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## In Your Region March 2016

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# IN YOUR REGION

Edition 18 - 2016

## Kimberley Land Council welcomes new Broome facility

The Kimberley Land Council's (KLC) capacity to deliver training and employment services to Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley has been greatly improved thanks to the opening of the new Kimberley Land Council Building in Broome on 4 August 2015.

Named the Sebastian-Watson office complex, in honour of founders and cultural advisers John Watson and the late Frank Sebastian, the two-storey building has enabled all of the KLC's Broome-based operations to be housed under one roof.

The facility contains amenities, which cater for up to 120 staff members, including adaptable conference facilities, meeting rooms and a specially designed archive and storage space to protect historical documents and library resources.

KLC Chief Executive Officer Nolan Hunter said the opening of the new complex marked a significant point in the organisation's history.

"This building symbolises our proud history and serves as a reminder of what Kimberley Aboriginal people have been able to achieve in the past 37 years," Mr Hunter said.

"It is an investment in our future and the future of all Kimberley Aboriginal people as we work towards achieving strong social, economic and cultural outcomes."

First established in 1978, the KLC is the peak Indigenous body in the Kimberley region, working with Aboriginal people to secure native title recognition,



Karajarri dancers at KLC building opening, photo courtesy of KLC



Moving in, photo courtesy of KLC

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# DG Message

Welcome to the first edition of the In Your Region newsletter for 2016.

This year holds a number of new and exciting opportunities for all of us in Regional Development as we continue to deliver positive economic and social development outcomes across our state's nine regions.

The Regional Development Portfolio is increasingly focused on establishing the pre-conditions for economic development as well as driving growth and new investment in the regions.

This edition features an overview of Seizing the Opportunity in Agriculture (STOA), a major State Government initiative, coordinated by the Department of Regional Development in collaboration with partner agencies. This exciting program will grow the state's economic base by increasing the export capacity of the Western Australian agrifood sector.

STOA will see \$300 million of Royalties for Region funding channelled across fifteen significant programs, an investment which will realise Western Australia's unique opportunity to capitalise on the growing global demand for food and agricultural products as well as the vast availability of farming land and our close proximity to Asia.

I look forward to another productive year ahead, working with partner agencies and our community and industry stakeholders, as we continue to ensure the regions develop as attractive places to visit, work, live and invest.

I hope you enjoy this snapshot of what is happening in your region and I encourage you to visit our website to find out more.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Ralph Addis  
Director General

## Continued from page 1

develop cultural business enterprises and oversee conservation and land management activities.

Thanks to its new 4-star Green Star-rated office complex, made from sustainable materials, the KLC has the capacity to continue delivering important services to the Kimberley Aboriginal community for years to come.

Mr Hunter said the \$14.6 million office complex would not have been possible without project partners; Royalties for Regions, the Regional Development Australia Fund, Lotterywest and the

Indigenous Land Corporation, which invested \$3.9 million, \$4.9 million, \$2 million and \$2 million respectively, in addition to the KLC's contribution of \$1.8 million.

*"We have received great support from our project and funding partners and for that I would like to thank them very much," Mr Hunter said.*

"This generous support has enabled the KLC to build a new facility that will provide a safe, modern, efficient and productive work environment for our staff so we can continue to work for all Kimberley Aboriginal people."



KLC Board Chairman Anthony Watson, Minister Redman, KLC Director Albert Cox and KLC CEO Nolan Hunter at building opening, photo courtesy of KLC

# Telehealth narrows health service divide

Health services in regional Western Australia have been boosted by the incorporation of telehealth into mainstream service delivery, providing regional patients with timely access to specialist and emergency care closer to home.

Telehealth is most commonly used to provide small regional hospitals and health centres with emergency medicine specialist support via videoconference (Emergency Telehealth Service) and for outpatient consultations between metropolitan-based specialists and patients based in the regions.

## Emergency Telehealth Service

Over 70 regional hospital and health centre emergency departments have been transformed, thanks to the Emergency Telehealth Service (ETS) made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions half a billion dollar investment in the Southern Inland Health Initiative.

The ETS improves access to emergency health services closer to the patient's place of residence, reducing the need for travel and improving the timeliness of vital medical intervention. It also provides education and training opportunities to the regional health workforce, strengthening existing health services.

How does ETS work? It creates a virtual emergency department using videoconferencing equipment to connect local doctors and nurses in small regional hospitals with highly trained, emergency medicine specialists who are based in Perth.

