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## In Your Region September 2015

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# IN YOUR REGION

Edition 16 - 2015



## Upgraded campsites at Ningaloo's Osprey Bay

Visitors to the Cape Range National Park in the Ningaloo World Heritage area have been enjoying upgraded camping facilities at Osprey Bay since they were reopened in April to coincide with the commencement of peak tourist season.

Osprey Bay campground now has 45 affordable campsites, each offering priceless views of the spectacular waters over Ningaloo Marine Park, as well as new walking tracks to the beach.

Other new facilities include toilets, shade shelters, picnic tables, sunset viewing platforms and a walk trail to Sandy Bay. A separate area for day users was also built to provide direct access to the offshore kayak mooring, snorkel trail areas and beaches.

Exmouth Shire President Turk Shales said the area had been transformed to cater for a wider demographic.

"Retirees can now comfortably venture around the bay, and new tracks allow wheelchairs and prams into areas that were previously inaccessible," Mr Shales said.

Osprey Bay is a popular shore-based fishing spot and campers have the chance to make the most of the many other nature activities that the Ningaloo area is famed for, including swimming, snorkelling, kayaking and canoeing.

The Shire of Exmouth are working closely with the Department of Parks and Wildlife to conserve and promote the area's natural beauty.

"We want people to experience the adventure of exploring the wilderness instead of creating an artificial playground with high rises and busy beachfront attractions," Mr Shales said.

Osprey Campground Cape Range,  
photo courtesy of Sally Bostwick

He also shared the overwhelming positive feedback from locals and tourist.

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*"The walk trail to Sandy Bay is definitely a visitor favourite; kids can now ride their bikes safely down the limestone path to enjoy the shallow, pristine waters of the bay."*

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"It is proving to be an increasingly popular spot for families on school holidays."

The upgraded facilities have been made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program as part of the Western Australian Caravan and Camping Action Plan 2013-18.

You can expect more exciting initiatives within the Ningaloo World Heritage area in the coming months. ■

Osprey Bay campsites can be booked online at [www.parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://www.parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au)

## DG Message

This edition of *In Your Region* highlights some of the great initiatives currently underway to build vibrant regions with strong economies.

The Regional Services Reform agenda is particularly close to my heart having lived and worked in the East Kimberley for many years. The Reform highlights the lead role the regional development portfolio can play in working across government and in partnership with the community to tackle complex problems. It is terrific to have such a respected leader in Grahame Searle, former Director General of the Department of Housing head up the cross-agency reform effort.

The recent announcement of the next phase of the Regional Centres Development Plan provides an exciting opportunity for the State Government to work closely with Western Australia's



major regional centres. Royalties for Regions investment will help to build strategic partnerships to plan and drive the economic growth of key regional centres.

The Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) series of regional conferences, '2014 – 2016 State of the Regions: Regional Development in WA', is now well underway with this edition providing an overview on the fifth event

held in Kalgoorlie. I look forward to being part of the remaining events in the Pilbara, Gascoyne, Great Southern, Mid West regions, as well as the final conference to be held in Perth.

As always, I am pleased to see the great outcomes being delivered throughout the State as a result of Royalties for Regions investments, a few of which have been highlighted in this edition.

I encourage you to visit our website to find out more about the initiatives and projects happening in your region.

**Ralph Addis**  
Director General

## Second rescue chopper to provide greater regional coverage

A second emergency rescue helicopter will be commissioned for the state and will be based at Bunbury Airport to provide greater regional coverage.

Communities in the South-West, Peel and Great Southern will directly benefit from the life-saving rescue services, which will also support the existing Perth-based service to improve incident response in the Mid-West, Gascoyne and Wheatbelt regions.

Since the establishment of the Perth-based Emergency Rescue Helicopter Service in 2003, hundreds of lives have been saved, with more than 4,230 missions flown.

The second service will undoubtedly improve the safety of people living and travelling in regional WA through the delivery of critical medical care in emergency situations. The two services combined will cover more than 95 per cent of the state's population.

Royalties for Regions is investing \$29.95 million over four years to establish the service which is expected to begin flying missions in the first half of 2016. ■

## New Ord land release

Two new land parcels were recently released along the banks of the Ord River, east of Kununurra in the area known as Ord West Bank and Mantinea.

Totalling 5,000 hectares and suitable for irrigated agriculture, this latest land release builds on the increasing interest in agriculture in the State's north. It allows the private sector to take part in building the Ord into a larger agricultural precinct increasing the size of the Ord Irrigation Scheme area to 35,000 hectares.

