone: (08) 9921 0702
Website: www.mwdc.wa.gov.au

PEEL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Telephone: (08) 9535 0000
Website: www.peel.wa.gov.au

PILBARA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Telephone: (08) 9173 8400
Website: www.pdc.wa.gov.au

SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Telephone: (08) 9792 2000
Website: www.swdc.wa.gov.au

WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Telephone: (08) 9622 7222
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