



Towards a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan



Report prepared by Morrison Low Consultants
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Wheatbelt Regional Infrastructure Priorities Fora 2010

Date	Group
22 June	NEWROC (North East Wheatbelt)
23 June	WEROC (Wheatbelt East)
24 June	ROE ROC I
28 June	4WD ROC
30 June	CMVROC (Central Midlands)
12 July	AVON ROC
14 July	DRYANDRA ROC
16 July	ROE ROC II
20 July	SEAVROC (South East Avon)
21 July	COASTAL
23 July	LAKES ROC
27 July	Brookton-Pingelly RTG (Regional Transition Group)
12 August	WEROC II
13 August	Yilgarn-Westonia RTG (full Forum not required)

Contents

2010/11 Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) Regional Component: highest priorities at a glance	iii
Introduction	1
The Wheatbelt Region	2
Approach	4
Definitions	5
Key Developmental Issues for the Wheatbelt	6
Infrastructure Solutions	10
Non-Infrastructure Solutions	12
Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation	13
Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan: Next Steps	13
Appendix 1: Wheatbelt Development Commission Introductory Presentation to Fora	16
Appendix 2: Individual Forum Reports	21
Appendix 3: Notes from Planning for Action Workshops Wheatbelt Infrastructure Forum, 8 September 2010	53

2010/11 Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) Regional Component: highest priorities at a glance (at 31 October 2010)

Group	2010/11 CLGF Regional Component highest priorities at a glance
NEWROC \$1,351,148	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEWROC tourism trail Wyalkatchem airport upgrade: emergency services
WEROC (excl. Yilgarn and Westonia) \$1,010,948	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water storage/reuse Central Wheatbelt harness racing facility Granite Way (tourism trail infrastructure eg signage and facilities) Weather radar
Roe ROC \$913,619	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hyden/Norseman Road Regional fuel facilities (with DRYANDRA ROC) Regional medical centre (located in Corrigin)
4WDROC \$774,032	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing for aged persons (with LAKES ROC) Telecommunications Upgraded or new bowling facilities/upgraded or new recreational facilities
CMVROC \$1,206,161	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional waste facility (with AVON ROC) Zoned substation Aged-care beds (4 – 6 beds) Tier 2 grain freight rail network upgrades and road network implications addressed
AVON ROC \$1,211,904	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional waste facility (with CMVROC) Extension of Killara day care centre (regional respite care facility)
DRYANDRA ROC (excl. Pingelly) \$1,099,865	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dryandra regional equestrian centre CY O'Connor TAFE (focus on agriculture and automotive) earthworks Narrogin regional airport power and water upgrade Regional fuel facilities (with Roe ROC)
SEAVROC (excl. Brookton) \$927,841	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quairading community resource centre headworks York sports and convention centre construction
COASTAL \$647,250	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gingin regional hardcourt facility – landscaping, carparking, road access and entry statement
LAKES ROC \$470,420	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing for aged persons (with 4WDROC) Alternative power generation; solar projects (three projects)
Brookton-Pingelly RTG \$382,269	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional waste facility/transfer station
Yilgarn-Westonia RTG \$441,386	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dog fence

Introduction

Purpose

This report has a twofold purpose:

1. To identify Wheatbelt infrastructure priorities for the 2010/11 Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) Regional Component.
2. To begin the process of developing a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan.

Context

The CLGF is a fund within the Royalties for Regions (RfR) plan for Western Australia. RfR aims are:

- building capacity in regional communities
- retaining benefits in regional communities
- improving services to regional communities
- attaining sustainability
- expanding opportunity
- growing prosperity.

The CLGF has the primary objective of addressing infrastructure backlogs. It provides the country local government sector with additional money for strategic infrastructure provision and renewal. The regional component of the CLGF aims to assist local governments to fund larger scale projects which clearly demonstrate wider community benefits across a region.

A key principle is local decision-making on investment priorities. Therefore, regional groups of local governments were invited to identify the most significant infrastructure projects for their groups. Groups were encouraged to think broadly about possibly projects and to consider partnering with other organisations, including State and Federal agencies.

The Regional Development Commissions (RDCs) were tasked with facilitating the process and playing an active role in working with regional groups of local governments to identify and scope regional priority infrastructure projects. Regional groups were expected to have participated in a facilitation process led by their RDC. The selected projects must be by mutual agreement of the group.

Business cases for the priority projects need to be submitted to the Department of Regional Development and Lands (RDL) by 31 December 2010 at the latest. RDL will ensure the guidelines are met and will have the business cases peer reviewed, but they will not assess the merits of the projects, in keeping with the principle of local decision-making.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission saw this process as an opportunity to take a leap forward in strategic planning for infrastructure in the Wheatbelt. The prioritisation for 2010/11, of necessity, faced a tight timeframe. Further, the short time to get selected projects to business case to tender preparation to commencement eliminated some high priority projects from consideration. It is widely agreed that longer term planning, and strategic analysis to support this at the Wheatbelt-wide and sub-regional levels, is needed to ensure future funding best meets the development needs of the Wheatbelt.

Structure of the report

The report starts by briefly describing key features of the Wheatbelt region. It then outlines the approach taken by the Wheatbelt Development Commission to the regional infrastructure prioritisation fora. The identified priorities for the 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component are listed on page iii. The remainder of the report covers the definitions of “infrastructure” and “regional” and summarises the results of the fora:

- key developmental issues for the Wheatbelt
- infrastructure solutions
- non-infrastructure solutions
- criteria for prioritising 2010/11 CLGF projects

The final section of the report outlines the next steps in developing a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan.

The individual forum reports are in Appendix 2¹. Notes from the Planning for Action Workshops held as part of the Wheatbelt Infrastructure Forum (8 September 2010) can be found in Appendix 3.

The Wheatbelt Region

Population and Industry

The Wheatbelt region is described in the Wheatbelt Development Commission’s Strategic Plan as a large and diverse region extending to the north, east and south east of the Perth metropolitan area. It comprises an area of 154,862 square kilometres, and has a population of over 72,000. Over 11% were born overseas, and more than 5% are indigenous. Youth make up over 10% of the population and 12% are aged 65 and over. Residents are widely dispersed with only around 16,000 people located in the four main service centres.

The Wheatbelt is Western Australia’s largest contributor of agricultural products, honey, wildflowers and citrus fruit. Grains, pulses, wool, livestock and other products are valuable export commodities. The central coast area, north of Perth, is home to rock lobster and wet-line fishing activities. This area also accounts for a large slice of the region’s tourism development. Gold, nickel and iron ore are mined in the eastern parts of the region and a range of other minerals are mined elsewhere, including mineral sands in the west.

There has been diversification from grain and wool production to other industries including manufacturing, mineral production, horticultural crops, forestry and tourism. The future of the Wheatbelt’s economic base rests with continuing economic diversity, production of high quality, competitively priced goods and services, and continuing innovation.

Those parts of the region within two hours travel of Perth CBD are attracting increasing numbers of people looking for a change of lifestyle. The region offers affordable housing and business premises, including established industrial precincts ideal for manufacturing and new industry.

¹ A small number of groups provided more detail on infrastructural solutions that weren’t identified as priorities for 2010/11. That information has not been reported here as most didn’t get that far. However, it has been captured for the next phase of infrastructure planning.

Communities that are approximately one hour from Perth domestic airport are increasingly popular for fly-in fly-out workers who don't want to live in the city. There are also increasing numbers of people who commute to or from Perth.

The Wheatbelt has extensive health, recreational, cultural and educational services, including CY O'Connor College of TAFE and Curtin University's Muresk Institute of Agriculture.

Local Government

There are 43 local governments in the Wheatbelt region, as shown in the map below. Some are engaged in the structural reform process. Their combined annual expenditure is in the ballpark of \$187m. The councils are responsible for a large asset base and provide a number of essential services to their local communities. They are at the front line in understanding the relationship between the liveability of their settlements and attracting and retaining people and business.



Source: http://www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au/files/wheatbelt_maps/WDC%20Wheatbelt%20MAPS.pdf

Approach

Approach to Fora

As a starting point, the WDC approached the Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs) to bring together the Fora. The ROCs formed a natural division of the Wheatbelt into a manageable number of geographically proximate groups that had a history of working together. It was understood that some councils would align better with different groupings depending on the nature of the projects. There was flexibility in the process to enable such arrangements. It was also possible to join forces across ROCs and even across Development Commission boundaries. In the event, all of these variations occurred.

There was a standard approach to running the fora which was applied in a flexible manner case by case. The introductory presentation by the WDC is attached as Appendix 1. The standard “run sheet” was as follows:

Towards a Wheatbelt Regional Infrastructure Plan

Workshop Runsheet

1. Welcome and opening address – Wendy Newman, Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
2. Clearing house session – facilitator and group (round robin)
3. Working definitions – “infrastructure”, “regional”
4. Key developmental issues facing this (sub) region
5. Identify infrastructural solutions (regardless of who responsible or how funded)
6. Which of these are possible “candidates” for CLGF (regional)
7. Criteria for project prioritisation
8. Prioritisation
9. Debrief (round robin)

We found that there were as many variations on the proceedings as there were groups. For that reason there are inconsistencies in the information gathered in terms of interpretation of the steps and the level of detail obtained. However, this does not detract from the results. The priorities for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component were clearly identified in almost all cases and there was significant direction provided for the Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan.

We acknowledge that in this round of CLGF Regional Component some local governments had yet to fully engage with the strategic issues at a group level and more localised projects came more readily to mind. In this regard, the WDC considered its role was to provide professional advice on the nature of regional as distinct from local projects (see next section).

We also acknowledge the widespread concern about potential cost shifting. While the opportunities to leverage State or Federal funding are appealing, and are being pursued by some of the groups, others saw this as enabling State or Federal agencies to shirk their responsibilities.

Definitions

Infrastructure

Infrastructure was defined as physical assets² that enable services to be delivered. For example, a youth centre is an asset which enables programs to be offered.

Regional

For this exercise, a project is considered regional if it:

- has regional significance; and
- involves local government collaboration

A project may go across more than one regional group³ but this is not a requirement.

How is *regional significance* defined?

For a project to have regional significance, its community benefit must be *at least group-wide* (can be bigger but can't be smaller). There are two ways that a project can have regional significance under the CLGF Regional Component:

- One asset that has a wide radius of impact – eg a research centre or a weather station.
- A number of assets that, as a package, form a regional solution to a developmental issue for that region/sub-region – eg a number of mobile phone towers that cover the black spots or aged care facilities of different specialisations in different towns which together cater for the needs of the combined population – working to an agreed strategy that builds on the comparative advantage of each town.

