

A weekly e-newsletter from the Parliamentary National Party of Western Australia

Royalties for Regions funding applications to be assessed for regional communities

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls has welcomed responses to the second round of the Liberal-National Government's Royalties for Regions Regional Grants Scheme. A total of 689 applications, amounting to almost \$106million in funding requests has been received by the nine Regional Development Commissions. The projects will now be assessed by the Commission Boards with successful applicants being notified by the end of this financial year. More information at <http://www.royaltiesforregions.wa.gov.au>

Dire situation discussed in Kulin

Hon Terry Waldron MLA and Hon Phil Gardiner MLC are attending the WA Farmers Corrigin – Lake Grace zone public meeting in Kulin this afternoon. The meeting will be used to deliver a strong message to the State and Federal government about the pending disaster expected to hit WA Wheatbelt farmers this year. High input costs, lack of rain and low commodity prices, means many farmers are heading into this season with a 'make or break' reality. Nationals MPs will be there to see what, if any, measures and initiatives the Government can make in response to the situation. More than 400 people are expected to attend the crisis meeting.

Focussing on health in the South West

Member for the South West Colin Holt spent his week visiting vital services in the area. Colin met with both the CEO of the Wellington Economic Alliance and The South West Rural Clinical School in Bunbury to hear their plans for attracting general practitioners and medical specialists to the area. On Friday Colin attended the opening of the Albany Lions Community Care Respite Centre, a community managed and financed facility that cares for over 600 clients.

Crisis point for student accommodation

Wendy Duncan MLC, Phil Gardiner MLC and Mia Davies MLC attended the Isolated Childrens' Parents Association (ICPA) meeting in Perth this week. The focus was the crisis in student accommodation for regional and remote students trying to access education of their choice. Changes to Youth Allowance eligibility was also discussed at the ICPA meeting.

Moroccan delegation in WA

Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman met with His Excellency Mr Aziz Akhannouch, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Morocco this week to discuss ways WA can help with a plan to redevelop agriculture in Morocco. The delegation said they could learn much from WA, particularly in areas such as dryland farming, rangeland production, water resource management and biosecurity.



Above: Hon Terry Redman MLA with the Moroccan Minister and ambassador

NEWS HEADLINES

Partner shortlist announced for the highly sought-after Knutsford Project, Grylls

Moroccan delegation investigates WA agriculture, Redman

Preferred proponent chosen for first phase of Ord Expansion, Grylls

Reverse the rip-off: The Nationals WA gear up for Federal Election, Holt

Landgate takes prize in firefighting technology, Grylls

Royalties for Regions funding applications to be assessed for regional communities, Grylls

2009-10 Regional Grants Scheme funding in demand, Duncan

European wasps discovered in metropolitan Perth, Redman

Plans for the future of Newman now on show for public comment, Grylls

For more information visit www.wa.gov.au or www.nationalswa.com

WHAT'S NEXT

20 March – Grant in Northampton

21 March – Grant in Kalbarri

22 March – Phil meeting with Westnet Rail

23-25 March – Legislative Council sitting

24 March – Tuck in Pingelly and Yealering

24 March – Colin in Collie
24 March – Grant in Jurien Bay and Toodyay

25th Colin attending the Bendigo Bank Community Bank WA Conference

26-27 – The Nationals WA Conference Albany

Member attends celebrations

Hon Wendy Duncan MLC was in the South East this week for the celebration of Scaddan's 100th Anniversary. Two of the original settlers' families had representatives present and people travelled from as far as Ballarat and Busselton. The town was named after the first Premier of WA, Jack Scaddan and one of his descendents attended. Congratulations to Lorraine Bale, Jenny Morecombe and the team on a memorable day. Wendy was also in Wiluna to celebrate the completion of the new TAFE centre and attend a meeting of the Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA) group. Mining companies, government agencies, Martu families and private consultants are all involved in the RPA, working for better outcomes and employment opportunities for the local population.



Above: Wiluna community leaders celebrate the completion of the new Durack TAFE

Preferred proponent chosen for first phase of Ord Expansion

The \$220million Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project reached another milestone with the announcement of the first major construction contract this week. The successful proponent will be a joint venture between Leighton Contractors and Indigenous Business Australia (IBA). They will be required to build the 19km of irrigation channel, a 13km road extension and irrigation control structures. The project is funded by the Royalties for Regions program and will deliver significant outcomes for the traditional owners in the region, the Miriwung Gajerrong

people, including extensive training, employment and business opportunities.

Changes in farming communities

Member for the Agricultural Region Philip Gardiner is in Quairading this morning to attend a seminar titled 'Opportunities for Change'. The seminar is aimed at promoting a greater awareness of the changes taking place in farming communities and is being run by the Shire of Quairading. Some of the topics for discussion include; facts and trends of changing weather patterns, latest research on maximizing water runoff, strategies for sustaining scheme water supplies in the Wheatbelt and opportunities from tree crops.

Plans for the future of Newman now on show for public comment

Lands Minister Brendon Grylls urged Newman residents to have their say on a visionary new plan to grow the town into a major regional hub of 15,000 people. As a part of the Government's Royalties for Region's 'Pilbara Cities' initiative, the draft Newman Revitalisation Plan was developed by LandCorp and the Shire of East Pilbara to guide the town's future growth. For more information, phone 9482 7499 or view at

<http://www.eastpilbara.wa.gov.au>.

Landgate takes prize in firefighting technology

Innovative technology used to combat fires in Indonesia has won Landgate the exporter category award at the 19th Western Australian Information Technology and Telecommunications Awards. Lands Minister Brendon Grylls said the exporter award was international recognition of the contribution of a West Australian organisation to the telecommunications and technology sector.

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