



# Royalties Inject \$4.4m to Peel

On the 12 February, Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls launched the Regional Grants Scheme, an initiative of Royalties for Regions. Local communities throughout regional Western Australia will share in \$40 million of State Government funding this financial year through the scheme.

At the launch, Mr Grylls said the scheme was targeted at providing financial assistance to regionally based organisations such as volunteer and business groups, educational institutions, philanthropic foundations and community organisations.

In the Peel, the grants will be administered through the Peel Development Commission.

Mr Grylls said the Regional Grants Scheme emphasized local decision making and supported the important and expanding role of the Regional Development Commissions in WA.

"The Regional Development Commissions will receive more than \$4.4million each in 2008-09 to fund projects that help attract investment and increase jobs or improve the quality of life in regional WA," he said.

"It's a first for the Royalties for Regions program where the community and interest groups can apply for funding directly through the development

commissions who will administer the scheme in their regions."

"The Region Grants Scheme will support regional communities to prosper, making it a very exciting time to live in regional WA."

Chief Executive Officer of Peel Development Commission, Maree De Lacey, said "This Scheme gives regions a terrific opportunity to put in place much-needed infrastructure and services."

"Peel Region is WA's third biggest mineral producing region. Peel Development Commission is working closely with community groups, industry, and Commonwealth, State and Local government to encourage the best outcomes from this Scheme, including increasing the benefits to our region even further by attracting partnership funding".

Jodie Doherty, the Commission's Grants Officer, has been meeting with community groups across the region to provide information on the Regional Grants Scheme.

"There is a real sense of excitement in the Peel," she said. "We are expecting excellent projects that will make a real difference to the future of this region when applications close on 25th March."

Potential applicants for the Regional Grants



Minister for Regional Development Brendon Grylls

Scheme are encouraged to visit [www.peel.wa.gov.au](http://www.peel.wa.gov.au) for further information and application forms or contact Jodie Doherty at the Commission on 9535 0010 or via email [jodie.doherty@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:jodie.doherty@peel.wa.gov.au).

# Try-A-Trade Opportunity

The Building and Construction Industry Training Fund (BCITF) has been helping students in the Peel district to learn about career pathways in the building and construction industry through its hands-on Try-A-Trade program.

Try-A-Trade gives students an opportunity to have a first hand look into trade training in a range of construction trades.



High School Students from Waroona and Pinjarra Try-A-Trade through the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund

Beginning in 2007, the BCITF fully funded Challenger TAFE to deliver Try-A-Trade programs to Year 10 students across schools in the Peel district, with more than 200 students participating during 2008. Across a five day course, students built a range of items that could be used in their schools, including room dividers and outdoor furniture. Most importantly, the students learned about carpentry and joinery and wall and ceiling lining trades, developed some important hand skills, learned how to read plans and to work safely in a trade environment.

The BCITF Try-A-Trade program is set to grow in 2009 involving more schools in the district. Challenger TAFE will deliver a total of 20 Try-A-Trade programs for the BCITF, with the potential to involve over 300 Peel students.

At the commencement of each course, BCITF Apprenticeship Support Officer Mike Crichton will talk to students about the variety of career pathways and opportunities available in the construction industry.

"The Try-A-Trade is a great help to students when it comes to planning for Year 11 & 12," said Mike. "The hands-on nature of the course demystifies trade training and takes away that element of the

unknown when it comes to making a choice for course selection. Students also learn about the training pathways open to them, from school-based programs to Pre-Apprenticeships and of course, full time apprenticeship employment and training."

Maree De Lacey, Peel Development Commission CEO, said that the Commission appreciated the work of BCITF in Peel in helping young people find career pathways in the building industry, and had worked closely with BCITF on several successful initiatives.

"In our last edition of *Peel Pulse* the Commission was given credit for the Try-A-Trade program which is incorrect. Try-A-Trade is fully funded by BCITF. The Commission has supported this excellent program with provision of \$20,000 towards a trailer and tools."

The Try-A-Trade program is part of the *One Industry - No Limits* career promotion program, introduced by the BCITF in 2004. For more information, visit [www.nolimits.com.au](http://www.nolimits.com.au) or call 1300 727 494.

# Global Financial Crisis: What does it mean for Peel?

The Global Economic Crisis is a term that was unheard of 18 months ago but today almost every Australian knows that the world is experiencing an “economic crisis”.

Peel Development Commission is hosting a free forum for businesses within the Peel/Harvey Regions on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, giving information about the effects of the global financial crisis on Peel Region, and advice on action businesses can take to stay strong.

