

Towards a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan

Report 3 | 2012/13



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



ROYALTIES
FOR REGIONS



Wheatbelt
Development
Commission



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Report prepared with the assistance of *Localise* – September 2012

Wheatbelt Regional Infrastructure Priorities Planning Sessions 2012-13

Date	Group
15 August	Coastal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal: <i>Gingin, Dandaragan</i>
16 August	Central Midlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avon ROC/Strategic Alliance: <i>Chittering, Dowerin, Goomalling, Northam, Toodyay, Victoria Plains</i> Central Midlands VROC: <i>Dalwallinu, Moora, Wongan-Ballidu</i>
17 August	Avon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAVROC: <i>Beverley, Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin, York</i>
22 August	Central East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WEROC: <i>Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Westonia, Yilgarn</i> NEWROC: <i>Koorda (absent), Mukinbudin, Mt Marshall, Nungarin, Trayning (absent), Wyalkatchem</i>
28 August	Wheatbelt South <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4WD-Lakes VROC: <i>Dumblebung, Lake Grace, Wagin, West Arthur, Williams</i> Dryandra VROC: <i>Cuballing, Narrogin (S), Narrogin (T), Wandering, Wickepin</i> Roe ROC: <i>Corrigin, Kondinin (absent), Kulin, Narembeen (absent)</i> Brookton-Pingelly RTG: <i>Brookton, Pingelly</i>

Contents

2012/13 Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) Regional Component: highest priorities at a glance	iii
1. Introduction	1
2. The Wheatbelt Region	3
3. Approach	5
4. Status of CLGF 2011/12 Regional Group projects for the Wheatbelt May 2012	6
5. Update on Wheatbelt Wide Progress	7
6. Priorities for Wheatbelt-Wide Advocacy and Coordination 2012/13	15
7. Feedback on 2012/13 Applications	16
8. Development Strategy for the Wheatbelt	18
Appendix 1: Key Developmental Issues and Solutions for the Wheatbelt	25
Appendix 2: Individual Planning Session Reports	33

2012/13 Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) Regional Component: highest priorities at a glance (at 31 August 2012)

ROC/group	2012/13 CLGF Regional Component highest priorities at a glance
Coastal \$1,056,650	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ "World Class on the Water" – investing in infrastructure and leveraging community benefits from Classic Windsurf and Blessing of the Fleet
Central Midlands ROC \$1,205,137	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Accommodation ■ Land availability
AVON ROC \$2,742,412	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Well aged housing
SEAVROC \$1,811,954	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Under discussion at time of writing
WEROC \$2,057,414	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Multi-purpose housing
NEWROC \$2,205,781	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue multi-purpose housing project
Lakes & 4WD Well Aged Housing Strategy Regional Alliance \$1,679,430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue well-aged housing project
DRYANDRA ROC \$1,795,555	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Commercial and light industrial premises for business start-up/relocation ■ Regional Waste – facilities (tbc) ■ Narrogin Heavy Haulage Bypass Stage 2 ■ Regional mobile phone towers (location tbc, possibly Cuballing)
Roe ROC \$1,491,503	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Recreation and Events Centre (located in Corrigin)
Brookton-Pingelly RTG \$624,063	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Continue multi-purpose housing project

1. Introduction

Purpose

This report is the third in a series to:

1. Identify Wheatbelt infrastructure priorities for the Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) Regional Component.
2. Contribute to the process of developing a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan.

Country Local Government Fund

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 funding for strategic infrastructure provision and renewal. A key principle is local decision-making on investment priorities.

The regional component of the CLGF began in 2010/11. It aims to assist local governments in regional groupings to fund larger scale projects which clearly demonstrate wider community benefits across a region.

The 2012/13 guidelines emphasise the requirement to demonstrate regional significance such as:

- benefit to multiple communities across local government or regional boundaries
- addressing a substantial gap in infrastructure
- links to the regional planning context (eg RDC strategic or regional investment plan, Regional Planning Committee framework, Regional Development Australia Committee plan, Regional Local Government strategic plan etc)

Alignment to the, Regional Development Council and WA Regional Development Trust priorities (*see page 21*) and the Royalties for Regions objectives is also encouraged, as is partnership projects with other local, state and Australian government agencies, non government organisations, the community and industry to leverage funding or other types of support for these projects.

For a project to have regional significance, its community benefit must be *at least group-wide* (can be bigger but not 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 local government or group of local governments to better meet the basic needs of their own population (eg local road project etc). It is recognised that such projects have regional benefits – well functioning local governments contribute to well-functioning regions. In addition, some usage may be attributed to the wider regional community. However, as such projects are first and foremost serving the local population; they are better directed toward other sources of funding.

The Regional Development Commissions (RDCs) are tasked with an active role in working with regional groups of local governments to identify and scope regional priority infrastructure projects. Regional groups need to have participated in a facilitation process led by their RDC. In addition, the applications should include a letter from their local RDC, commenting on the strategic and regional relevance of the application. Groups should forward a copy of their CLGF application to their local RDC(s) for their information. The Wheatbelt Development Commission is committed to adding value to the process through this latter part of its role to help ensure that the business cases are as strong as possible.

Application form and business cases need to be submitted to the Department of Regional Development and Lands (RDL) between 1 July 2012 and 30 May 2013. Note that Parliament will rise in late November 2012 and will be in pre-election caretaker mode from 28 January 2013.

The submission closing dates are as follows:

- 31 August 2012
- 30 November 2012
- 28 February 2013
- 30 May 2013

RDL will assess the projects against CLGF guidelines. RDL does not assess the merits of the projects as such, in keeping with the principle of local decision-making. Projects will then be compiled and project summaries forwarded to the Royalties for Regions Directors General group to ensure the relevant agencies are informed and any issues have been addressed. The summaries will then be submitted to Cabinet for approval. It is important for applicants to allow for a 3-6 month period for this assessment process.

Upon approval by Cabinet, RDL will forward applicants a Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) for signing, which will outline the conditions of the funding, including the approved project(s) and budget(s) prior to processing the grant payment.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission is taking a proactive approach to its role. It sees this process as a major opportunity for infrastructure investment in the Wheatbelt, in the context of an emerging strategic planning framework (see section 7). 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 briefly describes the key features of the Wheatbelt region. It then outlines the approach taken by the Wheatbelt Development Commission to the regional infrastructure prioritisation planning sessions. The identified priorities for the 2012/13 CLGF Regional Component are listed on page iii. The remainder of the report covers:

- update on progress
- priorities for Wheatbelt-wide advocacy and coordination
- feedback on 2011/12 applications
- development strategy for the Wheatbelt
- next steps

The key developmental issues and solutions for the Wheatbelt, identified in the 2010/11 round, remain current and can be found in Appendix 1. The individual forum reports are in Appendix 2.

2. The Wheatbelt Region

Population and Industry

The Wheatbelt region is 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 approximately 75,000. 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.

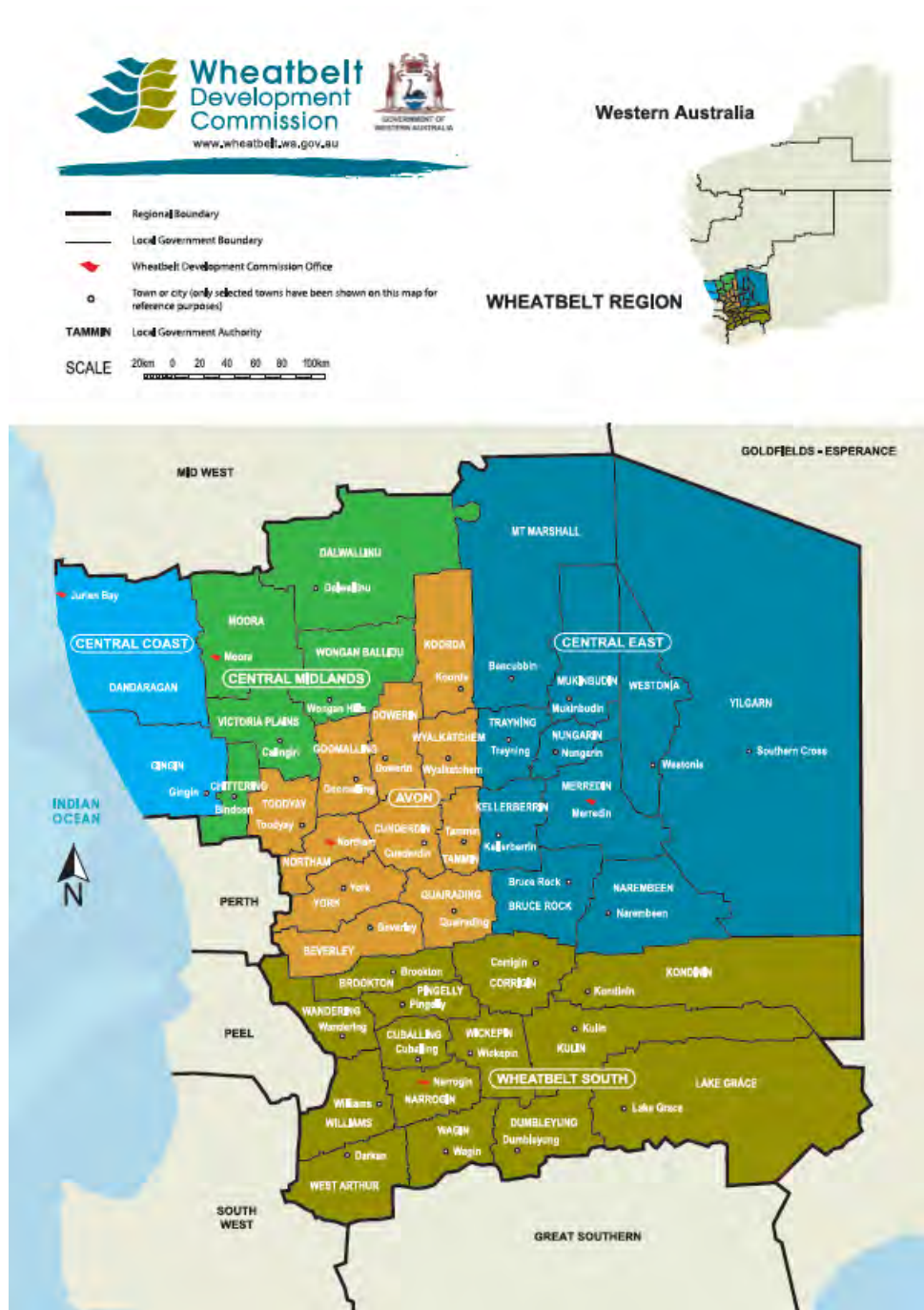
Those parts of the region within two hours travel of Perth CBD are attracting increasing numbers of people looking for a change of lifestyle. The region offers affordable housing and business premises, including established industrial precincts ideal for manufacturing and new industry. Communities that 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 Institute (formerly CY O'Connor College of TAFE) and the Muresk Education Precinct.