Request for proposals are currently open until 2 October 2015. Visit [www.drd.wa.gov.au](http://www.drd.wa.gov.au) for more details. ■



Tony Crook, Chair of Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission

## CEDA series highlights economic diversification in the regions

The Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) recently held a conference in Kalgoorlie to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the Goldfields-Esperance region. The conference was the fifth of a ten part event series '2014 – 2016 State of the Regions: Regional Development in WA' and the Department of Regional Development is the series sponsor.

The conference program covered the region's vision, services, infrastructure, future industries and opportunities.

Tony Crook, Chair of the Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission (GEDC) opened the conference giving an overview of the characteristics of the Goldfields-Esperance region and the GEDC's main activities. Mr Crook

highlighted some main elements of the Goldfields-Esperance Regional Investment Blueprint (Blueprint) currently being developed. The document is one of nine Blueprints being delivered to identify social and economic development strategies for each region along with a framework for sustainable growth for the next 35 years.

"There is great opportunity for the Goldfields-Esperance region to work towards a more diversified economy through further development of transport and digital infrastructure," Mr Crook said.

"It is imperative that industries in the region are provided with the means to link into the global economy, and the opportunities this may present, through improved digital connectivity. Equally,

the region, already a vital transport hub as the land transport gateway to Western Australia from the east, needs further substantial investment to optimize development potential."

Mr Crook said the region is a recognised leader in mining and agricultural innovation which, if leveraged effectively, had the potential to deliver significant economic and industry development opportunities.

The remaining five events of the CEDA series will talk about the futures of the Pilbara, Gascoyne, Great Southern, Mid West regions and there will be a grand finale to wrap up the series about Capitalising on WA's Potential. ■

For more information about the CEDA series, visit [www.ceda.com.au](http://www.ceda.com.au)





Australian Cowboy of the Year - Wade McCarthy in the Bull Ride, photo courtesy of Richard Hathaway Photography

## Regional events creating community opportunities

Regional communities have been buzzing with activity thanks to funding for regional events.

The 2015-16 Regional Events Scheme (RES), which is jointly funded by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program and Tourism WA, offers a funding pool of \$750,000 to assist smaller, developing regional events across the State.

Administered by Tourism WA, the scheme supports the creation of vibrant hubs through community involvement, and brings additional tourism income and media coverage to towns throughout regional WA.

Among the 54 regional events that were successful in the 2015-16 RES funding round, nine events have been supported for the first time including outback rodeos, a wine festival, an Aboriginal gourmet

experience, a jazz festival and a cycling event.

Interested in applying for funding through the RES program? The next round for events that fall between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017 will open for applications in October/November 2015. Visit [www.tourism.wa.gov.au](http://www.tourism.wa.gov.au) for more information.

### Two new funding recipients

#### Mullewa Muster & Rodeo

Mid West residents are in for a treat at the 2016 Mullewa Muster & Rodeo. Having run since 2012, the event has seen an increasing number of visitors to the event each year.

Competitors travel from across WA and interstate to compete in the Rodeo and the Beaut Ute and Whip Crackin' competitions. The event also sports a

huge line-up of award winning country artists, as well as a variety of stalls and activities for everyone to enjoy.

Manager Community & Cultural Development at the City of Greater Geraldton Dr Chris Budhan acknowledged that the RES funding assistance for next year's event will create more opportunities for those involved.

"The support will enable Greater Geraldton to benefit from a larger than usual event, which will consequently deliver greater social and economic outcomes than would otherwise be possible," Dr Budhan said.

Dr Budhan also commented that the event has been known to bring the community together.

"Six local businesses sponsor our event, many local community groups hold

# Strategic partnerships shape economic future

The next phase in the Regional Centres Development Plan (RCDP) was announced in July which will see Broome, Greater Bunbury, Greater Geraldton and Kalgoorlie build strategic partnerships to expand their economic growth.

These Regional Centres will be supported with an investment of \$7.5 million through Royalties for Regions to develop an economic development strategy known as a Growth Plan, and to establish an economic partnership known as a Growth Plan Partnership.

A possible second funding amount of \$8.5 million will be opening up to Albany, Busselton, Carnarvon, Kununurra and Mandurah late next year.

Department of Regional Development RCDP Program Coordinator Ryan Victa said the investment will see regional centres assess their strengths and opportunities

to better engage in a modern, global economy and build reputations as desirable places to live and invest.