The CLGF Regional Component is not intended to fund projects that primarily enable an individual Shire or group of Shires to better meet the basic needs of their own population (eg basic recreation facilities etc). It is recognised that such projects have regional benefits – well functioning Shires contribute to well functioning regions. In addition, some users may be attracted from the wider region. However, as such projects are first and foremost serving the local population; they are better directed toward other sources of funding, which may include the CLGF Individual Component.

² As was raised at one Forum, it is acknowledge that there are other types of assets. The “four capitals” include social capital, human capital and natural capital as well as produced capital which is the category being used for this exercise. All four capitals are important for generating wellbeing for current and future generations.

³ Regional groups under the guidelines may include Regional Collaborative Groups, Regional Transition Groups, those local governments that have agreed to voluntarily amalgamate, regional organisations of councils, strategic alliances or any other grouping of local governments that wish to work together for the purpose of delivering a regionally significant infrastructure project.

Key Developmental Issues for the Wheatbelt

There is considerable commonality of key developmental issues across the Wheatbelt. Nonetheless, some of the groups were more conscious of the differences than the common ground. More than one group member rejected any interest in the wellbeing of populations beyond that group's boundaries. Several groups that were more distant from Perth felt they had little in common with the closer ones. Even "enlightened self interest" could be expected to generate greater concern for the overall positioning and performance of the Wheatbelt than was evident in some groups. While there are differences in what drives the issues and how the challenges are best met, the Wheatbelt will simply not achieve its developmental potential if it is unable to speak and act in unison to advance its common interests.

The less common issues are also part of the whole picture. This is exactly the same in principle as the way a well functioning shire contributes to a well functioning region (as represented by the regional group). A well functioning (sub) region contributes to a well functioning Wheatbelt.

The issues themselves are deeply inter-related and there are a few "chicken and eggs". For example good services are necessary to attract and retain enough people but enough people are necessary to attract and retain good services. These are vicious circles when services and population are declining and virtuous circles when they are expanding.

While not all the groups identified population growth as a key developmental issue, the ones that didn't certainly identified issues that were driven by that concern. For that reason, while the issues identified give a good indication, they should be considered a "first cut". More work will be needed in the next phase to refine the list and better articulate the relationships among them.

Common issues:

The issues that all the groups identified are:

- Energy (especially distributed energy from renewable sources)
- Transport (rail and road)
- Land development (residential and industrial)
- Accommodation (key workers, seniors, short stay etc)

Taking the Fora results in the round, three key drivers of development emerge:

- Population growth and diversity
- Industry development
- Sustainability

The summary table of key developmental issues follows. Note that, as explained above, this is a 'first cut' and is likely to be refined once the groups have had an opportunity to review it as a whole. For example, we know that some of the groups identified "government services" as a whole rather than the individual services. Therefore, the results for some of the individual services under-state the extent of the issue across the Wheatbelt.

Summary of Key Developmental Issues

= issue for all	NEWROC	WEROC	ROEROC	4WDROC	CMVROC	AVONROC	DRYROC	SEAVROC	COASTAL	LAKES ROC	BN-PY RTG
Energy											
Telecommunications											
Water											
Drainage											
Sewerage											
Waste Management											
Transport (Rail and Roding)											
Public Transport – Access to Services											
Aviation											
Land Development (availability; cost; Native title; planning issues; Crown land issues; cost of headworks)											
Accommodation (key workers; seniors; short stay etc)											
Urban Expansion (pressure on infrastructure)											
Government Services											
Medical Services											

= issue for all	NEWROC	WEROC	ROEROC	4WDROC	CMVROC	AVONROC	DRYROC	SEAVROC	COASTAL	LAKES ROC	BN-PY RTG
Primary Education											
Secondary Education											
Tertiary Education											
Policing/Law and Order											
Aged Care											
Child Care											
Access to sport and recreation opportunities											
Youth services/ leadership opportunities											
Safe and active communities for seniors											
Vibrant communities with events and activities											
Attraction of population/families											
Leakage from local economy											
Pressure on Agriculture Industry/Rationalisation											
Economic Diversification/Industry Attraction/Development											
Regional Tourism Development											
Impact of Climate Change (eg carbon neutral region)											

= issue for all	NEWROC	WEROC	ROEROC	4WDROC	CMVROC	AVONROC	DRYROC	SEAVROC	COASTAL	LAKES ROC	BN-PY RTG
Quality of Short Term Weather Forecasting											
Coastal Facilities											
Coastal Erosion											
Environmental Issues – Salinity, weeds, NRM, changes in farming etc											
Social issues											
Indigenous Disadvantage											
Population/Service Match											
Size of State Contracts cutting out smaller players (eg Main Roads)											
Lack of funding to continue successful pilot programmes											
Uncertainty of Local Government Reform affecting decisions (eg workers, investors)											
Lack of systems to support Local Govt Collaboration and Public/Private Partnerships											
Inconsistent Government Agency Boundaries											
Inadequate Strategic Planning and Coordination of Resources											

Infrastructure Solutions

Most of the infrastructural solutions need to be seen as part of a wider package of mutually reinforcing actions, services and policies. Some of these are picked up in the section on non-infrastructure solutions. A recurrent theme was the need for strategic planning and coordination across the board. This is a Wheatbelt-wide need but also a group level need. There were many examples where a needs analysis and strategy would be required before it was clear where investment should best be directed. Aged care was a common example. There was acknowledgement that not all towns would be able to offer the full suite of facilities and services so a regional strategy was needed – involving individual towns specialising in different components according to their comparative advantage⁴.

The infrastructure solutions are summarised below. Note that these solutions were identified without regard to who was responsible or how they would be funded. Being on this list does not pre-suppose a local government responsibility.

Summary of identified infrastructure solutions

Type of infrastructure	Specific solutions
Telecommunications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mobile phone towers to eliminate “black spots”▪ Emergency radios for fires▪ Broadband coverage
Weather forecasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Weather radar station
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Increased investment in rail and road (the balance between these two modes is important as inadequate investment in rail increases the demands on roads and associated costs)▪ Sub-regional dry-land ports▪ Improved access to services (public transport)▪ Aviation
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improvements in maintenance of existing infrastructure▪ Zoned substation▪ Distributed energy from renewable sources (eg solar, wind)▪ Natural gas
Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Regional sanitary landfills▪ Recycling

⁴ Comparative advantage arises from the pattern of development historically. It might relate to factors such as existing facilities or other advantages in the built environment, the characteristics of the population, ease of access or advantages found in the natural environment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transfer stations
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgraded capacity ▪ Storage and reuse
Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgraded drainage systems
Sewerage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infill sewerage (extension and new)
Land development infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Utilities – development ready
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For key workers, seniors, short stay
Tourism Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Product development ▪ Information centres ▪ Signage ▪ Accommodation ▪ Fuel stops
Bio-security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dog fence
Child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purpose build centres
Aged care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dementia care ▪ Respite care ▪ Rest homes
Medical facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hospital ▪ Medical centres
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ District High Schools
Regional arts and culture facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concert hall
Regional sports and recreation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Large scale and/or specialist regional facilities
Coastal facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boating facilities
Female prisoner work camp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Female prisoner work camp
Regional sale yard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional sale yard
Crematoria, aquamatoria, natural burial facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crematoria, aquamatoria, natural burial facilities

Non-infrastructure solutions

We also captured any identified non-infrastructure solutions or, in some cases, components of solutions (eg where a strategy was needed to guide investment) which are summarised in the following table. Some of the solutions raised related to WDC's priorities for strategy development as noted in the table. There was strong support for improved strategic planning at Wheatbelt-wide and sub-regional levels. This work needs to be prioritised and resources acquired in order to make progress. This is further discussed in the section on next steps.

Summary of identified non- infrastructure solutions

Type	Specific	Wheatbelt Development Commission priority for strategy development
Land development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce the cost of headworks ▪ Release more land for development ▪ Resolve planning issues ▪ etc 	A study on these issues is underway, led by the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC)
Access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Location of State government services/offices ▪ Strategic planning ▪ Better match between population and services ▪ Strategies to address Doctor shortages 	In one service area, health, a Memorandum of Understanding has been set up to take a more strategic approach to health services, led by the Wheatbelt Health MoU Group (a multi-agency collaboration)
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distributed energy from renewable resources 	The WDC will support 'Energising the Wheatbelt' – a project aimed at the development of alternative distributed power.
Aged care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sub-regional strategies for specialist facilities 	The WDC will seek resources to support sub regional planning aligned to health planning initiatives.
Attracting people and businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incentives 	The WDC supports numerous initiatives aimed at promoting the Wheatbelt as the region to live, work and invest.
Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategy for the Wheatbelt and sub-regions 	The WDC will pursue an integrated approach to planning that results in sub regional investment plans.

Road (note the inter-dependence with rail)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic road plan 	A Local Government Grain Haulage Route Planning Project is underway (led by WALGA)
Rail (note the inter-dependence with road)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic rail plan 	
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (Sub) Regional Tourism Strategies 	
Infrastructure maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Western Power ▪ Water Corporation 	
Local government collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supportive mechanisms (eg regional tendering) 	

Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation

The criteria used by the groups were, in the main, some combination of these:

- outcome related – eg would help industry work better, safety, services, quality of life, environmental benefits, attract population etc – addresses a significant development issue
- contributes to the State’s priorities
- benefits the combined population of the group
- unobtainable individually
- financial related – eg affordable, positive net returns etc
- time/manageability related – eg practicable in the time frame and able to be managed etc
- demonstrating working together
- local government responsibility

Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan: Next Steps

While every effort was made to select high value projects for the 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component, the short lead time and the lack of existing strategies at regional and sub-regional levels constrained the options. It was generally agreed that the Wheatbelt as a whole, and the regional groups, needed to be in a far stronger position for 2011/12 and beyond. To this end, there was widespread support for the development of Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan.

A Wheatbelt-wide Forum was held in Northam on 8 September 2010. A number of issues were selected for ‘Planning for Action’ workshops, held as part of the forum, because they were key development issues across the Wheatbelt which weren’t already subject to a planning process. The session confirmed both the need and the appetite for further collaborative work in these strategic areas. The following table summarises the workshops.

