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## PILBARA COMMUNITIES TO PROSPER

His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia and Patron of the Western Australian Community Foundation, officially launched the Pilbara Community Foundation in Newman today. The Pilbara Community Foundation will support grass root community projects and initiatives that strengthen the sustainability of Pilbara communities. To celebrate the milestone, His Excellency also announced nine inaugural grants awarded to local community groups.

Michael Anderson, Chairman of Western Australian Community Foundation together with Stephen Webster, Chief Executive Officer of the Pilbara Development Commission joined His Excellency along with community and business representatives at the Mia Mia to mark the occasion.

The Pilbara Community Foundation has been established under the trusteeship of the Western Australian Community Foundation thanks to a founding donation of \$100,000 from the Pilbara Development Commission. A volunteer local advisory committee will be established to work closely with the Foundation to identify funding opportunities across the region. Support will be directed towards local initiatives and projects that:

- provide for the needs of families;
- promote youth development and engagement;
- advance education;
- provide community facilities; and
- promote arts and culture.

Income earned from gifts made to the Pilbara Community Foundation has been distributed to nine inaugural community grant recipients, namely:

- Dampier Family Playgroup;
- Hedland Toy Library;
- Karratha Community House;
- LINK;
- Newman Youth Services;
- SAFE;
- Sunshine Playgroup;
- Onslow Little Learners Playgroup; and
- Wickham Playgroup.

Mr Michael Anderson, Chairman, Western Australian Community Foundation said "The Pilbara Development Commission is to be congratulated for taking a proactive step in building the capacity of Pilbara communities. This visionary approach towards community development will make a lasting difference to the communities of the Pilbara."

"The Foundation's unique model empowers communities to take some control of their destiny because it is designed to ensure benefit in perpetuity from gifts to a community fund."

Mr Stephen Webster, Chief Executive Officer, Pilbara Development Commission added "The Pilbara Community Foundation, a fund created by and for the people of the Pilbara, is the perfect vehicle upon which to build a sustainable future for local communities."

"The income earned from the Pilbara Community Foundation, managed by Western Australian Community Foundation, will be invested back into the community providing a long-term, sustainable approach to building community capacity".

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#### About Western Australian Community Foundation

Western Australian Community Foundation is an independent, philanthropic community organisation established to support and strengthen WA communities through the growth and distribution of endowed funds and the development of community leadership capacity.

The Foundation, as Trustee, oversees all governance, financial, legal and compliance matters including fund distribution on behalf of the Pilbara Community Foundation. Income earned from the endowment is used to provide a reliable and regular source of funds for charitable purposes to build community capacity across the Pilbara, with the capital remaining in perpetuity.

#### About Pilbara Development Commission

The Pilbara Development Commission is one of nine Regional Development Commissions established under the State Government's Regional Development Commissions Act (1993). The Commission and its Board are responsible to the Hon Brendon Grylls MLA, Minister for Regional Development; Lands; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport.

The Pilbara Development Commission aims to make a significant impact on a wide range of development issues across the Pilbara. The projects and issues on which the Commission works are diverse and reflect community needs and aspirations. The Commission's underpinning philosophy is to add value through input of funds and staff resources into projects that benefit the Pilbara.