

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Funding strengthens regional towns

New funding for seniors' accommodation in the Great Southern is expected to strengthen regional communities.

Acting Regional Development Minister Mia Davies this week announced \$1.88 million in grants for accommodation projects in Kojonup and Mount Barker as part of the \$600 million Growing our South Initiative, which is funded by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

A grant of \$1.24 million will support the Collet Barker Court Stage 3 project in Mount Barker, and \$646,000 was allocated to the Kojonup Independent Living Units project.

Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) Chairman Peter Rundle welcomed the funding and said providing appropriate housing for seniors in regional towns strengthened local communities.

"These projects were supported by business cases through the GSDC because aging in place is important for the wellbeing of our seniors, as emphasised in the Great Southern Regional Investment Blueprint," Mr Rundle said.

"Ensuring that seniors who need modified housing options can continue to live in their own communities helps to maintain a strong social fabric in these Great Southern towns.

"It enables seniors to keep on contributing to their communities and also helps to retain younger family members who might otherwise have to move away to be near elderly relatives," Mr Rundle said.

Building partnerships for regional prosperity



GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle (right) joined Shire of Kojonup Chief Executive Officer Rick Mitchell-Collins (left), Shire President Ronnie Fleay and Wagin MLA Terry Waldron at the site of Kojonup's proposed additional seniors' accommodation to look over plans for the project.



Seven independent living units will be constructed in the third stage of the \$8 million Plantagenet Village Homes Collet Barker Court project, which will ultimately provide 21 independent living units for seniors in a five-stage development.

The first stage, completed in 2014, comprised five units, and the second stage is the construction of a clubhouse and communal facilities.

Three independent living units will be constructed in the \$1.25 million second stage of the Shire of Kojonup's Independent Living Units project at Loton Close, adding to the three units completed in the first stage.

Great Southern seniors will also benefit from funding provided to the 4WDL (Shires of Dumbleyung, Wagin, West Arthur, Williams, Woodanilling, Lake Grace and Kent) Regional Organisation of Councils' Well Aged Housing Project, which was facilitated by the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

The 4WDL project will support two new independent living units for seniors in Woodanilling, along with other accommodation for seniors in the Wheatbelt.

Fact File:

- Previously announced Growing our South Initiative funding included \$11.5 million in the Great Southern:
 - Torndirrup Visitor Infrastructure – The Gap \$1,200,000
 - Katanning Early Childhood Hub \$5,725,000
 - Katanning Mainstreet Stage 2 – Richardson to Railway upgrade \$350,000
 - Regional Waste Management Approach (Shires of Jerramungup, Ravensthorpe, Katanning, Kent and Gnowangerup) \$3,111,745
 - Stage 1 Affordable Student Accommodation Project – Norman House \$1,170,000
- A total of \$13.44 million of Royalties for Regions Growing our South Initiative funding has now been approved for projects in the Great Southern.
- The Growing our South Initiative, made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, is implemented by the Peel Development Commission, Wheatbelt Development Commission, South West Development Commission, Great Southern Development Commission and the Department of Regional Development.

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