



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



# ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS

Putting it back into your community



A State Government initiative to benefit regional Western Australia



Hon Brendon Grylls, MLA  
Minister for Regional Development

## 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, the equivalent of 25 per cent of the State's mining and onshore petroleum royalties 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 was established at the end of 2008 when the Western Australian Government announced its commitment to return the equivalent of 25 per cent of the State's mining and onshore petroleum royalties revenue to regional Western Australia.

In 2009-10 the initiative will provide an additional \$619 million for regional communities - less than 4 per cent of Western Australia's total budget.

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.



## Making it happen...

The initial work on Royalties for Regions was carried out by the Major Regional Projects Division 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).

## 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
- Royal Flying Doctor Service
- Patient Assisted Travel Scheme
- Boarding Away from Home Allowance
- Community Resource Centres (formerly Telecentres).



### 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.

As well as funding a range of individual strategic projects, the Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund includes an annual allocation for the Regional Grants Scheme.

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.

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

- the Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project
- the Pilbara Revitalisation Plan

- housing for essential workers
- the Exploration Incentive Scheme
- the Northern Towns Development Fund
- Gascoyne infrastructure and development initiatives
- 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).

### 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 previous story.)

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.



# Royalties for Regions...putting it back into your community

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls launched Royalties for Regions on 16 December 2008. The following is an outline of some of the key projects announced in the first months up to 30 June 2009.

## **Pilbara Revitalisation Plan**

**\$300 million**

The \$300 million will be used to modernise and transform Pilbara communities over four years. It will enable the communities to replace ageing infrastructure, including putting power lines underground in coastal towns to help protect their electricity supply during the cyclone season.

## **Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project**

**\$220 million**

An expansion of 8,000ha will see the Ord irrigation area increase to 22,000ha. Work has started on the expansion which will see it become a world-class agricultural precinct with the first release of new agricultural blocks expected by 2011-12.

## **Government Regional Officers' Housing**

**\$200 million**

More than 400 houses will be built in regional areas around Western Australia to help attract government employees and their families to live and work in the regions.

## **Country Local Government Fund**

**\$100 million (in 2009-10)**

Funding will go to 110 local governments to provide and renew infrastructure in their areas.

## **Country Age Pension Fuel Card**

**\$80 million**

Age pensioners living in country Western Australia will receive \$500 worth of fuel a year to help cover the cost of their travel.

## **Exploration Incentive Scheme**

**\$80 million**

The program is an initiative to boost mineral and petroleum exploration in Western Australia and help in the discovery of valuable new deposits.

## **Community Resource Centre Network**

**\$40 million**

The Community Resource Centre Network builds on one of Western Australia's longest running and most successful regional community service programs, the Telecentre program. The State Government has allocated \$40 million over four years to the program as part of Royalties for Regions.

## **Regional Grants Scheme**

**\$63 million (in 2009-10)**

More than 320 projects received funding in the first round of the Regional Grants Scheme. The grants are to fund projects that assist in attracting investment and increasing jobs or help to improve the quality of life in the regions.

## **Patient Assisted Travel Scheme**

**\$30.8 million**

The \$30.8 million is a boost to the support for country residents who have to travel away from their homes to access specialist medical services.

## **Royal Flying Doctor Service**

**\$29.9 million**

The additional funding for the RFDS will help improve access to hospital care for people living in the regions in Western Australia, through the provision of more RFDS aircraft, pilots, doctors and nurses.

## **South Hedland Town Centre Revitalisation**

**\$23.3 million**

The South Hedland town centre will experience a major facelift under a plan to rejuvenate the area into a residential, retail and commercial hub.

## **Regional Airports Development Scheme**

**\$17 million**

Royalties for Regions is contributing to projects across the State to improve airport infrastructure at regional airports.

## **Kalgoorlie Hospital**

**\$15.8 million**

The ageing hospital is a vital regional facility and is being redeveloped with the help of \$15.8 million from Royalties for Regions.

## **Nickol Bay Hospital**

**\$10 million**

A package of urgent upgrades including boosting obstetric services and new staff accommodation is being carried out at Karratha's Nickol Bay Hospital.

## **Boarding Away from Home Allowance**

**\$5.6 million**

Royalties for Regions is boosting the Boarding Away from Home Allowance which helps students from isolated areas attending public and private schools gain access to quality secondary education.

