

20 March 2013

State Planning Strategy  
Department of Planning  
Locked Bag 2506  
Perth WA 6001

Dear Sir/Madam

## Committee for Perth Submission – Draft State Planning Strategy

The Committee for Perth, established in 2006, is an influential, member based organisation driven by Perth's business and community leaders. As an advocate for a brighter, more liveable future for Perth, the Committee promotes and enables change that will improve the cultural diversity, economic prosperity, sustainability and world class amenity of Perth. It is in this capacity the Committee has a strong interest in the draft State Planning Strategy 2012.

The Committee welcomes the draft State Planning Strategy as a framework for a positive, integrated and collaborative document for the State's future.

This submission is supportive of the draft strategy and has some specific suggestions which aim to enhance the strategy's ability to provide a positive direction for the future of regional Perth.

### General Comments

While the strategy is positive and is a step forward from previous, land use based strategies, we believe that there is potential to further enhance the strategy by:

- Making the strategy more ambitious in its aspirations (in some areas).
- Where possible, including some numerical targets for a specific outcome.
- Including the Perth metropolitan region as a specific 'element' in some sections of the document (as appropriate or required) to highlight those outcomes or aspirations that are specific to Perth.
- Demonstrating a stronger alignment and 'whole of government' approach across and between the three spheres of government – State, Federal and Local, and in engagement of the private sector where indicated, eg in infrastructure provision.
- Strengthening the sections on economic development, innovation, productivity and investment attraction so that the statements translate into measurable actions and outcomes.

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## Economic Development

### Objective

The objective for this section does not quite capture the outcomes it seeks to achieve. We suggest it is amended to include a reference to the State's position as a national economic leader, and to the need to achieve increased economic diversity, for example: **To retain Western Australia's position as a national economic leader, increase economic diversity and facilitate co-ordinated, sustainable economic development for the future.**

### Outcomes

It is suggested that this section includes an element for the Perth metropolitan region and incorporates an outcome that reflects Perth's role in the State's economy i.e. **Perth is established as the third centre of corporate power in Australia and has a diverse resource, technology and innovation based economy.**

Aspirations for this Outcome could include:

- Perth continues to attract and retain corporate headquarters.
- Perth is Australia's resource and energy sector capital.
- Perth is the centre of world leading innovation, technology and research and development industries in the State.

Under the element 'Global Competitiveness' we suggest that an aspiration is included for high quality airport infrastructure. For example: **Western Australia has high quality airport infrastructure, particularly in its primary regional centres.**

## Education, training and knowledge transfer

The Committee for Perth strongly supports the objective to develop a globally competitive creative, innovative and knowledge based economy.

### Aspirations

Under the 'Knowledge and Learning' element, we suggest that the fifth bullet point aspiration is amended to read:

- Major university and **higher education** hubs that **successfully** compete for students, researchers and investment on a global stage

We also suggest that the following aspiration is added:

- Affordable access to primary, high school and higher education that is equivalent to the best in the world.

Under the 'Creativity and Innovation' element we suggest that the following aspirations are included:

- University and higher education institutions that are effectively integrated with their local communities to develop creative 'university towns' and communities.
- Increased funding and investment in cultural infrastructure and enterprise.

- Successful creative, knowledge and innovation clusters throughout the State that are linked with major universities and innovative industries

### **Tourism**

While the Committee for Perth strongly supports growing and improving the tourism industry in this State, we believe that the elements, outcomes and aspirations listed in this section are critical to the cultural wellbeing of Western Australia and Perth and their importance extends far beyond tourism. For example, Aboriginal culture, cultural participation among our communities and recreation choice are all fundamental to enabling a positive future all communities in the State, not just for tourists.

We therefore strongly suggest that the title of this section is amended to be: **Culture, Recreation and Tourism** or **Culture and Tourism**.

#### Aspirations

Under the Infrastructure element we suggest that the following aspiration is included:

- High quality arts and cultural infrastructure in Perth and major regional centres.

Also, under the Cultural Planning element, we suggest the following amendment to the second bullet point:

- Aboriginal culture and heritage is celebrated **and show-cased**.

### **Environment**

The Committee for Perth supports the environment section of the report, but we believe that there is potential for the objective to be more ambitious and aspirational to reflect Western Australia's potential as a future leader in clean energy and resource efficiency.

For example, the objective could be amended to: **To be Australia's leading State in biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management**.

#### Aspirations

Suggest the following aspiration is added to the 'Natural resource conservation' element:

- WA retains high quality natural environments within its urban areas.

We also suggest the following aspirations are added under the 'Resource consumption' element:

- WA is a global leader in green energy and resource efficient technologies.
- WA leads Australia in green housing innovation.

### **Physical Infrastructure**

We believe that the first objective under the Physical Infrastructure section could be strengthened through rewording to read: **To enable the co-ordinated development of high quality infrastructure to enhance the liveability, economic prosperity, global connectivity and competitiveness of the State**.

The second objective could also be substantially improved by referring to **an integrated network connected locally, nationally and globally**, to ensure that it captures the need for sustainable local transport options in the State's towns and cities.

The energy objective should be amended to include objectives related to being a leader in energy efficiency. For example, the objective could read: **To enable secure, reliable, affordable and clean energy that meets the State's growing demand and secure the State's role as a leader in energy efficiency.**

#### Aspirations

We suggest that the aspirations under the 'Modal shift' element could be improved by providing a numerical target for cycling and public transport use in the Perth region (it may be appropriate to have a specific element for regional Perth in this section to reflect the importance of the topic to Perth's future).

Similarly, it would strengthen the document to provide numerical targets for the aspirations under the 'Efficiency and conservation' element relating to the appropriate use of fit for purpose water and reduction of per capita household consumption.

#### Social Infrastructure

The Committee for Perth welcomes the broad scope of the Social Infrastructure section and we generally support the objectives listed in this section.

It is suggested, however, that the affordable living objective is amended to read: **Affordable living through housing diversity, compact settlements and appropriate provision of housing and cost of living support through the State and not for profit sector.**

It is also suggested that additional emphasis is placed on ensuring the efficient use of land through compact settlements and infill development. It is therefore suggested that the 'Land availability' objective is amended to read: **To ensure the efficient use and sustainable supply of land for future development.**

#### 2050 Outcomes

The Committee suggests that the local economy outcome is amended to read: **More self-sufficient communities, with local employment, retail and service opportunities.**

We also believe that the outcome under the Liveability element should include the word 'vibrant' and 'well used', i.e. **Spaces and places that are attractive, active, vibrant and well used.**

It is further suggested that the outcome under the 'Supply' element is amended to read: **A sustainable supply of infill and greenfield land is available for new development.**

#### Aspirations

We suggest that an additional aspiration is added under 'the local economy' to read: **Local economic development strategies are in place at a local government level.**

The second aspiration under the 'Social inclusion' element should be amended to read: Community interactions are enhanced through a variety of meeting **spaces** and places, **offering a wide range of activities and experiences for all age groups.**

We suggest that the 'Diversity' element includes an aspiration to be a State that **actively celebrates its cultural diversity through activities, festivals and events.**

It is also suggested that, under the 'Housing diversity' element, an aspiration is added for **Western Australia to have a strong State and community housing sector.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the strategy and we again commend the State Government on the preparation of a high quality document. We look forward to the release of the final strategy.

Yours sincerely

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**CEO**