

Regional events receive funding boost

Saturday, 6 May 2017

- 62 regional events sponsored by 2017-18 Regional Events Scheme
- Funding pool of \$850,000 to support smaller, developing regional events
- Regional events provide significant economic, social and cultural benefits

A total of 62 diverse regional events across Western Australia have received a funding boost as part of the 2017-18 Regional Events Scheme.

Tourism Minister Paul Papalia made the announcement today (May 6) in Kununurra at the Lake Argyle Swim, which is funded by the scheme and will be sponsored again in 2017-18.

Mr Papalia also announced that 10 events would be supported by the scheme for the first time in the next round, including three in the Kimberley region - the Broome Marathon; Rhythm & Ride: Rodeo, Campdraft & Country Music Showcase; and The Gibb Challenge.

The Regional Events Scheme aims to develop and support smaller regional events across Western Australia. Worth \$850,000 in 2017-18, it is funded by the State Government.

To view the list of successful 2017-18 Regional Events Scheme recipients, visit <http://www.tourism.wa.gov.au/RES>

Comments attributed to Tourism Minister Paul Papalia:

"Tourism is a key economic driver for regional Western Australia. In 2016, visitors spent \$10 billion in the State, including \$4.7 billion in regional areas.

"Events play an important role in strengthening the economy by attracting visitors to the region, generating media attention which provides valuable exposure of the destination and adding vibrancy to the local community.



Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA
Minister for Tourism; Racing and Gaming; Small Business; Defence Issues; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests



Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC
Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade

"The scheme is part of the Government's plans to support the regions to showcase and promote their unique and diverse attractions, making them exciting places to visit and great places to live."

Tourism Minister's office - 6552 5600

Regional Development Minister's office - 6552 6200

Research roundtable to chart course forward

Monday, 10 April 2017

- Agriculture and Food Minister has convened an urgent roundtable on agricultural research with the Department of Agriculture and Food, WA's Chief Scientist and universities
- In refocusing the department in the research and development space, the State Government will ensure the best return on its investment

Leading research organisations will meet this afternoon to assess future models of agricultural research and development in Western Australia.

Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan convened the urgent roundtable to discuss the optimal model for research and development, particularly in the grains industry, to create jobs and put WA at the forefront of scientific research.

The Barnett Liberal National Government severely cut the Department of Agriculture and Food, losing key research and development staff and impacting on the department's future capabilities.

Ensuring industry stakeholders are working in collaboration will avoid repetition in research across the sector and ensure the best return on State Government investment.

Comments attributed to Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan:

"In the current environment, it is more important than ever that we ensure we are maximising our return on investment in research and development; we need to be very clear on who does what and how best we can leverage our research and development dollars.

"WA has a proud history of groundbreaking, world-leading research in agriculture, particularly related to grains, and the Department of Agriculture and Food has historically had an important role in this.



Hon Alannah MacTiernan
MLC

Minister for Regional
Development; Agriculture
and Food; Minister Assisting
the Minister for State
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Trade

"If we can get the science right, our agricultural sector will take its rightful place as one of the biggest new job creators in WA."

Minister's office - 6552 6200

WA scientists help unlock secrets to better beer

Thursday, 27 April 2017

- Western Australian scientists contributed to a groundbreaking international research program that will increase the quality of malting barley, making for clearer, tastier beer
- Department of Agriculture and Food and Murdoch University played a key role in mapping the barley genome for the first time
- WA is one of the leading international suppliers of malting barley to China and Japan

Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan today congratulated local scientists who helped produce the first complete genome map for barley, enabling breeders to develop better quality barley varieties that can be used for clearer, tastier beers.

The Western Australian-based Western Barley Genetics Alliance, made up of the Department of Agriculture and Food and Murdoch University with funding support from the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), was a key contributor to an international consortium that recently produced the genome map.

The breakthrough will unlock potential to boost world grains production and global food security, with the added benefit of securing WA's place as one of the world's leading suppliers of quality malting barley to China and Japan.

Comments attributed to Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan:

"This is WA strutting its scientific prowess in agriculture on the world stage. It has the potential to increase export values of our local malting barley, and may even make for better beers here in WA.

"This outcome proves WA's science community is among the world's best, contributing to innovative, global research that will generate long lasting benefits for local industries and international production.