Planning for Action

Issue	Facilitator and Assistance/expertise	Identified priorities for next steps
Telecommunications	<p><i>Facilitator:</i> Jenny Evans, Dept. of Regional Development and Lands</p> <p><i>Assistance/Expertise:</i> Joachim Tan, Project Manager, Regional Mobile Communications Project, Dept. of Commerce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dept. of Commerce to provide briefings via the Local Government Zone meetings on the Regional Mobile Communications project ▪ Map and gap fibre broadband
Housing	<p><i>Facilitator:</i> Pip Kirby, Wheatbelt Development Commission</p> <p><i>Assistance/Expertise:</i> Attila Mencshely, Regional Manager, Dept. of Housing (Wheatbelt) and Richard Hammond, General Manager, National Lifestyle Villages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Map and gap analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – local demand (type/market) – sub regional demand – regional demand – land availability ▪ Use as the basis for approach to Government and private sector
Aged care	<p><i>Facilitator:</i> Pip Shields, Wheatbelt Development Commission</p> <p><i>Assistance/Expertise:</i> Anna Oades, Principal Communities Officer, South West Development Commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inventory and needs analysis, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – services – accommodation – workforce – transport issues – funding opportunities
Land development	<p><i>Facilitator:</i> Grant Arthur, Wheatbelt Development Commission</p> <p><i>Assistance/Expertise:</i> Sue Woolhouse, Program Manager Regional, LandCorp</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A local government group with the Wheatbelt Development Commission and Landcorp to convene on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – creative solutions to servicing issues – speeding up approval times – obtaining assistance – a constraints assessment
Waste Management	<p><i>Facilitator:</i> Alison Dalziel, Morrison Low Consultants</p> <p><i>Assistance/Expertise:</i> John Davis, Senior Project Coordinator, Department of Environment and Conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of waste plans – identify common issues and understand what is currently intended ▪ Set up a structure to consider the results of that exercise and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – commission research – develop a regional waste management strategy – identify and oversee implementation of short term priority projects

These issues, plus energy (especially distributed energy from renewable sources) and transport (rail, road and air) are priority issues for the integrated Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan, in the context of the three key drivers of development that emerged⁵:

- Population growth and diversity
- Industry development
- Sustainability

Strategic planning needs to occur at both Wheatbelt-wide and sub-regional levels. Developing the Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan in parallel with work to identify/refine the priorities for the 2011/12 CLGF Regional Component will help to ensure sub-regional strategy development is effectively prioritised.

This will require considerable input from local government (and others) in a well designed and managed process to ensure the issues are effectively and efficiently progressed individually, while being integrated within the overall plan. With an earlier lead time and good design building on the experience of the current round, the process for 2011/12 prioritisation could be a considerable improvement on the 2010/11 process.

At the time of preparing this report, there does not appear to be any funding for the required strategic work. There is neither dedicated Royalties for Regions funding for strategy development nor any funding under the Department for Regional Development and Lands. Funding to support integrated strategic planning under the administration of the Department of Local Government is understandably earmarked for Local Governments in the structural reform process. However, these are arbitrary groupings from a strategic planning perspective and, in any event, only cover some parts of the Wheatbelt. The Councils themselves simply do not have the capacity or the mechanisms to collectively undertake this work.

The process of identifying priorities for the 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component and beginning the process of developing a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan has revealed major gaps in information⁶ and strategic planning. In the face of a backlog of much needed infrastructure the temptation would be to just get on and build stuff. However, where the prioritisation and planning is inadequate, this poses a huge risk that millions of dollars will not be invested wisely.

The investment needed to fill the gaps in information and strategic planning is a small fraction of the anticipated expenditure on Wheatbelt infrastructure through Royalties for Regions. It is clear that unless funding is found to largely complete the required strategic planning by July 2011, the CLGF Regional Component will fail to achieve the optimal regional infrastructure investments for the Wheatbelt.

⁵ A Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan would ideally sit under an overall development strategy for the Wheatbelt which would provide direction and a more robust basis for infrastructure prioritisation.

⁶ The Wheatbelt does not have a tailored, common information base of its economic and social profile which can be viewed at regional, sub-regional and local levels.

Appendix 1

Wheatbelt Development Commission Introductory Presentation to Fora

Wheatbelt Infrastructure Planning Country Local Government Regional Infrastructure Fund



www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au

Aim of this process

Initial forums

- Gain engagement of local governments in the process and commitment to agreed Infrastructure Project priorities that would best benefit the wider community across local government areas (and in some cases across regional boundaries) in the short, mid and long term

Aim of this process...

- Identify projects that can be funded with-in the 2010/11 Country Local Government regional infrastructure funding timeline
- Strengthen the relationship between the WDC and its regional local government groups

Process.....

Central Forum (approx Sept 10)

- At end of ROC forums, central forum to share projects, priorities (sub regional, regional, in the short, mid and long term)

Business cases developed (By Dec 2010)

2010-2011 CLGRIF spent by June 30th 2011

Ongoing input and review into Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan

Why Regional Planning?

- Competition for scarce resources external to and within the region
- Lack of integrated planning (bottom up and top down)
- Political landscape – R4R, strategic application and leveraging of funds
- Fragmentation - of settlement, of services, of regional voice

WHEATBELT OPPORTUNITIES

- Industry diversification;
- Population Growth;
- Capitalise on the State's resources boom by offering necessary services and alternative lifestyle options;
- Rapid expansion of the urban fringe into the Wheatbelt; and
- Regional recognition by policy makers.



WHEATBELT THREATS

- Adverse environmental change;
- Industry growth and service concentration outside the region;
- Increase in global market competition;
- Lack of strategic planning to ensure balanced and ordered growth;
- Lack of recognition of the region's importance by central decision makers; and
- Local focus vis a vis regional opportunities

Our vision for this partnership

We have leveraged local, regional, state and federal funds to deliver significant infrastructure projects to the region.



Critical Factors for Success

- Future focused "What does the Wheatbelt look like in 15 years, how do we get there?"
- Outward focused – continual contextual analysis that seeks opportunity and identifies threats – good information

Critical Factors for Success

- Building on assets and opportunities
- Speaking with one voice, providing a consistent message
- Working with strategic partners to make it happen
 - local, regional, state
 - public, private partnerships

Key Messages

- The status quo is not an option
- One size does not fit all
- Traditional services and infrastructure are outdated and not sustainable
 - Service needs have changed (from reactive to proactive, changing demographics)
 - Technology has improved (more can be done)
- Skills shortages need clever solutions

Key messages...

- Balancing local and regional thinking and action
- From 'we need' to 'this is how we can contribute to the state's prosperity' (solutions, not problems)
- Working in partnership
- Strategic resource re-allocation that maximises our ability to attract people to live, work, visit and invest in the region

Appendix 2

Individual Forum Reports

Report from the NEWROC Forum, held on 22 June 2010

In attendance

Janet Brooks	President Shire of Koorda
Linda Longmuir	Senior Administration Officer Shire of Koorda
Graham McDonald	CEO Shire of Koorda
Susan Bruce	President Shire of Wylkatchem
Eva Heydon	CEO Shire of Mt Marshall
Paul Gillet	President Shire of Marshall
Gary Shadbolt	President Shire of Mukinbudin
Neil Mitchell	CEO Shire of Trayning
Trevor Lamond	President Shire of Trayning
Peter Kocian	CEO Shire of Wyalkatchem
Bill Fensome	CEO Shire of Nungarin
Eillean O'Connel	President Shire of Nungarin
Trevor Smith	CEO Shire of Mukinbudin
Bruce Wittber	Executive Officer NEWROC
Helen Westcott	Executive Officer NEWROC
Grant Arthur	Director of Regional Services WDC
Pip Kirby	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Estelle Hajigabriel	Project Officer WDC
Alison Dalziel	Morrison Low Consultants

Key Developmental Issues for this part of the Wheatbelt

- Power
- Mobile phone
- Telecommunications
- Health – medical services (retention)
- Aged care/facilities
- Grain freight (prioritise rail)
- Economic diversification
- Housing for government services (Drs, teachers, police)
- Education – high schools
- Lack of policing
- Stagnant population – attraction and retention of people (incl. Young people)
- Cost of headworks
- Lack of support
 - lack of strategic planning
 - coordination of resources
- Land availability – not enough for industry and residential development (incl. Native title)

- Quality of short term weather forecasting
- Government contracts getting bigger and cutting out smaller contractors (eg. Main Roads)
- Airport standards – not up to fly-in fly-out
- High freight costs (able to meet)
- Uncertainty of Local Government reform affecting/delaying decisions by
 - workers
 - residents
 - businesses

Infrastructure Solutions

- Mobile Phone Towers to extend coverage and transmission – hand held reception
- Aged care facilities
- Airport/s up to fly-in/fly-out standard (Wyalkatchem – this was supported by all NEWROC members)
- Weather radar station to service whole Wheatbelt area
- Public Housing – insufficient (waiting lists)
- Investment in infrastructure for tourism trail (NEW Travel).
- Road and Rail – prioritise (helps road problem), under maintained by State not up to current demands

Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation

- 1st order criteria:
 - Economic business investment (new and expanded)
 - Population (attraction and retention)
 - Social impact (community cohesion/spirit/advancement)
 - Relevance to Government priorities (rationale)
- 2nd order criteria:
 - Ownership and on-going costs meet sustainability test (ability to operate, maintain and renew; clear responsibility)
 - Ability to leverage further funding from non-local government sources

Priorities for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component

1. Mobile Phone Towers to extend coverage and transmission – hand held reception
2. Aged Care Facilities
3. Airport/s up to fly-in/fly-out standard (Wyalkatchem – this was supported by all NEWROC members)
4. Weather Radar Station to service whole Wheatbelt area

Rationale

- Mobile Phone Towers will enable services (police, health etc); basic business tools (incl. for travelling sales and consultants); tourism (especially for information and security); farmers etc. remote working – safety
- Aged Care Facilities will enable older people to stay in own area; stay near family, partner, friends; provide employment
- Upgrade to Wyalcatchem airport will enable mining people to live here; reduce pressure on Perth; build local population; demand for local services; opportunities to offer training (flying etc); workforce; RFDS access and emergency services.
- Weather Radar Station will enable improved services to agriculture (eg. knowing when to apply chemicals); community safety (information for fire officers).

