

Towards a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan Report 2 – 2011/12



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March 2012



ROYALTIES
FOR REGIONS



Wheatbelt
Development
Commission

Wheatbelt Regional Infrastructure Priorities Planning Sessions 2012

Date	Group
10 November	Coastal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal: <i>Gingin, Dandaragan</i>
11 November	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>
14 November	Avon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA RTG: <i>Beverley, Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin, York</i> Brookton-Pingelly RTG: <i>Brookton, Pingelly</i>
22 November	Wheatbelt South <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4WD-Lakes VROC: <i>Dumbleyung, Lake Grace, Wagin (absent), West Arthur (absent), Williams</i> Dryandra VROC: <i>Cuballing, Narrogin (S), Narrogin (T), Wandering, Wickepin</i> Roe ROC: <i>Corrigin, Kondinin, Kulin, Narembeen</i>
30 November	Central East <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Westonia-Yilgarn RTG: <i>Westonia, Yilgarn</i> WEROC: <i>Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin</i> NEWROC: <i>Koorda, Mukinbudin, Mt Marshall, Nungarin, Trayning, Wyalkatchem</i>

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2011/12 Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) Regional Component: highest priorities at a glance (at 31 March 2011)

ROC/group	2010/11 CLGF Regional Component highest priorities at a glance
Coastal \$1,056,650	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional cultural facility (located in Lancelin) Visitors centre, TAFE, library, Community Resource Centre (located in Jurien Bay – note this may be funded through SuperTowns) Stage 2 Doctor's Surgery (located in Jurien Bay) Visitor servicing tourism information (Indian Ocean Drive)
AVON ROC \$2,742,412	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Killara Day Care Facility (located in Northam) Wheatbelt Heritage Rail Chittering Bindoon Multipurpose Medical Centre
Central Midlands ROC \$1,205,137	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing associated with 'Regional Repopulation Plan' (located in Dalwallinu) Expansion of frail aged facility (located in Moora)
SEA RTG \$1,811,954	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Regional sport/recreation facilities (located in Beverley and Cunderdin)
Brookton-Pingelly RTG \$624,063	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 1: Increase quality & sustainable housing stock (located in Pingelly)
Lakes & 4WD Well Aged Housing Strategy Regional Alliance \$1,679,430	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Housing for aged persons
DRYANDRA ROC (excl. Pingelly) \$1,795,555	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dryandra Equestrian Centre Narrogin Town Hall Narrogin Heavy Haulage Bypass Stage 1 Regional Waste Facility – Purchase of Land Regional Waste – Transfer Stations
Roe ROC \$1,491,503	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential and industrial land development plan (located in Narembeen) Tourism development (located in Kondinin and Kulin)
Westonia-Yilgarn RTG \$720,573	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodation for Essential Workers
WEROC (excl. Yilgarn and Westonia) \$1,336,841	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Granite Way (tourism trail infrastructure eg signage and facilities) Multi-purpose accommodation
NEWROC \$2,205,781	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent living units/accommodation

* Continuing or completing priority projects for CLGF regional funding in 2010/11

1. Introduction

Purpose

This report has a twofold purpose:

1. To identify Wheatbelt infrastructure priorities for the 2011/12 Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) Regional Component.
2. To 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 2011/12 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
- link to a regional plan (eg RDC strategic or regional investment plan, Regional Planning Committee framework, Regional Development Australia Committee plan, Regional Local Government strategic plan etc)

Alignment to wider regional policy frameworks such as the Regional Development Council's Action Agenda 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 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.

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 RDCs are asked to provide comment on each application relevant to their region and indicate their level of support for the project. The Wheatbelt Development Commission is committed to adding value to the application process through this latter part of its role to help ensure that the business cases are as strong as possible.

Business cases need to be submitted to the Department of Regional Development and Lands (RDL) between 30 October 2011 and 30 May 2012. The closing dates are as follows:

- 30 November 2011
- 28 February 2012
- 30 May 2012

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 (DG) group to ensure the relevant agencies are informed and any issues have been addressed.

The summaries will then be submitted to Cabinet for approval in at least three tranches. Note that if sufficient applications are received between end February and end April, an additional tranche may be submitted to Cabinet. 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 2011/12 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 2010/11 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.

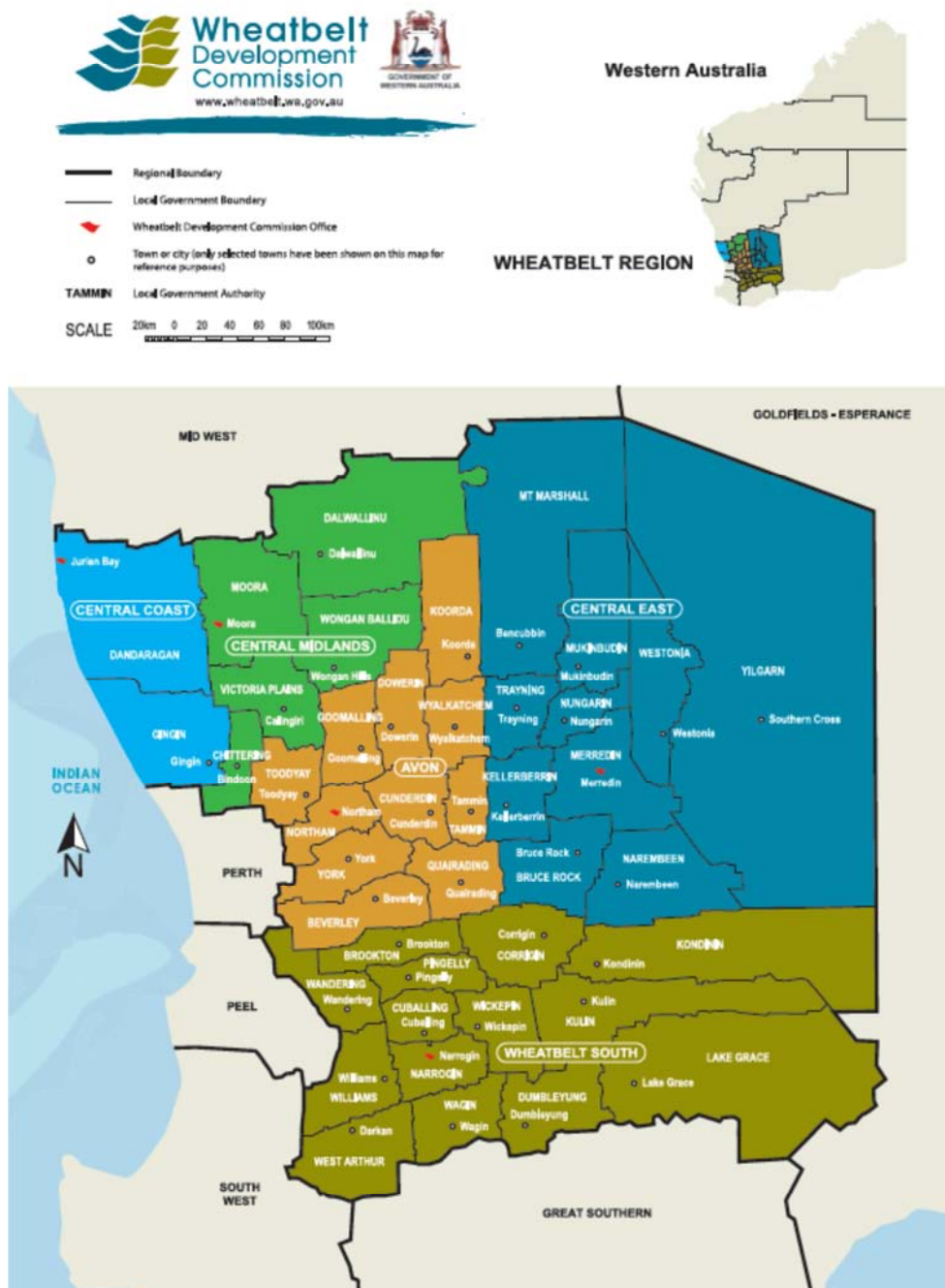
Those parts of the region within two hours travel of Perth CBD are attracting increasing numbers of people looking for a change of lifestyle. The region offers affordable housing and business premises, including established industrial precincts ideal for manufacturing and new industry. Communities that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

The Wheatbelt Development Commission varied the approach for this round. With the experience of 2010/11 to build on, the 2011/12 fora were run as five planning sessions with most combining two or three regional groups 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

- SEA RTG: *Beverley, Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin, York*
- Brookton-Pingelly RTG: *Brookton, Pingelly*

Wheatbelt South

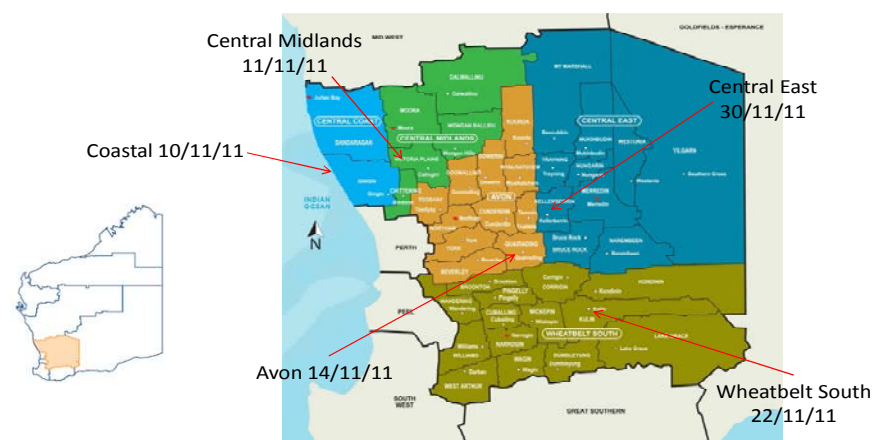
- Lakes and 4WD Well Aged Strategy Regional Alliance: *Dumbleyung, Lake Grace, Wagin (absent), West Arthur (absent), Williams*
- Dryandra VROC: *Cuballing, Narrogin (S), Narrogin (T), Wandering, Wickepin*
- Roe ROC: *Corrigin, Kondinin, Kulin, Narembeen*

Central East

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

The following map shows the location of the five sessions.