These specialist doctors provide support to the local clinical staff, assisting with diagnosis, treatment and where required, transfer of emergency patients.



Albany telehealth patient Les Ayton, photo courtesy of WACHS

They operate the multifunctional cameras fitted in regional hospitals remotely and can guide local clinical staff through effective medical emergency treatments.

Due to strong demand from clinicians in regional hospitals, the operating hours for ETS were extended in June 2015 and the service is now functional from 8am until 11pm, seven days a week. Outside ETS hours, medical support to smaller regional hospitals is provided through major regional hospitals, metropolitan emergency departments and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

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*More than 25,500 (as at Dec 2015) patient consultations have been conducted via the ETS since its introduction as a pilot program in 2012. 72% of these patients have received treatment on-site, which has reduced the need for them to travel to a larger centre to see a doctor.*

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Residents in the Lancelin area are the latest to gain access to the ETS via the Silver Chain Lancelin Emergency Telehealth Service. The service was officially launched in December 2015 and is the first time ETS has partnered with a non-government organisation. Lancelin Primary Health Centre will pilot the use of the ETS for 12 months.

## Outpatient consults

Telehealth has made a significant improvement to the quality of life for many regional residents.

Albany resident Mr Les Ayton previously drove five hours every few months for a short appointment with his specialist at the Royal Perth Hospital. He incurred additional costs for the expensive three-day trip when accommodation, travel and meals were included.

Now thanks to telehealth, Mr Ayton is able to stay in Albany and conduct his outpatient appointments with his specialist, via videoconference at the Albany Health Campus.

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# Modern healthcare services at new emergency department

The new emergency department (ED) at the Esperance Health Campus is delivering efficient and contemporary healthcare to patients.

The ED is a significant milestone in the \$31.3 million redevelopment of the Esperance Health Campus, made possible by an \$18.8 million investment from the State Government's Royalties for Regions program and \$12.5 million from the WA Country Health Service (WACHS).

Key services have been brought under one roof and the ED now boasts:

- triple the capacity of the previous ED, increasing from four to twelve treatment spaces
- two resuscitation bays
- a secure mental health assessment room
- a procedure room
- a new entrance with covered patient set down area
- a larger waiting room
- a new layout that provides improved visibility over patients for staff

The two state-of-the-art resuscitation bays are equipped



New treatment room, photo courtesy of WACHS

with videoconferencing technology and telehealth links to provide round-the-clock access to emergency medical specialists in Kalgoorlie and Perth hospitals.

The redevelopment of the Esperance Health Campus is being undertaken in stages to minimise disruption to services. It is expected to be completed in early 2017.

## Continued from page 3

"I see little difference between a telehealth conference and a face-to-face conference," Mr Ayton says.

"We are able to have a two-way conversation and I am able to demonstrate my dexterity issues and muscle weaknesses.

*"Being able to see and talk to the specialist is important to me and her response on the screen is just as good as having her sitting in the same room."*

For outpatient specialist consults, a local health professional such as a General Practitioner or a physiotherapist could

also be in the room with the patient to seek further advice from the specialist.

Telehealth undoubtedly contributes towards narrowing the divide between regional and metropolitan health services, which is fundamental in supporting the development of sustainable regions in WA.



# Greater Aboriginal tourism experiences for regional WA

The demand for Aboriginal cultural tourism has grown substantially in the national and international tourism markets. Visitors to regional Western Australia are increasingly keen to embrace itineraries that provide a more in-depth Aboriginal tourism immersion into cultural experiences.

To capitalise on the demand for Aboriginal tourism experiences, 17 emerging tourism businesses have recently been selected to participate in the largest economic development initiative managed by an Aboriginal tourism organisation in Australia.

The Aboriginal Tourism Development Program seeks to increase the capacity and capability of Aboriginal tourism businesses in regional Western Australia. It currently has a particular focus on the Kimberley and the broader South West regions.

Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC) Chairman Robert Taylor said Western Australia is already recognised for delivering authentic and unique Aboriginal tourism experiences.

"With the Kimberley a leader in the industry and the South West receiving a high volume of interstate and international visitors, it is important that

we continue to expand the extraordinary experiences in these regions," he said.

"There are also many additional opportunities we can create throughout regional WA that will leave a lasting impression on visitors, and this is where WAITOC makes a difference."

WAITOC is the peak industry body for Aboriginal tourism in Western Australia.

"It is our aspiration to promote the Aboriginal tourism experience and foster the development of new and culturally authentic tourism venues," Mr Taylor said.

