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ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS PROJECTS BEING DELIVERED, BUT LONG TERM OUTCOMES UNCLEAR

Today Auditor General Colin Murphy tabled a report in Parliament that showed that while the Royalties for Regions program had provided substantial infrastructure and services to regional WA, it is still unclear whether they are delivering their intended outcomes.

“The success of the Royalties for Regions program will ultimately be determined based on whether it leaves a lasting impact on the community or not,” said Mr Murphy.

“While this program has delivered a variety of key projects across the regions, sustainability is an issue when so many projects are later run by local government or the private sector.”

The Auditor General acknowledged that Royalties for Regions is a large program with a lot of controls around spending.

“At the time of our audit, \$4.2 billion had been allocated to over 3 500 Royalties for Regions projects.”

“The good news is that all spending for this program is approved by Cabinet. However, we do have some areas of concern that funding decisions should be based on good information around what the projects intend to deliver and if this aligns with the long term program objectives.”

“Overall, I was pleased to see ongoing improvements in the way the program is being managed, since our last audits of this area in 2009 and 2010,” said Mr Murphy.

The Auditor General’s report *‘Royalties for Regions – are benefits being realised?’* (Report 13 – June 2014) can be downloaded from the Office of the Auditor General website at www.audit.wa.gov.au

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