The Wheatbelt Region CLGF 2011/12 & Sub-regional Planning Sessions



Each forum was divided into three sessions:

1. Review of regional infrastructure planning
2. The Country Local Government Fund (Regional Component):
 - feedback on 2010/11 and guidelines for 2011/12
 - priorities for 2011/12
3. Linking Project with Regional Planning Priorities

Session one enabled each forum to review and reflect on the 2010 findings in the Towards a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan and discuss progress on the last round of projects and a number of key issues. The ongoing priorities for the whole of region coordination and advocacy by the Wheatbelt Development Commission were then reviewed.



Wendy Newman, Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission, introducing the Avon Forum and reporting on progress since the 2010/11 round.

The first part of session two was conducted by Linda Leonard, Manager Reporting and Evaluation, Department of Regional Development and Lands, to provide feedback on the 2010/11 applications and to discuss the 2011/12 guidelines and the submission and assessment process.



Linda Leonard, Manager Reporting and Evaluation, Department of Regional Development and Lands, giving feedback on the 2010/11 round and outlining the 2011/12 guidelines to the Central East Forum.

The second part of the session identified the priority projects each group wished to submit for CLGF regional funding in 2011/12. As with the previous round, some groups had yet to finalise their priorities by this stage of the process and the forum provided an opportunity for discussion. Most were engaging well with strategic issues at a group level, although a number remained focused on more localised projects. In some cases, the difference was more about how the projects were conceived and planned and less about their nature.

Session three was facilitated by Rebekah Burgess, Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wheatbelt. Rebekah introduced the draft Joint RDA WDC Wheatbelt Strategic Framework and the group then workshopped the key objectives and strategies.



Discussing the draft Joint Wheatbelt Region Strategic Framework at the Coastal Group Forum L-R Val Ammon, Councillor Shire of Gingin, Jan Court, Councillor Shire of Gingin, Pip Gooding, Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission, Tony Nottle, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Dandaragan.

4. Update on Progress

The following issues, plus energy (especially distributed energy from renewable sources) and transport (rail, road and air) were identified as priority issues for the integrated Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan, in the context of the three key drivers of development that emerged:

- Population growth and diversity
- Industry development
- Sustainability

There has been considerable progress on a number of these issues as outlined in the following table. Some have taken a backseat as it became clearer where the most traction could be gained in the areas of highest need.

Issue	Progress
Telecommunications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ September 2010 the State Government announced \$120million to deliver improved mobile telephone and emergency service coverage to regional WA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – \$40million for the Regional Mobile Communications Project (RMCP) – \$80million for the Community Safety Network Project (CSNP) ▪ Digital Television switchover is scheduled for finalisation in the Wheatbelt by June 2013. The Digital Switchover Taskforce will manage the digital switchover process. ▪ The rollout of the National Broadband Network is being managed by NBN Co and proactive Wheatbelt LGA participation can still influence the level of service provided to our Wheatbelt communities. ▪ WDC is working at various stakeholder levels to promote regional solutions for the betterment of Wheatbelt communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – information gathering regarding telecommunications and Digital Television from Wheatbelt LGAs – gathering technical knowledge from specialists – facilitating crucial regional decision making through information dissemination – working with various stakeholders to raise the profile of regional and specifically Wheatbelt issues – development of Regional Telecommunications business case focusing on mobile base towers and ADSL2 – partnering with Regional Development Australia (RDA) Wheatbelt on telecommunications issues and to develop a Regional Digital Strategy
Aged Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal Government released a number of reports in 2011 as part of aged-care reform. Issues highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – recognised challenge at State, National and Global level – increasing need for aged care infrastructure (particularly accommodation) and services – highly fragmented industry – State and Federal Policies support Ageing in Place ▪ WDC conducted audit on existing aged care (infrastructure and services) in the Wheatbelt, which confirmed the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – highly dispersed population – the need for coordinated planning and support – no specialist dementia care available – insufficient public housing

Health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Southern Inland Health Initiative commenced in July 2011 ▪ \$565m package: \$240m in health workforce and services over 4 years and \$325m in capital works over 5 years
Land development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WDC continue to work with Landcorp ▪ Landcorp received largest RDAP expression of interest from Wheatbelt Local Government in 2011
Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WDC commenced research to identify activities/commitment in the Wheatbelt, possible projects and initiatives, funding gaps/requirements

Status of CLGF 2010/11 Regional Group projects for the Wheatbelt March 2012

Regional group and project members	Project Name	Project description	2010/11 CLGF funds applied for	Status March 2012
Exploring Wildflower Country Project Working Group Shires of Morawa, Perenjori, Mullewa, Dalwallinu and City of Geraldton - Greenough	Exploring Wildflower Country (EWC) Project	The key goal of this project is to help this region expand its tourist season beyond the two or three months of 'wildflower season' that runs from late July to early October. The EWC project comprises an inland tourist route that features interesting aspects of the area including its unique landscape, historical sites and primary industries (agriculture and mining). It includes 22 specifically selected stopping points along the route from Dalwallinu to Geraldton.	\$433,000	Funds requisitioned
Westonia Yilgarn Regional Council Shires of Yilgarn and Westonia	Wild Dog Fence	This project will construct a strategically significant missing section of (165km) of the State Barrier Fence to protect pastoral and grazing industries in the region from the impact of wild dogs, emus and kangaroos. It is estimated that the project will generate approximately \$4.4m in annual savings to the primary industries in the South West region.	\$441,386	Completed Financial Assistance Agreement. Funds requisitioned

Regional group and project members	Project Name	Project description	2010/11 CLGF funds applied for	Status March 2012
North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) Shires of Trayning, Mukinbudin, Nungarin, Wyalkatchem, Koorda, Mt Magnet	The Wheatbelt Way	The project seeks to create a tourist drive trail linking the attractions and communities of the eight shires by upgrading appropriate existing tourism infrastructure and building new necessary tourism infra-structure across the region. Tourism has been identified as a growth industry sector for the Wheatbelt region and the trail is the priority project for the NEWROC shires.	\$1,351,148	Funds requisitioned
Brookton-Pingelly Regional Transition Group Shires of Brookton and Pingelly	Brookton-Pingelly Transfer Stations	The project involves closing two locally managed landfill sites, located in Brookton and Pingelly, remediating these sites and establishing new transfer stations on the existing sites.	\$382,269	Funds requisitioned
Central Midlands VROC Shires of Wongan Ballidu and Moora	Community Resource Centre - Wongan Hills	Construction of a new Community Resource Centre as part of the Wongan Hills Community Resource Precinct.	\$465,783	Funds requisitioned
Lakes and 4WD Well Aged Housing Strategy Regional Alliance Shires of Williams, Dumbleyung, Kent, Lake Grace, Wagin, West Arthur, Woodanilling	Well-Aged Persons Housing in the Lakes and 4WD districts	To build 38 units of housing in the next 5 years subject to funding availability. The aim of the project is to allow residents to age in place and to potentially attract retirees to the region to support population growth and contribute to the social fabric.	\$1,165,993	Funds requisitioned
WEROC Shires of Merredin, Kellerberrin, Bruce Rock	Water Reuse/Demonstration Project	To construct a dam and install evaporation minimisation devices.	\$400,000	Funds requisitioned
RoeROC Shires of Kondinin, Corrigin, Narembeen, Kulin	Upgrade of the Norseman - Hyden Road	Upgrade of the Norseman - Hyden Road from SLK 20.9 at the State Barrier fence and through to the Flying Fox mine entrance at SLK 47.6.	\$480,000	Funds requisitioned

Regional group and project members	Project Name	Project description	2010/11 CLGF funds applied for	Status November 2011
Katanning/Wagin Regional Group Shires of Katanning and Wagin	Upper Great Southern Regional Entertainment Centre	Redevelopment of the Katanning town hall into a 380 seat regional entertainment centre.	\$350,000	Funds requisitioned
Dryandra VROC Shires of Narrogin, Cuballing, Wandering, Wickepin and Town of Narrogin	Narrogin Airport Headworks Power Upgrade	Upgrade Narrogin Airport to high voltage three-phase power.	\$317,739	Funds requisitioned
Dryandra VROC Shires of Narrogin, Cuballing, Wandering, Wickepin, Kulin and Town of Narrogin	Regional Fuel Facilities in Wandering, Wickepin and Kulin	To install 24/7 regional fuel facilities in Wandering, Wickepin and Kulin.	\$525,886	Funds requisitioned
Dryandra VROC Shires of Narrogin, Cuballing, Wandering, Wickepin and Town of Narrogin	Centre for Agriculture and Farm Technology - Narrogin	Earthworks for stage 1 of a new TAFE campus for Narrogin.	\$140,702	Draft FAA with Town
Dryandra VROC Shires of Narrogin, Cuballing, Wandering, Wickepin and Town of Narrogin	Dryandra Regional Equestrian Centre	To construct an undercover arena, cross country course and show jumping arena.	\$315,297	Funds requisitioned
WEROC Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin and Merredin	Granite Way - Development Project	Provide facilities for day visitors to Kokerbin Rock as stage 1 of the Granite Way project.	\$20,000	Draft FAA with Shire
SEARTG Shires of Quairading, Beverley, Cunderdin, Tammin and York	Headworks for Quairading Community Resource Centre	Headworks associated with the construction of the Quairading Community Resource Centre.	\$200,000	Funds requisitioned
SEARTG Shires of Quairading, Beverley, Cunderdin, Tammin and York	York Convention and Recreation Centre	Construction of the York Convention and Recreation Centre.	\$910,000	Funds requisitioned

