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**INSIDE TODAY**



Hall dedication - Page 14



Cervantes win - Page 24

## Jurien SuperTowns launch

By Merrel Pond

ON THURSDAY last week the Minister for Regional Development, Lands Brendon Grylls officially launched Jurien Bay in the Royalties for Regions centres development plan initiative.

The Shire of Dandaragan will now reap the benefit of access to additional funding to help it take advantage of the opportunities created by the predicated doubling of WA's population over the next 30 to 40 years.

It is expected that the SuperTown status will stimulate new business opportunities and new jobs, which will attract more investment and more people to live in the town.

The minister said Jurien Bay was one of the nine towns selected in the first round of the initiative which includes Boddington, Collie, Esperance, Northam, Katanning, Manjimup, Margaret River and Morawa.

A total of \$85.5 million has been allocated to SuperTown funding from the 2011-12 Royalties for Regions program to assist these nine towns.

This funding is over and above Royalties for Regions funds already committed to major projects in the town; such as \$750,000 for the jetty and foreshore redevelopment through Wheatbelt Regional Grants Scheme and \$539,400 through the Country Local Government Fund.

Minister Grylls has given the recipients of the SuperTown status six months to prove to him that they have all their 'ducks in a row' and the planning is right to show that the

community is organised to attract funding from potential developers.

"You must also be able to prove to me that you have been able to form partnerships with your neighbours and be able to deliver economic benefits to the region," he said.

"We must also be satisfied as a board that any development will enhance the region and not be to the detriment of surrounding towns. We will be keeping a very close eye on everything that happens."

"The shire must be able to prove that they can roll out regional growth plan for the next 20 years showing that they have planned for water, power, education, health etc in their planning project."

"You need to remember that WA is a state that will have exceptional growth and there will be two million people looking for a place to call home."

Chief executive of the Wheatbelt Development Commission Wendy Newman said that the commission will be working very closely with the shire over the coming months to help them with their planning based on potential growth and the passion from the community and to meet the vision the Jurien Bay community has set itself.

Shire president Shane Love reiterated Ms Newman's comments and stressed the importance of keeping the dialogue open with surrounding shires.

"There is a lot of work to be done and I am confident that we are up to the challenge," shire chief executive Tony Nottle said.

"It is a very exciting time in our shire and I am looking forward to working with all the government agencies in the following months."



**Positive message:** Minister for Regional Development, Lands Brendon Grylls MLA at the Jurien Bay launch of SuperTowns.

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