



Hon John Day MLA  
Minister for Culture and  
the Arts



Hon Terry Redman MLA  
Minister for Regional  
Development

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## JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

# Arts funding fosters creativity in the regions

- **Details of \$24 million Creative Regions program released**
- **Five schemes will upgrade venues and increase the amount of arts in the regions**

There will be more arts and culture in regional Western Australia than ever before as the \$24 million Creative Regions program is rolled out over the next four years.

In Bunbury today to launch the program, Culture and the Arts Minister John Day said this was one of the largest investments in regional culture and arts made by a government in Australia.

Creative Regions consists of five schemes that will upgrade venues; increase the skills of local arts groups; expand funding to regionally-based artists and organisations; boost the number of touring shows; and assist Aboriginal arts centres.

South-West beneficiaries from scheme four include the Country Music Club of Boyup Brook, Nannup Music Festival and Arts Margaret River. Grants through this scheme will be available to arts organisation across the State each year until 2018.

“Creative Regions has been tailored to specifically address the cultural and arts needs of regional WA,” Mr Day said.

“Arts in major regional centres is thriving and Creative Regions will assist local government, communities and artists to maintain this momentum as well as extend opportunities to other smaller and remote communities.

“On the ground, the program will ensure there is a viable touring circuit, well-equipped venues, more touring shows, and professional support for regional artists and communities.”

Mr Day said the schemes were designed to complement each other to support a high quality touring circuit for both performing arts groups and audiences.

Regional entertainment venues in areas such as Bunbury, Mandurah, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Port Hedland, Broome and Esperance will be eligible to apply for funding to upgrade facilities and technical equipment. Applications open later this year.

Regional Development Minister Terry Redman said the Royalties for Regions funded program stood to deliver significant outcomes for residents in regional WA.

“Increased regional arts activities will benefit participating communities economically, culturally and socially,” Mr Redman said.

“As a valuable contribution to community amenity, the program will contribute to the wellbeing and revitalisation of regional communities, and act as a catalyst for attracting and retaining skilled workers and families to regional areas.”

**Fact File**

- Creative Regions will run from 2015 to 2018
- The program is administered by the Department of Culture and the Arts with support from the State Government's Royalties for Regions program
- Country Arts WA and CircuitWest are key partners in the program
- For more information, visit <http://www.dca.wa.gov.au>
- For more information on Royalties for Regions projects, visit [Bigger Picture - Regions](#)

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**The Creative Regions program's five schemes include:**

1. A program to fund technical equipment and functionality upgrades of regional performing arts and entertainment venues that support an identified touring circuit including Albany, Bunbury, Mandurah, Geraldton, Carnarvon, Port Hedland, Broome and Esperance
2. CircuitWest will deliver a program for regional performing arts venues to develop business models, provide professional development and programming strategies aimed at increasing the viability of regional touring circuits throughout WA
3. A program supporting the development of sustainable business models and improved facilities for the State's Aboriginal arts centres
4. Country Arts WA will expand and enhance its partnerships and programs involving regionally based arts organisations, artists and communities across all art forms
5. A new regional touring program to increase access of regional communities to performing arts tours by small, medium and major Western Australian organisations.

**Regional communities which will immediately benefit from funding allocations under the first year of scheme four include:**

Denmark Arts Council, Great Southern  
Esperance Community Arts, Goldfields-Esperance  
Vancouver Arts Centre, Great Southern  
Arts Margaret River, South-West  
Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council, Goldfields-Esperance  
ARTS Narrogin, Wheatbelt  
Northampton Old School, Mid-West  
Theatre Kimberley, Kimberley  
Exmouth Cultural Arts Centre, Gascoyne  
Country Music Club of Boyup Brook, South-West  
Nannup Music Festival, South-West  
Southern Forest Arts, South-West  
Arts and Cultural Development Council, Mid-West  
Boddington Community Resource Centre, Peel  
Community First International, Peel  
Beverly Station Arts, Wheatbelt  
Kambalda Cultural and Arts Group, Goldfields-Esperance