Regional group and project members	Project Name	Project description	2010/11 CLGF funds applied for	Status March 2012
RoeROC Shires of Kondinin, Corrigin, Narembene and Kulin	Upgrade of the Corrigin Regional Medical Centre	The project is a capital works upgrade of the Corrigin Medical Centre to extend the current practice to include two new consulting rooms, one new office and new unisex disabled toilets and shower.	\$250,000	Funds requisitioned
Avon ROC Shires of Northam, Chittering, Dowerin, Goomalling, Toodyay and Victoria Plains	Extension of Killara Adult Day Care and Respite Centre	Construction of a purpose built respite care centre, (which will in turn enable the current 'dual use' day care centre to revert to its intended usage).	\$1,700,000 (approx)	Funds requisitioned
WEROC Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin and Tammin	Upgrade of the Central Wheatbelt Harness Racing Club Facility	Improve facilities at the Central Wheatbelt's only harness racing facility, as part of the larger development of the Kellerberrin Regional Recreation and Leisure Centre.	\$400,000	Funds requisitioned
COASTAL Shires of Dandaragan and Gingin	Gingin Regional Hardcourt Facility	Stage 4 of Gingin Regional Hardcourt Facility to undertake landscaping, entry statements, drainage and car park construction around facility	\$274,500	Funds requisitioned
COASTAL Shires of Dandaragan and Gingin	Jurien Bay Health Centre Development	Expand the primary health medical facilities in Jurien Bay by converting the former Doctor's residence into consulting rooms. This project is adjacent to the existing Jurien Bay health campus building on the health precinct.	\$372,750	Draft FAA with Shire

Benefits of regional collaboration

As the groups reported on their progress on 2010/11 projects, it was clear that some had been highly effective in finding and exploiting advantages from regional collaboration. The tourism related projects were all good examples of this. The Lakes and 4WD Well Aged Housing Strategy Regional Alliance provided another excellent example. The benefits this group experienced from applying a regional model are highlighted in the box below.

Example of the additional benefits regional collaboration can bring

Lakes and 4WD Well Aged Housing Strategy Regional Alliance

Shires of Williams, Dumbleyung, Kent, Lake Grace, Wagin, West Arthur, Woodanilling

Well-Aged Persons Housing in the Lakes and 4WD districts: 38 units of housing over 5 years to allow residents to age in place and to potentially attract retirees to the region to support population growth and contribute to the local economy and community

What has the regional approach achieved beyond what the Shires could have achieved separately?

- Based on a robust Well Aged Strategy for the region
- Pooling resources has enabled a regional solution based on need rather than individual funding which is a better result for the communities
- Enables a much more effective regional approach to marketing
- Able to rationalize existing assets - better utilization and reallocation of resources to better meet the actual needs/preferences
- Project management effectiveness and efficiency
- Potential for leveraging

5. Priorities for Wheatbelt-wide Coordination and Advocacy

The planning sessions provided an excellent 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 three highest priorities for Wheatbelt-wide coordination and advocacy by the Wheatbelt Development Commission to emerge from the planning sessions were:

- Telecommunications
- Health care
- Aged care

The table below summarises the majority view on the priorities, according to how they rated 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 	Be alert for opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Impact of Carbon Tax ■ Education
	2	Actively monitor and engage as applicable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Barriers to land development (particularly utilities¹) ■ Housing ■ Transport ■ Energy ■ Water 	Watching brief <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aviation industry development ■ Tourism infrastructure ■ Waste management ■ Heritage ■ Childcare

A further issue that surfaced during the planning sessions in this round as in the 2010/11 round was the lack of a Wheatbelt-wide information strategy and resources for regional and sub-regional strategic planning (see section 7).

6. Feedback on 2010/11 Applications

Linda Leonard, Manager Reporting and Evaluation, Department of Regional Development and Lands, conducted a session to provide feedback on the CLGF 2010/11 applications and outline the changes in the 2011/12 guidelines and process.

Her feedback on the 2010/11 round highlighted what needs to improve for 2011/12 applications:

- Risk management plans: risk is related to what the project wants to achieve and what would happen to the community if the project doesn't occur, suffers a significant setback in its implementation or isn't successful once operational. What control measures are put in place to mitigate the risk? "Not receiving funding" is not a risk in this sense.
- Cost Benefit Analysis: costs were recorded but generally not the long and short term benefits/impacts. These should be quantified as much as possible, accompanied by good description and analysis of the non-quantifiable benefits.
- Letters of support: relevant agency support is crucial and should be clearly documented. Ministers and DG's of the portfolios where the project fits must know about the project so that it can be recognised at Cabinet level. If other relevant parties are supporting the project (such as community groups), their support should also be documented.

¹ Note that issues relating to utilities were not separately identified by all the regional groups (see Appendix 1). However, this may understate the pervasiveness of such concerns as land development, which includes issues relating to utilities, was identified as an issue by all the regional groups. It is also acknowledged that expanding existing supplies isn't necessarily the best option and opportunities for better utilisation of our water and energy, such as water harvesting/recycling/reuse and solar panels also need to be considered.

- Project title and project description: it is vital that the nature and purpose of the project is as clear as possible to anyone reading a summary during the assessment process.
- Third party ownership: if third party ownership is involved, documented agreements for future management and maintenance/operations of the project must be provided.
- Performance and impact measures: the measures need to cover implementation of the project (ie on time, on budget etc) but also how success will be measured in terms of what it means for the community – these need to relate to the benefits that were identified in the cost benefit analysis.

7. Development Strategy for the Wheatbelt

The need for a development strategy 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 information² 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 as³:

- strong local governance and leadership;

² 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.

³ 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

- 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.

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 features⁴:

- 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”⁵.

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 performance⁶:

- 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 patchy⁷. An overarching development strategy for the Wheatbelt, with

⁴ OECD (2006) ‘The New Rural Paradigm: Policies and Governance’, OECD Rural Policy Reviews, pp. 15, 16

⁵ Stimpson, R., Stough, R., Salazar, M. 2009, Leadership and Institutions in Regional Endogenous Development, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham p. 1

⁶ OECD (2001) ‘Local Partnerships for Better Governance’, Local Economic and Employment Development

⁷ 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)

appropriate governance, resourcing and agency accountability could go a long way towards addressing this.

The Wheatbelt Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework (WRPIF), to be developed under the purview of the recently established Wheatbelt Planning Advisory Committee (see next section) may fulfil this role.

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

An overview of the Wheatbelt planning environment 2012



Key Elements of the Wheatbelt Strategic Planning Environment

Action Agenda for Regional Development

A strategy (and associated fund) for regional infrastructure is the 'Action Agenda for Regional Development' which "...sets out the Regional Development Council's priorities and outcomes for regional development in Western Australia"⁸. The six priority areas are housing and services; employment, infrastructure and skills; health; education; social and environmental amenity; and leadership and decision-making.

The Regional Development Council is the peak advisory body to the Western Australian Government on regional development issues. The Council consists of the chairpersons of the nine Regional Development Commissions, two local government representatives and the Director General of the Department of Regional Development and Lands. The functions of the Council are to:

- promote development in the regions
- develop policy proposals on regional issues
- assist commissions and relevant government agencies to work closely on regional issues
- report back to the Government on matters referred to it.

Regional Development Trust Focus Areas 2012/13

The Regional Development Trust is established by statute as an independent advisory body to the Minister. The Trust has been tasked to broadly oversee the Royalties for Regions program and to provide high level independent and impartial advice and recommendations on the policy, allocation and management of expenditure from the Royalties for Regions Fund. At the time of writing, the Trust was completing a review of the Country Local Government Fund.

The 2012/13 Focus Areas for the Trust are:

- water / regional wastewater, reuse and urban water
- human capacity building / regional leadership
- improving Aboriginal participation in the regional workforce
- regional land and food strategy and planning
- investment in regional strategic corridors
- retaining aged populations in the regions
- regional business and industry innovation and support
- energy supplementation

Wheatbelt Land Use and Infrastructure Planning

The Department of Planning embarked on a Wheatbelt Land Use Planning Strategy in 2010 and undertook considerable research, analysis and consultation. This exercise was subsequently replaced by an initiative to develop a Planning and Infrastructure Framework for the Wheatbelt, to be overseen by a new Wheatbelt Planning Advisory Committee.

⁸ Regional Development Council 2011, p. 4

WDC RDA Wheatbelt Strategic Framework

A strategic framework for the Wheatbelt region was developed collaboratively by 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.

