

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Our Ref: T15:0032

21 December 2016

Attention: News Editor

### **Program to address housing needs**

Seven Great Southern shires will gain housing for independent seniors and key regional employees with the help of \$11.5 million funding through the Growing Our South initiative, made possible by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

Regional Development Minister Terry Redman visited Katanning on Thursday 15 December to announce funding support for the \$18.6 million Great Southern Housing Initiative (GSHI).

The GSHI was developed in response to a critical shortage in the supply of housing for independent seniors and regional employees.

Analysis for the project was coordinated by the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC), and showed a total annual economic benefit of more than \$3.5 million to the communities involved.

GSDC Chair Ross Thornton said the GSHI will provide 48 units of housing aimed at enabling regional towns to retain a critical mass of population to maintain services, participate in the local economy and strengthen communities.

"The GSHI is expected to create 15 sustainable and long-term jobs in the upper Great Southern, in addition to the 22 regional employees attracted by the availability of housing," Mr Thornton said.

For independent seniors, the GSHI will provide 26 units: two in Broomehill-Tambellup, five in Cranbrook, six in Gnowangerup, six in Jerramungup, five in Katanning and two in Kent.

For key regional employees, the project will provide 22 units: two in Broomehill-Tambellup, two in Cranbrook, four in Gnowangerup, four in Jerramungup, four in Katanning and six in Kojonup.

**Media contact: Bruce Manning, ph. 9842 4888**



*Building partnerships for regional prosperity*