“Surviving to thrive in business: Economic conditions in WA from a Peel/Harvey perspective” will take place at Mandurah Performing Arts Centre and will feature key presenters from the WA business and industry sectors.

Confirmed presenters include those from Alcoa of Australia Limited, Boddington Gold Mine, Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia Inc, Satterley Property Group, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia, Small Business Development Corporation and Business Dynamics.

The presentations will focus on the latest information about global economic conditions and how this is affecting WA and the Peel/Harvey regions, as well as providing practical strategies for the region’s businesses to help them stay strong into the future.

“In times of uncertainty, accurate information is even more important,” said Peel Development Commission CEO, Maree De Lacey.

“The Peel Development Commission sees this forum as an important step in supporting our local businesses to make the best decisions. We have secured an excellent range of presenters who will provide a current picture of how the economic downturn is affecting WA and what Peel/Harvey businesses can do to strengthen their operations during this period.”

“While no region is immune to global conditions there are also indications that WA is in a stronger position than most.”

“This forum will give local businesses the tools and knowledge to continue to lead the State’s economic growth in the Peel/Harvey Regions.”

If you own or manage a business within the region, you are invited to attend this free forum. Places are limited so please register your interest with the Peel Development Commission by contacting Jesse Hill on 9535 0005 or [jesse.hill@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:jesse.hill@peel.wa.gov.au) before 5pm Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>.

The forum is supported by the Peel Development Commission, Peel Economic Development Unit, Peel Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Peel Small Business Centre, Peel Area Consultative Committee and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy.

# Experts To Speak At Business Forum



Stephen Moir, from the Small Business Development Corporation, will talk on the topic: “Is the ship really sinking: The state of play of the WA Economy.”

Mr Moir holds a Bachelor of Business degree from the University of South Australia and joined the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) in 1999 as Director, Business Facilitation Services, following a career in retail and tourism. In 2007, Mr Moir was appointed Managing Director of the SBDC. He is a member of the National Executive of Small Business Agencies; Small Business Ministerial Council Officials Group; Commonwealth/State Working Group on Skilled Migration; West Coast TAFE Small Business Training Institute Strategic Advisory Board; and the Curtin School of Management Advisory Board.

His presentation will review the causes of the US credit crisis, government responses around the world, the impact on Australia, and how Australia’s reaction affects the world (particularly with reference to Japan and China).

Mr Moir believes WA is well placed to weather the financial storms and his presentation will cite strong employment figures, good long term investment forecasts, and strong household spending as factors supporting this view. There are, however, some cautionary notes for the tourism and export industries. The presentation concludes that there are currently good opportunities for small business operators to consolidate, update business plans and explore new markets.



Tim Atterton’s presentation will highlight the critical management tactics necessary to survive the current economic downturn; and emerge stronger and more resilient once the inevitable recovery commences.

Mr Atterton is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is also a former Director of the world renowned Entrepreneurship & Business Development Centre at Durham University Business School in the United Kingdom and a former Chairman of the West Australian Small Business Development Corporation. Currently, he is Managing Partner of ‘Business Dynamics’.

Mr Atterton begins his presentation with a quote from Tom Peters, a highly-regarded management guru: “**The world is going bonkers...and it is going to get more bonkers – bonkers squared in a few years with bonkers cubed on the way!**”

He notes that the underlying strength, stability and immediate prospects of the State’s economy are a matter of conjecture and concern. Arguably, although the State’s economic position is stronger than the overall national scenario; it is apparent that the ‘boom times’ that many businesses have enjoyed over the past seven years have come to an abrupt halt.

The key message through his presentation is to “**Act now; Act smart; & Act decisively**” to increase strategic and financial options.

# Spotlight on Peel

The spotlight will be on the Peel and Midwest Regions following the announcement that the two Development Commissions for these regions, in partnership the Australian Bureau of Statistics, have been awarded \$193,700 through the Western Australian Regional Initiatives Scheme.

The “Spotlight on the Regions” project will result in the development of an online website containing comprehensive regional statistics.

The remaining seven Development Commissions, together with the Department of Local Government and Regional Development, will be involved in identifying statistical indicators for use across all regions.

Manager Regional Development, Ms Colleen Yates said “The project will greatly improve access to regional statistical information through a web portal which can be used by the community and all levels of government

across the regions.”

“Good regional planning needs excellent, up to date, and comprehensive data. This project will give all of the Peel’s stakeholders access to that data, which will be a great foundation for strategic planning and responding to local needs.”

The Commission already provides a data service to anyone in the Region through the Research Officer position. The Spotlight project will strengthen that service even further.

The project will be completed early next year.