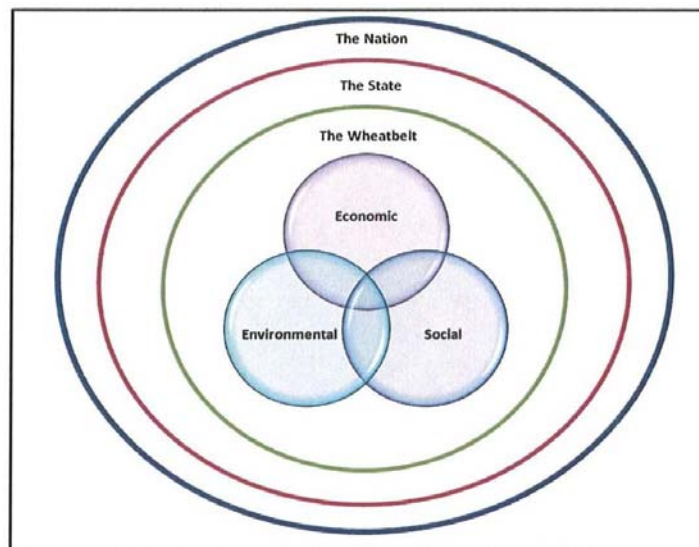
Behind this framework will sit a range of strategies to deliver on these strategic objectives. The nature and focus of these initiatives will vary at local, sub regional and whole of region level. RDA Wheatbelt and the Commission's primary role in many of these initiatives will be to:

- 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

Wheatbelt Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework (WRPIF)

This framework was initiated in November 2011 in partnership between the Department of Planning and the Wheatbelt Development Commission under the auspices of the Wheatbelt Planning Advisory Committee (WPAC). It is due for completion late 2012.

The WPAC has been established by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Department of Planning. It reflects their commitment to a collaborative approach. The Committee is charged with providing essential information in formulating and describing a strategic perspective of the region for the next twenty years. That perspective will embrace the major regional planning issues. The framework will establish infrastructure priorities and highlight policy issues and the broader actions needed. The infrastructure priorities will be considered through the Infrastructure Coordinating Committee of the WAPC, which will provide advice to government on the funding of regional priorities.

Super Towns

The government has also commenced the "Super Towns" initiative, part of the Royalties for Regions suite of programmes. This initiative is to invest in growth plans, initially for nine regional centres, of which two (Northam and Jurien Bay) are located in the Wheatbelt. There is funding available for the planning process for the Super Towns. They were selected in accordance with the following criteria⁹:

- Potential for population expansion
- Potential for economic expansion and diversification
- Strong local governance capabilities
- Generation of net benefits to Western Australia

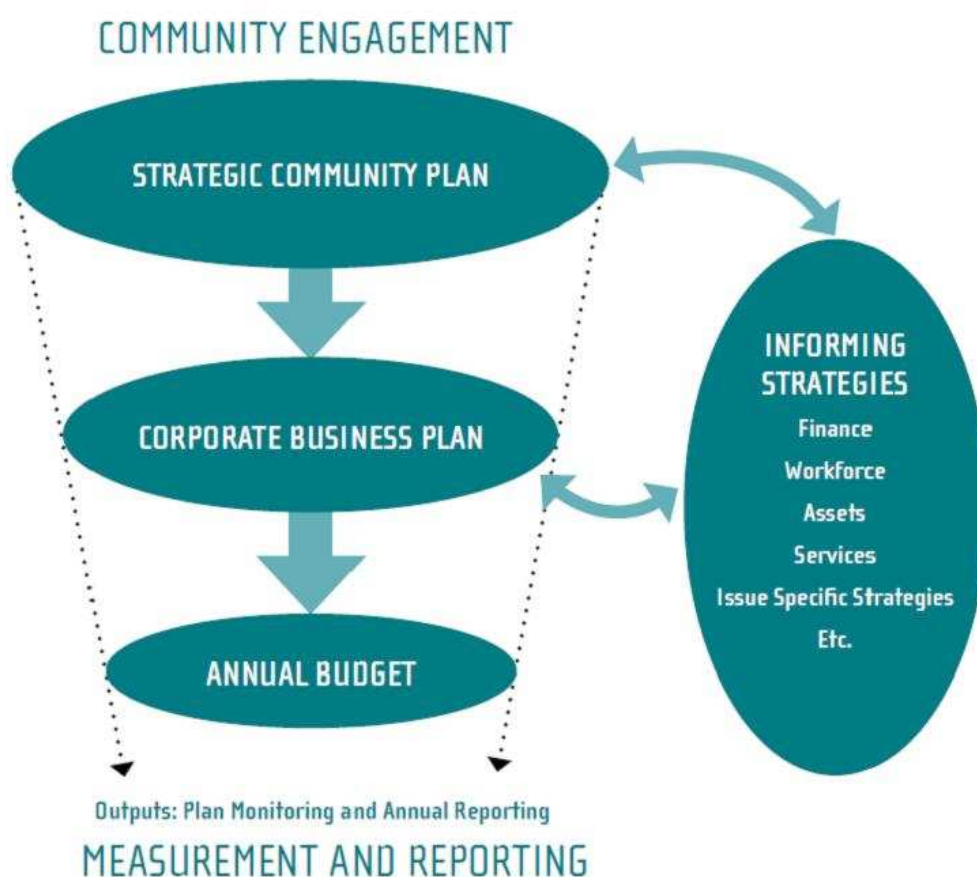
The spillover impacts of the Supertowns initiative on the surrounding Shires gives an imperative for their involvement in the planning work.

⁹ Department of Regional Development and Lands 2011, p.1

Integrated Planning and Reporting

WA now has an integrated planning and reporting (IPR) framework. All local governments are required to develop Strategic Community Plans and Corporate Business Plans, as well as three key Informing Strategies (Asset Management Plans, Workforce Plans and Long Term Financial Strategies) as shown in the following diagram.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework for WA Local Government



The Strategic Community Plan is a long term (10+ years) plan that sets out the community's vision and priorities, and the Council's focus for achieving social, economic, environmental and civic leadership outcomes. It needs to be based on good information, including demographics, industry trends etc, relevant government plans, strategic issues facing community and the Council's baseline financial position.

In comparison with previous requirements, the new framework is based more strongly in communities' aspirations, links strategic plans to resourcing, has a longer term planning horizon and ensures all the components are in alignment.

Evidence of integrated strategic planning is increasingly being required in local government applications for grant funding.

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 and confirmed in the 2011/12 round. 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.

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

[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 advantage¹⁰.

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

¹⁰ 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 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
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boating facilities • Female prisoner work camp • Regional sale yard • 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
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

Report from the Coastal Forum, held on 10 November 2011

Regional Group/s:

- Coastal (Gingin, Dandaragan)

Attendees

David Burt	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Gingin
Val Ammon	Councillor, Shire of Gingin
Linda Fidge	Community Development Office, Shire of Gingin
Jan Court	Councillor, Shire of Gingin
Tony Nottle	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Dandaragan
Bob Bower	Community Economic Development Officer, Shire of Dandaragan
Laurie Short	Deputy President, Shire of Dandaragan
Wendy Newman	Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Carol Redford	Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Alison Dalziel	Facilitator, Morrison Low
Rebekah Burgess	Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Jo Burgess	Regional Cooperation Manager, WALGA
Linda Leonard	Manager Reporting and Evaluation, Department of Regional Development and Lands

SESSION 1: Update on 2010/11 Country Local Government Regional Infrastructure Planning

1a) Are there any gaps in the current priorities for region-wide coordination and advocacy?

- Carbon Tax
 - Keep watching brief
- Aviation Industry Development
 - Circulate update
 - Identify any opportunities to accelerate progress
- Infill Sewerage Policy (driving cost) and prioritisation
 - Circulate update

1b) What are the highest/lower priorities for region-wide coordination and advocacy?

Highest Priorities

- Telecommunications (key role of digital strategy)
- Health (including strategic approach to Coastal Health within SIHI)
- Aged Care

Lower Priorities

- Waste Management
- Land Development

1c) Additional comments

Discussion focused on aviation opportunities, need for employment and large industrial opportunities in Coastal sub-region and the need to keep a watching brief on education particularly in regards to the formation of clusters (school networks). Central Coast Employment Strategy to be circulated to the Shires of Gingin and Dandaragan.

There was also great discussion on the need for cultural facilities in the Wheatbelt and the potential to develop the arts and cultural sector.

SESSION 2: Country Local Government Fund Regional Infrastructure Planning 2011/12

Coastal CLGF Group Project Priorities for 2011/12

- Lancelin Regional Cultural Facility (through to 2012/13).
- Visitors Centre, TAFE, Library, CRC in Jurien Bay
- Jurien Bay Doctor's Surgery Stage 2 (\$200,000)
- In reserve: Indian Ocean Tourist Drive and Jurien Bay Doctor's Surgery Stage 3

Note that with various funding options, the scheduling and funding sources of these projects was still being determined at the time of the Forum.

Regional Outcomes

- Culture and arts development
- Tourism
- Coastal region development (iconic architecture)

There are different "catchments of regional benefit", including the combined Shires but also the wider catchment that each Shire services beyond its own boundaries but not limited to the two Shires in the Coastal group.

SESSION 3: Regional Planning Priorities

Wendy Newman and Rebekah Burgess facilitated this session.

The Joint Wheatbelt Region Strategic Framework, an RDA Wheatbelt and WDC initiative was drafted to help shape a shared vision for the Wheatbelt region. For this session, participants were divided into three groups to discuss the Strategic Focus objectives and strategies that could be implemented to meet these objectives. Each group presented their strategies to the rest of the group at the completion of the workshop.