"Every centre is different and in recognising this, RCDP aims to empower local civic and business leaders to develop business and community partnerships; and develop a clear and coherent strategy to advance their community," Mr Victa said.

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*"Having a Growth plan will help leverage public-private collaboration to strengthen their community's capability to grow business, investment and jobs to support a better quality of life in regional WA."*

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The RCDP was initiated in 2011 through Royalties for Regions to build the capability of Western Australia's strategic regional centres to grow business, investment and jobs.

The next phase will focus on the nine regional centres that act as the major economic and population hubs in regional Western Australia. These centres are Albany, Broome, Busselton, Carnarvon, Greater Bunbury, Greater Geraldton, Kununurra, Kalgoorlie and Mandurah.

The first phase of RCDP, known as SuperTowns, provided support to the towns in the southern half of Western Australia and included Boddington, Collie, Esperance, Jurien Bay, Katanning, Manjimup, Margaret River, Morawa and Northam. The SuperTowns' Growth Plans are now operational and they are actively delivering their priority projects and seeking new sources of investment to drive the economic growth of their communities. ■

fundraising stalls, and over 50 local community members volunteer to help out before, during and after the event," said Dr Budhan.

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*"I am excited to see the event transformed with this additional support from RES."*

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The 2016 Mullewa Muster & Rodeo event is scheduled for 4 and 5 June.

## The Beverley Heroic

The Beverley Heroic is all about celebrating historical towns, historical bikes and the beautiful countryside.

The RES support for the event this year has allowed the increase of its promotion budget and improvement of the overall event experience for all visitors to the region.

Event Director Toby Hodgson said RES is building the capacity of event tourism throughout regional WA.

"The flow on effect of the event in Beverley is very important. Participants spend money on accommodation, eating and experiencing the town," Mr Hodgson said.

Mr Hodgson added that the Beverley Heroic brings visitors to the region to participate in the event and encourages them to stay and explore all that WA has to offer.

"Some visitors branch out to experience nearby areas. In turn, the profile of the area is raised and the region has the opportunity to benefit as a whole," Mr Hodgson said.

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*"Regional towns have so much to offer event organisers. They are friendly, with passionate volunteers and lots of wide open space."*

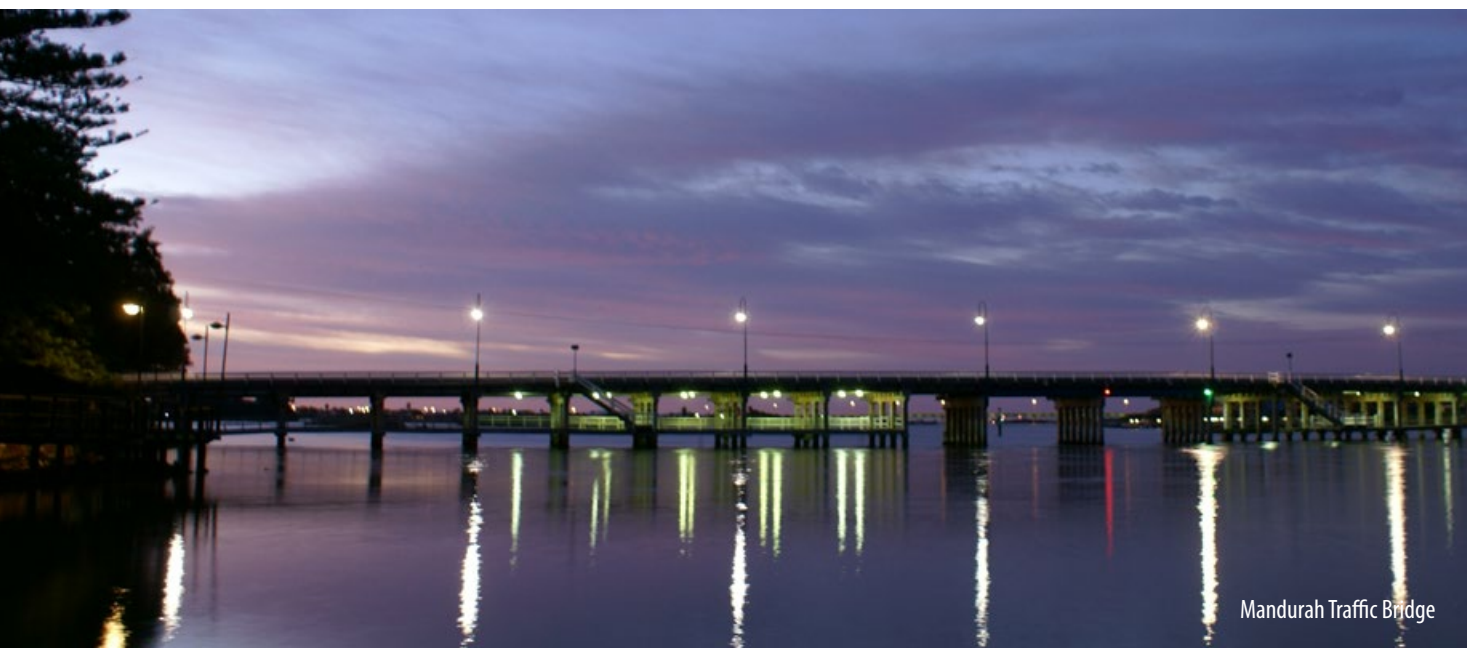
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The Beverley Heroic is happening on Sunday 4 October 2015. ■