Report from the WEROC Forum, held on 23 June and CEOs Forum, held on 12 August 2010 (subject to confirmation by WEROC Council 25 August)

In attendance

Session I:

Romolo Patroni	President Shire of Yilgarn
Eddie Piper	Acting CEO Shire of Yilgarn
Kim Hastie	Director Shire of Westonia Operations
Louie Geier	President Shire of Westonia
Louise Caffell	Deputy President Shire of Tammin
Graham Stanley	CEO Shire of Tammin
Raymond Griffiths	Deputy CEO Shire of Kellerberrin
Mick Cole	Councillor Shire of Kellerberrin
Mark Crees	Deputy President Shire of Merredin
Greg Powell	CEO Shire of Merredin
Ken Hooper	President Shire of Merredin
Darren Mollenoyux	Deputy CEO Shire of Bruce Rock
Stephen Strange	President Shire of Bruce Rock

Helen Westcott	Executive Officer WEROC
Bruce Wittber	Executive Officer WEROC
Wendy Newman	CEO WDC
Pip Kirby	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Gary Kellar	Morrison Low Consulting

Session II:

Steve O'Halloran	CEO Shire of Bruce Rock
Greg Powell	CEO Shire of Merredin
Darren Friend	CEO Shire of Kellerberrin
Raymond Griffiths	Deputy CEO Shire of Kellerberrin
Jeff Sowiak	CEO Shire of Yilgarn
Kim Hastie	Acting CEO Shire of Westonia

Key Developmental Issues for this part of the Wheatbelt

- Water: The issue is lack of access to potable water. Need a solution to use desalinated water
- Communications: No critical mass to attract high speed/telecoms (communication facilities)
- Population: Need to encourage population increase to take advantage of economic opportunities

- Access to land (residential/industrial); lack of release by government; cost of process
- Planning issues; inhibit small lot subdivision; state planning policies re subdivisions re sewerage of small towns
- Cost of land? development conditions
- Rationalisation of Agriculture industry; mining is increasing
- Aged persons accommodation
- Access to road and rail attractive to industry; no stations
- Decline in government services
- Access to power: capacity re State grid for remote areas
- Waste Management

Infrastructure Solutions

- Water collection/storage/treatment – innovative use for by-product water
- Residential housing
- Central Wheatbelt Harness Racing Club
- Aged care accommodation
- Electricity generation
- Waste management facility
- Telecommunications – mobile phone towers and national broadband network advanced
- Agricultural support projects – biosecurity – dog fence
- Alternative agriculture initiatives
- Sewerage
- Weather radar station
- Tourism infrastructure

Non-infrastructure solutions or components of solutions

- Can State planning policy assist in providing ‘affordable’ land to encourage population growth?
- Release of land
- Incentives to attract people to move to regional areas
- Planning for aged care (started with review)
- Economic Development Strategy; increase investigation in ‘new’ industries eg. wind farm
- Government policies settings that are inhibitors to growth

Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation

- Benefits to the region/sub-region
- Contributes to State’s priorities (eg power, water) and, conversely, avoids “no go” areas
- Helps address problems in metro Perth

- Can be a driver of economic benefit; supports local economy and contributes to economic diversity
- Utilises under-utilised assets
- Sustainable
- Improves quality of life for current and future residents
- Generates positive revenue
- Deliverable and ready to go
- Meets guidelines
- Funding available and opportunity for leverage – not reliant on a single source
- Identified project management responsibility
- Clear staging (if applicable)

Priorities for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component

- Water storage/resuse
- Central Wheatbelt Harness Racing Club
- Granite Way infrastructure (tourism trail signage and facilities)

Rationale

- Water storage/resuse
 - Regional project - demonstration/pilot project to test long term solution that could be rolled out across the larger area
 - Ready to go
- Central Wheatbelt Harness Racing Club
 - Regional project – result of merger of several smaller clubs
 - Retains and attracts harness racing industry and associated population
 - Ready to go
- Granite Way infrastructure (tourism trail signage and facilities)
 - Regional project – covers larger area
 - Preserves culture and heritage; business development/industry diversification; indigenous development; tourism development
 - Ready to go (including DEC on board)

Report from the ROEROC Fora, held on 24 June and 16 July 2010

In attendance

Session I

Greg Hadlow	CEO Shire of Kulin
Jim Sullivan	President of Kulin
Halley Cowan	Councillor Shire of Narembeen
Peter Webster	CEO Shire of Kondinin
Alan Smoker	President of Kondinin
Rhonda Cole	Deputy President Shire of Narembeen
Julian Murphy	CEO Shire of Corrigin
Lyn Baker	President of Corrigin
Tarryn Dayma	Deputy CEO Shire of Corrigin
Frank Pezca	CEO Shire of Narembeen
Gary Martin	Local Government Consultant

Wendy Newman	CEO WDC
Pip Kirby	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Alison Dalziel	Morrison Low Consulting

Session II

Greg Hadlow	CEO Shire of Kulin
Jim Sullivan	President of Kulin
Steven Badfield	President Shire of Narembeen
Peter Webster	CEO Shire of Kondinin
Alan Smoker	President of Kondinin
Rhonda Cole	Deputy President Shire of Narembeen
Julian Murphy	CEO Shire of Corrigin
Lyn Baker	President of Corrigin
Tarryn Dayma	Deputy CEO Shire of Corrigin
Frank Pezca	CEO Shire of Narembeen

Wendy Newman	CEO WDC
Pip Kirby	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Rebekah Burges	Executive Officer Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Jo Burges	Regional Coordination Manager WALGA
Alison Dalziel	Morrison Low Consulting

Key Developmental Issues for this part of the Wheatbelt

- Housing; key worker housing
- Land development; residential, industrial, commercial (incl. Sewerage); cost of headworks and construction
- Access to sport and recreation opportunities; want full coverage at high standard; provide the desired lifestyle; mental and physical well-being; social benefit
- Roads (Esperance to Perth; Hyden to Norseman – not maintain to meet current demand); inadequately maintained? Not meeting current demand
- Rail potential closure of Tier 3 lines
- Public transport; nothing from here to Merredin (and everywhere); to access services in regional centre
- Tourism, product development and infrastructure (eg fuel and chalets)
- Programs and services also important (eg. Youth)
- Energy; reliability and affordability, alternatives (potential)
- Industry attraction
- Agriculture; sustainability, growth, diversification
- Waste management; Wheatbelt wide issue; industry opportunity (recycling)
- Education (year 11 and 12); people moving away in high school years
- Health services

Infrastructure Solutions

- Energy (subsidized); solar panels (provide power back to the grid and cut own powerbill)
- Quality key worker housing – construction
- Land development
- Co – located multipurpose facility

Non-infrastructure solutions or components of solutions

- Planning and policy re. Land development
- Sport and Recreation Regional Plan
- Attract families to use local schools (quality support)

Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation

- Regional Impact
- Do-able/practical
- Fits the guidelines
- Previous identified regional issues

Priorities for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component

- Hyden/Norseman Road (\$600,000)
- Kulin Regional Fuel Facility (\$200,000)
- Corrigin Regional Medical Centre (\$250,000)

Priorities for 2011/12 CLGF Regional Component

- Narembeen Residential Land Development
- Industrial Land Development (Kondinin)
- Aged Accommodation (Kulin)
- Industrial Land (Narembeen)
- Regional Recreation and Events Centre (Corrigin)

Report from the 4WDROC Forum, held on 28 June 2010

In attendance

Henry van der Ende	CEO Shire of Dumbleyung
Gordon Davidson	President Shire of Dumbleyung
Paul Godfrey	Deputy CEO Shire of Dumbleyung
Richard Kowald	President Shire of Katanning
Russel Thomson	President Shire of Woodanilling
Belinda Knight	Shire of Woodanilling
Nicole Wasmann	CEO Shire of West Arthur
Bill Johnson	Councillor Shire of West Arthur
Kim Harrington	Project Officer Shire of West Arthur/Executive Officer 4WD ROC
Darren Long	Darren Long Consulting
Heidi Cowcher	Community Development Officer Shire of Williams
Ryan Duff	CEO Shire of Williams
Peter Bentley	CEO Shire of Kent
Ted Pugh	Councillor Shire of Wagin
Greg Ball	Deputy President Shire of Wagin
Len Calneggia	CEO Shire of Wagin
Ross Ditchburn	Deputy CEO Shire of Dumbleyung
Tom Pearce	Councillor Shire of Dumbleyung
Dean Taylor	CEO Shire of Katanning
Wendy Newman	CEO WDC
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Alison Dalziel	Morrison Low Consultants

Key Developmental Issues for this part of the Wheatbelt

- Headworks; mainly industrial (but not only that)
- Affordable housing; (lack of) key worker housing incl. Short stay (seasonal workers); housing for aged residents; general low cost rental
- Telecommunications; broadband; cell phone coverage
- Water security
- Tourism development; accommodation; product development (eg. Tourism trail, wool interpretive centre, bluebird museum, Katanning Flour Mill).
- Energy supply; reliability; alternative (co-generation)
- Water
- Sewerage
- Roads; not up to standard; more pressure
- Rail; closures?
- Attraction and retaining population incl. Workforce
- Health; medical services

- Salinity
- Public transportation (within region)
- Waste management (not able to do in next 12 months; involves 12 LGAs Woodanilling north)
- Youth; leadership opportunities
- Childcare
- Recreational facilities (bowling)
- Enabling seniors to stay (active) ie. Our communities to be safe
- Light industrial land development (industry – development and diversification ie Dumbleyung Hay Plant)
- Community vibrancy; events and activities
- Native title (planning)
- Population service match (eg. Department of Housing placements versus community services available/employment prospects; movement of low socio-economic population into communities where there are no services for their needs, which may have created unsocial behaviour within a community where such issues did not exist previously)
- Maintenance of law of order
- Systems to support Local Government collaboration (eg. IT, shared services)
- Private sector; facilitation for public private partnerships

Infrastructure Solutions

- In-land aquaculture (would require research and development)
- Alternative energy
- In-land drainage and associated infrastructure
- Upgrade more roads to heavy truck standard (prioritized investments)
- Regional saleyard (replacement)
- Regional waste sites (already underway)
- Diverse housing stock
- Telecommunication
- Public transport
- Cultural/entertainment centre for region
- Upgraded or new bowling facilities/upgraded or new recreational facilities
- Accommodation (eg. Chalets) to enable visiting professionals to stay
- Common IT system for Local Government
- Land development infrastructure
- Development of Tourism Trail (Woolshed to Flour Mill)
- Tourist accommodation (there is a strategy through the Wheatbelt South Tourism Strategy that links into brochures of Hidden Treasures, Ocean to Outback and Golden Pathways)
- Upgraded water system capacity (Lakes ROC priority)

Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation

- Achievable by end June 2011
- Impact across the region in terms of need (economic, social, environmental); particularly attracting and retaining population and enabling seniors to live here longer and workforce (diverse spread of community; young to aged; family to single; permanent to seasonal)
- Affordable
- Can be staged