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*"Aboriginal tourism provides longevity to the unique culture whilst also motivating visitors to extend their stay in regional Western Australia."*

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"I look forward to seeing these 17 businesses contribute to the improved quality and authenticity of Aboriginal tourism products."



Aboriginal Artist in the Kimberley, photo courtesy of WAITOC

Stay tuned to hear from these Aboriginal tourism businesses in our next edition!

The Aboriginal Tourism Development Program is made possible by a \$4.6 million investment from the State Government's Royalties for Regions program and is administered by Tourism WA and WAITOC.



Sharing culture around the campfire, photo courtesy of WAITOC



Pandanus fruit found in northern Australia, photo courtesy of WAITOC

# Pilbara Institute upskills regional workforce

Greater access to specialised industry training is now available in the Pilbara region following the recent opening of Pilbara Institute's Karratha Industrial Skills Centre.

Construction has also commenced on a Health and Allied Services Training Centre at the Pilbara Institute's Pundulmurra campus in South Hedland.

Made possible by an investment of \$18.4 million from the State Government's Royalties for Regions Skills Training Initiative, the campuses are important assets to the region.

Pilbara Institute's Managing Director Marlene Boundy stressed the importance of providing residents with the opportunity to access industry relevant skills training.

"Our Institute is the largest training provider in the Pilbara and as the region undergoes rapid industry development, we are working closely

with industry to deliver skills training and qualifications relevant to their workforces," Ms Boundy said.

Pilbara businesses and residents will have access to industry relevant skills training, with high quality equipment and courses that can be customised to suit industry and student needs.

## **Karratha Industrial Skills Training Centre**

The \$4.7 million project involved the construction of a new building specially designed to allow for flexible training to occur throughout the year.

It has external lights to ensure the facilities can also be used at night as well as a unique design that allows airflow to keep temperatures down in the Pilbara heat. The facility includes two classrooms, a lunchroom, storage, a large undercover training area and outdoor training area.

The centre now delivers courses in areas such as security and safety, working at heights, dogging, rigging and confined space, as well as white card and other high risk training.

The courses deliver both entry level and industry specific training, preparing local workers for employment on construction projects.

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*"The Industry Skills Centre is a fantastic facility, providing the Pilbara with access to industry training in high quality facilities, opening up opportunities for businesses and individuals alike," Ms Boundy added.*

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## **Pundulmurra Health and Allied Services Training Centre**

The \$15.7 million centre will offer a modern health training facility that caters for the training needs of the local population and assists in upskilling health sector workers.



Artist impression of South Hedland facility, photo courtesy of Pilbara Institute



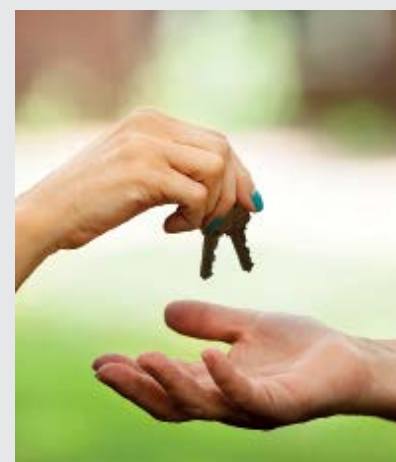
## Improving the quality and quantity of housing in regional WA

The completion of two three bedroom, two bathroom homes in Brookton rounds out a two-phase housing project in Brookton and Pingelly to provide affordable rental accommodation for shire workers and other skilled professionals.

Royalties for Regions through the Country Local Government Fund's regional groupings component invested \$624,063 towards each project cost, with the shires contributing the remaining funds.

Royalties for Regions has made an enormous contribution to regional housing stock through a number of funding initiatives since its introduction in 2008, including more than \$355 million towards the Affordable Housing for Workers initiative.

To find out more information visit [www.drd.wa.gov.au/projects/Housing](http://www.drd.wa.gov.au/projects/Housing)



Students from Fortescue's VTEC program with Minister Redman and Pilbara Institute's Managing Director Marlene Boundy, photo courtesy of Pilbara Institute

Works under the project included the construction of various multi-purpose training rooms, computer stations, staff and student facilities. New simulated clinical environments such as a hospital ward fitted with industry standard medical equipment, an examination room, a patient bathroom and a nurse's station, were included to enhance the learning experience.

Digital technology will also be utilised to deliver skill demonstrations, lectures and simulated learning activities, catering for real-time interactive learning benefiting students living in remote areas.