Beaut Ute entries, photo courtesy Richard Hathaway Photography





Mandurah Traffic Bridge

## Well-earned upgrade for Old Mandurah Bridge



Mandurah Traffic Bridge 1953, photo courtesy City of Mandurah

Old Mandurah Traffic Bridge will be replaced after more than 60 years of service with construction expected to start in 2016.

The bridge has played a significant role in Mandurah's history with about 24,000 vehicles travelling between Mandurah's business and commercial centre, to the residential and coastal areas each day. It has not only served as a traffic bridge, but has been a popular spot for fishing, crabbing and prawning.

Deputy Mayor Darren Lee said the bridge had served its purpose and is being replaced to ensure the safety of everyone and meet the requirements of Mandurah's growing community.

"The Old Mandurah Bridge has a rich history in the community, and it has become part of the fabric of Mandurah since its construction in 1953," he said.

*"This new bridge will cater for the city's growing needs and will eventually have the same meaning and memories for our future generations."*

Mandurah's traffic bridge will be replaced with a new four-lane structure over the estuary, with a higher clearance for bigger boats to pass under and recreational facilities such as fishing platforms and wide pedestrian and cycle pathways.

The new bridge will be the third bridge over the crossing since the first structure was built in 1894.

Mandurah residents have previously contributed their preferences for the proposed replacement bridge through the Community Reference Group.

The State Government has allocated \$40 million to this project through the Department of Transport and the City of Mandurah has contributed \$3 million. The final \$8.8 million will come from the State Government's Royalties for Regions program. ■

To access more information and keep up to date on the progress of the project, visit [www.haveyoursaymandurah.com.au/oldmandurahbridge](http://www.haveyoursaymandurah.com.au/oldmandurahbridge)

# Boost for regional aged care

Residents in Western Australia's southern regions will soon benefit from a \$20.2 million investment for seven residential, respite and older persons' housing aged care projects.

Made possible through the State Government's Royalties for Regions Growing our South initiative, the investment will address shortfalls identified in the 'Ageing in the Bush' report conducted by the Regional Development Council of Western Australia. The report outlines care models for regional Western Australia to create sustainable aged care services to give people the option to age in their regional communities.

Wheatbelt Development Commission Chief Executive Officer, Wendy Newman said that the provision of aged care facilities in our State's regions is a key service for building sustainable communities.

"When people have to move from their communities, their families are impacted, their health is often further compromised and the town's economy suffers," Wendy said.

## The investment will deliver the following projects:

- **Aged Care Reform - Hocart Lodge Harvey** - delivery of 60 high care beds with one of four 15 bed wings dedicated to dementia care.
  - **Dementia Specific Residential Construction and Reception Upgrade** - construction of a 14 bed dementia specific wing at Narrogin Cottage Homes, Karinya.
  - **4WDL Well Aged Housing Project** - construction of 14 dedicated Independent Living Units (ILUs) across seven local government areas in the Wheatbelt south and the Great Southern regions (Dumbleyung, Wagin, Lake Grace, Williams, West Arthur, Woodanilling and Kent).
  - **Central Eastern Aged Care Alliance Senior Housing Project (Stage One)** - construct and service 54 ILUs with the
- overall objective to construct 187 ILUs in 11 Shires over six years.
- **Kojonup Independent Living Units (Stage 2)** - construction of an additional three dedicated ILUs for aged people in Kojonup.
  - **Collet Barker Court (Stage 3)** - expand the number of ILUs in Mt Barker for seniors' accommodation through the construction of 21 high quality units for independent living at Collet Barker Court.
  - **Dwellingup Community Village (Stage 2)** - completion of Stage 2 of the Dwellingup Community Village, the design and construction of seven purpose built universal access dwellings for ageing residents. ■

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*"This investment will help build on the communities' economy through the engagement of trades and services to construct the facilities and future job creation. It also makes a move to the regions more attractive for families or older people because of the services the town offers for their future."*

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# Year 7s get brand new facilities

Educational opportunities need to be provided to all students in Western Australia, regardless of where they live.