Local Government

There are 43 local governments in the Wheatbelt region, as shown in the map below. 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.

Figure 1: Wheatbelt Region



3. Approach

Following last year's approach, the 2012/13 fora were run as five planning sessions as follows:

Coastal

- Coastal: *Gingin, Dandaragan*

Central Midlands

- Avon ROC/Strategic Alliance: *Chittering, Dowerin, Goomalling, Northam, Toodyay, Victoria Plains*
- Central Midlands VROC: *Dalwallinu, Moora, Wongan-Ballidu*

Avon

- SEAVROC: *Beverley, Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin, York*

Central East

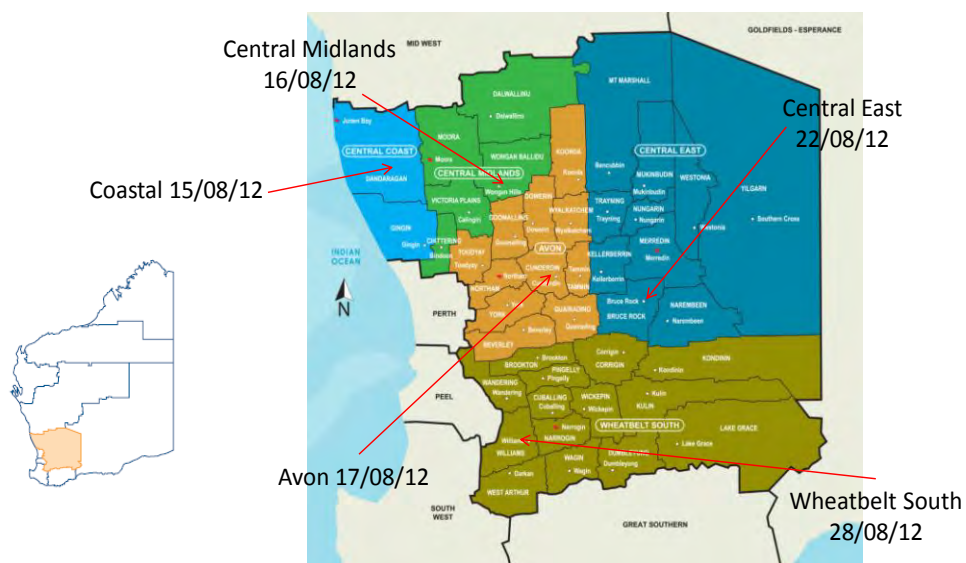
- WEROC: *Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Westonia, Yilgarn*
- NEWROC: *Koorda (absent), Mukinbudin, Mt Marshall, Nungarin, Trayning (absent), Wyalkatchem*

Wheatbelt South

- 4WD and Lakes VROC: *Dumbleyung, Lake Grace, Wagin, West Arthur, Williams*
- Dryandra VROC: *Cuballing, Narrogin (S), Narrogin (T), Wandering, Wickepin*
- Roe ROC: *Corrigin, Kondinin (absent), Kulin, Narembene (absent)*
- Brookton-Pingelly RTG: *Brookton, Pingelly*

The following map shows the location of the five sessions.

The Wheatbelt Region CLGF 2012/13 & Regional Planning Update Sessions



Each forum was divided into five sessions:

1. Setting the scene
2. What's happened since the last CLGF Group series?
 - Overview of *Towards a Regional Infrastructure Plan Report 2* findings
 - Group project updates
 - WDC actions on whole of region priorities
 - Confirming priorities for Wheatbelt-wide coordination and advocacy
3. Business Case toolkit for successful projects (concept testing)
4. Feedback from the Department of Regional Development and Lands on 2011/12 business cases
5. Proposed projects for 2012/13 CLGF Regional Component

4. Status of CLGF 2011/12 Regional Group projects for the Wheatbelt May 2012

Wheatbelt CLGF Group Projects 2011/12	
As at 30 May 2012	
1.Jurien Health Centre	\$277,250
2.Digital TV Rebroadcasting service	\$277,400
3.Wangaree Community Centre	\$502,000
4.Multi-Purpose Medical Centre, Chittering	\$792,412
5.Wheatbelt Heritage Rail	\$1,250,000
6.Killara Expansion-Day and Respite Care Centre	\$700,000
7.Regional Re-population Project	\$440,000
8.Moora Aged Care Centre of Excellence	\$760,402
9.Regional Housing (Brookton-Pingelly)	\$624,063
10.Beverley Function and Rec Centre*	\$905,977
11.Cunderdin Function and Rec Centre*	\$905,977
12.4WD and Well Ages Persons Housing*	\$1,972,409
13.Dryandra Equestrian Centre	\$317,206
14.Narrogin Town Hall (Stage 3)	\$350,000
15.Narrogin Heavy Haulage Bypass, Stage 1	\$135,000
16.Regional Waste Facility (Transfer Stations)	\$486,349
17.ADLS2 Broadband for Wandering	\$90,000
18.Land subdivision for Narembreen	\$641,000
19.Kondinin-Kulin Tourism Development	\$850,503
20.Westonia-Yilgarn Multi-purpose Accom.	\$720,573
21.NEWROC Universally Designed Accom.	\$2,205,781
22.Granite Way Development Project	\$250,000
23.Wheatbelt East Multi-purpose housing	\$1,086,839
24.Katanning Regional Entertainment Centre	\$351,437
25. Katanning Gymnastics Multi-purpose room	\$250,000

***Projects that have received CLGF 2011/12 funding**

5. Update on Wheatbelt-Wide Progress

The three issues that were identified in the 2011/12 series as the highest priorities for Wheatbelt-wide coordination and advocacy were health care, aged care and telecommunications. Each of these is updated below.

Health care

Health Care is a key area of concern for the Wheatbelt. The Wheatbelt Health Memorandum of Understanding Group (Health MOU) a collaborative partnership between WA Country Health Service - Wheatbelt (WACHS-Wheatbelt), Wheatbelt General Practice Network, Avon-Midland, Central and Great Eastern Country Zones and the Wheatbelt Development Commission has enabled the Wheatbelt and key stakeholders a forum to raise and address health service issues in an effort to improve health service delivery. In 2009 the Health MOU Group initiated the Wheatbelt Health Planning Initiative Project (<http://wheatbelt.wa.gov.au/projects/wheatbelt-health-planning>). The outcomes of this project led to the development of the Southern Inland Health Initiative.

Current situation

Over the past 12 months various initiatives have been instigated with the aim to better health service provision across Australia. This includes:

- The Southern Inland Health Initiative (commenced July 2011);
- The National Health Reform (commenced August 2011).

Southern Inland Health Initiative

The Southern Inland Health Initiative (SIHI) a \$565 million program funded through the Royalties for Regions program aims to redesigned health service delivery to better meet growing demand and the changing needs of local communities across the Southern Inland area. The Initiative focuses on six key streams of activity Medical Workforce Investment Program, District Hospital and Health Service Investment Program, Primary Health Care Demonstration Program, Small Hospital and Nursing Post Refurbishment Program, Telehealth Investment Program and Regional Residential Aged and Dementia Care Investment Program.

The first year of SIHI has focused on the Medical Workforce Investment Program, the District Hospital and Health Services Investment Program and the Telehealth Investment Program. Community engagement forums across each WACHS sub-regional area were completed by the SIHI team and the Western Australian Country Health Service as part of the service planning and infrastructure audit that will inform the implementation of SIHI. Links to the completed Service Plans for each of the Wheatbelt WACHS sub-regions are provided below:

Eastern Wheatbelt:

http://www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/fileadmin/sections/publications/Eastern_Wheatbelt_Service_Plan_Final_Endorsed_Signed.pdf

Southern Wheatbelt:

http://www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/fileadmin/sections/publications/Southern_Wheatbelt_Service_Plan_Final_Endorsed_Signed.pdf

Western Wheatbelt:

http://www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/fileadmin/sections/publications/Western_Wheatbelt_Services_Plan_Final_Endorsed_Signed.pdf

A fourth series of community consultations that focus on the Wheatbelt Coastal sub-region to develop a Coastal Wheatbelt Service Plan were completed mid 2012. The Coastal Wheatbelt Service Plan will be finalised later this year.