The centre will provide better access to specialist health and nursing training opportunities, building partnerships with the region's health sector to facilitate access to highly specialised medical equipment and facilities.

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*"Our nursing program in particular has been an important and popular course in the Hedland area as well as the wider Pilbara for many years. We are looking forward to this facility to provide our students with new technology and updated facilities that meet the industry standard," Ms Boundy said.*

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Work commenced on the Health and Allied Services Training Centre in South Hedland in December 2015. It is scheduled to be completed at the end of 2016, with training commencing at the centre from the start of 2017.

The centre has been made possible by a \$13.7 million investment from Royalties for Regions and \$2 million from the Department of Training and Workforce Development.



# Recognising small businesses in the regions

Eight up-and-coming regional businesses were recognised at the 2015 Western Australian Regional Small Business Awards, made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

The Awards event celebrates and acknowledges the significant contribution made by small business in regional Western Australia.

Small Business Commissioner David Eaton said the annual awards night is the highlight of the regional business calendar and attracts business owners and supporters from around the State.

*"This year's event was an outstanding success in promoting and encouraging business excellence throughout regional Western Australia," Mr Eaton added.*

The overall winner of the 2015 Western Australian Regional Small Business of the Year was the Forest Edge Recreation Camp.

## Category winners for 2015 were:

**Aboriginal business:** Beautylicious by Chelsea, Karratha

**0-4 employees:** Full Steam A Hed-land Contracting, Port Hedland

**5-10 employees:** Forest Edge Recreation Camp, Waroona

**11-20 employees:** 4 Life Physiotherapy, Mandurah

**Home-based business:** KalyaaNa Spa & Wellness Retreat, Bridgetown

**Franchise business:** The Quality Inn, Margaret River

**Small Business Achiever:** Pilbara Photographics, Port Hedland

Preparations are now underway for the 2016 regional small business awards program. Visit [www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au](http://www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au) for information on how your business can participate.

# Fuel subsidies for emergency service volunteers

In recognition of the vital role volunteers play in the delivery of fire and emergency services in regional areas, the State Government is providing eligible volunteer emergency service brigades, groups and units with \$2,000 per year to help contribute to the cost of fuel for their volunteers.

The Regional Emergency Service Volunteer Fuel Card Scheme aims to subsidise some of the fuel costs incurred by regional volunteers who often drive great distances to serve their communities.

The State Government's Royalties for Regions program has invested \$7.37 million over four years towards the scheme which is expected to assist in retaining existing volunteers and encouraging new volunteers to become involved.

Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades Chief Executive Officer Tony Papafilis said the scheme was confirmation of the Government's support for and appreciation of the work done by the tens of thousands of emergency services volunteers who keep our communities safe.

"We know that many of our Volunteer Bush Fire Service members spend hundreds of hours every year training, fundraising and protecting their communities and are often left out of pocket in doing so – especially those who volunteer in regional areas.

"The Government's generous offer to provide brigades with an annual \$2,000 fuel card to help cover some of the costs their members incur will be very well received by many," Mr Papafilis said.



Small Business Commissioner David Eaton with finalists and winners of the 2015 WA Regional Small Business Awards, photo courtesy of Small Business Development Corporation

# Renamed airport to boost tourism in the South West

The State Government's decision to rename Busselton Regional Airport is one that will encourage more visitors to Western Australia's South West.

Officially renamed the Busselton-Margaret River Regional Airport in October 2015, the inclusion of prominent tourist destination Margaret River in the name is expected to act as a catalyst for increased event attendance and accommodation occupancy in the region.

The rebranding of the airport comes as its facilities undergo a \$59.7 million expansion, made possible with an investment of \$45.9 million from Royalties for Regions, \$10 million from the Department of Transport, \$3.5 million from the City of Busselton and \$300,000 from the South West Development Commission.

City of Busselton Mayor Grant Henley said the rebranded airport aligns with Council recommendations and the airport's Master Plan, which encapsulates the vision of a commercially viable airport that will service the needs of a fast growing region.

"The naming marks an important first milestone in the development of the airport for the City and the broader region," Cr Henley said.

"The Busselton-Margaret River Regional Airport will unlock future potential for aviation and commercial industries including freight."

*Cr Henley added that expansion works on the airport would contribute to sustainable economic and social growth for the South West region, boosting tourism and improving the provision of fly-in-fly-out services.*

"The airport will act as a catalyst to attract new interstate visitors, thereby supporting stability and growth in the tourism industry," Cr Henley said.

