



Economic Regulation Authority  
PO Box 8469,  
Perth BC WA 6849

To whom it may concern,

**Shire of Gnowangerup Submission on the Economic Regulation Authority 'Inquiry into Microeconomic Reform in Western Australia – Draft Report'.**

Royalties for Regions is a political policy formulated by government to allocate project funds into the rural areas of the state. This spending commenced in 2008 and is funded by setting aside 25% of the state's mining and petroleum royalty revenue, approximately 4% of the State Governments Budget.

One of the principles on which Royalty for Regions is predicated is to ensure regional Western Australia is not disadvantaged compared to metropolitan Perth. The additional investment is channeled into projects that help build regional communities:

- Building capacity in regional communities
- Retaining benefits in regional communities
- Improving services to regional communities
- Attaining sustainability
- Expanding opportunity
- Growing prosperity.

The Value of these Projects contribute towards building strong and vibrant regional communities that are desirable places to live.

Regional communities should have services comparable to those their metropolitan counterparts enjoy and be able to access health services and quality of education. To facilitate improved equity *Royalties for Regions* is investing in programs to give regional communities better access to transport, government agencies and support and improve economic and community infrastructure and services in regional Western Australia.

In regional areas the state government is transferring the management of assets to local government such as GROH Houses, SES buildings, Entertainment Centres etc. It is recognised that there are cost savings to government in this approach however local government requires royalty for regions funding to enable it to manage the increasing asset burden it is responsible for maintaining.

Through the Royalties for Regions Country Local Government Fund, the Shire of Gnowangerup has received funding for many initiatives, providing an opportunity to start funding the gaps that would have otherwise been impossible, including;

Sport and Recreation

- Playing Surfaces
- Pool
- Sporting Complex Facilities

Community Resource Centre

- Library
- Toy Library
- Art Gallery
- The Housing of Not For Profit organisations together with Mental Health Services

Gnowangerup Community Park

GROH Housing

Should you require any further information or clarification on our submission please contact Shelley Pike at the Shire of Gnowangerup on 98271007 or alternatively [shelley.pike@gnowangerup.wa.gov.au](mailto:shelley.pike@gnowangerup.wa.gov.au)

Kind Regards

  
Shelley Pike  
Chief Executive Officer

7<sup>th</sup> May 2014