Further details can be obtained from Nicole Nugent on 9535 0013 or via email [nicole.nugent@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:nicole.nugent@peel.wa.gov.au).

## New Manager Appointed

A strong future for the Peel is the priority focus of newly promoted Manager Regional Development, Ms Colleen Yates. Appointed to the position at the beginning of the year, Ms Yates leads a team of six officers focused on working with the Peel community in assessing and meeting the needs of current and future generations.



**Manager Regional  
Development, Ms  
Colleen Yates**

Ms Yates, who has been with the Commission for over four years, said that she has been involved with many projects at the Commission and is looking forward to working in her new role.

"I see this position as a great opportunity to expand on my previous role in working with key stakeholders in delivering regional priorities," she said.

"It is a very exciting time to be working at the Commission, as we introduce the new 'Royalties for Regions' funding program and meet the challenges posed by changing economic times."

Prior to the Commission, Ms Yates was employed as an Organic Development Officer and during the 1990's was the Managing Director of Edenchime Holdings, a manufacturer of a range of certified organic products.

Ms Yates is currently on the board of Colkelan Corporation, a company holding oil and gas interests in USA.

## Boddington - A Golden Opportunity

Last year, six key stakeholders - Shire of Boddington, Peel Development Commission, Boddington Gold Mine/Newmont, BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina, DevX and WA Country Builders - recognised a golden opportunity to elevate and promote awareness of developments in Boddington through a new website appropriately named [www.agoldenopportunity.com.au](http://www.agoldenopportunity.com.au)

The website prominently displays a rainbow of colours designed as the new Boddington brand. This branding is being applied to street signs in Boddington as well as the highway, and is being used in a variety of local promotional materials, including that of land developers.

Eventually, the website will be linked to local government agencies, companies and community groups and will be a source of local information and news.

For more information, please contact Chris Schauble Project Manager Boddington on 95350006.

## Ministers At Boddington

Ministers Brendon Grylls and Terry Waldron visited the Shire of Boddington in February to review the progress of the gold and bauxite mines there. The Ministers spoke with local government representatives from Boddington, Murray and Wandering and shared lunch with government, mine and community representatives.

The visit included a tour of both Newmont's Boddington Gold Mine operation (pictured) and the Saddleback area of the Boddington bauxite mine, owned by BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina.

"The visit gave a great opportunity for all members of the hard-working Boddington infrastructure teams to brief the Ministers on-site on the progress of community infrastructure and housing construction," said Maree De Lacey, CEO of Peel Development Commission.



**Hon Brendon Grylls, Minister for Regional Development (left) and Hon Terry Waldron, Member for Wagin, Minister for Sport and Recreation view construction of Boddington Gold Mine.**

## Newmont to Acquire Remaining Interest in World Class Boddington Project

At the end of January, Newmont Mining Corporation announced that it would purchase from AngloGold Ashanti Australia Limited its 33.33% interest in the Boddington gold project. Upon completion of the acquisition, Newmont will own 100% of the Boddington project, which is the largest gold project in Australia, and Newmont's proven and probable gold reserves at Boddington will increase to 20.1 million ounces.

Richard O'Brien, President and Chief Executive Officer of Newmont said, "We are very pleased to consolidate our interest in Boddington, a world-class asset that we obviously know well. We expect Boddington will have low operating costs, a mine life in excess of 20 years and significant exploration potential in a favourable geo-political jurisdiction."

Newmont Asia Pacific Acting Regional Vice President Philip Stephenson said Boddington Gold Mine (BGM) was the company's flagship project in Australia.

"This purchase demonstrates our confidence and commitment to the longevity of the Boddington project. With the gold price at just under US\$1,000, a favourable exchange rate, operating costs as low as US\$300 an ounce, and reserves of more than 210 million ounces, this is a very exciting opportunity for Newmont."

When fully operational, BGM will generate \$550 million/year to the Peel regional economy and \$770 million/year to the Western Australian State economy.

Mine employees are encouraged to live in Boddington and surrounds. The Commission together with the local governments and mining companies, is coordinating numerous projects to improve local infrastructure and facilities for the growing population. The State has already committed \$37million for projects such as industrial land, power upgrades, road improvements, and staff support for the Shire of Boddington.

The Medical Centre and Child Care Centre are examples of projects for which planning has been completed and construction is expected to commence shortly. In addition, the Shire of Boddington has started its upgrade of the main street - Bannister Street.

With the support of Hon Gary Gray AO, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development and Northern Australia, the Commission and Shire of Boddington will be represented at meetings with Commonwealth agencies and Ministers' representatives in Canberra on 19 March 2009 to discuss opportunities for Commonwealth government partnership in Boddington.

