

Media Statement

SuperTowns project brings confidence to town

6 March, 2014

In 2011 the Shire of Manjimup was awarded funding for two projects - Town Centre Revitalisation and Agricultural Expansion - under the State Government's Royalties for Regions SuperTowns project.

"The Royalties for Regions Manjimup SuperTown funding has provided the financial backing needed to make these projects happen, and has already positioned the town to attract investment, support local businesses, improve the liveability and increase tourism in the region," explained Shire President Wade DeCampo.

The Town Centre Revitalisation project has seen the Timber Park, one of Manjimup's most iconic tourist locations, undergo a transformation. A new and innovative adventure playground and History House have been constructed, and the Timber Museum has been redeveloped.



Plans are also progressing for the:

- installation of underground power along Mottram Street;
- redevelopment of Brockman Street;
- reopening of Ipsen Street to provide an additional access point from the main highway into the town centre;
- removal of the visual barrier of the railway; and
- freeing up of land for a future hotel site.

As a part of the Agricultural Expansion project the Southern Forests Food Council has been established, which has developed a branding strategy for the region and is working closely with local producers on creating awareness and educating local, national and international markets on the quality and diversity of the region's produce.

In addition, the Southern Forests SEED Program has been developed raising the profile of careers in agriculture and providing support to students and researchers in agriculture and food science in the region. A draft Agricultural Strategy has also been developed identifying future transformational projects.

Opportunities that have arisen from the SuperTowns projects form a vital component of the draft *South West Regional Blueprint* which was developed jointly by the South West Development Commission and Regional Development Australia South West.

Cr DeCampo said ***"We are dedicated to securing further funding opportunities to implement projects which stimulate economic growth and make our region more sustainable. With State Government support of the initiatives identified in the South West Regional Blueprint, I am confident our community will continue to grow and thrive for years to come."***

"We value the input and are grateful for the opportunities that the State Government's Royalties for Regions SuperTowns project has provided to the region," added Cr DeCampo.

Statement Ends

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