National Health Reform

The National Health Reform partnership will change the delivery of funding to the Australian Health system. The national health reform aims to include:

- a new framework for funding public hospitals and an investment of an additional \$19.8 billion in public hospital services over this decade;
- a focus on reducing emergency department and elective surgery waiting times;
- increased transparency and accountability across the health and aged care system;
- a stronger primary care system supported by joint planning with states and territories and the establishment of Medicare Locals; and
- the Australian Government taking full policy and funding responsibility for aged care services, including the transfer to the Australian Government of current resourcing for aged care services from the Home and Community Care (HACC) program, in most states and territories except Victoria and Western Australia.

The creation of the South West WA Medicare Local (<http://www.sw-medicarelocal.com.au/>) one of nineteen Medicare Locals throughout Australia to be established in this first stage of implementation, is one of the first initiatives of the National Health Reform to be implemented in the Wheatbelt (and Great Southern and South West regions). The total area encompasses 73 Local Government Authorities (LGAs).

Medicare Locals are primary health care organisations established to coordinate primary health care delivery and tackle local health care needs and service gaps. They have been charged with the responsibility of driving improvements in primary health care, ensuring that services are tailored to meet the needs of local communities.

Future Outlook

The Health MOU Group will maintain a watching brief on the SIHI program and delivery and implementation of the South West Medicare Local. The Health MOU Group will continue to advocate on behalf of the Wheatbelt to ensure health service delivery issues are addressed and accounted in health initiatives and programs. If you would like to raise a health care/ service delivery issue please contact your WALGA Zone representative to forward onto the Health MOU Group.

For further information please contact Pip Gooding, Regional Manager, Wheatbelt Development Commission P: (08) 9881 5888/E: pip.gooding@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au.

Aged care

The Wheatbelt Development Commission's focus on aged care has led to an initial audit on Aged Care facilities and services in the Wheatbelt and the formation of an alliance between 11 Wheatbelt Local Governments (LGAs) who identified Aged Care services, infrastructure and governance structures for their sub-region as a priority.

The Central East Aged Care Alliance (CEACA) consists of the Shire's of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Koorda, Merredin, Mount Marshall, Mukinbudin, Nungarin, Southern Cross, Trayning, Westonia, and Wyalkatchem in partnership with the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) and Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt (RDAW) was formed at a meeting in Merredin on January 31st 2012.

The CEACA sought to engage in a proactive process that resulted in:

- Identifying aged care service, accommodation and governance models for a highly disbursed population setting;
- Building on the assets that existed in communities; and
- Solutions that guided sound investment in the Southern Inland Health Initiative (SIHI), especially stream 3 – Primary Health Demonstration Program, and stream 4 – Residential Aged and Dementia Investment Program.
- Services that enable locals to age 'in place' as outlined in the new National Aged Care Package Reform.

The CEACA decided to employ an external consultant to carry out the Central East Aged Care Regional Solution/s project, with each LGA to contribute \$5,000 towards the project and a further contribution coming from the Country Local Government Fund as part of the administration fund provided to the Wheatbelt Development Commission for business case developments

On behalf of the Alliance, RDA Wheatbelt ran a tender process, and the successful applicant was Melbourne based Verso Consulting.

Several other key stakeholders were also invited to be observers during meetings, including Tim Shackleton, Southern Inland Health Initiative Community Engagement Officer; Michelle McClure, Medicare Local Wheatbelt Area Manager; and Caroline Langston, Western Australia Country Health Services Wheatbelt Manager.

Current Situation

Verso Consulting has prepared draft reports for each of the 11 LGAs and an aggregate sub regional report. The draft reports have been presented at 14 community consultations around the Central East to validate the findings. The CEACA will meet in September to discuss model options for aged care in the Central Eastern Wheatbelt.

Future Outlook

The final report for the Central East Aged Care Regional Solution is due to be released in November 2012. The Central East Aged Care Regional Solution/s project is proposed to be expanded to incorporate an integrated Aged Care Plan for the Wheatbelt.

For further information please contact Chelsea Gellard, Research and Project Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission P: (08) 9881 5888/E: chelsea.gellard@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au .

Telecommunications 1 - Regional Mobile Communications Project

In September 2010 the State Government announced \$120 million from Royalties to Regions to deliver improved mobile telephone and emergency service coverage to regional Western Australia. \$40 million was allocated to the Regional Mobile Communications Project (RMCP) and \$80 million to the Community Safety Network Project (CSNP).

The Regional Mobile Communications Project (RMCP) is being administered by the Department of Commerce (DoC) in consultation with the Department of Regional Development and Lands, with on ground Wheatbelt support provided by the WDC. RMCP is intended to deliver terrestrial mobile, voice and high speed wireless data broadband to improve highway and town-to-town coverage in regional, rural and remote communities of the State.

The Department of Commerce sent written notification of successful sites to Local Governments. A list of sites is provided below.

Current Situation

WDC agreed to assist DoC through follow up with host LGAs, provide details of the intended Wheatbelt RMCP site, and to be a single point of reference for the Wheatbelt communities regarding any potential issues or updates. It is important that selected sites provide positive feedback and unique stories associated with their RMCP upgrade to assist with creating momentum for increased Wheatbelt mobile coverage in the future

Wheatbelt LGAs have contacted WDC, after the RMCP announcement, requesting feedback channels for possible future telecommunications projects to ensure telecommunications issues within their shire jurisdiction are recorded. An information sheet on reporting telecommunications issues and needs was provided to workshop participants.

Future Outlook

The WDC will continue to encourage a collaborative approach to “filling the gaps”. We will work to identify funding shortfalls for additional towers and developing workable arrangements between State, Federal and Local funding, together with input from the service providers, to achieve the desired result of extensive regional coverage.

WDC provided a submission to the 2011–12 Regional Telecommunications Independent Review (RTIR) which reviewed telecommunications services in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia and provided a report to the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, in March 2012. This addressed communications needs of Indigenous Australians, developments in the terrestrial and satellite mobile phone sector, the consumer concerns of people and businesses in regional, rural and remote Australia and the role of NBN with regard to delivering health and education outcomes, growth in local economies, business efficiencies and opportunities and government services and programs, including local government services. The 2011-12 Regional Telecommunications Review report released May 2012 is available at <http://www.rtic.gov.au/>. It includes 52 findings, made 33 recommendations based telecommunications experiences in regional, rural and remote areas, and is an excellent reference for LGAs developing regional telecommunications case studies.

Announced RMCP Sites in the Wheatbelt

RMCP Site Name	Shire	Development Commission	Proposed Commissioning Date	Easting	Northing
Arthur River North	West Arthur	WDC	Q4 2013	-33.350142	117.037555
Ballidu	Wongan-Ballidu	WDC	Q1 2013	-30.600511	116.779310
Bencubbin	Mt Marshall	WDC	Q1 2013	-30.808226	117.864482
Breton Bay	Gingin	WDC	COMPLETE	-31.120720	115.453160
Clackline	Northam	WDC	Q1 2013	-31.711949	116.536320
Coomallo Hill*	Coorow	Midwest	Q3 2012	-30.157610	115.391480
Flint	Beverley	WDC	Q4 2013	-32.218501	116.404774
Kondinin	Kondinin	WDC	Q2 2013	-32.470019	118.273558
Koorda	Koorda	WDC	Q1 2013	-30.825470	117.478328
Miling	Moora	WDC	Q1 2013	-30.506829	116.384548
Mukinbudin	Mukinbudin	WDC	Q4 2012	-30.914846	118.205954
Narembeen	Narembeen	WDC	COMPLETE	-32.065807	118.394992
North Gingin	Gingin	WDC	Q1 2013	-31.067039	115.824799
Wickepin East	Wickepin	WDC	Q2 2013	-32.745303	117.768612
Wongonderrah	Dandaragan	WDC	Q4 2012	-30.485764	115.488271
Woodridge	Gingin	WDC	Q1 2013	-31.332070	115.603650
Woottating	Northam	WDC	COMPLETE	-31.864286	116.443278

*Coomallo Hill is in the Midwest region, located in the Shire of Coroow. This site borders and will provide substantial coverage to the Shire of Dandaragan.

Telecommunications 2 – Digital Television

A number of Wheatbelt communities own and operate retransmission facilities for analog television. It remains the case that funds do not appear to be available to build and operate digital retransmission facilities. There are subsidies for individual households to purchase and install satellite digital services. The switch to digital television will therefore present a substantial cost for those with multiple televisions, especially hotels and motels.

WDC provided feedback into the guidelines for the retransmission of digital television services, including retransmission of services sourced from the new Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) satellite service being undertaken by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

These guidelines (inserted below) addressed the authorisation of digital television retransmission services by self-help providers, and are aimed at ensuring that viewers of retransmitted digital television services have substantially the same viewing experience as those watching a broadcaster provided service. Proposed digital television switch dates for locations can be found at www.digitalready.gov.au.