Residents, prospective builders and investors have a wide choice of real estate to choose from. Currently, there are 35 fully serviced vacant lots available in the town centre and another 59 lots being developed. A number of lifestyle blocks (2 and 4 hectares) are also available within 3km of town.

Further information about developments in Boddington is available from [www.agoldenopportunity.com.au](http://www.agoldenopportunity.com.au) or via Chris Schauble, Project Manager Boddington on 9535 0006.



Looking south along Main Street, towards Drakesbrook Place: Sapling trees show their future potential for shade and softening of the streetscape while modern street lamps provide improved lighting.

# The Finishing Touch

The Shire of Waroona is completing the finishing touches to its Town Centre redevelopment along Main Street with assistance of \$1 million from the Peel Development Commission through Pinjarra Brunswick Sustainability Strategy (PBSS) funding.

The pedestrian environment of this busy section of the South Western Highway has been noticeably improved to the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors alike. This has been achieved with the installation of underground power, parking bays and kerbing; upgrade of drainage; and the enhancement of verges with the introduction of trees, seating and new paving. The new look pavements provide a pleasant access to the Drakesbrook Place meeting and performance spaces.



Finishing touches are being applied to Main Street, Waroona

The last payment of PBSS funds will contribute to the final element of the Town Centre redevelopment with the Fouracre Street Park project due to be completed by the end of 2009.

Shire of Waroona President Councillor Noel Dew said that whilst there had been some disruption during the construction it was already paying dividends with a more functional and appealing Central Business District positioned to maximise commercial opportunities. "The benefits of this investment in Waroona will continue long into the future."

Other contributors to the Town Centre Redevelopment Project are Shire of Waroona, Department of Local Government and Regional Development, Office of Energy, Main Roads WA, Infrastructure Australia, Alcoa and Iluka Resources.



Urban furniture design has come a long way from the old wheelie bin chained to a post concept. Waroona sports the latest in public recycling initiatives, thanks to a Beverage Industry Environment Council grant.

# Farmers Market Proves Popular

The recently opened Peel Farmers Market is proving popular, attracting not only locals but also shoppers from the metro area. The market, located at McLarty Oval in Pinjarra, opens at 8.00am every Saturday and runs until noon.

Shoppers have over 20 stalls to choose from showcasing conventional and organic fresh produce including: vegetables and fruit, beef, lamb, fish, chicken and free range eggs. One stall even sells live marron! Locally made bottled goods and specialty cheeses are also available from time to time.

Live music entertains shoppers who can soak in the country atmosphere while

enjoying a freshly brewed coffee, home made cake or sausage sizzle.

Ms Colleen Yates, Manager Regional Services, said "The market is going from strength to strength. Since opening in December, the Committee has consolidated the market's activities and are working hard to provide a market brimming with fresh local food and country atmosphere. We want shoppers and visitors to the market to see it as an experience, more than just shopping."

*The project was developed as part of funding provided under the Pinjarra Brunswick Sustainability Strategy through the Peel Development Commission and with the assistance of Department of Agriculture and Food, Harvey Water, Shire of Murray, and Pinjarra*



Shoppers crowd the market

# Where there is a Will, there is a Way!

Imagine having the power to build stronger, sustainable communities across the Peel Region. This is what your bequest to the Peel Community Foundation can do. It is the perfect way to ensure that your gift benefits your chosen community or cause, forever.

The simplest way to leave a gift that will benefit your community forever is to make a bequest to the Peel Community Foundation.

A bequest is a gift or donation made in your Will. There are several types of bequests, for example, a Specific Bequest (a Gift of cash or an asset), Percentage Share (a percentage of your estate) or a Residual Bequest (how the remainder of your estate is distributed with other gifts).

Launched last September, in partnership with Western Australian Community Foundation, the Peel Community Foundation helps community groups, projects or activities that demonstrate a positive contribution to the

economic, social or environmental enhancement and sustainability of the Peel Region.

Local volunteer advisory committee members are actively seeking funds to help build the endowment fund. When you donate or bequeath to the Peel Community Foundation, you can be assured that your gift will be managed and reinvested to meet the current and emerging needs of our region, in perpetuity.

What a wonderful way to give back to a community that has given so much to you and your family.

Anyone interested in making a donation or bequest to the Peel Community Foundation, should contact Nicole Nugent on 9535 0013 or [nicole.nugent@peel.wa.gov.au](mailto:nicole.nugent@peel.wa.gov.au)

*Photos Courtesy of Western Australian Community Foundation*