"The City is proud to be at the forefront of what is a significant and

important project that will benefit the entire region."

Expansion of the Busselton-Margaret River Regional Airport began in 2015 and will be completed in 2018.



Busselton-Margaret River Regional Airport Masterplan, image courtesy of City of Busselton



# Gascoyne Regional Investment Blueprint launched at CEDA

Terry Redman, Minister for Regional Development, officially launched the Gascoyne Regional Investment Blueprint (Blueprint) on 5 November 2015 at the Committee for Economic Development of Australia's (CEDA) Future of the Gascoyne forum.

Supported by the Gascoyne Development Commission (GDC), the forum was held in Carnarvon as part of CEDA's ten part event series: 2014-2016 State of the Regions: Regional Development in WA, for which the Department of Regional Development is a series sponsor.

The forum saw the Blueprint unveiled to local businesses and industry alongside Local and State Government representatives as a strategy to grow the population, drive economic growth, develop community sustainability and attract new investment to the Gascoyne.

Chair of the Gascoyne Development Commission Tony Beard commented that the large number of attendees was testament to the great interest being shown in the region's future.

"It was wonderful to see so many people from not only the Gascoyne but from Perth and WA, meet in Carnarvon

and take advantage of such a great opportunity to showcase the region," Mr Beard said.

"Exposure to innovative ideas and information can act as a springboard for positive change and the GDC looks forward to accelerated development of the Gascoyne region through implementation of the Blueprint priorities."

Extensive consultation was undertaken in the development of the Blueprint, leading to regional imperatives that reflect areas of the economy and industry where stakeholder action is predicted to elicit the greatest transformational effect. The four Regional Imperatives are:

- Food Production
- Tourism – Destination of First Choice
- Population Services
- Resources Services and Supply Chains

"The GDC is already working closely with all levels of government, business and community to develop a number of high priority projects that will be well researched and investment-ready, with the objective to transform the Gascoyne," said Mr Beard.

The document is one of nine Blueprints being delivered to identify social and economic development strategies for each Western Australian region, along with a framework for sustainable growth spanning the next 35 years.

For more information about the Gascoyne Regional Investment Blueprint, visit [www.gdc.wa.gov.au](http://www.gdc.wa.gov.au)

For more information on CEDA's event series: 2014-2016 State of the Regions: Regional Development in WA, visit [www.ceda.com.au](http://www.ceda.com.au)

## New equipment to protect our fires

WA firefighters and their families can rest assured that the State Government is committed to providing a safer working environment for volunteer and career firefighters.

Through the crew protection project, Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is fitting its firefighting appliances with lifesaving equipment to provide protection in the event the crew becomes trapped by fire.

The new equipment will include external water deluge systems, in-cab air breathing systems, burnover blankets, a GPS tracking system and protection for vital systems such as wiring, water and fuel lines.

Now underway, phase two of the crew protection package is currently being rolled out and phase three will commence in September 2016.

The \$15.4 million project includes a \$12.3 million investment over three years through the State Government's Royalties for Regions program to provide crew protection equipment on 667 appliances in regional Western Australia. Altogether the crew protection equipment will be installed on nearly 1,000 DFES and Local



External water deluge system in action, photo courtesy of DFES

Government firefighting appliances, with brigades operating in high risk bushfire areas to be prioritised.



## Cosmic leaps with support from Murchison

Did you know that our Mid-West is playing host to significant radio astronomy activities?

Two world-class telescopes at the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory (MRO) in the state's Mid-West are already producing outstanding scientific results, paving the way for Western Australia to co-host the international Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project.

*The SKA-precursor radio telescopes, the Australian SKA Pathfinder (ASKAP) and the Murchison Widefield Array (MWA), are developing technology and capabilities required for the deployment of the SKA in Australia and South Africa.*

Royalties for Regions' Northern Planning Program has contributed to the Shire of Murchison's Local Planning

Strategy and Local Planning Scheme, which includes the establishment of a 70-kilometre radius Special Control Area centred on the MRO to support the protection of radio astronomy activities.

Royalties for Regions has also made a \$10 million investment into the construction of a hybrid diesel power station and underground transmission line located within the MRO lease area. Scheduled for completion in mid-2016, the hybrid power station is considered Stage 1 of a three stage approach to supply, operate and maintain the infrastructure required to deliver power to the ASKAP and MWA facilities.