Guidelines for the assessment of applications

In deciding whether to make spectrum available to a self-help retransmission applicant under section 34 of the BSA, the ACMA will have regard to the following matters, among others:

- Whether the spectrum will be used to ensure that all available commercial and national digital television services in the relevant licence area are available to viewers in the area intended to be served by the applicant. (Where a digital terrestrial service is already otherwise available terrestrially it will not need to be provided, but requests to do so will be considered on a case by case basis).
- Whether use of the spectrum will comply with certain technical specifications, including whether:
 - *services will be transmitted using the MPEG-2 compression format at the DVB-T standard*
 - *services will be provided in the same definition (for example, HD or SD) as the source service*
 - *in the case where digital retransmission services are replacing analog retransmission services, the coverage of the digital retransmission services are largely equivalent to the coverage of the analog services*
 - *the service information is properly constructed with the objective that the transmitted services should have the same 'look and feel' as broadcaster-provided services; this should include provision of EPGs, program classification information, captioning, Now/Next, logical channel numbering (in accordance with the applicable standard or operating practice) and time and date table and time offset table.*
- Any other matter the ACMA considers relevant.

Telecommunications 3– Wheatbelt Digital Action Plan

Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt are developing the Wheatbelt Digital Action Plan which is expected to be completed by December 2012. Recommendation 5.6 of the under the 2011-12 Regional Telecommunications Review report is:

“Regional Development Australia Committees, in conjunction with local councils, should develop digital economy plans for their regions and identify digital economy champions. Cooperation in developing these digital economy plans should be sought from other local and regional institutions such as universities and national organisations such as the CSIRO and National ICT Australia”.

A Wheatbelt Digital Action Plan Steering Committee has been formed to develop the “Wheatbelt Digital Action Plan” that will assist all Wheatbelt communities plan for usage maximisation of NBN infrastructure to the fullest potential through preparation prior to the rollout of Wheatbelt sites.

The plan will focus on:

1. Identifying key opportunities enabled by NBN (optic fibre, wireless and satellite technologies)
2. Capitalising on current infrastructure to encourage it’s greater utilisation, and using it for leverage
3. Investigating alternative investment models to expand fibre and/or wireless across the Wheatbelt (in comparison to satellite)

National Broadband Network (NBN) is an Australian Government initiative under the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE). This wholesale-only, open access high speed broadband network is planned to deliver high-speed broadband across Australia. WDC argues that the following unique circumstances of our region warrant attention in the planning for NBN service delivery:

- The unique disbursement of our population of 75,000 over 110 communities;
- The nature of this disbursement relying increasingly on technology to deliver essential services such as health and education;
- The industry/business profile of our region being dominated by micro and small business (many of them being home based), and the ability of these businesses to remain globally competitive in a knowledge economy without world class technology.

For further information on the Wheatbelt Digital Action Plan contact Rebekah Burges on P: (08) 9625-1504

Telecommunications 4 – Reporting Telecommunications Issues and Needs

The Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC) encourages Wheatbelt Local Governments with areas which will not receive improved coverage through this Stage of the Regional Mobile Communications Project (RMCP) to be vigilant in recording, reporting and registering mobile phone coverage black spots. There are a number of avenues for reporting black spots and WDC would recommend follow up through all possible avenues to ensure best outcomes for telecommunications projects.

Feedback to Department of Commerce via WDC

Prior to RMCP, a collated list of mobile coverage blackspots were submitted through a consultant to Department of Commerce (DoC). The strong relationship between WDC and DoC allows for regular updates, information sharing and resolution of queries to continue during and after the RMCP. As such, written feedback regarding specific blackspots or unique issues via LGAs to the Senior Regional Officer for the Wheatbelt Development Commission, Rebecca Kelly rebecca.kelly@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au is a good way to raise the profile of these locations and concerns.

Feedback to Telstra

Telstra, the successful tenderer for the RMCP also had input into the selection of sites for upgrade through RMCP. The identification of sites was a part of the tender process. As such, it makes sense to report any issues to Telstra.

Accessing the Telstra website provides direct email contacts for customer service leaders. Reports can be made in writing with a request that the location lacking mobile reception should be highlighted for further programs like RMCP. Ask Telstra to record your specific complaint for future site upgrade. Email can be processed through the Telstra website or a letter of complaint can be sent to Telstra Locked Bag 20026 Melbourne VIC 3001. Phone complaints can be registered for

- Consumer and Business customers by calling 13 2200 and say "complaint".
- Enterprise and Government customers (LGAs have direct contact), by contacting your Account Executive or Service Management lead or call Customer Care on 1800 730 062 between 8am and 6pm local time Monday to Friday.

Thirdly, providing written correspondence regarding coverage or otherwise to our Regional Area Managers (via email) - Tony Carmichael and Boyd Brown. If you are sending a complaint through the Telstra website or in the post, I would suggest that you copy the information to an Area Manager as well. A phone call and follow up discussion would also be valuable. Contact details for these area managers are provided below.

Boyd Brown, Area General Manager

Central WA | Telstra Consumer Country Wide

PHONE 08 97267312 | MOBILE 0418 748 197

EMAIL Boyd.m.Brown@team.telstra.com | WEB www.telstra.com/telstra

Tony Carmichael, Area General Manager

WA North | West Region | Telstra Country Wide

PHONE 08 9920 0010 | MOBILE 0427 986 274

EMAIL Anthony.Carmichael@team.telstra.com | WEB www.telstra.com.au

WDC encourages LGAs to engage with Telstra to capitalise on direct access at a business level. LGAs are also able to explore opportunities with other service providers like Optus who in recent years have put up several mobile base stations within the Wheatbelt. Optus has recently erected towers in the Shires of Chittering, Victoria Plains and Moora and the WDC understands they are dealing directly with local governments to develop these projects.

6. Priorities for Wheatbelt-wide Coordination and Advocacy 2012/13

The planning sessions again provided the opportunity to test the priorities for Wheatbelt-wide coordination and advocacy. The Wheatbelt Development Commission wants to ensure that its efforts are supported by local government and that its limited resources are directed towards the highest priorities for the Wheatbelt where regional coordination and advocacy can make a real difference.

The current three highest priorities for Wheatbelt-wide coordination and advocacy by the Wheatbelt Development Commission were confirmed (telecommunications, health care, and aged care) although it was noted in a number of the sessions that telecommunications was reducing as a priority in some cases due to progress being made. The other priorities on the chart were also reinforced, with childcare in particular increasing in priority.

The importance of Wheatbelt-wide information strategy and resources for regional and sub-regional strategic planning was again reinforced.

The table below summarises the majority view on the priorities, in terms of overall priority for the Wheatbelt and the impact that Wheatbelt-wide coordination and advocacy (as provided by the Wheatbelt Development Commission) could have. All of the issues in the table are considered important. The feedback from each individual form is included in appendix 2.

		Priority for the Wheatbelt	
		1	2
Impact of Wheatbelt-wide co-ordination and advocacy	1	WDC priority focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Telecommunications ■ Health care ■ Aged care ■ Education ■ Barriers to land development (particularly utilities) 	Be alert for opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Impact of Carbon Tax
	2	Actively monitor and engage as applicable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Transport ■ Housing ■ Energy ■ Water ■ Childcare 	Watching brief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aviation industry development ■ Tourism infrastructure ■ Waste management ■ Heritage

7. Feedback on 2011/12 Applications

James McCluskey, Project Officer (Reporting and Evaluation), Department of Regional Development and Lands, conducted a session to provide feedback on the CLGF 2011/12 applications and outline the 2012/13 process.

Assessment process

- Application submitted to RDL
- Application forwarded to external assessor – may require further clarification and assessor will contact lead Shire
- Application returned to RDL to be forwarded to DG reference group for comment (this is approx the 19 State heads of departments). The DGs may request the full business case. If the DGs have any comments with regard to the project, RDL have to formally respond to these comments
- Once through the DGs assessment, project forwarded to Cabinet
- If approved by Cabinet, an FAA will be drafted between RDL and the lead Shire (a concise document)
- Project must be approved by Cabinet and FAA signed before funds are disbursed.

Issues to address

- Not getting funding is not a relevant risk for the Business Case. Focus on post funding risk analysis - what might threaten the project objectives once funding is received and infrastructure is on the ground (project product not during project development).
- When completing the critical assumptions relate to content of the project e.g. costs and benefits of installing solar panels is based on assumption of cost of electricity and gas continuing to rise.
- The staging of projects should be kept within the annual CLGF funding round:
 - business cases need to focus on what aspects of the project funding are being sought for in that particular round
 - for staged projects don't rewrite history (components of project can't just be carried forward
 - isolate CLGF funding years to assist with project reporting and acquittal
- Budgets need to be consistent throughout the application:
 - ensure budget adds up correctly and referenced correctly across application, budget and text
 - need to show funding splits between CLGF, Shire, Other Stakeholders- ensuring what part goes against which funding
- When leveraging funding need to supply supporting documentation:
 - if funding secure need proof (this includes other R4R programs)
 - if awaiting approval need to advise of this (includes other R4R programs)
 - need to advise RDL if you're to make another application or have applied to another source of funding for the project
 - break down project to make it clear as to what each fund is funding
 - don't just say funding for house or accommodation for three Shires, indicate which Shires and how many houses for each

- Any changes after funding secured, must notify RDL. RDL to advise whether an FAA variance required. In the business case, be clear and smart about milestones to ensure project flexibility.
- There are six objectives that the R4R program wants to achieve; only address those objectives relevant to the project.

