

Media Release

Goldfields RED grants supporting jobs and economic diversification

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- Six Goldfields-Esperance projects to share in more than \$1 million Regional Economic Development (RED) Grant funding
- Cook Government investments support diversification of local businesses and regional job creation in civil construction, manufacturing and disability sectors

Six Goldfields-Esperance projects will share in more than \$1 million funding to help build regional business resilience and economic diversity under Round 7 of the Cook Government's Regional Economic Development Grants program.

The RED Grants program is investing \$55.85 million over nine years towards locally-driven projects to stimulate economic growth in the regions.

Among the Round 7 recipients is Esperance-based business Drake-Brockman Building and Construction, who will use their \$250,000 grant for the construction of a new cabinetry and wall framing workshop.

The project will increase access to carpentry services and boost their capacity within the local building and construction industry for major residential developments.

Esperance Smash Repairs secured \$145,000 to install a new automotive downdraft spray booth coupled with a compressor and power upgrade. This will lead to workflow improvements and increased repair and service capability. The project is expected to reduce the current two-month wait period and boost productivity by 40 per cent.

A \$200,000 grant to Hopetoun Beachside Caravan Park will support the installation of new accessible holiday accommodation, providing modern accommodation for families and enhancing Hopetoun as a tourism destination.

The funding will go towards installing two fully-accessible two-bedroom cabins, with wheelchair appropriate facilities, including a communal deck and barbeque area. These upgrades will allow the caravan park to become the only accessible caravan park in the Ravensthorpe area.

Successful projects in Round 7 will diversify the tourism offering in the Goldfields-Esperance region, and support regional job creation and training pathways in the civil construction, manufacturing and disability sectors.

Comments attributed to Regional Development Minister Don Punch:

"The Regional Economic Development Grants offer a unique opportunity to diversify our regional economies, and create new jobs and sustainable employment opportunities.

"Since the inception of this program, the WA Labor Government has invested more than \$4 million dollars in 28 locally-driven projects in Goldfields-Esperance, helping to build a better region for the local community.

"Congratulations to all of the successful REDs recipients this year - the diverse range of projects reflect the robust, thriving, and innovative work happening across the region.

"With a record \$10 million on offer for Round 7 'Mega REDs', we are fostering regional development that is making meaningful change, creating real jobs and diversifying regional economies."

Comments Attributed to Member for the Agricultural Region Hon Shelley Payne MLC

"It is great to see businesses in Esperance and Hopetoun being supported by Round 7 of the RED Grant program.

"This funding will not only boost the productivity of these businesses, but boost job and training opportunities in the region, too.

"Congratulations to Drake-Brockman Building and Construction, Esperance Smash Repairs and Hopetoun Beachside Caravan Park. I look forward to seeing you take your businesses to the next level."

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