For more information on the SKA project visit [www.ska.gov.au](http://www.ska.gov.au)



ASKAP dishes silhouetted against the Milky Way, photo courtesy of Alex Cherney

## Denham Jetty ready for Anniversary Celebrations

This year marks a momentous occasion for Western Australia with the Gascoyne region celebrating the 400th anniversary of the first recorded discovery of Australia by a European. The Denham Recreational Jetty is one of a number of projects being undertaken to revitalise the Shark Bay region in anticipation of the milestone event. Premier Colin Barnett officially opened the new jetty in October 2015, a year out from a five day festival being held in Shark Bay to commemorate Dutch explorer Dirk Hartog's landing in Western Australia in 1616.

The new \$2.2 million, 90 metre jetty has been delivered by the Department of Transport to replace a century old timber jetty, and includes designated fishing and swimming areas to improve safety for swimmers. The outer section of the structure allows for short-term stays for recreational vessels, while the middle section will continue to accommodate boat pens on a permanent basis.

Department of Regional Development Executive Director Michelle Mackenzie said the jetty is a key part of the Denham foreshore precinct and the new construction will not only benefit the local community but also visitors to the region who come to experience the unique World Heritage Listed area.

"It's a major drawcard for the recreational fishing, boating and tourism sectors and helps create a vibrant hub in the town, as well as providing a boost to the local economy."

The Jetty project is the first stage of the upgrade and revitalisation of Denham maritime facilities and foreshore and is

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# Increased opportunities for training in the Mid West

Mid West residents have welcomed a new Centre for Resource Sector and Technology to meet local training demands for the region.

Located at the new Geraldton Airport Technology Park, the purpose-built facility strengthens Durack Institute for Technology's ability to deliver training in the areas of heavy duty mechanical, work health and safety and civil construction from a purpose built centre in an industry simulated environment.

The new workshop facility caters for 40 students, including trainees, apprentices, post trade technicians and plant operators, while individual training rooms provide additional space.

Workplace health and safety courses are conducted with a pre-apprenticeship in heavy duty mechanical to be offered in 2016.

The facility, made possible by a \$9 million investment through the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, includes equipment that provides students with access to specialised training in areas such as advanced diagnostics, emissions testing and advanced electronics.



Durack Technology Park, photo courtesy of Durack Institute

Managing Director of Durack Institute of Technology Bill Swetman said the facility is a valuable resource for the local economy.

"Students, staff, industry and community feedback in respect of the campus and its facilities has been overwhelmingly positive," Mr Swetman said.

"The high quality training and state-of-the-art equipment offered at Technology Park will equip our students with the

relevant skills needed to succeed in the workplace at current industry standards.

"Through close industry relationships and open consultation, local business people have become involved in mentoring our students at this campus. This gives students an opportunity to build relationships with potential employers."

For more information about what Durack Institute of Technology has to offer visit [www.durack.edu.au](http://www.durack.edu.au)

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Premier Colin Barnett opening the jetty, photo courtesy of Errol Bartlett-Torr

one of a number of projects being delivered through the Royalties for Regions Gascoyne Revitalisation Program. The HMAS Sydney Memorial in the forecourt of the Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery and Visitor Centre, Shark Bay Community Centre and Monkey Mia Jetty Replacement are also part of the revitalisation.

The infrastructure will be in great demand during the Dirk Hartog anniversary celebrations being hosted by the Shire of Shark Bay from 21 to 25 October 2016. Further information on Dirk Hartog and the activities being planned for the anniversary can be found online at [www.museum.wa.gov.au/1616](http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/1616)

# Distinctive grounds for our South West

Barnard Park on the Busselton Foreshore has been transformed into a district-level sporting facility that will be a catalyst for attracting sporting competitions and visitors to our South West.

Overlooking the picturesque Geographe Bay, players and spectators can now enjoy improved facilities for sporting events in a very distinctive location.

The new grounds offer better quality sporting necessities such as good quality turf, cricket nets, a new competition running track and new parking areas, as well as lighting to enable training and competition events to extend into the evening.

The \$3.129 million upgrade was made possible by \$1.4 million from the State Government's Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund, \$1.1 million from the City of Busselton and \$629,000 from the Department of Sport and Recreation.

President of the Busselton Margaret River Cricket Association Wayne Thackrah, a key ambassador of the project, said the long process was well worth the outcome.

"I've been involved with the project for around twelve to fourteen years, so it is great to hear consistently positive feedback from visitors to the grounds," he said.

"Our main aim was to lock down a prime location for a unique sporting field for the community to enjoy now and into the future, and we definitely succeeded.