"The State Government is committed to rebuilding and



Hon Alannah MacTiernan
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Development; Agriculture
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WA to adopt national livestock welfare standards

Tuesday, 9 May 2017

- Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan has taken action to adopt national animal welfare standards and guidelines for livestock in Western Australia
- The McGowan Government has agreed to seek an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act 2002 to pave the way for mandatory standards

Amendments to animal welfare legislation are set to finally bring Western Australia into line with the rest of the country on welfare standards for livestock.

A series of national standards and guidelines on treatment of livestock have been endorsed after extensive consultation with State and Territory governments and industry, but these cannot be implemented in WA without amending the Animal Welfare Act 2002.

National standards and guidelines for livestock transport were endorsed in 2012. Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory are the only jurisdictions yet to regulate these standards. Further standards for cattle welfare were endorsed in January 2016 and other States and Territories are progressing implementation.

Changes to the Act will enable these standards to be mandatory and legally enforced in WA and will ensure a nationally consistent approach to animal welfare.

There will be further consultation with the State's livestock industries on the approach to implementing the standards.

Comments attributed to Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan:

"This is an important step to take animal welfare in WA beyond just the 'prevention of cruelty' by introducing enforceable minimum standards for animal care and management.



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"Our producers take the care and welfare of animals seriously and this will further support them in managing their livestock businesses to community expectations."

Minister's office - 6552 6200

Calling all agrifood innovators

Wednesday, 12 April 2017

- Scholarships of up to \$30,000 available to farmers and innovators in the agriculture and aquaculture sector
- Program to foster entrepreneurship and innovation in the agrifood sector

Science Minister Dave Kelly today announced the opening of applications for round two of the State Government's Agriculture and Aquaculture Entrepreneurship Program.

The program forms part of the Science and Agribusiness Connect initiative's suite of programs designed to build the capability of the Western Australian agrifood sector.

Three scholarships of up to \$30,000 are available this round to enable farmers and individuals engaged in the agriculture or aquaculture sectors to develop and pursue their idea or invention through exposure to international best practice and leaders in their field.

Successful applicants will have an innovative concept or idea within the fields of agriculture or aquaculture that has the potential to broaden the economy and to modernise the agrifood sector.

The program awarded \$55,202 in scholarships in its first round to four WA farmers and innovators from across the sector.

These individuals are now travelling interstate and overseas to learn from the world's best on a range of innovations including lime application for the management of sub-soil acidity, boosting productivity in marron farming, using drone technology in agriculture and investigating ways to establish a log-grown shiitake industry in the South-West.

They will be returning to Western Australia and sharing their knowledge within their industries and regional WA later this year.

Applications for round two of the program close at 12pm AWST on May 31, 2017.



Hon Dave Kelly BA MLA
Minister for Water; Fisheries;
Forestry; Innovation and
ICT; Science



Hon Alannah MacTiernan
MLC
Minister for Regional
Development; Agriculture
and Food; Minister Assisting
the Minister for State
Development, Jobs and
Trade

**Comment attributed to Agriculture and Food
Minister Alannah MacTiernan:**

"We already have some of the brightest thinkers in agriculture here in WA and these scholarships will provide an opportunity for our innovators to learn from the very best."

Science Minister's office - 6552 6100

Agriculture and Food Minister's office - 6552 6200

Camp leader takes out Rural Women's Award

Wednesday, 5 April 2017

- Camp Kulin program founder Tanya Dupagne has won the 2017 WA Rural Women's Award for her contribution to WA's regional communities



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the Minister for State
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Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan tonight congratulated Kulin community leader Tanya Dupagne on taking out the 2017 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation WA Rural Women's Award.

The Rural Women's Award celebrates the contributions and achievements of Western Australian women to the State's regional economy and communities.

Tanya started the Camp Kulin program four years ago to support the wellbeing of young people in the Wheatbelt.

Tanya will receive \$10,000 to complete a project or initiative that will benefit rural people or industries as part of the award. She hopes to build on the success of the Camp Kulin program by developing a subsidised camp for women from regional WA to develop leadership skills and promote change in their own communities.

The award is an initiative of the Australian Government's Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation and proudly supported by the Department of Regional Development, the Department of Agriculture and Food, the CBH Group, ABC Rural and Westpac Agribusiness.

