



Media release – 19 July 2011

## **Development West Coast gives \$100,000 to Community Trusts**

Development West Coast will provide the West Coast Community Trust and Solid Energy Amateur Sports Trust with \$100,000 this year to distribute to community groups.

DWC historically distributed community grants through several channels including Community Distributions and CEO Delegation. However Trustees have decided it makes more sense for Councils and community groups to make funding decisions. This means DWC will no longer be directly involved with community funding applications.

“The main reasoning behind this approach is to empower the local community charitable organisations,” says Development West Coast Chair John Sturgeon.

“In the opinion of the current DWC Board these organisations are better connected to their local community groups and have an integral understanding of their needs. They are better placed to make funding decisions,” he says.

Last month DWC announced a \$2 million one off extraordinary distribution to each of the three District Councils. The \$6 million is expected to provide an economic boost to the three districts through to March 2016, enabling each district to fund various community assets and projects at their discretion, and should be a significant impetus for the local economy.

Together these two initiatives mean decisions about community funding will now be made by the three councils and two community trusts, not Development West Coast.

Trustees decided to allocate \$90,000 to the West Coast Community Trust and \$10,000 to the Solid Energy Amateur Sports Trust.

The West Coast Community Trust has been running for 23 years and is governed by nine trustees who represent their communities and are appointed by the Minister of Finance.

“This will be a good boost for the West Coast Community Trust, it will almost double our annual distribution. Our next grant round is October so I encourage Coasters to apply,” says Chair Dennis Straker.

Chair of the Solid Energy Amateur Sports Trust Chips Robinson is also welcoming the grant.

“It’s going to be great for the sports community. Our Trust committee will be meeting shortly to work out how the \$10,000 grant will be distributed,” he says.

Organisations that were planning to apply to DWC for a community grant have been contacted to advise of this new direction and are welcome to lodge an application with an alternative funding organisation.

Development West Coast will continue to consider loans to community organisations for capital development projects although this does not include maintenance. These loans will be assessed on a strictly commercial basis.

Major District Initiative funding of \$1.2 million per annum to the West Coast District Councils will continue to be distributed directly by DWC to the councils for the purpose of applying the funds to significant community projects.

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