

**HON BRENDON GRYLLES MLA
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**



**GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

EVENT: Royalties for Regions Launch

**VENUE: University Club Theatrette, Entrance 1, University of
Western Australia, Hackett Drive, Crawley**

DATE: 16 December 2008

TIME: 10:00am

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE HON JOHN CASTRILLI MLA
- PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES

WELCOME TO THE LAUNCH OF ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS.

I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE NOONGAR PEOPLE, THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THIS LAND ON WHICH WE ARE GATHERING, AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK BARRY McGUIRE AND THE ABORIGINAL DANCE GROUP FOR THEIR WELCOME TO COUNTRY TODAY.

TODAY IS AN EXCITING DAY FOR PEOPLE LIVING AND WORKING IN REGIONAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA. NOT ONLY WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS BUT ALSO THE REASON THE PREMIER COLIN BARNETT IS NOT WITH US TODAY BUT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA IN KUNUNURRA LOOKING AT ANOTHER OF OUR INITIATIVES IN THAT OF THE ORD RIVER PROJECT. IT REALLY IS A GREAT DAY FOR REGIONAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WITH THE LAUNCH OF ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS, THE STATE GOVERNMENT EMBARKS ON A NEW DIRECTION FOR THE REGIONS WHICH RECOGNISES THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL COMMUNITIES TO OUR STATE AS A WHOLE.

IT IS A RECOGNITION THAT NO MATTER WHERE YOU CHOOSE TO WORK AND LIVE IN OUR GREAT STATE, THAT YOU ARE ENTITLED TO ADEQUATE SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

TODAY MARKS A NEW DIRECTION IN STATE GOVERNMENT POLICY - A DIRECTION WHICH INCLUDES THOSE WHO LIVE BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF OUR CAPITAL CITY.

UNDER ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS, PEOPLE LIVING IN RURAL, REGIONAL

AND REMOTE LOCATIONS CAN BE ASSURED THAT THEY ARE VERY MUCH A PART OF THE PRIORITIES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

BECAUSE AS OF TODAY PEOPLE LIVING IN THE REGIONS WILL BEGIN TO BENEFIT AS A RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT "PUTTING IT BACK" BY INVESTING ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS FUNDS IN THEIR FUTURE.

UNDER ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS, TWENTY FIVE PERCENT OF THE STATE'S MINING ROYALTIES, CURRENTLY THE EQUIVALENT OF AN ADDITIONAL \$675 MILLION EACH YEAR FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, WILL BE INVESTED IN HELPING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE TO SHAPE THEIR FUTURE LOCALLY, AND PLAN FOR LONGER TERM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A PLAN FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, A PLAN WITH THREE CENTRAL PRINCIPLES THAT WILL GUIDE ITS IMPLEMENTATION:

- STRATEGIC PROJECTS IN THE STATE WILL BE A PRIORITY SO THAT FUNDS ARE INVESTED IN AREAS OF NEED;
- LOCAL DECISION MAKING IN REGIONAL AREAS WILL BE A CORNERSTONE TO THIS INITIATIVE, SO THAT COMMUNITIES ARE ONCE AGAIN EMPOWERED TO PLAN FOR THEIR OWN FUTURE; AND
- STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO PLAN SERVICES AND PROGRAM DELIVERY AROUND THE PRINCIPLE OF LOCAL DECISION-MAKING.

THREE FUNDS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO IMPLEMENT THESE IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES THAT UNDERPIN THE ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS INITIATIVE:

- THE FIRST OF THESE IS THE COUNTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND. TODAY I AM VERY PROUD TO LAUNCH THIS FUND, WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT REGIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE PROVIDED WITH THE MEANS TO INVEST IN NEW AND EXISTING LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE. \$100 MILLION WILL BE PROVIDED IN THIS FINANCIAL YEAR. THIS WILL FORM PART OF AN OVERALL INVESTMENT OF \$400 MILLION OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS TO HELP LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPROVE THEIR ABILITY TO HELP THEIR COMMUNITIES GROW AND BE SUSTAINABLE.

