

# Commission to get \$5m royalties boost

THE Pilbara Development Commission will receive \$5 million from the latest round of the State Government's Royalties for Regions Regional Grants Scheme (RGS) released by Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls last week.

This was part of the \$45 million shared between nine development commissions throughout regional WA.

Mr Grylls noted the importance of the RGS for rural communities.

"The grants scheme is providing money for projects to help attract investment and increase jobs or improve the quality of life in regional WA," Mr Grylls said.

Applicants would be assessed and approved by the Pilbara Development Commission board for endorsement by the minister and State Government.

"This innovative program allows individuals and organisations to bid their case for funding directly to their development commission, knowing their proposal will be dealt with at the local level," Mr Grylls said.

Pilbara Development Commission chair Tim Shanahan said he was confident the second round would be as successful as the first and would further assist the community.

"The board is very confident that this round will also give rise to many exciting, locally driven and strategically important applications."

Mr Shanahan said there was \$100,000 made available in the round for small grants via a separate process which would allow community organisations to apply for funding up to \$10,000.

Mr Grylls reinforced the range of projects funding was previously used for.

"There's a wide range, from building and restoring local facilities to upgrading services such as water and electricity supplies as well as allocations to support community attractions and events," he said.

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

The applications for contestable grants are now open until February 10, 2010.

A list of Regional Development Commission contacts is available on the Department of Regional Development and Land's website: [www.RoyaltiesForRegions.wa.gov.au](http://www.RoyaltiesForRegions.wa.gov.au) or on 9217 1400.