Vibrant Economy

Objective 1: Skilled workers of all ages are attracted and retained to meet the needs of the region and the State

- Embracing a variety of skilled workers ie. Fly-in Fly-out/Drive-in Drive-out
 - Implement Central Coast Employment Strategy
- Attractive lifestyle particularly variety of accommodation (rent, purchase, tourism)
 - Support Heartlands WA
- Industry specific training ie. Marine, tourism/hospitality
 - Support E-learning initiatives/opportunities
- Taking advantage of complimentary industries to develop industry hubs
 - Fishing, Processing and Packaging, Boat storage/maintenance/engineering, Marine recreation, marine research and innovation

- Boutique/niche industry emergence (horticulture value adding/home based industries)
- Broad acre agriculture/horticulture/processing and packaging, machinery dealerships and maintenance
- Arts/culture/recreation
- Aviation/recreation/training/engineering
- Tourism/accommodation/hospitality/service sector/training/recreation

Objective 2: The region has a diverse economic base that builds on the Wheatbelt's attributes

- Greater promotion of the Wheatbelt (Coastal sub-region) to live, work, invest and visit.
- Agri-produce diversification (plus value-adding) and planning that influences policies (ie. Water) and strategies.
- Processing locally grown produce (processing and packaging) ie. citrus Industry and packaging.

Objective 3: Key strategic infrastructure is identified and invested in

- Power (330 KV line plus spur lines)
 - Alternative Energy opportunities
- Water (policy change required re: underground water supply)
 - Access to for potable and industry use
 - Recycling/reuse opportunities
- In-fill Sewerage
- Transport Infrastructure and links to rail/road/airport/seaport
- Diverse accommodation stock

Objective 4: Opportunities for marginalized Wheatbelt residents result in economic independence

- Social services based in the region and ability to move between communities (Not Drive-in Drive-out project based)
- Telecommunications essential (ie. E-Health, Access to E-services such as Medicare, Centrelink)
- Public Transport (heavy reliance on volunteer services/resources)
 - Transwa does not have direct service to Coastal communities such as Lancelin and Jurien Bay.

Liveable Communities

Objective 1: A collaborative strategy ensures health, education, aged and youth/children's services reflect the needs of current and future Wheatbelt residents

- Get decision makers/stakeholders at the table
 - Set short, medium and long term goals
 - ♦ Who is doing what
 - ♦ What is community need?
 - ♦ Common infrastructure needs identified
 - ♦ Prevent current duplication
- Engage community on need (as opposed to want) based on evidence
 - Demographics
 - Education/health profiles
 - Accounts for key drivers (ie. water, climate)
- Are local, regional, state and federal plans aligned to forecast need
- Who is best placed to deliver?
 - Local
 - Drive-in drive-out/Fly-in Fly-out
 - Formal/informal structures?

- Government, Not-for-profit, Private? Via technology
- Community ownership of issues/action and its community vision for what it wants its community to look like: 'Self determined liveability'

Objective 2: *Communities innovate, co-operate and value diversity +*

Objective 3: *Diverse cultural, sport and recreational activities contribute to community well being*

- Value our strengths/areas of difference (macro and micro)
 - Understand what others value about us and ensure its retained
- Place/process for meeting of minds and welcoming/engaging people
- Ensuring range of interests (beyond sport) is catered for
- Build environment that facilitates this

Objective 4: *Community amenity is well designed to enhance employment, lifestyle opportunities and community safety*

- Planning well into future (moving from planning 'what is' to planning 'what could be')
- Easier ways of undoing bad decisions
- Land use better linked to a strategic process (rather than reactive)
- Design community space/hub focus
 - Shops
 - Different groups
 - Different functions (eg. Centrelink)

Valued Natural Amenity

Objective 1: *Climate change opportunities are pursued, and risk minimized*

- Appropriate planning at State and Local level
- Provision of appropriate infrastructure funded by Government (ie. Seawalls protect from coastal erosion)
- Agricultural land is planned with respect to climate change (ie. Perennial species)
- Innovative agricultural practices

Objective 2: *Diverse natural assets are valued and managed to protect biodiversity with compatible land use*

- River health planning and management
- Maintenance of and protection of National Parks/wetlands
- Protection of night sky-scapes (minimize light pollution)
- Management of human traffic on foreshore/coastal area/sensitive land systems
- Controlled access to natural areas that are locked away at present
- Planning for fire protection/fuel load balance with natural amenity

Objective 3: *Water management is improved for the benefit of community amenity and industry development*

- Sustainable use of water sources and water planning (ie. For horticulture industry)
- Plan for possible desalination plant
- Coordination at State and Local level planning of water resource allocation
- Planning for loss of water aquifer to Perth metro use

Report from the Central Midlands Forum, held on 11 November 2011

Regional Group/s:

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

Attendees

Allan Middleton	Acting Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Moora
Rebecca McCall	Economic Development Officer, Shire of Moora
Colin Gardiner	Councillor, Shire of Moora
Clem Kerp	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Goomalling
John Bird	President, Shire of Goomalling
Neville Hale	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Northam
Dacre Alcock	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Dowerin
Dale Metcalf	President, Shire of Dowerin
Harry Hawkins	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Victoria Plains
David Lovelock	Councillor, Shire of Victoria Plains
Lindsay Delahaunty	Acting Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay
Kevin Hogg	President, Shire of Toodyay
Gary Tuffin	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Chittering
Alex Douglas	Councillor, Shire of Chittering
Peter Crispen	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Dalwallinu
Robert Nixon	President, Shire of Dalwallinu
Stuart Taylor	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Wongan
Wendy Newman	Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Rebecca Kelly	Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Alison Dalziel	Facilitator, Morrison Low
Rebekah Burgess	Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Robert Dew	Executive Officer, Avon Midland Country Zone
Linda Leonard	Manager Reporting and Evaluation, Department of Regional Development and Lands

SESSION 1: Update on 2010/11 Country Local Government Regional Infrastructure Planning

1a) Are there any gaps in the current priorities for region-wide coordination and advocacy?

- Utilities (including but not solely related to land development)
- Housing (in particular for workforce)
 - Facilitate multi-group approach
- Recycling; advocacy
- Recreation
 - Support (especially for funding aspect)
 - Strategic planning (sport and recreation; arts and culture)
- Transport (road, rail, aviation)
 - Watching brief/advocacy (as need dictates)

- Wheatbelt priorities for State Roads eg. Ballidu – Pithara bottle-neck (Northam-Pithara road)

1b) What are the highest/lower priorities for region-wide coordination and advocacy?

Highest Priorities

- Aged care/Health Services (including Mental Health)
- Telecommunications
- Housing
- Land Development

Lower Priorities

- Waste Management

1c) Additional comments

- WDC bringing departments together is one of the key benefits of WDC's role (break down silos and bring them to the table with Local Government)
- Planning for health services in the Central Midlands and Coastal sub-regions is an issue that needs to be recognized.
- Note strong links between Aged Care (including Dementia care) and Health Services
- Strategic approach to provision of services (ie. some facilities not coping as overburdened)
- Telecommunication opportunities and issues were raised, including retransmission cost and licensing for digital TV coverage. It was noted that the WDC is working with Jim Wyatt from the Department of Commerce for up-to-date information on telecommunications.

SESSION 2: Country Local Government Fund Regional Infrastructure Planning 2011/12

Avon ROC CLGF Group Project Priorities for 2011/12

1. Killara Stage 2, as per rationale TWIP pg. 38 (\$700,000)
2. Wheatbelt Heritage Rail \$1.7m
3. Plus one other project/multiple projects to be confirmed (approx \$900,000)

Regional Outcomes (Wheatbelt Heritage Rail)

- More people in the area
- Jobs/Employment opportunities
 - Positive impact on regional economy (tourism)
 - Skills development
- Self supporting and sustainable (post capital expenditure)
- Saving heritage rail and rolling stock (also a historic Wheat bin)
- Reconnecting the City and Country
- Revitalisation (townsites)
- Private investment (leveraging) ie. CBH
- 4 years in the making (4 years of planning)
- Potential to expand/outreach to other communities (Wongan Hills) and project scope ie. Thomas the Tank Engine
- Strong regional support
- Taps into volunteering (ie. Steam Train Drivers)

CMVROC CLGF Group Project Priorities for 2011/12

1. Housing: 'Regional Repopulation Plan' (\$400,000)
2. Health: Expansion of Moora Frail Aged Lodge

Regional Outcomes (Regional Repopulation Plan)

- Pilot Project (transferable)
- Resettling migrants
- Perth Working Group established and part of this plan (an inter-agency group led by the Office of Multi-cultural Interests)
- Supported by region and local community; WA-wide benefits
- Development of a sub-regional housing strategy
- Economic benefit: targeting labour shortage
- Social Impact: utilise infrastructure/local services; use existing capacity; enriching social fabric

Regional Outcomes (Expansion of Moora Frail Aged Lodge)

***This application has applied to RDC Action Agenda Fund. If successful will not need to apply to CLGF.*

- Expand accommodation from 9 beds to 14 beds
- Relieving pressure on Frail Aged accommodation elsewhere
- Provide for more people in the region
- Supports Ageing in Place
 - Social benefit of people being able to stay in community
- Other support services in place so more sustainable

SESSION 3: Regional Planning Priorities

Wendy Newman and Rebekah Burgess facilitated this session.