Strategic and quick wins in parallel

Priorities for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component

- Diverse housing stock
- Telecommunication
- Up-graded or new recreation facilities

Rationale

- Diverse housing stock will enable the attraction and retention of key workers and enable seniors to stay in their community longer
- Telecommunications will enable industry and business development and access to key services (eg. education and health)

Report from the CMVROC Forum, held on 30 June 2010

In attendance

Peter Crispin	CEO Shire of Dalwallinu
Robert Nixon	President Shire of Dalwallinu
Shane Love	President Shire of Dandaragan
Alan Alderson	Councilor Shire Gingin
David Burt	Acting CEO Shire of Gingin
Colin Gardiner	Councilor Shire of Moora
Sheryl Bryant	President Shire of Moora
Lynette O'Reilly	CEO Shire of Moora
Stuart Taylor	CEO Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Don Sadler	Councilor Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Peter Macnamara	President Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
Wendy Newman	CEO WDC
Margaret Isbister	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Bron Fox	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Rebekah Burges	Executive Officer Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Robert Dew	Avon Midland Country Zone Executive Officer
Alison Dalziel	Morrison Low Consultants

Key Developmental Issues for this part of the Wheatbelt

- Power; availability, reliability, cost, reduced reliance on central distribution (local solutions)
- Telecommunications and free to air broadcasting: cell phone coverage (availability, reliability, cost); broadband; digital television and radio (WALGA currently researching)
- Housing and light industrial land development; handover, headworks, requirements around sewerage – economic?? Can't recover development costs. Sustainability? Ability to prepare for the future; landbanking; time horizon (different for local & state)
- Aged care; retirement homes; higher level care facilities incl. Respite beds (note. Increasing number of retirees coming from city); Government dollars = income based
- Waste management; regional site identified; commercial opportunity*; meet local needs (8 Shires involved, overlapping ROCS) *Note relates to levy avoidance
- Transport; grain freight/network/heavy haulage; adding cost due to demand on roads
- Airports/strips on a regional basis; appropriate scale
- Coastal facilities; boat launch for recreational and commercial fishing (Coastal management to discuss)
- Coastal erosion; policy strategy issues; engineering/infrastructure issues (Coastal management to discuss)
- Regional Tourism Development; partial tourism strategy; product & marketing & destination management

- Social issues; work readiness, employment; public housing tenants with no services; anti-social behaviour; substance abuse and social isolation
- Government services; education, health, police; vicious circle with population growth/catch 22
- Attraction of family (of police, teachers, medical and general population growth)
- Education; lack of planning; Perth decisions; no understanding
- Indigenous disadvantage; education, housing, social networks; opportunities
- Overall Wheatbelt allocation; eg hospital (mismatches)
- Funding to continue successful pilot programs

Infrastructure Solutions

- Develop regional waste facility to enable local waste to be managed and revenue from other services (7 ticks)
- Zoned substation to enable better use of existing services (3 ticks)
- Local alternative energy generation back into grid to enable reduced reliance on central distribution; more secure supply
- Cell phone towers to cover black spots to enable 3G (incl. For internet); safety (coverage in isolated areas)
- Aged-care beds (4 – 6 beds) (3 ticks)
- Tier 2 grain freight rail network upgrades and road network implications addressed (3 ticks)
- Infrastructure for health needs on the coast (hospital) (timing)
- Land development

Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation

- Economic Impact
- Social Impact
- Environmental Impact
- Achievable (sustainable progress) by end of June 2011
- Leveragibility of funding

Priorities for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component

- Develop regional waste facility
- Zoned substation

Rationale

- A regional waste facility will enable local waste to be managed and provide revenue for other services
- A zoned substation will enable better use of existing services

Report from the AVON ROC Forum, held on 12 July 2010

In attendance


Clem Kerp	CEO Shire of Goomalling
Dale Metcalf	President Shire of Dowerin
John Bird	President Shire of Goomalling
John Merrick	CEO Shire of Chittering
Alex Douglas	President Shire of Chittering
Robert Hawes	Deputy President Shire of Chittering
Neville Hale	CEO Shire of Northam
Harry Hawkins	CEO Shire of Victoria Plains
Geoff Erickson	President Shire of Victoria Plains
Dacre Alcocke	CEO Shire of Dowerin
Bob Jackson	Councillor Shire of Toodyay
Simon Fraser	CEO Shire of Gingin
Chris Firns	President Shire of Toodyay
Steven Pollard	President Shire of Northam
Kathy Saunders	Deputy President Shire of Northam
Robert Dew	AMCZ Executive Officer
Wendy Newman	CEO WDC
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Jo Burges	Regional Coordination Manager WALGA
Rebekah Burges	Executive Officer Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Alison Dalziel	Morrison Low Consultants

Key Developmental Issues for this part of the Wheatbelt

- Transport; quality of roads (eg. Link Avon to Mid West), industry (mining, grain, tourism); Rail- freight (losing rail) eg. No spur to industrial park, more traffic on roads; Air- Fly in fly out facilities (lack of/choices of)
- Housing – key worker housing (eg. Northam – need more info on issues/unmet needs)
- Water/power/waste management – land development infrastructure issues; If these were solved the market would provide (current and future demand)
- Aged-care increasing pressure (retirement and incl. Respite care); how to look at/tackle regionally (different areas can concentrate on different needs)
- Inability to capture venture capital; industry development (eg. Machinery manufacture), attraction and retention of skilled workers may depend on education opportunities especially for secondary education.
- Urban expansion; pressure on infrastructure
- More centres with services and facilities; regional approach to complementary distribution

- Retain population in very small towns; importance of Primary School
- Energy supply; meeting growing demand? Needs investigation. Also reducing costs
- Carbon neutral region?; Impact on land use
- Waste management; zero waste benchmark
- Water; harvesting and storage, variable supply across AROC area; harvesting part of total water solution; including grey water reuse (eg. Dual system in all homes)
- Health/medical services across this part of the Wheatbelt? Not sure extent/nature of issue/s (eg. Struggling to retain Doctors; threat of closure of some facilities; need strategic approach to provision)
- Impact on population related to lack of high school education; creating population 'holes'.
- Quality of government services and facilities as part of attracting/retaining population; importance of this in regional centres for whole region.

Infrastructure Solutions

- 
- Increased investment in roads; needs prioritization eg. Grain freight
 - Sub-regional dry-land ports; hub for rail, would keep trucks off the road; \$60m to enable this (part of Wheatbelt solution eg Primary sites for CBH) would enable; road safety, industry development, reduced road costs and reduced energy (ref. Climate change)
 - Transport to access services
 - Waste management; regional solution (plus neighboring ROCS)
 - Aged-care (incl. Respite); integrated strategy to identify public and private investment priorities/opportunities
 - Airfield (outside Jandakot); eg Cunderdin? To enable fly-in fly-out and make this area more attractive and link to industrial park, intra and inter state
 - Concert Hall in Northam (rebalance from sport; culture and arts facility)
 - Theme park in Wheatbelt to enable tourism
 - Heated swimming pool

Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation

- Self funding/revenue generation (revenue positive); Financially sustainable
- Breadth of impact (demographic benefit/usage) plus inclusion of Shires
- Positive environmental benefit
- Positive impact on regional economy
- Social Impact
- Sufficient progress possible by June 2011

Priorities for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component

- Regional Waste; regional landfill
- Extension of Killara Day Care Centre (regional respite care facility)

Rationale

Regional Waste; regional landfill

1. Self funding/revenue generation (revenue positive); Financially sustainable
 - Charge to receive waste
 - Covers cost (and power generation)
 - Sell back to the grid and recycling and compost revenue etc
 - Progressive development (each stage funds the next)
 - Demand from Metro area
2. Breadth of impact (demographic benefit/usage) plus inclusion of Shires
 - Has potential (impacts all communities across AROC and CMVROC; 9 Shires)
3. Positive environmental benefit
 - Methane gas harnessed
 - Lined, leachate collection
 - Efficient recycling
 - Buffer zone, natural bushland (soon)
4. Positive impact on regional economy
 - Industry development – employment
 - Net revenue back to Shires
 - Economies of scale
5. Social Impact
 - Community values (environmental)
 - Increase social capital amongst Shires
 - Helping Perth population with a problem

Extension of Killara Day Care Center (regional respite care facility)

1. Self funding/revenue generation (revenue positive); Financially sustainable
 - Fee for service (cover all costs)
2. Breadth of impact (demographic benefit/usage) plus inclusion of Shires
 - People using centre come from across the region (will enable bigger scale)
3. Positive environmental benefit
 - Neutral
4. Positive impact on regional economy
 - Industry development (scale) → employment
 - Respite for carers to undertake other activities
5. Social Impact
 - Peace of mind for carers
 - Caring for the carer
 - Community health; Increase in social capital
 - Lowers transport costs (if going to Perth)
 - Higher quality of service (scale)

Report from the DRYANDRA ROC Forum, held on 14 July 2010

In attendance

Alan Leeson	CEO Shire of Wickpin
Steve Martin	President Shire of Wickpin
Mick Oliver	CEO Shire of Pingelly
Merv Beard	President Shire of Pingelly
Tom Wittwer	President Shire of Cuballing
Peter Naylor	CEO Shire of Cuballing
Martin Whitely	CEO Shire of Wandering
Bruce Dowsett	President Shire of Wandering
Geoff McKeown	CEO Shire of Narrogin
Richard Chadwick	President Shire of Narrogin
Don Ennis	Mayor Town of Narrogin
Gary O'Neil	CEO Town of Narrogin
Wendy Newman	CEO WDC
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Jo Burges	Regional Coordination Manager WALGA
Rebekah Burges	Executive Officer Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Alison Dalziel	Morrison Low Consultants

Key Developmental Issues for this part of the Wheatbelt

- Education; lose our youth to city and parents go with them. Loss of population and business (workforce etc); fly in-fly out farmers (secondary and tertiary)
- Transport; freight; no strategic transport network. Roads falling apart, made worse by inadequate investment in rail (incl. Rolling stock and loading facilities), Country airstrips, lacking seal, lighting (lack of emergency services)
- Health; lack of GP's; medical facilities in Brookton and Pingelly - flow on impact to Narrogin, Interdependencies across this part of the Wheatbelt; incl. Dementia care and other aged care facilities (not enough beds)
- Telecommunications; blackspots and broadband speed (not covered by broadband strategy?); link between these in emergencies
- Headworks cost; up and up
- Reducing industry (farmers); static at best economic base
- Land development; cost, native title, Landcorp attitude, time it takes to get new Local Planning Schemes
- Centralisation of services to Perth
- Landuse issues; restrictions by State Government (DEC)
- Fragmentation of Government; who is promoting the Wheatbelt as a whole? Regional governance (boundaries)