Factors which can lead to a delay in the assessment process

- Original signatures missing from application/s
 - also needed for resubmitted business cases
 - can't go to Cabinet without original signatures
- Incomplete business cases
- Letters of support from Regional Development Commissions
- Stakeholders mentioned in the business case not providing letters of support. Key stakeholders aren't always being consulted and this can hold up the assessment process
- Highlighting strategies or policies but not effectively linking them
 - only pages relating to the selected strategy need to be included/provided
 - need to clearly identify the link and the strategy
- Proof reading of application. Some applications do not make sense particularly if they have been copied from other documents or templates.

Other factors to consider

- Timing. Assessment process could take approximately 3-6 months from submission. This must be taken into consideration in your business case particularly milestones
- If a business case is submitted incomplete then this may not be recommended for approval
- All applications must be signed by all group CEOs and President/Mayors, this includes any changes made to project (therefore MAKE SURE YOU EDIT PROPERLY)
- A letter of support is required from the Wheatbelt Development Commission
- If other agencies are involved in the project, a letter of support from those agencies will strengthen the application
- Providing evidence of consultation such as the outcomes of consultation in your application
- Link to a regional strategy (ie. Wheatbelt Strategic Framework, Towards a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan Report 3) and policy and to reference in the application. Do not attached entire document
- Ensure budget adds up
- The FAA stipulates that the recipient agency needs to establish a separate cost centre, to be able to report on budget
- FAA to be signed under seal
- New payment method was implemented last year (Recipient Created Tax Invoice). Hopefully streamlined process of receiving funding
- If the FAA is to be varied, project will need to be resubmitted to cabinet for approval.
 - budgets, milestones (within the 2 year term of the contract) can vary but not the actual project purpose
 - if LGAs contribution is reducing need to notify RDL or can look as cost shifting.

8. Development Strategy for the Wheatbelt

The need for a development strategy for the Wheatbelt

This section has been updated since the 2011/12 report with the latest information on the state of strategic planning for the Wheatbelt.

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

The process to date has revealed major gaps in information¹ and strategic planning. There is no dedicated Royalties for Regions funding for strategy development nor any other funding for this purpose 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. Local Governments themselves generally do not have the capacity or the mechanisms to collectively undertake this work.

In the face of a backlog of much needed infrastructure the desire to get projects on the ground quickly has dominated. However, if the prioritisation and planning is inadequate, this poses a high risk that the funding will not be invested as wisely as possible. One implication is that larger, more strategic projects that have longer lead times and require resources for sub-regional strategy development, feasibility studies and so on are less likely to be pursued.

Strategic leadership and planning are vital ingredients for regional performance. To achieve the best results it can, a region needs to make the most of its assets, minimise its shortcomings and manage its risks. The regional development literature reveals a number of critical success factors for local economic development in a regional context, such as²:

- strong local governance and leadership;
- an agreed direction or strategy and regional development projects that are aligned with this;
- building on well understood regional strengths and advantages while broadening the economic base and adapting to changing markets;
- quality local institutions, with high levels of interaction between education, research and production system, a welcoming environment for investment, strong networks and an entrepreneurial culture;
- a local commitment to, and ownership of, development;
- key essential infrastructure.

¹ 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.

² Schöllmann, A and Dalziel A (2002) 'Rediscovering Regions: Regional Development from a Central Government Policy Perspective', Paper to New Association of Economists Annual Conference 2002, (unpublished), pp. 8, 9

The work of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) emphasises leadership, strategy and the place-based nature of successful rural regional development, with the following specific features³:

- A development strategy that covers a wide range of direct and indirect factors that affect the performance of local firms.
- Focus on assets and knowledge that are internal to the locality (with a reduced focus on external investments and transfers).
- A collective/negotiated governance approach to such matters, involving national, regional and local government plus other stakeholders.

It is essential to ensure that such efforts are maintained over time. Arguably, internalising the economic development process is one of the most important aims of regional economic development. Key to this is “...a proactive strategic approach to development, as against a reactive approach, to managing risk in adjusting to changing circumstances”⁴.

Implicit in the above discussion is the ability of regional areas to enter into effective partnerships to develop and pursue common goals and strategies. The OECD has undertaken considerable research into regional strategy and partnerships and found that particular public management characteristics have a direct bearing on regional performance⁵:

- consistent government policy goals;
- adaptable strategic frameworks;
- strong accountability framework; and
- flexible management of public programmes and services.

The WA public management environment in this context appears to be struggling with fragmented and overlapping planning agencies and initiatives within multiple strategic frameworks. There is no evidence of a coherent overall approach to improving outcomes in regional WA.

Like all states in Australia, WA lacks an accountability framework for community outcomes and its ability to tailor public programmes and services in collaboration with local government in the regional areas is patchy⁶. An overarching development strategy for the Wheatbelt, with appropriate governance, resourcing and agency accountability could go a long way towards addressing this.

The Wheatbelt Regional Investment Blueprint (see next section) may fulfil this role.

The Wheatbelt planning environment is depicted below, followed by an outline of the key elements.

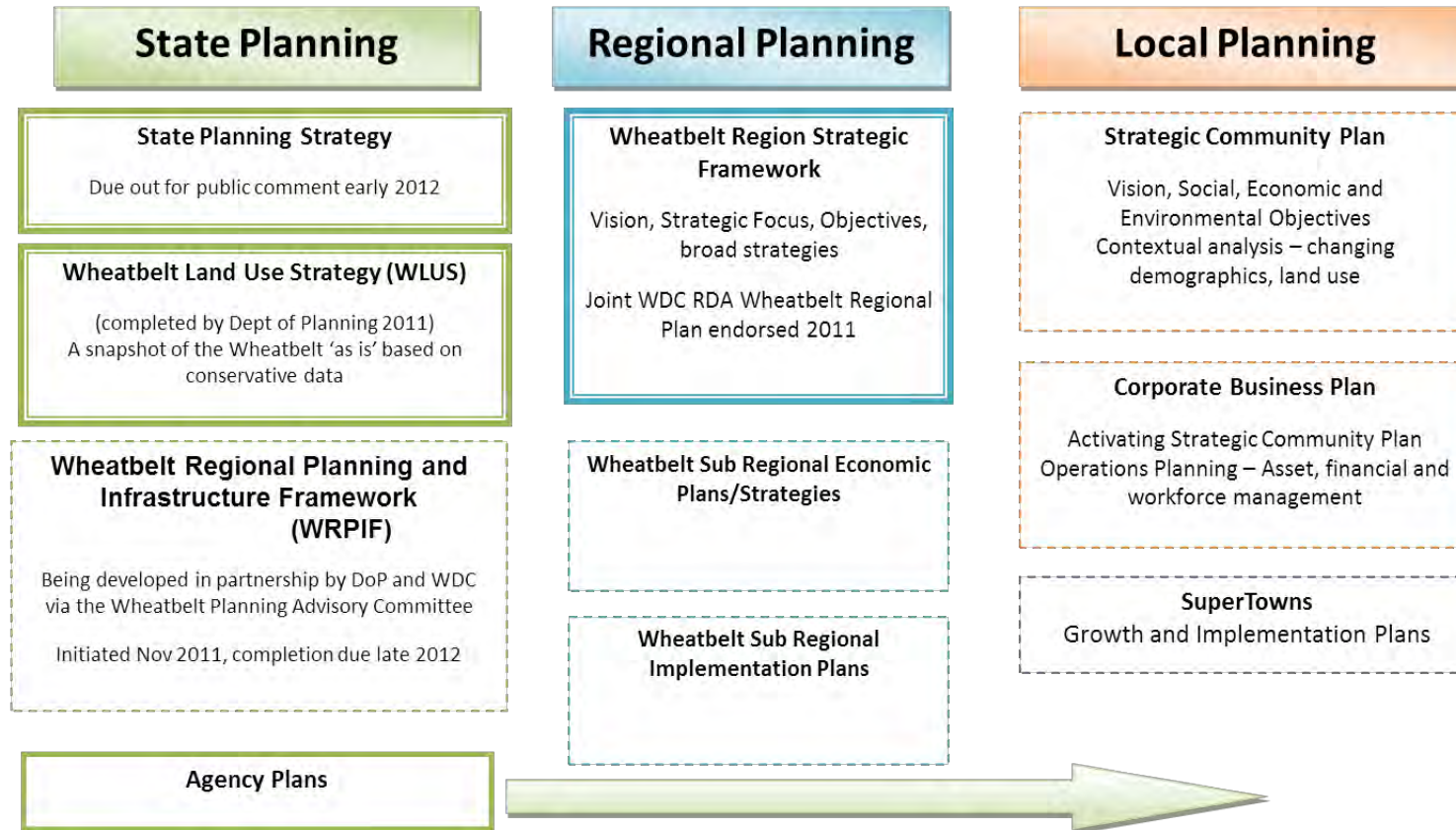
³ OECD (2006) ‘The New Rural Paradigm: Policies and Governance’, OECD Rural Policy Reviews, pp. 15, 16

⁴ Stimpson, R., Stough, R., Salazar, M. 2009, Leadership and Institutions in Regional Endogenous Development, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham p. 1

⁵ OECD (2001) ‘Local Partnerships for Better Governance’, Local Economic and Employment Development

⁶ New South Wales is actively working on this issue at the current time. See http://www.2021.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/NSW2021_WEBVERSION.pdf (viewed 29 February 2012)

The Wheatbelt Planning Context



Wheatbelt Regional Investment Blueprint

RfR Priorities

Trust	RDCo	WDC/RDA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water• Human Capacity Building• Regional land and Food Strategy Planning• Investment in Strategic Corridors• Retaining Aged Population in the region• Regional Business and Industry Innovation and Support• Energy supplementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health• Education• Heritage• Technology and Innovation• Renewable Energy• Affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Livable Communities• Vibrant Economy• Valued Natural Amenity

WDC RDA Wheatbelt Strategic Framework

A strategic framework for the Wheatbelt region was developed collaboratively by Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wheatbelt and the Wheatbelt Development Commission drawing on our collective local knowledge and understanding of the region. The principle aim of this is to ensure that key stakeholders in the region have a common basis for their own planning, influencing policy direction and attracting support for initiatives that will contribute to the sustainability of the region. It is also hoped that shared understanding and a common framework will facilitate greater collaboration and cooperation amongst the region's leaders.