- SECONDLY, THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND, WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT IN REGIONS THROUGH INITIATIVES SUCH AS:
 - THE BUSHCHANGE HOUSING GRANT;
 - THE PATIENT ASSISTED TRAVEL SCHEME;
 - THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE; AND
 - IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT IN ONE OF THE STATE'S LONGEST RUNNING AND MOST SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL PROGRAMS, THE TELECENTRE PROGRAM. THESE FACILITIES HAVE GROWN INTO THE NEW GENERATION "COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRES", AND THIS FUND WILL ENSURE THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO EXPAND THEIR ROLE AND PROVIDE INNOVATIVE SERVICES THAT HELPS THEIR COMMUNITIES GROW.

- AND FINALLY, THE REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND HEADWORKS FUND, WHICH WILL STIMULATE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INVESTMENT IN A VARIETY OF MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. THESE WILL INCLUDE:
 - THE ORD STAGE TWO EXTENSION, A MAJOR STRATEGIC PROJECT THAT BUILDS A NEW FUTURE FOR THE NORTH;
 - THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL HOUSING FOR WORKERS;
 - UPGRADING REGIONAL AIRPORTS;
 - DEVELOPING A BUNBURY TO ALBANY GAS PIPELINE; AND

- THERE WILL ALSO BE INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPING WATER RESOURCES IN THE PILBARA AND GASCOYNE REGIONS TO ENSURE THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE CAN BE UTILISED TO DEVELOP NEW AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRIES FOR DIVERSIFICATION OF THE INDUSTRY BASE IN THOSE REGIONS.
- THIS FUND WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES GRANTS, TO SUPPORT STRATEGIC PROJECTS IN REGIONAL AREAS, WHICH WILL INCLUDE ROUNDS OF CONTESTABLE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES TO ACCESS.

THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS WILL MANAGE THESE FUNDS AND ESTABLISH FUNDING PROGRAMS AND APPLICATION PROCESSES SO THAT ORGANISATIONS CAN SEEK FUNDS FOR SUITABLE PROJECTS. THIS SIGNALS THE EXPANDING AND IMPORTANT ROLE OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS IN STIMULATING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LOCAL DECISION MAKING. THESE FUNDS WILL BRING PRIORITY PROJECTS TO A REALITY TO HELP OUR REGIONS COMMUNITIES GROW .

I CAN ASSURE YOU ALL THAT FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LAUNCHES CONCERNING ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN THE COMING MONTHS.

THESE FUNDS HAVE ALL BEEN ESTABLISHED TO BRING THE FOCUS BACK ONTO REGIONAL COMMUNITIES, TO GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE STATE ONCE AGAIN BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES BY:

- BUILDING CAPACITY;
- RETAINING BENEFITS LOCALLY;
- IMPROVING SERVICES;
- BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY;

- EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY; AND
- GROWING PROSPERITY.

IT IS A PLAN THAT INVOLVES ALL OF GOVERNMENT AND ENSURES WE WORK TOGETHER TO HELP OUR COMMUNITIES WHERE PEOPLE CHOOSE TO LIVE, WORK AND GROW.

THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS WORKING WITH LOCAL STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS OF COUNCILS, PEAK REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS, COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

THIS COLLABORATION WILL HELP TO ENSURE THAT THESE FUNDS ARE NOT USED TO SUPPLANT THE EXISTING COMMITMENTS IN PLACE FOR THE PROVISION OF BASIC, ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE ACROSS REGIONAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AND THAT THEY WON'T BE USED TO REPLACE EXISTING RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMUNITY SERVICE OBLIGATIONS BY GOVERNMENT AND UTILITY SERVICE PROVIDERS.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT REPRESENTS A RETURN TO GIVING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AND PRIORITISE DECISIONS LOCALLY, WITH THE PROVISION OF RESOURCES THAT WILL ALLOW THESE DECISIONS TO BECOME A REALITY.

THE LIBERAL-NATIONALS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF BRINGING POSITIVE CHANGE TO REGIONAL WESTERN AUSTRALIANS. AS MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IT WILL BE A PRIORITY TO ENSURE THE BENEFITS WE SEEK TO BRING TO ALL REGIONAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS CONTINUES PAST THIS TERM OF GOVERNMENT AND WELL INTO THE FUTURE

THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME FOR ALL PEOPLE LIVING IN REGIONAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AND I ASK THAT EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM TODAY, AND ALL YOUR COLLEAGUES, WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE THIS OPPORTUNITY WORKS WELL FOR EVERY REGIONAL COMMUNITY.

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO WELCOME THE HON JOHN CASTRILLI TO SPEAK WITH YOU ALL ABOUT THE COUNTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND.

THANK YOU.