- Lack of tourism industry development
- Private investment; not seen as attractive here; not enough value adding here
- A lot of 'leakage' in local economy
- Power; capacity (eg. CBH running generators)

Infrastructure Solutions

- (Note Central South Action Plan)
- Strategic Transport Plan for the region
- Upgrading and maintaining narrow gauge rail in this region plus
- Upgrading and maintaining strategic roads
- Medical facilities across this region incl. Brookton/Pingelly Medical Facility
- Upgrade Katanning saleyard
- Infill sewerage (extension and new)
- Extend water scheme; storage and reuse; pipeline; harvesting
- Crematorium, aquamation/aquatorium, natural burials
- Extend power; capacity
- Build more cell towers
- Emergency radios for fires
- District High Schools
- Key worker housing; police (don't pay), teachers (do pay)

Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation

- Feasibility in the time frame
- Benefits whole region; quality of life across the region; services; social, economic and environment
- Local Government responsibility versus State Government
- Can be staged

Priorities for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component

- Dryandra Regional Equestrian Centre (\$500,000)
- CY O'Connor TAFE requires assistance with earthworks (focus on agriculture and automotive) (\$200,000)
- Narrogin Regional Airport; power and water upgrade (\$220,000 for water + \$170,000 for power = \$390,000)
- * Regional Waste Facility (may not be feasible for 2010/11 CLGF RIP as planning needs to take place first which may need funding first from another source; this project needs to moved to another list)*
- Fuel Facility (\$300,000 - \$400,000 for two); Wickepin, Wandering and possibly Kulin

Report from the SEAVROC Forum, held on 20 July 2010

In attendance

Gary Clark	CEO Shire of Brookton
Tim Lange	Councillor Shire of Brookton
Kym Wilkinson	Deputy President Shire of Brookton
Pat Hooper	President Shire of York
Keith Byers	CEO Shire of Beverley
Darryl Richards	President Shire of Quairading
Graeme Fardon	CEO Shire of Quairading
Gary Tuffin	CEO Shire of Cunderdin
Tony Boyle	Councillor Shire of York
Ray Hooper	CEO Shire of York
Rod Carter	President Shire of Cunderdin
Wendy Newman	CEO WDC
Rebekah Burges	Executive Officer Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Gary Kellar	Morrison Low Consultants

Key Developmental Issues for this part of the Wheatbelt

- Sports facilities and programs; ageing facilities; not efficient in meeting needs, costs and servicing; unsustainable; dispersed/lack of integration; narrow range of sports 'codes' etc. (Service levels; Community essentials part of the attraction to people)
- Transport (road/rail/air); grain freight and other services – lack of decision; Demand planning?; Effect of heavy vehicles on all roads (regulation of heavy vehicles); road research (lack of); foundation of economic development; lack of regional transport plan; intermodal opportunities; air passenger opportunities; tourism (logistics, distribution)
- Housing; Lack of developed land (constraints on development – sewerage, power/water, planning (government policy), cost of servicing); lack of critical mass to attract building resources; aged care facilities; workforce (private, industry) housing demand (choice of housing style); land required to encourage industry
- Aged care; facilities big enough to be sustainable and have a range of facilities/services; need for partners (outside local area); community support; utility headworks constraints
- Childcare; community support
- Power/Water/Sewerage/Drainage; lack of capacity constrains other development; headworks costs; insufficient planning at strategic level; alternative energy generation
- Telecommunications; lack of total coverage; broadband?; constraints to development; constraints on business management incl. Agriculture; distance education; safety of communities; satellite navigation
- Waste management; transport cost; facilities to service 'cities'; recycling too expensive; no research/planning for regional solution

- Business Development; need to attract capital; need to resolve limiting factors; decentralization (government policies)
- Health Services; lack of attraction (population limits); economic development research; workforce needs
- Government Services; housing

Infrastructure Solutions

Utilities:	<p>Water: increase supply for industry (how?); long term plan to supply from underground (long term); innovation in industry use (short term – medium term); find option to monopoly supply (water corp); reuse desal acceptability; rain harvesting (short term); environmental management (medium term)</p> <p>Sewerage and drainage: major redevelopment of municipal schemes permit; small plants; finance; package plant installation; State initiative required</p>
Power:	<p>Alternative generation projects (solar, wind, geothermal, CPC, tri-generation)</p> <p>Telecommunications; federal initiative?</p>
Transport:	<p>Road/Rail: Regional freight strategic plan; intermodal facility; review existing plan; more positive CBH dialogue; consistency of road classification; rationalise regional road fora</p> <p>Air: progress new airport plan re: infrastructure requirements; business case</p>
Economy:	<p>Economic/business development; provide reasonably priced land; improved planning for available land; (sub-regional) economic development strategy; to provide industry infrastructure; promote lifestyle; promote as place for industry</p>
Land availability and planning	<p>Make utilities better available; government policy review; government resources to plan; transfer of crown land to local government freehold/development leases</p>
Facilities:	<p>Sport: sub-regional and local strategy for sport and recreation (programs and facilities); achieve certainty of funding programs; negotiation/coordination of standards of sports governing bodies to suit local communities</p> <p>Housing: provide more land (serviced); develop partnerships to deliver; have government housing build new housing for agency staff and sell off old stock</p> <p>Waste: review regional waste strategy; possible recycling facility</p> <p>Female prisoner work camp (Brookton)</p>
Community Services	<p>Aged care: use health department land; regional strategy to rationalise facilities; promote local/federal/state partnership to integrate planning</p> <p>Childcare: guarantee funding; support for volunteers; review conditions and accreditation rules</p> <p>Health/education services: maintain services; rationalize access to services; apply needs analysis findings; rationalization of school facilities; retention of skills; career pathways</p> <p>Government Services: review level and mode of delivery of emergency services</p>

Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation

- outcome related
- financial related
- time/manageability related

Priorities for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component

- Utility connections to approved SEAVROC Projects (\$550,000; approved planning)
 - Community facilities
 - Quairading Community Resource Centre
 - York Sports and Convention Centre
 - Cunderdin Airstrip and sports facilities
 - Beverley independent living facilities
- Transport; Intermodal transport facility (containers onto rail – 740,000 tonnes/yr, preliminary report)

Report from the COASTAL Forum, held on 21 July 2010

In attendance

Shane Love	President Shire of Dandaragan
Ian Rennie	Deputy CEO/Acting CEO Shire of Dandaragan
David Burt	Acting CEO Shire of Gingin
Michael Asphall	Councilor Shire of Gingin
Mark Hook	CEO Shire of Coorow
Grant Arthur	Director of Regional Services WDC
Mark Cornish	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Jo Burges	Regional Coordination Manager WALGA
Rebekah Burges	Executive Officer Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Robert Dew	Avon Midland Country Zone Executive Officer
Gary Kellar	Morrison Low Consultants

Key Developmental Issues for this part of the Wheatbelt

- Power; availability, reliability, cost, reduced reliance on central distribution (local solutions)
- Telecommunications and free to air broadcasting: cell phone coverage (availability, reliability, cost); broadband; digital television and radio (WALGA currently researching)
- Housing and light industrial land development; handover, headworks
- Aged care; retirement homes; higher level care facilities incl. Respite beds (note. Increasing number of retirees coming from city); Government dollars = income based
- Aviation
- Coastal facilities; boat launch for recreational and commercial fishing
- Coastal erosion; policy strategy issues; engineering/infrastructure issues
- Regional Tourism Development; strategy completed a year ago; partial tourism strategy; product & marketing & destination management; investment (car parks, toilets, access to tourist facilities); infrastructure (Headworks) 'Indian Ocean Drive'; Information Centre; public private partnerships; better roads will reduce travel time from Perth therefore increase tourism traffic
- Strategic planning for Government Services (and government offices); education, health, police, medical; vicious circle with population growth/catch 22 ;
- Attraction of family (of police, teachers, medical and general population growth)
- Service delivery and planning; ie Education, Health
- Overall Wheatbelt allocation; eg hospital (mismatches)
- Doctors' surgery
- Land availability/planning; crown land hinder development; not in Jurien but other areas have issues areas have issues with crown land availability (process delays); connection

with issue of water availability; strategic infrastructure plan required; regional/sub regional plan

- Roads; Indian Ocean Drive; Jurien Bay bypass; road network planning; coastal town access (one road in one road out); agricultural roads (the Lime route); no east-west roads from coast other than local government roads (cost shifting); heavy vehicles; limestone carting; compare to 'grain freight' review re. Importance increasing traffic on existing roads (rural residential growth increases commuting)
- Rail; some worth in continuing to consider long term solution to provide rail access/services.
- Crown land; management of use (settlements); development planning (lack of consultation); impacts on infrastructure and local government services; tourism sites not open to access or use for tourism; towns landlocked with nature reserves
- Sewerage infrastructure; not on the infill program; impedes development; large blocks not served; affordability is issue for developers; lack of critical mass for integrated sewerage schemes; perpetuation of temporary facilities; sensitivity to coastal environmental protection
- Waste Management; sustainability of Landfills in coastal environment?; no regional waste management strategy; regional issue (also related to metro needs); is there a role Wheatbelt can play in helping with metro problem

Infrastructure Solutions

- Land availability: Sewerage provision; waste management solution; utilities (water – access, cost, power – need for corridors); opportunity to use water for benefit of the region
- Strategic planning for government services: housing for government services; office accommodation for staff; medical facilities (hospital)
- Regional Tourism: Information centres; access to tourism and natural attraction
- Roads: Indian Ocean Drive completion (special funding); priority action to address key problem areas (re. Agricultural roads, heavy vehicles, East-West road); size of current funding pool is inadequate for size of problem
- Rail: Reservation of transport corridors well in advance of provision
- Crown land: Utility corridors through crown land; framework for regional/crown interface for infrastructure planning and coordination; strategic purposes for resolution of native title
- Sewerage: Determine pay back areas to invest in infrastructure improvement; identification gap areas to linkup systems
- Waste Management: Identification of site for regional landfill; infrastructure for transfer stations/recycling centre
- Power
- Telecommunications: Cell phone towers and facilities for coverage (regional solution) along Indian Ocean Drive and Brand Highway; NBN (needed to attract population/business, decentralization)
- Housing and light industrial (same as land availability)
- Aged care: Build care facilities – 2nd and 3rd stage; regional respite full time care;

identification site; hospital with aged care services

- Doctors' surgery
- Aviation
- Coastal facilities: Boating facilities (regional strategy/regional plan)
- Coastal erosion
- Regional tourism Strategy
- Government services
- Attraction of family
- Service delivery and planning - overall Wheatbelt allocation

Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation

- outcome related
- financial related
- time/manageability related

Priorities for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component

- Regional Headcourt Facility (in the township of Gingin)
- Tourist Information Centre and Bays (along Indian Ocean Drive)

Report from the LAKES ROC Forum, held on 23 July 2010

In attendance

Henry van der Ende	CEO Shire of Dumbleyung
Cathy Crosby	Councillor Shire of Kent
Paul Godfrey	Deputy CEO Shire of Dumbleyung
Sean Fletcher	CEO Shire of Lake Grace
Andrew Walker	President Shire of Lake Grace
Peter Bentley	CEO Shire of Kent

Grant Arthur	Director of Regional Services WDC
Pip Kirby	Senior Regional Office WDC
Alison Dalziel	Morrison Low Consultants

Key Developmental Issues for this part of the Wheatbelt

Power:	Reliability; availability; insufficient power for future development; generation and transmission Alternative energy; ie wind, solar; increasing generation locally (reduce reliance on central system); reliability for emergency power; energy efficiency; demand management (via energy audit) Natural gas; currently no supply; would support pipeline
Housing:	Both industrial and residential; native title
Water:	Access to potable through scheme; pipe too small (Southern Water system); not enough non-potable; Water corp closing small dams; sewerage schemes not all covered by schemes; need to keep resilience of local supply; not just central system; no maintenance of dams leads to them being inaccessible/useless (town water supply management plan)
Transportation:	Rail; rail to Nyabing not being utilized; suitability of rail for task; CBH Lake Grace; fast loading so Dumbleyung-Lake Grace line retained; lack of rolling stock means road gets used as an alternative; roads deteriorate
Roads:	Not adequate investment to maintain road surfaces; demands on them much higher rate (base not designed for it)
Medical services:	Attraction of Doctors; maintenance of medical facilities; cost shifting to Local Government of providing service – Large part of Australian push to address
Telecommunications:	Black spots; hand held service in towns; access to fast internet services
Tourism:	Need to develop; lack of product; grant funding to support tourism development not available; marketing/promotions (Ocean to

	Outback/Hidden Treasures/Roe Tourism) all Australia's Golden Outback; fragmentation of strategies; domestic tourism down
Environmental issues:	NRM; reduction of funding from Federal Government; Salinity; Interest in LCDC waining; changes in farming practices (minimal till reduces flow off to dams); feral plants (lack of control of)
Waste Management:	Environmental standards increasing; tips having to close waste levels increasing; tips having to close waste levels increasing; no sanitary landfill
Agency boundaries:	Artificial imposition; all different; inflexible; can't easily reciprocate
Transport:	Public transport; poor service level; particularly elderly; access to services; appointments etc
Aged care:	Increasing population of aged; retiring from metropolitan area; problems with accessing services

Infrastructure Solutions

- Regional supply of natural gas (Albany to Esperance/Perth connection)
- Utilise school buses for public transport to access services during the day
- (2) Alternative power generation; solar projects (three projects)
- (1) Retirement; Units (well aged housing); enable older people to stay in community medium density village style housing (multi purpose vs shared)
- Regional Aged Care facilities (need regional plan)
- Rail investment including rolling stock
- Upgrade roads to cope with increased demand
- (3) Telecommunications; new towers; need mapping of black spots and prioritising
- Transfer stations; waste; working on regional facility at the moment

Non-infrastructure solutions or components of solutions

- Western Power maintaining infrastructure; Energising the Wheatbelt; Mid West Development Commission Photovoltaic Project information
- Meeting the cost of the short fall between developing the land and selling the land
- Amalgamated Regional Senior Citizens Trust
- Water Corp; size of pipe and use of town dams (Shire of Brookton example)
- Strategies to address doctor shortage
- Integrated approach to tourism (eg. Painted Road – Central Midlands)
- Look at housing as a whole: aged, short stay, workers, well aged
- Regional tender for housing? WDC do

Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation

- Do-ability; time imperative
- Regional impact; truly regional
- Unobtainable individually
- Meet identified need; relates to key development issue
- Agreed; unanimously
- Enhanced community sustainability; allowing population increase/ facilities to attract population
- Address barriers to sustainable development

Priorities for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component

- Retirement; Units (well aged housing); enable older people to stay in community
- Alternative power generation; solar projects (three projects)
- Telecommunications; new towers; need mapping of black spots and prioritising

Report from the Brookton-Pingelly RTG Forum, held on 27 July 2010

In attendance

Mick Oliver	CEO Shire of Pingelly
Merv Beard	President Shire of Pingelly
Gary Clark	CEO Shire of Brookton
Timm Langy	Councillor Shire of Brookton
Kym Wilkinson	Deputy President Shire of Brookton
Grant Arthur	Director of Regional Services WDC
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer WDC
Alison Dalziel	Morrison Low Consultants

Key Developmental Issues for this part of the Wheatbelt

- Transport (road/rail); grain freight and other services – lack of decision; demand management planning; effect of heavy vehicles on all roads (regulation of heavy vehicles); road research (lack of); foundation of economic development; lack of regional transport plan; intermodal opportunities; tourism (logistics, distribution). Transport; freight; no strategic transport network. Roads falling apart, made worse by inadequate investment in rail (incl. rolling stock and loading facilities), lacking seal, lighting (lack of emergency services)
- Housing and lack of developed land; constraints on development – sewerage, drainage, power/water, planning (government policy), cost of servicing); lack of critical mass to attract building resources; aged care facilities; workforce (private, industry) housing demand (choice of housing style); land required to encourage industry. Land development; cost, Landcorp attitude, time it takes to get new Local Planning Schemes
- Aged care; facilities big enough to be sustainable and have a range of facilities and services; need for partners (outside the local area); community support; utility headworks constraints
- Childcare; community support
- Utilities: Power/Water/Sewerage/Drainage; lack of capacity = constraints on other development; headworks costs; insufficient planning at strategic level; alternative energy generation. Headworks cost; up and up
- Telecommunications; lack of total coverage; broadband?; constraints to development; constraints on business management incl. Agriculture; distance education; safety of communities; satellite navigation. Telecommunications; blackspots and broadband speed (not covered by broadband strategy?); link between these in emergencies
- Waste management; transport cost; facilities to service ‘cities’; recycling too expensive; no research/planning for regional solution
- Business Development; need to attract capital; need to resolve limiting factors; decentralisation (government policies). Private investment; not seen as attractive here; not enough value adding here

- Health Services; lack of attraction (population limits); economic development research; workforce needs. Health; lack of GP's; medical facilities in Brookton and Pingelly - flow on impact to Narrogin, Interdependencies across this part of the Wheatbelt; incl. Dementia care and other aged care facilities (not enough beds)
- Government Services; housing. Centralisation of services to Perth
- Education; lose our youth to city and parents go with them. Loss of population and business (workforce etc); skewed demographic (low numbers of youth) has flow on effects on the viability of sport, community facilities and the economic base
- Reducing industry (farmers); economic base is shifting to other industry and is becoming more centred on town
- Landuse issues; restrictions by State Government (DEC)
- Lack of tourism industry development
- Power; capacity (eg. CBH running generators)

Infrastructure Solutions

- Regional Waste Facility/Innovative Waste Solution including Green Waste opportunities Construct all weather road to green waste/composting facility
- Intermodal Transport Facility. This requires more investigation.
- Women's Prison Work Camp (Residential accommodation)
- Railway between Brookton (or Hyden) via Jarrahdale to Kwinana. This requires a feasibility study first.
- Purpose built Child care facilities
- Distributed generation alternative energy infrastructure
- Brookton-Pingelly Water Management package (long term project, further investigation needed); Kokeby Aquifer
- Drainage and sewerage infrastructure
- Up-grading of Hyden-Norseman Road
- Aged-care opportunities and health service facilities
- Upgrade of grain-freight roads

Criteria for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component Prioritisation

- Project management capacity
- Environmental, economical and social benefit
- Cost
- Leveragability of other funding
- Demonstrates working together regionally

Priorities for 2010/11 CLGF Regional Component

- Regional waste facility/transfer station for Innovative Waste Solution
- Alternative energy

Rationale

- Project management capacity
 - The group can purchase the skills needed
- Environmental, economical and social benefit
 - Expanding life span of infill rubbish tip
 - Reduce fire risk
 - Aligning with Zero Waste Strategy
 - Consistent with community values
 - Communities are leaders in waste management
- Cost
 - \$600,000
- Leveragability of other funding
 - Zero Waste Strategy?
- Demonstrates working together regionally
 - Communities are leaders in waste management

Appendix 3

Notes from Planning for Action
Workshops at Wheatbelt
Infrastructure Forum

8 September 2010

Planning for Action Workshops
Wheatbelt Infrastructure Forum
8 September 2010
Bridgeley Community Centre, Northam

Telecommunications

Room: Wallaby Hills Playroom
Facilitator: Jenny Evans, Acting Manager, Department of Regional Development and Lands
Presenter: Joachim Tan, Acting Manager, Digital Economy Branch, Department of Commerce

In attendance

Local Government

Geoff Erickson, Victoria Plains
Steven Strange, Bruce Rock
Graham Cooper, Cunderdin
Louis Geier, Westonia
Stan McDonnell, Kellerberrin
Peter Bentley, Dumbleyung/Lake Grace/Kent
Allan Middleton, Cuballing

Other

Bruce Wittber, Central Zone Executive Officer
Geoff Comben, Department of Regional Development and Lands Policy

Notes

The Department of Commerce gave a presentation on the Regional Mobile Communications Project (RMCP) and outlined the opportunity for CLGF involvement in the project.

Benefits

It was agreed that good health, education and small business outcomes requires reliable mobile telephone coverage and broadband Internet.