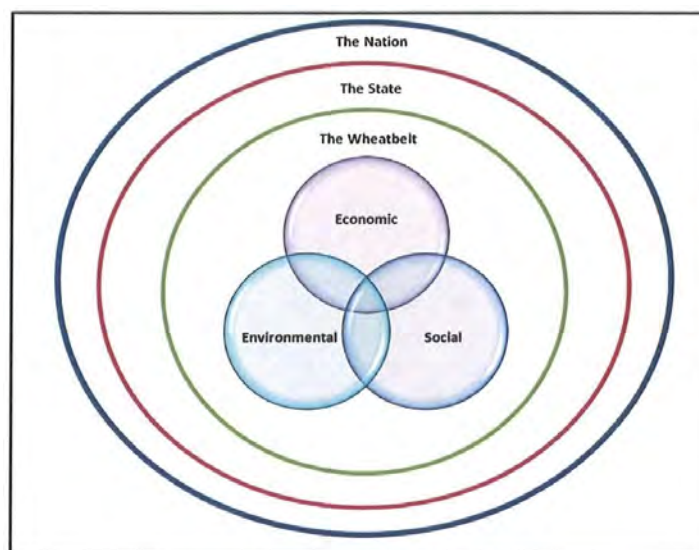
Behind this framework will sit a range of strategies to deliver on these strategic objectives. The nature and focus of these initiatives will vary at local, sub regional and whole of region level. RDA Wheatbelt and the Commission's primary role in many of these initiatives will be to:

- 1) Advocate these initiatives and our region to Government
- 2) Coordinate and facilitate collaboration on initiatives across the relevant stakeholders
- 3) Assist communities to shape projects that align with the priorities and objectives outlined in this plan
- 4) Raise awareness of programs, initiatives and legislation that will impact on regional projects
- 5) Revisit the planning process

The respective organisations also recognise the importance of looking beyond our regional boundaries when looking for solutions and opportunities. As such we will be proactive in creating opportunities to work collaboratively with adjoining regions on initiatives that address regional priorities and maximise regional outcomes.

This strategic framework takes in to consideration the importance of a holistic approach to sustainable development of the region by outlining economic, social and environmental strategies and actions. Whilst each of these components is dealt with separately it is acknowledged that they are intrinsically linked and therefore cannot be considered in isolation.

A holistic approach to sustainable development



Vision 2011-2015

"A diversified economy, with vibrant communities utilising the regions competitive advantage to accommodate a greater population in a valued environment"

The Wheatbelt: A "possibility belt" that grows as a result of vibrant and diverse people, industry and built and natural environment.

Critical Success Factors

Key to achieving our regional objectives will be:

- Innovative and devolved decision making and resourcing
- Internal and external recognition of the region's comparative advantages
- Development that results in social, environmental and economic benefit
- Strong collaboration that adds value to the Wheatbelt's diversified development
- Targeted strategies to meet unique subregional context—one size does not fit all

Key Messages

- The Wheatbelt is the State's third most populous region and experiencing growth
- The Wheatbelt is fundamentally important to the State's development
- The Wheatbelt's comparative advantage is its:
 - proximity to the capital city, Perth
 - safe communities with considerable social capital
 - clean, open space and skies
 - land availability and diversity
 - community infrastructure
- History of innovation
- National leader in export food production

Strategic Focus

Vibrant Economy	Liveable Communities	Valued Natural Amenity
<i>A diversified and adaptive economic base building on the regions assets and aligned with state, national and international opportunity</i>	<i>Innovative, safe, healthy and resilient communities where services and infrastructure reflect the needs and aspirations of residents and complement unique Wheatbelt characteristics</i>	<i>The Wheatbelt's unique natural amenity is valued as an asset for social, cultural and economic development for current and future generations.</i>
Objectives		
1) Skilled workers of all ages are attracted and retained to meet the needs of the region and the state 2) The region has a diverse economic base that builds on the Wheatbelt's attributes 3) Key strategic infrastructure is identified and invested in 4) Opportunities for marginalised Wheatbelt residents result in economic independence	1) A collaborative strategy ensures health, education, aged and youth/ children's services reflect the needs of current and future residents 2) Communities innovate, co-operate and value diversity 3) Diverse cultural, sport and recreational activities contribute to community well being 1) Community amenity is well designed to enhance employment, lifestyle opportunities and community safety	2) Climate change opportunities are pursued, and risk minimised 3) Diverse natural assets are valued and managed to protect bio-diversity with compatible land use 4) Water management is improved for the benefit of community amenity and industry development 5) Renewable natural resources are employed sustainably, profitably, and productively

Governance Focus	
<p>Planning and Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Innovation and professionalism of developmental partners drives sustainable development ■ Key partnerships (across communities, agencies and all levels of government) are based on proactive and adaptive management resulting in ownership and commitment to agreed priorities in a changing environment ■ Integrated planning results in investment in strategic projects ■ Decision makers value and use local knowledge and input, and understand and account for unique Wheatbelt characteristics. 	<p>Marketing and Perceptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Wheatbelt is seen internally and externally as an ideal place to live, work, invest and visit ■ The Wheatbelt's contribution to the Nation and the State's economic, social and environmental wellbeing is understood ■ Communities embrace innovation, professionalism and diversity to meet market demand.

Appendix 1

Key Development Issues and Solutions for the Wheatbelt

Key Developmental Issues for the Wheatbelt

There is considerable commonality of key developmental issues across the Wheatbelt as identified in the 2010/11 fora. These are repeated here from Report 1 for ease of reference. They are by and large still relevant.

A key reason for retaining a focus on these issues is that 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 current work on strategic planning for the Wheatbelt is intended to become the overarching expression of these 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.

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 there are some duplications and gaps. 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 (as initially identified in 2010/11)

[illegible]

= issue for all

[illegible]

= issue for all

[illegible]

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 advantage⁷.

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■ Transfer stations

⁷ 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.

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 built centres
Aged care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aged care homes ■ Dementia care ■ Respite care
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
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Boating facilities ■ Female prisoner work camp ■ Regional sale yard ■ Crematoria, aquamatoria, natural burial facilities

Non-infrastructural solutions

We also captured any identified non-infrastructural 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
Land development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the cost of headworks Release more land for development Resolve planning issues etc
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
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributed energy from renewable resources
Aged care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-regional strategies for specialist facilities
Attracting people and businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentives
Economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy for the Wheatbelt and sub-regions
Road (note the inter-dependence with rail)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic road plan
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)

Appendix 2

Individual Forum Reports

Coastal

Attendees

David Burt	CEO, Shire of Gingin
Michael Aspinall	President, Shire of Gingin
Linda Fidge	Community Development Officer, Shire of Gingin
Val Ammon	Councillor, Shire of Gingin
Tony Nottle	CEO, Shire of Dandaragan
Laurie Short	Deputy President, Shire of Dandaragan
Kaye McGlew	Councillor, Shire of Dandaragan
Alison Dalziel	Facilitator, Director, Localise
Wendy Newman	CEO Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Gooding	RM Wheatbelt Development Commission
Carol Redford	SRO Wheatbelt Development Commission
Chelsea Gellard	RPO Wheatbelt Development Commission
Hannah Thornton	RPO Wheatbelt Development Commission
David Kelly	RO Wheatbelt Development Commission
Rebecca Kelly	SRO Wheatbelt Development Commission
Cynthia McMorran	Chair, Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Jo Burges	Regional Cooperation Manager, WALGA
James McCluskey	Project Officer, Reporting and Evaluation, RDL

One Group: Coastal (Dandaragan, Gingin)

TESTING PRIORITIES FOR WHEATBELT WIDE COORDINATION AND ADVOCACY

2011/12 priorities:

- aged care
- telecommunications
- health care

2012/13 additional priorities:

- housing and accommodation (work and seasonal)
- transport (northern link, Avon-North)
- water access (for business and horticultural expansion)
- education (regulations preclude education facility expansion)
- land assembly (market failure/utility costs)

CLGF GROUP PLANNING 2012/13

Feedback on last round:

- Can look like horse-trading when it's not
- Had to identify individual contributions from local governments in business cases for Regional projects which seems counter-productive to regionalism
- Budget problem due to uncertainty
- Would be good to stop changing guidelines/business case template every year
- Needed all the information in the first two sections

- The template wasn't clear what the prescription really was
- Short time frames
- SuperTowns rolled over top – changed priorities at last minute
- Hugely time consuming for staff
- Involvement from WDC was great – excellent assistance and advice (under time pressure for WDC)
- Short timeframe in the process a big problem
- Good regional group – working well together and achieving consensus
- May consider forming a larger alliance for aged care, regional housing and health
- Threat of amalgamation inhibited regional collaboration in some cases

BUSINESS CASE DISCUSSION

Items/issues for consideration:

- Risk management
- Describing regional projects
- Measures
- Partnership agreements
- Work with grant funder
- Centralised consultancy assistance – economies of scale
- Risk management – what does this mean
- Performance criteria
- Sharing of examples (WDC resource base)
- Different scopes
- Assessor needs to critically evaluate each round
- Need to limit the business case requirements to what they actually need and specify that clearly
- Also applies to reporting
- Multiple funders sometimes
- Online E-grants system
- Model agreements – partnerships, agreements
- Model consultants – brief

CLGF GROUP 2012/13 PROPOSED PROJECTS WORKSHOP

“World Class on the Water”

The Coastal sub-region is host to two world-class events which are a key part of its economic future (Classic Windsurf and Blessing of the Fleet, Indian Ocean Festival). These events have grown beyond the capacity of existing infrastructure. In addition, the full potential to leverage these events for economic and social benefits to the local communities has yet to be realised.