# Western Australia's Regional Development Commissions

## **GASCOYNE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Ph: (08) 9941 1803

Website: [www.gdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.gdc.wa.gov.au)

## **GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Ph: (08) 9080 5000

Website: [www.gecdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.gecdc.wa.gov.au)

## **GREAT SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Ph: (08) 9842 4888

Website: [www.gsdcc.wa.gov.au](http://www.gsdcc.wa.gov.au)

## **KIMBERLEY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Ph: (08) 9168 1044

Website: [www.kimberley.wa.gov.au](http://www.kimberley.wa.gov.au)

## **MID WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Ph: (08) 9921 0702

Website: [www.mwdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.mwdc.wa.gov.au)

## **PEEL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Ph: (08) 9535 0000

Website: [www.peel.wa.gov.au](http://www.peel.wa.gov.au)

## **PILBARA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Ph: (08) 9173 8400

Website: [www.pdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.pdc.wa.gov.au)

## **SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

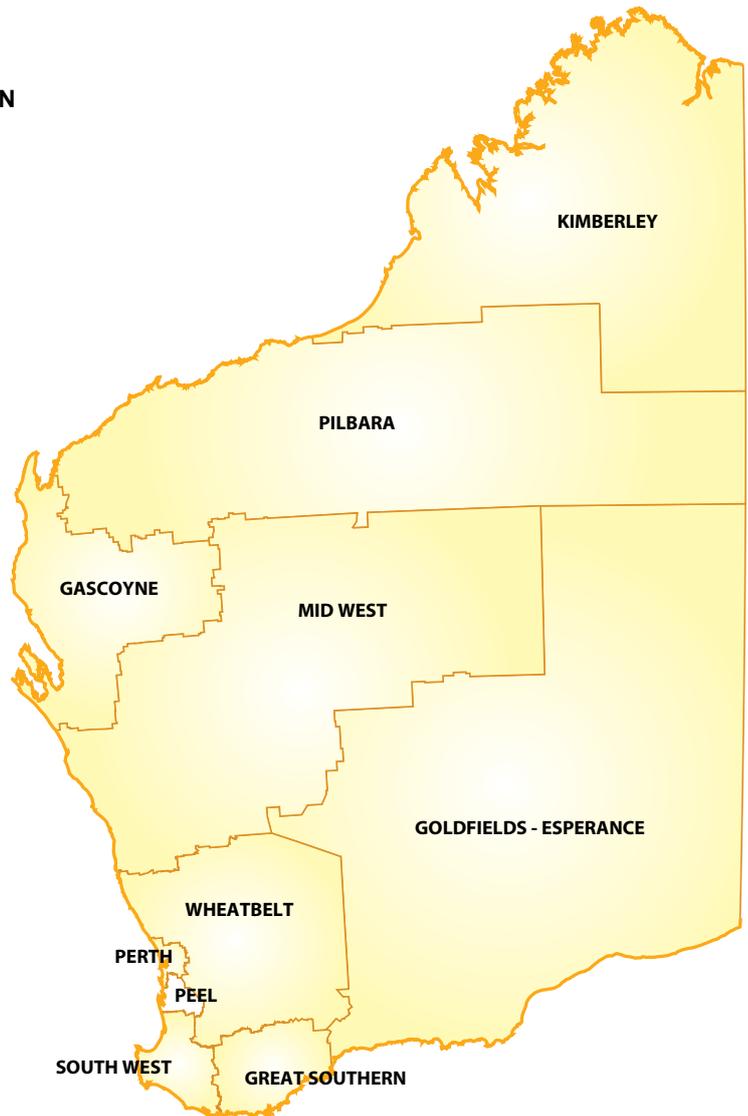
Ph: (08) 9792 2000

Website: [www.swdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.swdc.wa.gov.au)

## **WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Ph: (08) 9622 7222

Website: [www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au](http://www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au)



Western Australian  
Regional Development  
Commission boundaries

### **For more information**

Visit the website at: [www.RoyaltiesforRegions.wa.gov.au](http://www.RoyaltiesforRegions.wa.gov.au)

Email us at [RoyaltiesforRegions@rdl.wa.gov.au](mailto:RoyaltiesforRegions@rdl.wa.gov.au)

Telephone: 08 9217 1400

Country calls free call 1800 620 511

Department of Regional Development and Lands

Major Regional Projects

Level 10 Dumas House

2 Havelock St

West Perth WA 6005

Postal Address:

PO Box 1143

West Perth WA 6872