The Joint Wheatbelt Region Strategic Framework, an RDA Wheatbelt and WDC initiative was drafted to help shape a shared vision for the Wheatbelt region. For this session, participants were divided into three groups to discuss the Strategic Focus objectives and strategies that could be implemented to meet these objectives. Each group presented their strategies to the rest of the group at the completion of the workshop.

Vibrant Economy

Objective 1: Skilled workers of all ages are attracted and retained to meet the needs of the region and the State

- Accommodation
 - Diverse stock (workers, youth etc)
 - Equality
 - Need to attract private investment
- Quality social infrastructure
 - Education
 - Health
 - Recreation
- Database of skills
 - Skills audit
 - Who is already in the region?
 - Tap in to Fly-in Fly-out/Drive in Drive-out workforce
- Access to different sectors of the labour market
 - Part time and alternative employment. Attractive to aged, mothers etc
 - Tele working
 - Community; within and outside the region
- Partner skilled older people with unskilled young people for skill transfer
- Eco and Heritage Tourism

- Upskilling/training within the region

Objective 2: *The region has a diverse economic base that builds on the Wheatbelt's attributes*

- Food production value-add industry
 - Packaging, logistics
- Promote transport hub opportunities
 - Connected via rail, road and air
 - Intermodal transport hub (Avon Industrial Park)

Objective 3: *Key strategic infrastructure is identified and invested in*

- Power, water, telecommunications
 - Needs to be sufficient to enable industry development
 - Targets investment in Industrial Parks/Precincts
- Housing (as per Objective 1 comments)
- Frequency and efficiency of rail
 - Opportunities for freight haulage
 - Need to enable community via public transport through improved Avon Link services

Objective 4: *Opportunities for marginalized Wheatbelt residents result in economic independence*

- Incentives for engagement in the workforce
- Regional employment targets and strategies for marginalized groups
- Upskilling through alternative means
 - Targeted education to meet workforce needs
- Innovative engagement (ie. Northam's AMAC Management)

Liveable Communities

Objective 1: *A collaborative strategy ensures health, education, aged and youth/children's services reflect the needs of current and future Wheatbelt residents*

- Appropriate level of infrastructure to meet peoples expectations ie. Health, Education services.
 - Good transport network. Linkage between services
- A vibrant community spirit. Good tribal attitude (proud of your community/bring out the best)
- Drivers provision of services for all demographics
- Maintain safe living environment

Objective 2: *Communities innovate, co-operate and value diversity*

- Discussion focused on whether this objective was required. It was felt that this objective was covered by the other three objectives. It may need re-working.
- Alternatively there was a view that to be a Living Community you need to have those objectives - to be innovative, co-operative and value diversity.

Objective 3: *Diverse cultural, sport and recreational activities contribute to community well being*

- Need an appropriate level of recreational and cultural facilities because this provides the social interaction to occur that connects our communities
- Develop Multi-purpose facilities (support co-located initiatives)
- Whole of community must be able to access facilities ie. Sport and Recreation Programs for the very young and the aged

- Access
 - Design
 - Transport
 - Technology

Objective 4: *Community amenity is well designed to enhance employment, lifestyle opportunities and community safety*

- Maintain safe living environment
- Utilising iconic nature of the community
- Maintain the unique characteristics of the town
- Ensure long term planning serves to maintain communities characteristics
 - Appropriate long term planning
- Large diversity and sustainable amenities in the region will enhance those criteria being employment and lifestyle opportunities
- Retail services
- Value the region's heritage (European and Aboriginal; see Liveable Communities objective 1 point 2)
 - People
 - Customs
 - Infrastructure

Valued Natural Amenity

Objective 1: *Climate change opportunities are pursued, and risk minimized*

- Innovative renewable energy (with storage capacity)
- Tree planting
- Carbon trading (strategy = 18 bills/acts of parliament)
- Waste management (recycling, emerging alternatives)
- Efficiencies re: energy/possible diversification

Objective 2: *Diverse natural assets are valued and managed to protect biodiversity with compatible land use*

- Waste management (identifying innovative ways to use green bin waste)
 - Local Management (maximum local control, LGA's and community)
 - Fencing for protection
 - Feral animal control
 - Wildflowers
 - Natural reserves
- } Develop these as tourism interests (interpretation)

Objective 3: *Water management is improved for the benefit of community amenity and industry development.*

- Water re-use for green spaces
- Greater on farm storage (harvesting and storage vs scheme) for self sufficiency
- Audit of natural resources
- Attracting compatible industries
- Increased engagement/management/partnership with regards to water management (particularly allocation)

Objective 4: *Renewable natural resources are employed in a sustainable, profitable and productive manner*

- Encourage industry/ies using plant based resources
- Better understanding of carbon trading and future implications
- Encourage innovation for greater cost efficiency/ies
- Biochar/electricity generation

Report from the Avon Forum, held on 14 November 2011

Regional Group/s:


- South East Avon Regional Transition Group (Beverley, Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin, York)
- Brookton-Pingelly Regional Transition Group (Brookton, Pingelly)

Attendees

Michelle Samson	Community Development Officer, Shire of Cunderdin
Rod Carter	President, Shire of Cunderdin
Graham Cooper	Councillor, Shire of Cunderdin
Graeme Fardon	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Quairading
Graham Stanley	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Tammin
Tanya Greenwood	Community Development Officer, Shire of Tammin
Ray Hooper	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of York
Tony Boyle	Councillor, Shire of York
Roy Scott	Deputy President, Shire of York
Mick Oliver	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Pingelly
Shirley Langey	Councillor, Shire of Pingelly
Gary Clarke	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Brookton
Stephen Gollan	Acting Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Beverley
Dee Ridgeway	President, Shire of Beverley
Steve Pollard	President, Shire of Northam
Wendy Newman	Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Grant Arthur	Director of Regional Services, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Kirby	Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Janine Hatch	Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Alison Dalziel	Facilitator, Morrison Low
Rebekah Burgess	Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Linda Leonard	Manager Reporting and Evaluation, Department of Regional Development and Lands

SESSION 1: Update on 2010/11 Country Local Government Regional Infrastructure Planning

1a) Are there any gaps in the current priorities for region-wide coordination and advocacy?

- Utilities for land development
 - Drainage
 - Sewerage
 - Energy
 - Water Beyond the subdivision (whole network)
- Better understanding of cost of development vs selling price
- Housing; workforce
- Transport
 - Corridor planning based on what assumptions? Whole of Wheatbelt planning
 - Federal regulation of Heavy Vehicle transport
- Retrofit drainage given climate (increase in severe storm events)

- Energy
 - Hard to set clear pricing
 - Can't yet feed back alternative energy
 - Power lines inadequate (ie. York can only accommodate 86 more houses before it reaches capacity)
 - Update on energy issue to be circulated
- Rules preventing alternative solutions in gazette water supply areas (Department of Health issue)
- Water
- Education
 - Needs similar process to Health MOU Group
 - Note: need for coordination re local facilities
- Heritage
 - No proper public policy/management

1b) What are the highest/lower priorities for region-wide coordination and advocacy?

Highest Priorities

- Health
- Aged care
- Telecommunications
- Transport planning/advocacy

Lower Priorities

- Waste management

1c) Additional comments

- Health: Medical vs Health (check results of Mia Davies survey)
- Aged care:
 - need whole of sector approach to avoid a destructive bidding war between Local Governments for Private/Charitable Aged Care providers
 - Global Care model - can that provide more of a solution across the Wheatbelt?
 - links with land use planning (can't subdivide for 'ageing in place')
 - links with public transport (can be some distance from facilities)
 - can aged care be added to the Health MOU Group?)
- Local Government needs to be involved in telecommunications planning as they are best placed to provide information on tower location
- Native Title (transport) – coordinated approach?
- Waste management – AROC (and CMVROC) have conducted a Waste Feasibility Study. There needed to be more research on site identification. Opportunity to explore research and development studies through using GIS/DAFWA/Landcorp data.
- SuperTowns and planning exercises around SuperTowns may help to map essential infrastructure in the region.

SESSION 2: Country Local Government Fund Regional Infrastructure Planning 2011/12

Brookton-Pingelly RTG CLGF Group Project Priorities for 2011/12

- Well-aged Green Housing Plan (Pingelly Aged Housing expansion)

Future Projects 2012/13 and beyond

- Solar Power Panels on Local Government owned buildings
- Child Care facility Redevelopment (in Brookton)
- Intermodal Transport Hub

Regional Outcomes (Well-aged Green Housing Plan)

As per 2010/11 rationale plus:

- Shire of Brookton has developed a Housing Plan for Local Government workforce and park homes (renovate and sell old housing stock to build new houses)

SEARTG CLGF Group Project Priorities for 2011/12

- Two Regional Sport/Recreation Centres (Beverley and Cunderdin)

Regional Outcomes (Regional Sport/Recreation Centres)

- Fits Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy*
- Shifting the community sports building will release land for industry development
- Collocation of sport and recreation groups and providing for Regional/State events in an enhanced building
- Both facilities provide for sub-regional competition
- Rationalising function facilities
- Links to overall economic development (ie. Tourism)
- Local, sub-regional and regional benefits: consistent local facilities a pre-requisite to give statutory reform a chance
- Resource sharing
 - Utilisation
 - Health programs
 - Safer (evacuation centres)

*Linking the policy objectives

SESSION 3: Regional Planning Priorities

Wendy Newman and Rebekah Burgess facilitated this session.

