



*Media release – March 10, 2024*

## **Goldfields and Esperance Councils Prepare for Climate Impacts**

Nine Local Governments across the Goldfields Esperance region have been awarded \$235,000 to conduct an analysis of upgrading community assets to prepare for climate change impacts.

In 2024-25, the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC) will establish a framework and collate data to demonstrate and determine the most beneficial adaptation options.

The project will focus on adaptation to the climate hazards of inland and coastal flooding, sustained higher temperatures, bushfires, heatwaves, droughts, and severe storms. It follows on from a Climate Risk and Adaptation Plan for the region in 2023.

The findings from this latest project will be used to drive cost-benefit analysis work to assist Councils in understanding the negative implications of these climate impacts for their community, support evidence-based decision making, and enable quicker action to build climate resilience.

GVROC Chair and Coolgardie Shire President, Malcolm Cullen welcomed the recent National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) grant announcement.

“Climate change is already impacting our community assets and wellbeing across the region, such as buildings, roads, drainage, and natural assets as well as built assets in natural areas,” Mr Cullen said.

“This year we have had significant floods in the Northern Goldfields that are costing around \$30 million in repair costs to damaged roads.”

“Fires have been an issue throughout the region, and the Esperance community has once again suffered the tragic loss of another life there on Boxing Day.

“We have also had ongoing heatwaves across the entire Goldfields region which have caused days of power outages that have widely impacted some sections of our communities and businesses.”

“Our Local Governments have a responsibility to better prepare our communities for the predicted increases in such natural disasters in coming decades.”

“But understanding these impacts on community assets is complicated due to the uncertain nature of future climate variables and so this study will help our Councils make more informed decisions on investment.”

The study will run in unison with a Drought Resilience Plan being conducted by the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission, focussed on water security.



Western Australia will share in a total of \$2.5 million of funding under the National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Grant Program this year. This GVROC project is one of 15 successful initiatives set to make an impact in communities across the WA.

The NDRR Grant Program is jointly funded under a National Partnership Agreement between the Australian and Western Australian Governments to benefit communities into the future.

For more information on the NDRR Grant Program you can go to: [Joint media statement - \\$2.5 million funding awarded to WA disaster reduction initiatives | Western Australian Government \(www.wa.gov.au\)](#)

***For media Enquiries, please contact:***

***Niki Curtis, GVROC Regional Climate Alliance Coordinator E: [nicolecurtis07@gmail.com](mailto:nicolecurtis07@gmail.com) or M: 0427 806 702***