Comments attributed to Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan:

"Women are really stepping up in the regions: consider the contributions of past Rural Women's Awards winners like Kalyn Fletcher, who is using research and innovation to develop new crops in the North-West, or Catherine Marriott, leading the cattle industry on animal welfare and 21st century industry practices.

Funding round opens for natural resources grants

Friday, 19 May 2017

- \$4.1m in funding available to support conservation and protect WA's natural resources

Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan today urged community groups to apply for funding to help look after the State's natural resources.

Local landcare, farming and community organisations, schools and local government can seek funds through the McGowan Government's State Natural Resource Management (NRM) program.

Groups can apply for grants of between \$5,000 and \$55,000 as part of the 2017-18 Community Action Grant round, totalling \$4 million, to support conservation and sustainable resource use activities.

A further \$100,000 is available to build the capability of community-based organisations, with grants of up to \$10,000. This may include website development, community workshops, producing information guides or apps, or other activities to support organisational development.

Applications close on Monday, July 10, 2017. For more information, visit <http://www.nrm.wa.gov.au> or contact the State NRM Program on 9368 3168.

Comments attributed to Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan:

"Western Australia's natural environment is one of our biggest assets: job-creation opportunities in agriculture, aquaculture, tourism and more rely on protecting our environment.

"From fighting plant and animal pests to protecting threatened flora and fauna and conserving waterways and wetlands, these groups are an important part of WA's conservation strategy.

"This funding supports a range of NRM projects and allows the people who know their local area to tailor the work and drive the best outcomes for our communities."



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Funding to create sustainable visitor centres in regional WA

Thursday, 6 April 2017

- \$1.05 million available for innovative projects
- Grants to support economic sustainability of regional visitor centres
- Visitor centres generate more than 900 jobs and inject \$117 million into economy

Regional visitor centres across the State can now apply for a share of \$1.05 million for innovative projects that make them more sustainable and adaptable in a changing tourism environment.

Tourism Minister Paul Papalia encouraged all regional visitor centres to apply for the final round of the Regional Visitor Centre Sustainability Grant Program, worth \$4.2 million over three years.

The program is made possible by the State Government through Tourism Western Australia and Royalties for Regions.

The second funding round in 2016-17 supported 36 visitor centres across the State, including Halls Creek, Busselton, Merredin, Kalbarri, Meekatharra and Geraldton.

Accredited visitor centres or local government authorities can apply for grants between \$5,000 and \$100,000. Non-accredited centres working towards accreditation can apply for grants between \$5,000 and \$40,000.

Applications for the Regional Visitor Centre Sustainability Grant Program close at 5pm on Friday June 16, 2017. For more information, visit <http://www.tourism.wa.gov.au>

Comments attributed to Tourism Minister Paul Papalia:

"Tourism is a key economic driver for Western Australia and plays a vital role in diversifying the State's economy and creating new jobs.



Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA
Minister for Tourism; Racing and Gaming; Small Business; Defence Issues; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests



Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC
Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade

Minister Alannah MacTiernan:

"This program will give regional tourism a new spark.

"We need our visitor centres to be moving with new tourism trends - this fund will help them be flexible and creative."

Tourism Minister's office - 6552 5600

Regional Development Minister's office - 6552 6200

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Great Eastern Highway passing lanes completed in the Goldfields

Tuesday, 23 May 2017

- 15 new overtaking lanes provide safer passing opportunities

The State Government has completed 15 new overtaking lanes on Great Eastern Highway in the Goldfields region.

Eight eastbound lanes and seven westbound lanes, each with an average length of three kilometres, have been built along 225km of the Great Eastern Highway between Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Southern Cross.

This project was managed by Main Roads and delivered by WBHO Infrastructure Pty Ltd.

To complement the new passing lanes, WBHO Infrastructure will complete a further 6.7km of extra highway overlay and widening works on this section of Great Eastern Highway, about 30km east of Boorabbin, by mid-2017.

Comments attributed to Transport Minister Rita Saffioti:

"This 225km section of Great Eastern Highway carries about 1,200 vehicles per day and more than 30 per cent of these are heavy vehicles. Between 2010 and 2014, there were 103 crashes on this stretch of highway.