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Vibrant Economy

Objective 1: Skilled workers of all ages are attracted and retained to meet the needs of the region and the State

- Housing
- Education and training
- Industry facilities
- Availability of Industrial sites/Land facilities

Objective 2: The region has a diverse economic base that builds on the Wheatbelt's attributes

- Primary Production
- Tourism
- Mining 'pockets'
- Retirement Lifestyle

Such as:

- Tourism, mining and retirement need large investment
- Value adding to existing economic bases
- Retaining/skills based trades hub in region
- Encourage business relocation from metro
- Narrow base of economic stimuli that needs to be diversified

Objective 3: *Key strategic infrastructure is identified and invested in*

- Land/Housing
- Energy*
- Water*
- Roads
- Drainage
- Rail
- Communication

*Critical

Objective 4: *Opportunities for marginalized Wheatbelt residents result in economic independence*

- Communication
 - NBN
 - Mobile network
 - This will allow smaller businesses to operate from home?
- Value adding to industries identified in point 2
- Marginal agricultural areas
 - Retaining population

Liveable Communities

Objective 1: *A collaborative strategy ensures health, education, aged and youth/children's services reflect the needs of current and future Wheatbelt residents*

- Education plan for Wheatbelt (or advocate to get one)
- Watching brief on health, aged, youth

Objective 2: *Communities innovate, co-operate and value diversity*

- Sharing success stories

Objective 3: *Diverse cultural, sport and recreational activities contribute to community well being*

- Regional Plan for Sport
- Regional Plan for Recreation
- Alignment of Sporting Association Boundaries
- Regional Trails
- Aboriginal Heritage/Culture
- European Heritage/Culture
- Australian Heritage/Culture

Objective 4: *Community amenity is well designed to enhance employment, lifestyle opportunities and community safety*


- Town Planning

Valued Natural Amenity

Objective 1: *Climate change opportunities are pursued, and risk minimized*

- Climate change risk management analysis
- Community education program
- Water capture and storage
- Evaporation Management
- Diversification of Agricultural Industry

Objective 2: *Diverse natural assets are valued and managed to protect biodiversity with compatible land use.*

- Eco-friendly tourism
 - Integrated NRM (local/regional) planning
 - Unique flora/fauna protection
 - Fire management
 - Production/industry ie. Agriculture
 - Eco/Environment ie. Flora/Fauna
- 
- Corridors

Objective 3: *Water management is improved for the benefit of community amenity and industry development*

- Better industry usage of saline water
- Regional incentive for rainwater capture
 - Household, community, industry
- Water catchment for parks and gardens use

Objective 4: *Renewable natural resources are employed in a sustainable, profitable and productive manner*

- Alternative energy
 - Local and regional use (water, solar, wind, recycling waste)
- Recycling facilities and rewards (regional facility)
 - Government legislation

Report from the Wheatbelt South Forum, held on 22 November 2011

Regional Group/s:

- 4WD-Lakes VROC (Dumbleyung, Lake Grace, Wagin (absent), West Arthur (absent), Williams)
- Dryandra ROC (Cuballing, Narrogin (S), Narrogin (T), Wandering, Wickepin)
- Roe ROC (Corrigin, Kondinin, Kulin, Narembeen)

Attendees

Eva Haydon	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Cuballing
Alan Leeson	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Wickepin (left forum before lunch)
Ryan Duff	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Williams
Heidi Cowcher	Community Development Officer, Shire of Williams
Peter Webster	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Kondinin
Greg Hadlow	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Kulin
Taryn Scadding	Community Development Officer, Shire of Kulin
Frank Peczka	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Narembeen
Rhonda Cole	President, Shire of Narembeen
Marty Whitely	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Wandering
Graeme Kerr	Councillor, Shire of Wandering
Sean Fletcher	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Lake Grace
Len Armstrong	President, Shire of Lake Grace
Julian Murphy	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Corrigin
Taryn Day	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Corrigin
Lyn Baker	Deputy President, Shire of Corrigin
Henry van der Ende	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Dumbleyung (left forum after lunch)
Geoff McKeown	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Narrogin
Colin Bastow	Chief Executive Officer, Town of Narrogin
Wendy Newman	Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Kirby	Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Chelsea Gellard	Project Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Alison Dalziel	Facilitator, Morrison Low
Rebekah Burgess	Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt
Linda Leonard	Manager Reporting and Evaluation, Department of Regional Development and Lands

SESSION 1: Update on 2010/11 Country Local Government Regional Infrastructure Planning

1a) Are there any gaps in the current priorities for region-wide coordination and advocacy?

- Recreation facilities
- Tourism Infrastructure ie. RV friendly facilities
 - Refer Roe Tourism Strategy; will identify issues/needs/priorities
 - Link to Central East Tourism strategy
- Townscapes

- Road and Rail including commuter transport
 - I.e. Accessing medical or professional services in region and Perth
 - National Heavy Vehicle regulation
 - I.e. Narembreen have one public transport service/week
- Child care
- Carbon?
- Cost of utilities for land development
 - Local Government to send/email evidence of gouging to WDC
- Energy
 - Focus on local projects (distribution is a problem)
 - Infrastructure for local solutions – capital expenditure is the problem
- Water supply
 - Ran out last year
 - Rural Water Council
 - Federal investment opportunities?
- Funding categories
 - Coordinated local projects missing?

1b) What are the highest/lower priorities for region-wide coordination and advocacy?

Highest Priorities

- Telecommunications
- Land Development; cost of utilities
- Health Services

Lower Priorities

- Waste management

1c) Additional comments

- The cost of utility upgrades and connections inhibits development. Local Government encouraged to submit examples of price gouging to WDC.
- Sound support for Toward a Wheatbelt Infrastructure Plan particularly identification of Wheatbelt wide issues and need for sub-regional focus. Discussion focused on the gap in funding for \$3m-\$5m projects. It was suggested that the WDC needed to sell cross-Wheatbelt projects/ideas/strategies. It's difficult for the region to develop one/single iconic project.
- Regional centres and satellite communities were discussed and the importance of connectivity and diversification of industry. SuperTowns includes the ability to do market research to identify needs of communities that will attract people to the region.
- Aged care is important although there is a need to focus on the entire community not solely aged care (communities do not want to become just a retirement village).
- Telecommunications priority listing was discussed. Some delegates felt that there was a fund available to address issue therefore did not require to be listed in high priorities/focus. It was explained the current opportunity to enhance telecommunications projects through leveraging of funds and increase project scope to address telecommunications issues.
- Local Government needs WDC to bridge the gap between State and Federal departments.

SESSION 2: Country Local Government Fund Regional Infrastructure Planning 2011/12

DryandraROC CLGF Group Project Priorities for 2011/12

(Dryandra ROC has a draft 5 year region plan)

- Regional Equestrian Centre completion
- Regional Waste Facility (purchase of land and transfer stations)
- Heavy haulage bypass of Narrogin
 - East-West traffic along residential streets not ideal
 - Bypass option (south) will support rural industry precinct
 - Easier/quicker route for heavy vehicles
 - Regional and local safety issue
- Stage 2 (power, toilet facilities, ramps, building connection) Narrogin Town Hall
 - Regional venue
 - Heritage
 - Only venue large enough to hold a regional event (up to 500 people)
 - Major regional significance as a heritage building
 - Stage 1 funded elsewhere
 - Associated facilities (ie. Accommodation)
- Cell phone towers
- Aged Care Facilities
- Regional Airport Headworks Water upgrade
 - Industrial development
 - Dependent on Stage 1

4WD and Lakes VROCS CLGF Group Project Priorities for 2011/12

- Well Aged Persons Housing Strategy continued
 - Implementation of a 5 year plan

Regional Outcomes (Well Aged Persons Housing Strategy)

- Pooling resources has enabled a regional solution based on need rather than share of funding. Better for communities. Better match of what's built, not chasing \$\$ (money) for its own sake.
- Potential for leveraging
- Project management effectiveness and efficiency
- Fitted with the timing (all based on the Well Aged Strategy and research that underpinned it)
- Able to rationalize existing assets. Better utilization reallocation to better meet the actual needs/preferences.

Roe ROC CLGF Group Project Priorities for 2011/12

*to be confirmed at next Roe ROC meeting. Roe ROC participated in group discussion on what their priorities could be for CLGF Group 2011/12

- Narembeen Residential Land Development (\$800,000)
- Kulin Tourism
 - Interpretive Information (signage)
 - Marketing strategy
 - Opportunity to strengthen project through Central East Tourism Strategy

- Corrigin Regional Recreation and Cultural Centre (\$5m)
 - Funding sources
 - ♦ \$1m Shire of Corrigin
 - ♦ Regional Development Council Action Agenda (application submitted)
 - ♦ Dept Sport and Rec. Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund (application submitted)
 - ♦ CLGF Individual
 - ♦ CLGF Group
 - ♦ Lotteries
 - Want a colocated multifaceted facility
 - Collocation (hockey and tennis with multi-use turf, basketball, netball)
 - Events centre to increase the capacity of culture and arts in the region
 - Possible to incorporate
 - ♦ Commercial activity ie. Kitchen
 - ♦ Seniors activities
 - ♦ Ballet
 - ♦ Child care facilities
 - This project may become a project priority for 2012/13 CLGF round
 - Note: Shire of Corrigin has committed \$1.6m to land development all ready.
- Shire of Kondinin
 - Industrial land development being undertaken within the Shire
 - Possible projects
 - ♦ Chalet development for Hyden Caravan Park
 - ♦ Solar Power for Shire owned buildings
 - ♦ Weather Stations (DAFWA)

SESSION 3: Regional Planning Priorities

Wendy Newman and Rebekah Burgess facilitated this session.