Barnard Park aerial, photo courtesy of City of Busselton

"Every small community needs sport and recreation. It creates a great sense of belonging and encourages people from different areas to connect and get to know each other."

Wayne added that he was very proud of the unique relationship the sporting community and the City had developed.

"Without the brilliant work of the City, particularly Parks and Gardens and Community Development, this project would not have been possible – they helped immensely," he said.

The upgrade of Barnard Park is a key feature of the ongoing \$6 million Royalties for Regions Busselton Foreshore Redevelopment that also includes landscaping, new pedestrian access ways and the recently revamped Busselton jetty.

To access more information and keep up to date on the progress of the Busselton Foreshore Redevelopment project, visit [www.busselton.wa.gov.au](http://www.busselton.wa.gov.au)



Barnard Park by night, photo courtesy of City of Busselton



# WA is Seizing the Opportunity in Agriculture

The State Government is working towards doubling Western Australia's agricultural value by 2025 and, through Royalties for Regions, is investing in a major initiative to help achieve this goal. Seizing the Opportunity Agriculture is directing \$350 million into significant programs helping to expand Western Australia's agrifood industry and strengthen regional communities where agriculture is a major economic activity.

Western Australia is ideally located to seize the opportunity of rising global demand and capitalise on our close proximity to Asia. In recent years the state's economy has been particularly reliant on the mining and oil and gas industries, which are currently facing a downturn in commodity prices. This creates an opportunity to diversify our economy through boosting the agriculture sector and increasing food exports. Seizing the Opportunity Agriculture is helping to achieve this through the promotion of local products and by attracting new investment in agriculture, as well as building business skills, research and development and creating efficient supply chains.

The Department of Regional Development is coordinating the initiative in collaboration with agencies leading the delivery of programs including:

- Department of Agriculture and Food WA
- Department of Water
- Department of Lands
- Department of Workforce Training and Development
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet's Office of Science
- Department of State Development.

The programs will also be delivered in close partnership with the industry sector, nine Regional Development Commissions and other government, industry and community stakeholders.

Programs are being developed with the focus on removing the barriers towards sustainable agriculture in regional Western Australia. By improving access to land, water and infrastructure, the agricultural sector will be well placed to meet the high demands of a domestic and global food market. To date, Cabinet

has endorsed thirteen of the fifteen programs, including:

## **Agricultural Sciences Research and Development Fund**

The \$25.5 million Agricultural Sciences Research and Development Fund is supporting the Western Australian agrifood sector to:

- capitalise on growing demand from emerging markets
- secure new markets for our agriculture and food products
- provide flow-on benefits to growers, industry and communities
- improve agriculture practices in regional Western Australia
- develop Western Australia's research excellence in agricultural science.

The bulk of this project is led by the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia with the fund allocating \$17.4 million to incorporated grower groups through two rounds of grants. The grants will fund research and development across the supply chain to accelerate the adoption of science innovations that boost profitability and improve agricultural competitiveness.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet's Office of Science is delivering the \$3.41 million Science and Agribusiness Connect Program, which will be offering two fellowships, a tertiary program of scholarships, exchanges and work experience opportunities and an agriculture and aquaculture entrepreneurship program.



The West Kimberley-based Mowanjumb Irrigation Trial has seen red dirt become green pastures, photo courtesy of Department of Water

The initiatives aim to build the capability of the agricultural science sector in Western Australia and develop the state's research excellence in agricultural science.

### **Asian Market Success**

Western Australia has the opportunity to position itself as a 'gourmet delicatessen' producing and exporting premium products to high value markets in Asia and the Middle East.

Asian Market Success is a three year, \$6 million project to support Western Australian agrifood businesses to pursue growing markets in Asia and capture a target market prepared to pay for quality WA produce, which is considered clean, green and safe, by focusing on:

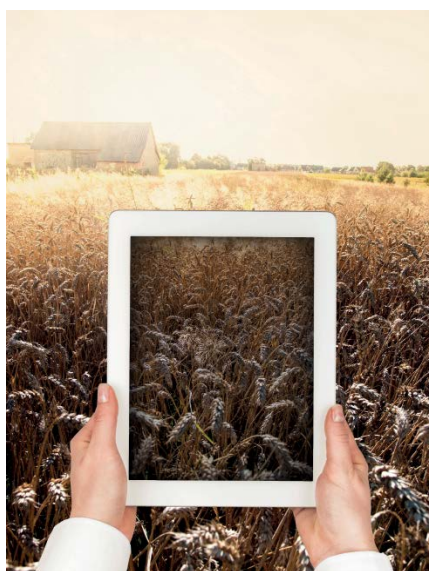
- improving supply chains
- new business models
- trade and market development
- business improvements.