"These new overtaking lanes will provide regular passing opportunities, helping to reduce driver frustration. They will also improve travel time and address safety issues that have contributed to vehicle incidents along this road.

"At each location, the highway has also been widened to provide a one metre sealed shoulder and a one metre unsealed shoulder, which further improves safety."

Comments attributed to Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan:



Hon Rita Saffioti BBus MLA
Minister for Transport;
Planning; Lands



Hon Alannah MacTiernan
MLC
Minister for Regional
Development; Agriculture
and Food; Minister Assisting
the Minister for State
Development, Jobs and
Trade

Minister welcomes Ingham's job-creating expansion

Monday, 15 May 2017

- Ingham's announces an expansion of its WA farming, milling and processing operations
- Expansion expected to create 400 new permanent jobs and about 1,000 indirect jobs
- Ingham's will relocate to Muchea, fulfilling a WA Labor commitment to facilitate a move from its Sinagra site
- McGowan Government is committed to securing more jobs for Western Australians

Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan has welcomed Ingham's plan to expand its operations in Western Australia, driving new jobs for Western Australians.

The company's plans include expansion of its farming, milling and processing volumes to meet increasing local demand.

A new feed mill will be built at Muchea over the next three years and a hatchery will also be built at a site yet to be finalised.

The plans are expected to create an extra 400 permanent jobs and an estimated 1,000 indirect jobs. Dozens of additional jobs will also be created during the construction phase.

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to delivering local jobs and expanding agriculture will be key to this plan.

Comments attributed to Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan:

"Ingham's decision to keep investing in WA signals the serious business interest in our local agriculture and food industries.

"WA Labor started discussions with Ingham's last year and committed to facilitating this relocation and expansion - now we have fulfilled that commitment.



Hon Alannah MacTiernan
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Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade

Minister's office - 6552 6200

Productivity Commission links economic growth and animal welfare

Thursday, 6 April 2017

- Agriculture and Food Minister welcomes the Productivity Commission's Regulation of Australian Agriculture report
- The report, released last week, makes a number of recommendations focused on animal welfare that would improve productivity in the agricultural sector while strengthening animal welfare standards



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Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan today welcomed the Productivity Commission's inquiry report into the regulation of Australian agriculture, particularly recommendations related to animal welfare.

The report, handed to the Commonwealth Government following a nine-month public consultation period, recommends establishing a standalone statutory Australian Commission for Animal Welfare to oversee enforcement of animal welfare standards.

It also recommends a review of State Government animal welfare regulation enforcement.

An independent review into animal welfare was recently undertaken in Western Australia.

Comments attributed to Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan:

"This report proves that strong animal welfare protections and productivity in the agricultural sector can go hand-in-hand.

"Groups like the Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association are already focusing on animal welfare standards as a way to strengthen the industry.

"Just as the mining industry has found that increased scrutiny of workplace safety has in fact provided a better opportunity to analyse and strengthen workplace productivity, these recommendations pave the way for a more productive agricultural sector."

Progress on fresh produce trade restrictions

Wednesday, 10 May 2017

- Proposed changes to interstate trade protocols set to help local fruit and vegetable growers following WA-led negotiations with other States and Territories



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the Minister for State
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Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan has welcomed moves to reinstate interstate trade of some fruit and vegetables affected by the detection of tomato potato psyllid in Western Australia.

Talks led by the Department of Agriculture and Food in Adelaide this week have resulted in an in-principle agreement to risk mitigation and treatment measures, which will work for many WA growers and offer the appropriate level of protection for other States.

Pome fruit and stone fruit will be able to resume trade as normal, provided they are free of any green plant or leaf material. Measures such as washing, targeted inspection or secure packaging will apply to a range of produce including strawberries and leafy vegetables packed in packhouses.

Work by the Western Australian Government continues as a priority to seek market access for potato growers, who are still unable to export into interstate markets.

Comments attributed to Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan:

"The interstate trade restrictions in the months since we found the psyllid in WA have hit our growers, and these proposed changes will save the State's horticulture industry millions of dollars in potential lost interstate trade earnings.

"We have gone in to bat for our growers to reach agreement with other States to get much of our trade back up and running.

"This in-principle agreement is a welcome step forward but there is more work to be done on potatoes, cut flowers, some lines of field-packed vegetables and some nursery stock.

