

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Grants build stronger region

New funding for projects in the Great Southern is set to make the region stronger, according to the Chair of the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC).

Successful applications for funding in the Great Southern Regional Grants Scheme (RGS) and the Community Chest Fund (CCF) were announced this week by Regional Development Minister Terry Redman.

GSDC Chair Ross Thornton said the 11 RGS and 20 CCF projects that were allocated a total of more than \$2 million of Royalties for Regions funding would further strengthen the region's economy, community cohesion and amenity, and environmental values.

Mr Thornton said the projects ranged from Bremer Bay in the east to Nornalup in the west and Katanning in the north, and would affect the entire Great Southern.

"Projects approved in the RGS include better provision for water bombers at Bremer Bay, a Albany-based bariatric ambulance that can service the whole region, the first stage of a regional motocross facility at Cranbrook, and the fit-out of new facilities for the Albany Agricultural Society," Mr Thornton said.

"The RGS will also lead to enhancement of the Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre and revitalise the Plantagenet District Hall.

"CCF grants will support environmental initiatives such as Katanning Eco Week and research on reestablishing native oysters in Oyster Harbour.

"The CCF will also support projects and events in education, sport, agriculture, arts and community," Mr Thornton said.

The Great Southern RGS is aimed at projects that will attract investment and increase job opportunities and help to improve the quality of life in regional communities. It provides grants from \$50,001 to \$300,000.

The Community Chest Fund is for grants up to \$50,000.

Full details of the successful applicants for 2017 RGS and CCF grants are available at www.gsdc.wa.gov.au.

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