



Government Media Office  
**Ministerial Media Statements**

## Recent Statements



**Brendon Grylls**  
**Minister for Regional Development; Lands; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport**

*Fri 24 October, 2008*

### **State Government underlines commitment to regions**

#### **Portfolio: Regional Development**

The State Government today further outlined its commitment to additional infrastructure spending in rural and regional Western Australia.

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls outlined the Government's commitment to maintaining the global spend on regional infrastructure in the budget forward estimates, following a meeting with the Premier and Treasurer today.

Mr Grylls said the equivalent of 25 per cent of annual mining and petroleum royalties collected by the State would be allocated to new projects and services in regional areas of WA.

"These allocations will be above and beyond the global amount of spending that Labor had committed to the regions in both the 2008-09 financial year and forward estimates," he said.

"Planned expenditure for regional projects and services will not be accounted for as Royalties for Regions funding, but any additional funding over and above the planned expenditure will come out of the Royalties for Region funding.

"This will ensure these projects are delivered."

The Minister said Royalties for Regions would be delivered through three new funds: the Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund; the Country Local Government Fund and the Regional Community Services Fund.

Mr Grylls said he had agreement from the Premier and Treasurer on a model that allowed for the funds to be appropriated at the start of each financial year and drawn upon through the normal Cabinet processes.

"The Royalties for Regions fund will be legislated and work on drafting that legislation has already commenced," he said.

"Cabinet submissions for a major injection into local government are being prepared, along with the scheme to deliver a fuel card for country aged pensioners.

"Today's agreement ensures that the Royalties for Regions fund will enhance the regions through the delivery of new funding over and above the limited funding amounts contained in the forward estimates earmarked for regional infrastructure development by the previous government."

Minister's office - 9213 7200