

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS — PROGRESS REPORT 2012–13

**914. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Regional Development:**

I understand the “Royalties for Regions: Progress Report July 2012–June 2013” is being released today. Can the minister please outline what the report contains and some of the projects that are transforming our regions and creating a lasting legacy for generations of Western Australians to come?

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS replied:**

I thank the member for Central Wheatbelt for the question and congratulate her on her soon-to-be accession into the ministry.

Today is my last question time on the front bench of the Liberal-National government, and it gives me great pleasure to release the 2012–13 progress report for royalties for regions.

**Mr M.P. Murray** interjected.

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** It is much bigger than a passport!

The progress report was prepared by the Department of Regional Development. It is the fifth progress report on royalties for regions expenditure and details all the projects funded by royalties for regions from September 2008 until June 2013. In that time, royalties for regions —

**Mr M.P. Murray:** Is this your last hurrah?

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** Yes, it is, and my last hurrah includes mentioning to the Parliament that \$4.2 billion has been allocated to regional development in Western Australia by the Liberal–National government for more than 3 500 projects that cover the length and breadth of the state. Pilbara Cities is a program that is transforming the communities of the Pilbara from dusty mining towns with \$4 000 a week rents into modern, vibrant cities of the future. The Ord development, which was talked about for 40 years, has now been delivered by the Liberal–National government. The Gascoyne revitalisation plan in the midwest is at last investing in the future potential of the midwest and Gascoyne region, giving it an opportunity to grow. The Southern Inland Health Initiative is upgrading regional medical facilities, recruiting doctors where they did not previously exist and rolling out telehealth to regional Western Australia, providing people with emergency physicians in their local community online—a real innovation being led by the Liberal–National government. I am happy to announce that we have completed 75 of the 113 mobile phone towers across regional Western Australia, so that regional Western Australians can stay in touch.

But we have smaller projects as well as those bigger ones. The Foodbank school breakfast program delivered 29 500 free breakfasts in regional schools during the 2012 school year. The Regional Men’s Health Initiative is helping raise awareness of men’s health issues, expanding the Clontarf program has delivered better education programs for young Aboriginal students, and more than 47 000 regional age pensioners have a \$500 fuel card for taxis and fuel.

I thank the Western Australian Regional Development Trust, the Regional Development Council, the commissions and the Department of Regional Development for their roles in implementing the programs. The progress report is available online, and I encourage members to take a look. It gives me great pleasure to table the 2012–13 royalties for regions report.

[See paper 1262.]

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** Before I sit down, I thank the Premier for the opportunity to serve the people of Western Australia in his cabinet. I urge him to continue building and developing our great state. I acknowledge my ministerial team for their enormous contribution to what was just an idea in 2008, and is now the most comprehensive regional development program in the nation.

Government members: Hear, hear!

**Mr B.J. GRYLLS:** I make special mention of Doug Cunningham, who has worked shoulder to shoulder with me since 2005 to change the way we do politics in regional Western Australia. I thank my family in the Speaker’s gallery: Susan and the Grylls boys—Tom, Oliver, who is celebrating his fourth birthday today, and Jack. We all look forward to our next adventure in the Pilbara, helping Karratha to grow to reach its city status. Finally, best of luck to Terry and Mia as they steer the good ship Nationals into the future. I will be giving them all the encouragement I can from a few seats further back. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

[Applause.]