Wheatbelt Priorities

1. Mobile Telephone Coverage

- Opportunity: Regional Mobile Communications Project (State funding with option for CLFC funding)
- Issues: In terms of prioritising need, a requirement to map gaps in mobile telephone coverage to verify the State Telecommunications Needs Assessment analysis.
- Next Step: Department of Commerce will provide briefings via the Local Government Zone meetings on the State project

2. Broadband

- Opportunity: Potential to leverage Royalties for Regions funding to attract Federal funding if deemed a priority by the Wheatbelt and other regions
- Issues: Need to map and gap fibre broadband requirements through Department of Commerce (note that all Hospitals and all but 30 schools are connected to fibre broadband)
- Next Step: TBA

Comments

- Bruce Wittber advised many local governments had not considered putting CLGF funding towards mobile telephone infrastructure due to the State commitment in the May budget
- RDL advised only 1 Wheatbelt local government CLGF plan has been received for 2010-11 and perhaps there is time for late consideration for their 2010-11 or 2011-12 component
- Advice was received that infrastructure required in Miling, Cunderdin and Cuballing
- Local Governments interested in RMCP but need more information
- RDL advised local governments a good opportunity to piggy-back on the State tender and the State business case would support any Wheatbelt CLGF Group project
- RDL/Commerce advised we are in discussion with NBN Co and Dept Broadband regarding Federal/State opportunities

Housing

Room: Staff Room
Facilitator: Pip Kirby, Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Presenters: Attila Mencshely, Regional Manager, Department of Housing (Wheatbelt)
Richard Hammond, General Manager of Design, National Lifestyle Villages

In attendance

Local Government

Brian Roderick, Wagin	Greg Powell, Merredin
Henry van der Ende, Dumbleyung	Sean Fletcher, Lake Grace
Trevor Smith, Mukinbudin	Andrew Walker, Lake Grace
Tony Boyle, York	Nicole Wasmann, West Arthur
Stephen Padfield, Narembeen	Lew Shaw, Beverley
Bill Fensome, Nungarin	Romol Patroni, Yilgarn
Rod Carter, Cunderdin	John Cowcher, Williams
Ted Pugh, Wagin	

Other

Kylie Coman, Landcorp

Notes

Target Markets:

- Aged
- Key workers/government workers
- Single/apprentices
- Families
- Seasonal workers

Issues:

- Department of Housing: changes to joint venture project policy, particularly Registered Provider and Growth Provider policy
- Assessment of Demand: Department of Housing; Local Governments; Business

Solutions/Direction:

- Map and Gap Analysis: local demand (accommodation type/market), sub-regional demand, regional demand and land availability
- Use this to approach government and private enterprise

Aged Care

Room: Avon Auditorium
Facilitator: Pip Shields, Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Presenter: Anna Oades, Principal Communities Officer, South West Development Commission

In attendance

Local Government

Eileen O'Connell, Nungarin	Estelle Buller, West Arthur
Gary Tuffin, Cunderdin	Don Ennis, Narrogin (T)
Tony Nottle, Dandaragan	Keith Byers, Beverley
Sheryl Bryan, Moora	Jeff Sowiak, Yilgarn
Wendy Williams, Goomalling	Darren Friend, Kellerberrin
Scott Uppilli, Tammin	Dave Burt, Gingin
Susan Bruse, Wyalkatchem	Neville Hale, Northam
Ken Hooper, Merredin	

Other

Rebekah Burges, Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia – Wheatbelt
Janine Hatch, Project Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission

Notes

Anna Oades, SWDC, presented an overview of the South West Development Commission's project research on planning for an aging population. The Report titled 'South West Active Aging Research Project' looks beyond traditional needs of an aging population such as health services, income and accommodation and toward planning activities and policy development. The key of the report through the research conducted on the South West region was the focus on older people being able to live fulfilling lives.

The group was then divided into four focus groups to determine the next steps for the Wheatbelt region to address aged-care needs and better prepare for an aging population.

'What' are the needs of the community/Wheatbelt?

- Produce low maintenance/higher density (than existing) facilities
- Lifestyle villages/concept housing
- Small clusters of development (strategic interconnected)
 - become engaged with community
 - utilise existing services
- Regional health/aged services (planning)

- Respite care
 - Dementia
 - OT, physio (allied health)
 - Palliative care
- Access to health care
- Joint venture housing
 - Local Government involvement (address/tackle policy)
- Older building
 - Accessibility
 - Old structures not conducive to disabled requirements
 - Signage
- Coordination of services
 - ie HACC between boundaries
- Transport

‘Who’ needs to be involved with development of plan/analysis of community/Wheatbelt?

- Local, State and Federal Government
 - Funding
 - Expert knowledge
 - Policy makers
- Private investors/developers
- Community members
 - Aged
 - Broader community
 - Volunteers
 - Medical Practitioners/Health Professionals

‘When’ does action need to take place?

- Immediate: needs analysis/inventory of existing services, accommodation, workforce of the Wheatbelt
- Immediate: review transport issues
- Short-long term: understanding funding opportunities
- Short-long term: local/State/Federal/private organisations having the ability to provide services

‘Where’ do we need to seek assistance?

- Grants (Federal/State)
 - Department of Communities; Planning Grant for Aged Friendly Communities
 - Family and Children’s Services (Federal)
 - Landcorp (provision of land)
 - Department of Regional Development and Lands: Royalties for Regions and Country Local Government Fund

- Department of Sport and Recreation: Recreation facilities for aged
 - Veteran Affairs
 - Lottery West
 - Community Arts
- Private assistance
 - Retirees in communities
 - Major industry partners (mining companies)
- Local Government
 - Individual contributions (buildings, medical services, community buses, upkeep of recreation facilities)
- Community Resource Centres
 - Programs
 - Education
 - Services (Centrelink/banking etc)

Land Development

Room: Mortlock Room
Facilitator: Grant Arthur, Director Regional Services, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Presenter: Sue Woolhouse, Program Manager Regional, LandCorp

In attendance

Local Government

Ross Ditchburn, Dumbleyung	Peter Kocian, Wyalkatchem
Lawrie Short, Dandaragan	Sam Camillo, Gingin
Brian Lawrence, York	Ryan Duff, Williams
Steve O'Halloran, Bruce Rock	Matt Gilfellon, Mt Marshall
Richard Chadwick, Narrogin (S)	Martin Whitely, Wandering
Stuart Taylor, Wongan Hills	

Other

David Mcferran, Regional Manager South, Landcorp

Notes

Benefits

- Attraction of population and industry
- Lifestyle diversity
- Timing: LandCorp and developers need to be ready for WA's next boom

Issues

- Cost verses sale price
- Variety (e.g. cost, size, and density)
- Servicing
- Land use infrastructure planning (need to work with land development agencies)
- What is a priority locally is not a priority at the State or Federal level
- Limited regional planning to establish regional priorities, particularly around land use
- What we have done to date hasn't worked

Regional behaviour

- Need to change thinking from "what is" to "what could be"
- More flexibility is required to get ahead of the game

Questions

- How do we prioritise development demand sub-regionally and regionally?
- How do we convince State government of those priorities?
- How do we change the policies that do not fit our region (e.g. sewage)?

What needs to happen?

- Creative solutions to servicing issues
- Speed up approvals times
- Seek help on the processes (e.g. LandCorp can provide expertise at a fee)
- Conduct a constraints assessment

Partners involved in future discussions

- Shire of Dumbleyung
- Shire of Dandaragan
- Shire of Williams
- Shire of Wyalkatchem
- Shire of Wandering
- Shire of Bruce Rock
- Shire of Narrogin
- Shire of York
- Shire of Mt. Marshall
- Shire of Gingin
- Shire of Wongan-Ballidu
- Wheatbelt Development Commission
- LandCorp

Waste Management

Room: Ommaney Lounge
Facilitator: Alison Dalziel, Morrison Low Consultants
Presenter: John Davis, Senior Project Coordinator, Department of Environment and Conservation

In attendance

Local Government

Barry Coote, Brookton	Tom Wittwer, Cuballing
Gary Clarke, Brookton	Allan Leeson, Wickpin
Lynette O'Reilly, Moora	Rod Stokes, Tammin
Harry Hawkins, Victoria Plains	Geoff McKeown, Narrogin (S)
John Bird, Goomalling	Simon Fraser, Toodyay
Clem Kerp, Goomalling	Steve Pollard, Northam

Other

Robert Dew, Executive Officer, Avon-Midland Country Zone

Notes

Overview

- Most councils have a regional facility (Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council, Southern Metropolitan Regional Council, Western Metropolitan Regional Council)
- Strategic Waste Management Plans
- Facilities:
 - Redhill (established life: 20 years)
 - Mindarie (established life: 12 years)
- Therefore:
 - you need a long term view
 - need to take implications for supply (eg Redhill and Mindarie) and demand (eg presumably low demand from Metropolitan Perth) into account

Wheatbelt initiatives

- Current Wheatbelt initiatives include the following:
 - SEAVROC have looked into a site to store metro waste and get paid for this. However the demand ex-metro may not sustain this (see life span of metro landfill sites)
 - CMVROC and Avon ROC are exploring a plan for their own waste and are also interested to see if this demand exceeds metro area (considering seeking funding from 2010/11 CLGF regional component)

- Require funding to explore the region and employ someone to process the IP for the Wheatbelt (a desktop assessment for 60ha site, 5 Local Governments). Need money for on ground, critical design elements but also proposal for 300ha for enlarged ROC to not only satisfy own LGA schemes but have monetary return on investment.

Region/wide opportunities/issues

- Carbon credits
- Shredded green waste vs dump in landfill
- Recycle vs other disposal (not presently economic to recycle – “feel good” but no ability to make money; provides a community service)
- Research needed: what is the true cost of recycling?
- E-waste: A project this year (\$21,000 to this region – collection only)
- Regional Grants Scheme Strategic Reserve: could be used to explore a waste management strategy for the Wheatbelt
- Transport issues to shift waste rail vs road
- Waste Authority have developed an infrastructure plan State-wide but are starting with metro area
- Wheatbelt groupings have changed and impact on existing facilities hasn’t been assessed

Planning

- Estimates of future waste needed with:
 - population growth
 - waste decrease
 - recycling increase
 - other sources
- Waste types:
 - Tyres
 - Biosolids
 - Green
 - Drum muster
 - Household
 - Industrial
 - Chemical
 - Pharmaceutical
 - Agri-business

Proposal

Bring Wheatbelt waste management plans to one table and develop a Wheatbelt waste management strategy.

How?

- First step would be a desktop exercise to examine all existing plans to identify common issues and understand what is being planned where
- Alongside that, to establish an appropriate structure to consider the results of that exercise and:
 - prioritise and commission required research
 - oversee the development of a regional waste management strategy
 - identify and oversee implementation of short term priority projects
- John Davis outlined a successful model he was familiar with from NSW, NETWASTE
- Accepted WDC proposal to establish and resource a regional group on waste management along the lines of the NETWASTE concept
- John Davis to check with his organisation if able to provide support