



## **2009-10 Kimberley Regional Grants Scheme**

The Kimberley Development Commission today welcomed the launch of a new round of the Royalties for Regions Regional Grants Scheme.

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls announced the second round of the grants program in Bunbury today (20 October).

Under the scheme, \$45 million will be shared between the nine Regional Development Commissions.

Kimberley Development Commission Chairman Patrick Dodson said the Commission would receive \$5 million in the new allocation of the grants scheme.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the people living in the region to identify projects and apply for funding to make them happen," he said.

"We had a huge response to the first round of grants and we know many people have been waiting to hear when the next round would open.

In the last round we were able to fund 70 out of the 117 applications lodged which resulted in a commitment of nearly \$4.1 million towards total project values of nearly \$30 million."

Mr Dodson said he was confident that this round would also be well received and the Commission expects that all sectors of the Kimberley community will benefit from opportunities available through the funding round.

He also encouraged potential applicants to contact the Commission and discuss their proposals early in the funding round.

Minister Grylls said the Regional Grants Scheme was a key Royalties for Regions initiative that put particular emphasis on local decision-making.

"The Regional Development Commissions have an important and expanding role in the regions and are in a good position to determine which projects should be funded," he said.

"The scheme gives regional community and all organisations with regional interests the chance to apply for funding directly through the development commissions, knowing that their applications will be assessed in the region.

“It is putting money back in to communities and giving them the chance to determine for themselves how that money is best spent.”

The latest round of contestable grants is part of a total pool of \$73 million allocated to regional communities through the Regional Development Commission structure in the 2009-10 budget.

Of this total pool, \$28 million has been made available for projects identified by the Regional Development Council in conjunction with the nine Commissions. The Regional Development Council is the peak advisory body to the Western Australian Government on regional development issues.

For more information about the grants contact the commission or go to the Royalties for Regions website: [www.RoyaltiesforRegions.wa.gov.au](http://www.RoyaltiesforRegions.wa.gov.au)

Applications for the grants will close on 10 February 2010.

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