### **Boosting Biosecurity Defences**

The \$20 million Boosting Biosecurity Defences project aims to increase the protection of Western Australia's agriculture sector from pests and diseases through improved management of biosecurity risks. Outcomes will be achieved through stakeholder engagement in the application of innovative solutions to control serious pest and disease and a grants-based biosecurity research and development program.

### **Boosting Grains Research and Development Support**

The \$20 million Boosting Grains Research and Development will establish a not-for-profit organisation which will position Western Australia as a national leader in grains research and development by using scientific research to increase productivity,



reduce barriers to growth and drive industry development. This investment will support WA grain growers through the provision of new regional infrastructure and business models which will help deliver innovative approaches to grains production in order to capitalise on increasing market opportunities.

### **Food Industry Innovation**

The \$4.5 million Food Industry Innovation project will assist regional agriculture and food businesses capture premium domestic and export market opportunities by:

- cost sharing and scale
- promotion and market development
- leading edge technologies.

This will be achieved through the establishment of a Premium Food Centre in Manjimup and a Specialised Food Centre in Albany to work with regional food businesses across the state.

### **e-Connected Grainbelt**

This is a \$10 million project aiming to reduce risk and boost on-farm productivity and profitability by better informing farmers through the use of electronic tools in decision making and management.

A mobile web application is providing grain growers with relevant information to support real-time decisions around weather, prices, soil moisture and biosecurity risks all while in the paddock.

### **Infrastructure Audit and Investment Fund**

\$77 million is being invested for the Infrastructure Audit and Investment Fund. The Infrastructure Audit is currently being undertaken by Ernst and Young to assess infrastructure supply-chain barriers and consider priorities to inform the allocation of up to \$75 million over four years through the Infrastructure Investment Fund.

Strategic investment in infrastructure will improve the supply-chain productivity and provide increased opportunity to export more premium quality food and fibre products from regional Western Australia to key global markets. This will support the creation of new jobs as well as improve income and prospects for Western Australian businesses and communities.

### **Muresk Institute – Agricultural Degree and Diploma**

An investment of \$10 million will further support agricultural skills development at Muresk Institute and strengthen the capacity of Western Australia's agrifood industry. The Department of Training and Workforce Development is delivering the agricultural skills development pathways and degree programs at the Muresk Institute, which include short-course training options and higher education programs. These courses will help bridge the gap between existing skills in the agriculture industry and the skills required to capitalise on existing and future opportunities.



## Northern Beef Futures

A \$15 million investment is helping transform Western Australia's northern beef industry by improving access to markets, businesses and productivity. The Northern Beef Futures project supports the success of the beef industry to capture new market opportunities, particularly in Asia, and secure sustainable growth. The project's priority is to help transform businesses principally in the Kimberley and Pilbara that rely on beef production as their primary source of employment and income into a resilient, prosperous industry that creates increasing benefits for the regions.

## Sheep Industry Business Innovation

Sheep Industry Business Innovation is a \$10 million investment, over four years, to assist the WA sheep industry capture a share of increasing demand

for sheep meat and open a business centre in Katanning. The Sheep Business Centre is now providing a hub for information, research, training and innovation in sheep meat and linking with other providers throughout the state. The centre will play an important role in providing the science, skills and strategies to help the sheep industry improve capacity and supply chains to satisfy customer requirements for lamb, mutton and wool.

## Water for Food

The four year, \$40 million Water for Food initiative is an interagency program, being led by the Department of Water, using new water source discoveries to enable the development of new irrigation areas and increase the size and water efficiency of existing irrigation districts.

Water for Food will also facilitate improved access to more secure land tenure for project proponents. This will assist to diversify and strengthen the State and regional economies as well as increase employment opportunities in regional Western Australia.

## WA Agricultural Branding

\$685,000 has been approved for the initial stage of this project for an evaluation of a WA Brand as an effective marketing and promotion strategy to attract and support expanded investment in Western Australia's agriculture and food export industries.

By enhancing the agricultural sector, Seizing the Opportunity Agriculture is supporting the creation of new jobs, improved income and better prospects for Western Australian businesses and regional communities.



Boosting the WA sheep industry, photo courtesy of Tourism WA