The Shires of Gingin and Dandaragan are currently scoping priority projects in this area.

Thursday 16 August 2012
Wongan Hills Hotel, Wongan Hills

Central Midlands

Attendees

Alan Leeson	CEO, Shire of Moora
Clem Kerp	CEO, Shire of Goomalling
John Bird	President, Shire of Goomalling
Wendy Williams	Councillor Shire of Goomalling
Neville Hale	CEO, Shire of Northam
Steve Pollard	President, Shire of Northam
Dacre Alcock	CEO, Shire of Dowerin
Dale Metcalf	President, Shire of Dowerin
Harry Hawkins	CEO, Shire of Victoria Plains
Geoff Erickson	President, Shire of Victoria Plains
Stan Scott	CEO, Shire of Toodyay
Kevin Hogg	President, Shire of Toodyay
Gary Tuffin	CEO, Shire of Chittering
Alex Douglas	President, Shire of Chittering
Peter Crispen	CEO, Shire of Dalwallinu
Steve Carter	Deputy President, Shire of Dalwallinu
Stuart Taylor	CEO, Shire of Wongan
Alison Dalziel	Facilitator, Director, Localise
Wendy Newman	CEO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Gooding	RM, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Kirby	RM, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Rebecca Kelly	SRO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Chelsea Gellard	RPO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Hannah Thornton	RPO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Chelsea Kerr	RO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Cynthia McMorran	Chair, Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Jo Burges	Regional Cooperation Manager, WALGA
James McClusky	Project Officer, Reporting and Evaluation, RDL

Two groups: Avon ROC (Chittering, Dowerin, Goomalling, Northam, Toodyay, Victoria Plains)
Central Midlands ROC (Dalwallinu, Moora, Wongan Hills)

TESTING PRIORITIES FOR WHEATBELT WIDE COORDINATION AND ADVOCACY

2011/12 priorities:

- aged care
- telecommunications
- health care

2012/13 additional priorities:

- affordable housing (works, tourism, aged) – loans from bank difficult due to location therefore not affordable for 1st home owners.
- aged housing – can't age in place on farms
- childcare

- alternative energy
- light industrial land development (cost barriers – lack of funding for head works)
 - People (workers) → housing and services (+education)

CLGF GROUP PLANNING 2012/13

Feedback on last round:

- Delays in processing application
- Not getting progress reports
- Need key agencies round the table early
- Letter of support
- Securing other external funding, extended timeline with cost impacts
- Bureaucracy can be challenged by Local governments need and ability to flexibly adapt to changing circumstances
- Have involved disadvantaged youth in project through youth connections (RDA)
- Need to get application in as early as possible
- Hard to get hold of agency people

BUSINESS CASE DISCUSSION

Items/issues for consideration:

- Standardised
- Model business case
- Menu/database of measures etc.(include benefit analysis/rationale and cost)
- Access to relevant expertise (for eg. housing- state agency now policy ex delivery)
- Regional analysis
- Risk analysis
- Flying squad would be better
- Could collectively fund (including leverage \$) flying squad
- Can we use a percentage of funding for rolling infrastructure fund? (following the Blueprint?)

CLGF GROUP 2012/13 PROPOSED PROJECTS WORKSHOP

CMVROC

Major issue: Workforce attraction and retention/aged retention

1. Accommodation (and a trust to enable sustainable housing development)
 - Workforce
 - Aged
 - Tourism

Incorporating universal/eco design to obtain contracting efficiencies with a common tender i.e. 1x4x2/2x2x2.

2. Land availability (Dalwallinu has small blocks)
 - Create profit to reinvest in housing
 - Providing housing as an attractor

Key points:

- Local government
 - Facilitation
 - Landlord
- Needs analysis using NEWROC/WEROC template
 - Demand

- Stock
- Staged approach
- Governance/ownership issue
- Discuss possible inclusion in housing project with the Shire of Dandaragan.
- WDC will convene meeting with Peel water reuse to discuss their experience in the context of exploring the establishment of a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Fund.

AROC

- Well aged Housing
 - AROC undertaking aged care planning (ie. CEACA plan) and have committed \$50,000 to project
 - Land available and demonstrated demand in Goomalling, Toodyay and Victoria Plains
 - Strong case to proceed as already evident will be included in plan

Avon

Attendees

Peter Naylor	CDO, Shire of Cunderdin
Graham Cooper	Councillor, Shire of Cunderdin
Graeme Fardon	CEO, Shire of Quairading
Graham Stanley	CEO, Shire of Tammin
Scott Uppill	President, Shire of Tammin
David Goulden	CDO, Shire of Tammin
Jenny Gemund	CDO, Shire of Tammin
Ray Hooper	CEO, Shire of York
Pat Hooper	Councillor, Shire of York
Tony Boyle	President, Shire of York
Tyhscha Cochrane	Deputy CEO, Shire of York
Stephen Gollan	CEO, Shire of Beverley
Dee Ridgeway	President, Shire of Beverley
Alison Dalziel	Facilitator, Director Localise
Wendy Newman	CEO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Grant Arthur	Director of Regional Services, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Gooding	RM, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Janine Hatch	SRO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Chelsea Gellard	RPO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Hannah Thornton	RPO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Rebekah Burgess	EO, Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Jo Burges	Regional Cooperation Manager, WALGA
Kevin Hogg	President, Shire of Toodyay
James McCluskey	Project Officer, Reporting and Evaluation, RDL

One group: SEAVROC (Beverley, Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin, York)

TESTING PRIORITIES FOR WHEATBELT WIDE COORDINATION AND ADVOCACY

2011/12 priorities:

- aged care
- telecommunications
- health care

2012/13 additional priorities:

- childcare
- heritage
- affordable housing (all types)
- agricultural innovation
- industry development (including mining, education, research and development)
- utilities- capacity to cater for growth (feedback loops)(include h/w funding)
- non rateability of aged care (and they are playing LGs off against one another)
- education (secondary school especially)
- transport

CLGF GROUP PLANNING 2012/13

Feedback on last round:

- Was hard to track progress of applications
- Assessment process very long (November to May)
- Assessors asking for additional information should have been specific upfront
- Assessors lack local government knowledge
- Very hard to align funding streams/agencies when multiple applications involved

BUSINESS CASE TOOLKIT

Items/issues for consideration:

- Agencies don't really believe communities know what they are doing, it's insulting
- Make it simple, reduce necessity for consultants/'experts'
- Clear and concise instructions-what do they really need to know? (The critical few criteria)
- Understanding need for adaption
- Support for Local government expertise
- Stop changing the guidelines/be timely
- Test eligibility/pass-fail gate
- Bursaries to develop local government capacity
- A flying squad for business case assistance
- Better information on government initiatives for future funding
- WALGA provide support in specific areas of expertise eg. Risk analysis
- Support for concept of a rolling infrastructure fund

CLGF GROUP 2012/13 PROPOSED PROJECTS WORKSHOP

The key drivers for this region, as identified by the draft Avon Sub-regional Economic Planning, were noted:

- Agriculture
- Transport, logistics and mining support – medium/light industry
- Health/aged care
- Retail/lifestyle
- Tourism

This group was still identifying priority project/s for 2012/13 at the time of the Forum. A number of possible projects were discussed in areas such as tourism/heritage; aged care/health; accommodation; agricultural industry development; telecommunications and airfield.