Regional students deserve access to a high standard of education facilities and through the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, this has been made possible for seven regional schools.

The program has invested \$42.6 million to construct new school facilities that will accelerate the transition of year 7 students from primary to secondary school settings.

Year 7 students at these schools started their 2015 year in new state-of-the-art classrooms, with the renewed

opportunity to tackle more demanding educational concepts and ideas.

- Australind Senior High School
- Broome Senior High School
- Bunbury Senior High School
- Cape Naturaliste College
- Halls Head Community College
- John Willcock College
- Margaret River Senior High School

The works range from the construction of single / double storey classroom blocks to a food technology studio, performing arts areas and all associated facilities.

Principal of Margaret River High School Mr Andrew Host was pleased with the new food technology studio the school had received.

"Margaret River is renowned for its world-class food and wine and it is indeed fitting that our students are provided with an added opportunity to explore this industry further," Mr Host said.

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*"Feedback has been great, the students are thoroughly excited with the new studio."*

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The \$5.2 million upgrade to the Margaret River Senior High School also included the construction of five classrooms and associated facilities.

This upgrade has been part of a wider package of reforms worth \$229.6 million in readying Year 7s for their move to high school, with Royalties for Regions investing in regional schools. ■



# Rolling out regional services reform

Consultation on the State Government's major reforms to the delivery of services and infrastructure in regional and remote communities is underway, as highlighted by a recent four day on-country trip to talk with community members and local service providers.

On 7 May 2015, the State Government announced that the reforms would be jointly led by Regional Development Minister Terry Redman, who will oversee remote infrastructure and development, and Child Protection Minister Helen Morton, who will oversee changes to the human services system. Both Ministers will report to the Aboriginal Affairs Cabinet Sub Committee, chaired by Aboriginal Affairs Minister Peter Collier.

In June 2015, then Director General of the Department of Housing, Grahame Searle, was appointed to lead the reforms. Mr Searle is establishing a cross-departmental reform unit to develop and implement the reforms. The unit will be hosted by the Department of Regional Development (DRD), with team members located in Perth, the Kimberley and the Pilbara.

Mr Searle has relocated to Kununurra, where he will work out of the Kimberley Development Commission (KDC) offices. During July, he travelled throughout the Kimberley to meet Aboriginal leaders and communities, including four days with Minister Redman in the Fitzroy Valley.

The Ministerial travelling group included KDC Chief Executive Jeff Gooding and Principal Policy Officer Paul Isaachsen. They visited more than 15 town-based



Setting up camp outside Mimbi Caves, Mimbi Community, Fitzroy Valley

and remote Aboriginal communities over the four days and slept in swags under the stars at Mimbi.

Minister Redman's message during the trip focused on the pathway for children living in Aboriginal communities from early childhood through to employment, with a particular focus on how these children access primary and secondary education. This message resonated with many of the Aboriginal families met during the trip, who shared with the Minister that their children go everywhere from Esperance to Broome, Geelong to Darwin to get a good secondary education.

Families and communities also shared their plans for their future with the Minister. Many of those plans were described as dependent on being able to secure better land tenure arrangements than are currently the case. As Lands Minister, Minister Redman was able to engage constructively in the discussion about the tenure-based barriers to future economic development.

DRD Director General Ralph Addis said regional services reform was a good example of how the department would work in the future.

"The reform project models the networked approach required to tackle complex regional development issues," he said.

"I'm confident that with the appointment of Grahame to lead the reforms, and strong engagement and leadership from key Ministers, we have the building blocks in place to make real difference.

"The reforms are strongly consistent with the strategic imperative outlined on the Kimberley and Pilbara Regional Blueprints.

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*"This will be a challenging piece of work, and I'd like to thank the staff from DRD and other agencies who have been working hard on it over the last six months, ahead of the establishment of the reform unit."*

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The State Budget on 14 May 2015 contained a \$150 million special purpose account for regional reform; the first focus area will be regional Aboriginal reform initiatives. ■

More information about the regional services reform process is available at [www.daa.wa.gov.au](http://www.daa.wa.gov.au)

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