Wednesday 22 August 2012
Bruce Rock Recreation Centre, 40-42 Johnson St, Bruce Rock

Central East

Attendees

Bonnie Cole	Proxy for (Raymond Griffiths) ACEO, Shire of Kellerberrin
Greg Powell	CEO, Shire of Merredin
Donna Crook	President, Shire of Merredin
Evelyn Arnold	Executive Manager of Corporate Services, Shire of Merredin
Vivienne Murty	CEO, Shire of Yilgarn
Trevor Smith	CEO, Shire of Mukinbudin
Ellen Della Bosca	DCEO, Shire of Mukinbudin
Gary Shadbolt	President, Shire of Mukinbudin
Peter Kocian	CEO, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Eric Anderson	Councillor, Shire of Wyalkatchem
David Holdsworth	Councillor, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Matthew Gilfellon	CEO, Shire Mt Marshall
Steve O'Halloran	CEO, Shire of Bruce Rock
Stephen Strange	President, Shire of Bruce Rock
Ian Dolton	Deputy President, Shire of Bruce Rock
Margaret Foss	Councillor, Shire of Bruce Rock
Bill Fensome	CEO, Shire of Nungarin
Jamie Criddle	CEO, Shire of Westonia
Karin Day	Councillor, Shire of Westonia
Caroline Robinson	Projects Manager, Shire of Narembeen
Helen Westcott	BHW Consulting
Bruce Wittber	BHW Consulting

Alison Dalziel	Facilitator, Director, Localise
Wendy Newman	CEO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Gooding	RM, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Kirby	RM, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Chelsea Gellard	RPO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Kylie Whitehead	RPO Tourism, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Graham Cooper	Board Member, Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Jo Burges	Regional Cooperation Manager, WALGA
James McCluskey	Project Officer, Reporting and Evaluation, RDL
Gillian Casey	Project Officer, Reporting and Evaluation, RDL

Apologies

David Burton	CEO, Shire of Koorda
Linda Longmuir	DCEO, Shire of Koorda
Tanika McLennan	ACEO, Shire of Trayning
Trevor Lamond	Councillor, Shire of Trayning

Two groups: WEROC (Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Westonia, Yilgarn)
NEWROC (Koorda, Mukinbudin, Mt Marshall, Nungarin, Trayning, Wyalkatchem)

TESTING PRIORITIES FOR WHEATBELT WIDE COORDINATION AND ADVOCACY

2011/12 priorities:

- aged care
- telecommunications
- health care

2012/13 additional priorities:

- transport
- housing (multi purpose for aged, workers, youth and tourism)
- childcare
- utilities for land development
- economic development investments
- barriers to land development – head works/market failure
- insurance

CLGF GROUP PLANNING 2012/13

Feedback on last round:

- Projects still awaiting approval
- Experienced a short lead time as the project's scope had to be changed
- Acknowledged the good work of the consultant involved in the project and the support received from the Wheatbelt Development Commission
- Discovered a need to engage more closely with partner agencies (eg. DAFWA).
- Application delayed as template didn't indicate they needed to cost at sub project level. An important lesson learnt and should be considered for future building projects.
- There appears to be a lack of understanding from RDL in relation to LGAs' process, especially budgeting and auditing.
- Process seems to be centred on the assessor and RDL.
- Some projects can be disadvantaged by appearing as an income generator.
- Need full set of letters of support
- Cross-border cooperation was a problem when the local government concerned wasn't putting in any money
- Cooperation amongst LGAs is hard, with the assumption no money no work.

BUSINESS CASE DISCUSSION

Items/issues for consideration

- Electronic template
- Toolkit would be good to provide help and understanding of the process
- Wouldn't want the toolkit if it was too standardised/prescriptive – don't want a straightjacket
- WDC is seen as the provider for assistance for business cases
- Any extra help is seen as a good thing but needs to be easy to understand
- More explanations around what is required
- Model business cases/components people could refer too
- Checklist- clear/concise
- Formal brief from CEO approved by Council
- No support for flying squad idea

CLGF GROUP 2012/13 PROPOSED PROJECTS WORKSHOP

WEROC

- Housing
 - Possibly 8 houses
 - Give time for Verso report to be complete
 - Allows for Federal and State Funding
- Combine WYRC and WEROC studies into a single application
 - New costing
 - Multi-use (youth, aged, workers and tourism).
- Lead Shire to coordinate project – suggested Kellerberrin.
- Consider which consultant to move forward with.

NEWROC

- Continue Multi-purpose Housing Project (progress stage 2)
- Stage 2 concentrating on: Wylkatchem, Nungarin and Trayning

Tuesday 28 August 2012
Williams Town Hall (RSL), Brooking Street, Williams

Wheatbelt South

Attendees

Eva Haydon	CEO, Shire of Cuballing
Carol McDougall	Councillor, Shire of Cuballing
Monique D'Alton	Administration Officer, Shire of Cuballing
Mark Hook	CEO, Shire of Wickepin
Natalie Manton	CDO, Shire of Wickepin
Ryan Duff	CEO, Shire of Williams
Heidi Cowcher	CDO, Shire of Williams
Greg Hadlow	CEO, Shire of Kulin
Graeme Kerr	President, Shire of Wandering
Cara Ryan	Finance Officer, Shire of Wandering
Len Armstrong	President, Shire of Lake Grace
Stan Kocian	ACEO, Shire of Brookton
Jeanette Bennett	Executive Assistant, Shire of Lake Grace
Lee Holben	Manager of Community Services, Shire of Lake Grace
Gordon Davidson	President, Shire of Dumbleyung
Henry van der Ende	CEO, Shire of Dumbleyung
Shirley Lange	President, Shire of Pingelly
Mick Oliver	CEO, Shire of Pingelly
Phillip Blight	President, Shire of Wagin
Brian Roderick	ACEO, Shire of Wagin
Nicole Wasman	CEO, Shire of West Arthur
Lyn Baker	President, Shire of Corrigin
Julian Murphy	CEO, Shire of Corrigin
Heather Talbot	CDO, Shire of Corrigin
Aaron Cooke	CEO, Town of Narrogin
Colin Bastow	Director Corporate & Community Services, Town of Narrogin
Lee Ballard	Councillor, Town of Narrogin
Alison Dalziel	Facilitator; Director, Localise
Wendy Newman	CEO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Gooding	RM, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Chelsea Gellard	RPO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Hannah Thornton	RPO, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Tracy Merredith	Deputy Chair, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Tim Shackleton	Board Member, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Rebekah Burgess	EO, Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Jo Burgess	Regional Cooperation Manager, WALGA
James McCluskey	Project Officer, Reporting and Evaluation, RDL
Linda Towill	Project Officer, Regional Investment - Services, RDL
Daniel Soon	Senior Project Officer, Reporting and Evaluation, RDL

Apologies

Peter Webster	CEO, Shire of Kondinin
Alan George	Deputy CEO, Shire of Kondinin
Lorraine Shepherd	Finance, Shire of Narrogin

Taryn Scadding	CDO, Shire of Kulin
Frank Peczka	CEO, Shire of Narembreen
Ian Chamberlain	Deputy President, Shire of Lake Grace

Four groups: 4WD-Lakes VROC (Dumbleyung, Lake Grace, Wagin, West Arthur, Williams)
 Dryandra ROC (Cuballing, Narrogin (S), Narrogin (T), Wandering, Wickepin)
 Roe ROC (Corrigin, Kondinin, Kulin, Narembreen)
 Brookton-Pingelly RTG (Brookton, Pingelly).

TESTING PRIORITIES FOR WHEATBELT WIDE COORDINATION AND ADVOCACY

2011/12 priorities:

- aged care
- telecommunications
- health care

2012/13 additional priorities:

- water
- education (tertiary)
- aged care including accommodation and dementia (Central East Aged Care Alliance)
- waste
- economic development including tourism
- telecommunications (digital TV) mixed, still issues with black spots in areas (depends on definition of black spot)
- transport including Bypass and T3 RAIL (Grain transport highest priority)
- sport and recreation

CLGF GROUP PLANNING 2012/13

Feedback on last round:

- Only one project to funding agreement stage
- Time delays in the assessment process the main issue for Brookton/Pingelly, no feedback or tracking/goes into a black hole
- Difficulties getting/keeping contactors especially given the time delays
- No further rule changes
- Also increase in costs (cost escalations mean tenders have to be recalled)
- Hard to get through to RDL contact
- High pressure to supply more information quickly/rewriting business case when different stages on same project
- Left in-house building team in stop-start situation
- Cec from Thinkscape was fantastic
- Project from previous round slipstreamed into new process
- Doesn't fit auditing timeframe
- Appreciate that RDL are low on staff (pressure)

BUSINESS CASE DISCUSSION

Items/issues for consideration

- Is the RDL requirement to attend WDC forum really necessary when already have multi-round project sorted?
- Process is always behind – well into year of funding round before funding applications made let alone approved. Could be ready much earlier than deadlines.
- Different timelines from two Development Commissions
- Business case quality depends on consultants in some cases (who's good/successful?)
- Person employed to assist ROCs – need to come from LG and have the confidence of ROCs
- Communication to/with RDL/Minister- to understand reality in WB communities
- Dealing with risk of multi-staged projects

CLGF GROUP 2012/13 PROPOSED PROJECTS WORKSHOP

Pingelly-Brookton Regional Transition Group

- Multi-purpose housing stage 2
 - Brookton 2 (3x2)
 - Revise Pingelly's business case and aim to submit by November

4WD-Lakes VROC (Dumbleyung, Lake Grace, Wagin, West Arthur, Williams + Kent and Woodanilling)

- Continue 4WD-Lakes Well Aged Housing Alliance project
 - Build 7 units across this area
 - Discussed project status on applying for additional State funding (through Regional Development Council)
 - Had applied to Regional Development Australia Fund. Were unsuccessful in round 2. Comment as to why did not receive funding – would like larger Council to manage project ie. Wagin or Lake Grace.

Dryandra ROC (Cuballing, Narrogin (S), Narrogin (T), Wandering, Wickepin)

- Commercial and light industrial premises for business startup/relocation. "Map and gap" of what's available now and what the unmet needs are
- Regional waste; transfer stations/weighbridge (part of regional waste solution). Not for the purchase of land for the large regional waste landfill
- Narrogin bypass (stage 2)
- Regional mobile phone towers (location to be determined possibly Cuballing)

Roe ROC (Corrigin, Kondinin, Kulin, Narembeen)

- Corrigin Recreation and Events Centre (first priority)