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Vibrant Economy

Objective 1: Skilled workers of all ages are attracted and retained to meet the needs of the region and the State

- Child care
- Suitable Family Housing
- Appropriate Youth Training subsidies

Objective 2: The region has a diverse economic base that builds on the Wheatbelt's attributes

- Promote advantage
 - Cheap land
 - Safe
- Value-add Agriculture (can no longer downstream)
- Partner with State re: incentives
- Mining – SuperTowns
- Tourism (RV's and Pure)
- Trades

Objective 3: *Key strategic infrastructure is identified and invested in*

- Commercial, Residential and Industrial Land
 - Ready to go
 - Focus commercial/industrial
- Schools
- Medical facilities
- Child care
- Recreation Facilities
 - Should enjoy a certain standard
 - Regional Plan that each community has base level as a starting point

Objective 4: *Opportunities for marginalized Wheatbelt residents result in economic independence*

- Devolved training
- Community bus to pick them up to take them to facilities/work
- Up-skilling/prior learning
- Transfer of community ownership
 - Engage ie. Paint/remove graffiti from skate park
- Find the Cool Dude (Pied Piper)
- How to get them back!
 - Encourage new ideas (those that go away then come back)
- Where are the 20/30/40s
 - Engage generation gap (Baked Goods Cuballing)

Liveable Communities

Objective 1: *A collaborative strategy ensures health, education, aged and youth/children's services reflect the needs of current and future Wheatbelt residents*

- Health alliance
 - Business case to identify operational arrangements
 - Local Government resource sharing
 - Ensure equitable access to medical services
- Regional needs assessment
- Assessment of funding and policy models to determine appropriate strategies
- Local Government assistance with providing GP and other medical services
- Recognition of varied needs for Youth depending on area they live in
- Aged done well but need capital funding

Objective 2: *Communities innovate, co-operate and value diversity*

- Competitive nature of grants encourages parochialism
- Networking important but want to maintain own identity
- Look at signage between communities and differences to identify competitive advantage
- Leveraging off neighbours assets (ie. butcher, baker, candlestick maker)

Objective 3: *Diverse cultural, sport and recreational activities contribute to community well being*

- Opportunities for recreation other than sport
- Different and innovative recreation opportunities (ie Kulin Waterslide)
 - Don't have competing projects
- Dept. Sport and Recreation review of sporting boundaries
- Facilities appropriate to community needs
- More support for regional sport/recreation facilities

- Dept. Sport and Recreation need to prioritise but not to the detriment of smaller communities

Objective 4: *Community amenity is well designed to enhance employment, lifestyle opportunities and community safety*

- Employment of partners
- Townscapes
- Provision of community services
 - Baker
 - Coffee shop

Valued Natural Amenity

Objective 1: *Climate change opportunities are pursued, and risk minimized*

- Sustainable transport (ie. road vs rail vs air) for sustainable food production, commuting
- Inter-connected networks ie. between communities
- Sustainable energy (wind, solar)
- Biomass production for sustainable energy production (fuel and energy)

Objective 2: *Diverse natural assets are valued and managed to protect biodiversity with compatible land use*

- Protection of remnant vegetation areas
- Appropriate management of reserves
 - ie. conflict between Environment and Conservation policies for Road Reserve Management
- DEC management resource limited

Objective 3: *Water management is improved for the benefit of community amenity and industry development*

- Strategic water reserves (storage) to be identified along scheme supply
- Improve infrastructure to improve supply of water
 - ie. infrastructure aging, inefficient and unable to cater for growth
- Opportunity to develop industries around saline water
 - ie. salt farming

Objective 4: *Renewable natural resources are employed in a sustainable, profitable and productive manner.*

- Biomass production for energy and fuel
 - ie. compliment broad acre production with mallee tree farming/ally farming
- Reduce food miles through local production
 - Decrease carbon footprint

Report from the Central East Forum, held on 30 November 2011

Regional Group/s:

- Westonia-Yilgarn Regional Transition Group (Westonia, Yilgarn)
- WEROC (Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin)
- NEWROC (Koorda, Mukinbudin, Mt Marshall, Nungarin, Trayning, Wyalkatchem)

Attendees

Darren Friend	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Kellerberrin
Raymond Griffiths	Manager Community Services, Shire of Kellerberrin
Greg Powell	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Merredin
Donna Crook	President, Shire of Merredin
Vivienne Murty	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Yilgarn
Onida Truran	Deputy President, Shire of Yilgarn
Trevor Smith	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Mukinbudin
Peter Kocian	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Erik Anderson	Councillor, Shire of Wyalkatchem
Matthew Giffellon	Chief Executive Officer, Shire Mt Marshall
David Burton	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Koorda
Linda Longmuir	Administration, Shire of Koorda
Darren Mollenoyux	Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Bruce Rock
Jennifer Bow	Manager of Finance and Compliance, Shire of Bruce Rock
Jennie Gmeiner	Councillor, Shire of Bruce Rock
Rodney Thornton	Regional Be-Active-Coordinator, Shire of Bruce Rock
Niel Mitchell	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Trayning
Bill Fensome	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Nungarin
Eillean O'Connell	President, Shire of Nungarin
John Merrick	Director of Westonia Operations
Helen Westcott	BHW Consulting
Bruce Wittber	BHW Consulting
Wendy Newman	Chief Executive Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Shields	Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Pip Kirby	Senior Regional Officer, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Beth Falconer	Research Officer RfR, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Teresa Drew	Administration Assistance RfR, Wheatbelt Development Commission
Alison Dalziel	Facilitator, Morrison Low
Jo Burges	Regional Cooperation Manager, WALGA
Linda Leonard	Manager Reporting and Evaluation, Department of Regional Development and Lands

SESSION 1: Update on 2010/11 Country Local Government Regional Infrastructure Planning

1a) Are there any gaps in the current priorities for region-wide coordination and advocacy?

- Local economic development
- Industry diversification and Population Growth
 - In competition with other parts of the State

- Information strategy (including needs analysis)
- Tourism infrastructure
- Land development
 - Capacity of existing infrastructure
 - ie. Industrial units
- Education
- Accommodation
 - Not just housing also temporary/short-stay
 - Tourism accommodation
- Sewerage

1b) What are the highest/lower priorities for region-wide coordination and advocacy?

Highest Priorities

- Aged accommodation
- Telecommunication

Lower Priorities

- Waste management (attendees did question whether this point was a low priority but left as is)

1c) Additional comments

- Link assets and services ie. health and aged care
- Interdependence of items on list
- Question regional/local balance
- Aged care strategy needs \$70,000 - \$100,000 (investment needed to Central East strategy)
- Health services
 - Keep Southern Inland Health Initiative (SIHI) on track
 - Local government to identify issues experience with SIHI engagement process
- Local governments willing to support business case for information strategy (including needs analysis related to high priority issues)

SESSION 2: Country Local Government Fund Regional Infrastructure Planning 2011/12

Westonia-Yilgarn Regional Council CLGF Group Project Priorities for 2011/12

- Continue Wild Dog Fence project

Westonia-Yilgarn are in discussions with other Departments who are leading the implementation of the project (Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Agriculture and Food WA). Westonia-Yilgarn are awaiting the outcome of the Action Agenda funding round.

NEWROC CLGF Group Project Priorities for 2011/12

- Accommodation
 - Needs analysis is underway (town by town)
 - Diverse needs (Youth, temporary, aged, contract etc)

Regional Outcomes (Accommodation)

- Bringing/retaining people to the region
- Linking to Industry Development

WEROC CLGF Group Project Priorities for 2011/12

- Granite Way continued
- Aged Accommodation

Regional Outcomes (Aged Accommodation)

- Keeping extended family units in the region
- Needs analysis to be done across the region

Note: Discussion continued on commonalities of projects (Aged care and accommodation for youth, tourism, aged, and workers). The session concluded that there needed to be an analysis on Aged Care Housing/Accommodation (Independent through to frail aged care) throughout the Central East sub-region and services. The public (Western Australian Country Health Service) and the private sector need to be part of this analysis. Wyalkatchem and Koorda Shires committed \$50,000 to undertake a Health Service Plan (including aged care) for their area.

People who expressed an interest to form Working Group on Aged Care for Central East:

- Greg Powell (Shire of Merredin)
- Raymond Griffiths (Shire of Kellerberrin)
- Peter Kocian (Shire of Wyalkatchem)
- Onida Truran (Shire of Southern Cross)
- Steve O'Halloran (Shire of Bruce Rock)
- WDC agreed to lead the Working Group

SESSION 3: Regional Planning Priorities

Wendy Newman and Rebekah Burgess facilitated this session.

The Joint Wheatbelt Region Strategic Framework, an RDA Wheatbelt and WDC initiative was drafted to help shape a shared vision for the Wheatbelt region. For this session, participants were divided into three groups to discuss the Strategic Focus objectives and strategies that could be implemented to meet these objectives. Each group presented their strategies to the rest of the group at the completion of the workshop.

Vibrant Economy

Objective 1: Skilled workers of all ages are attracted and retained to meet the needs of the region and the State

- Accommodation
- Transport
- Utilities
- Livable communities
- Marketing
- Business infrastructure
- Access to education/training
- Broaden scope of works
- Education schemes to provide traineeships/apprenticeships

Objective 2: *The region has a diverse economic base that builds on the Wheatbelt's attributes*

- Developing innovative industries in the Wheatbelt involves building/development of objective 1

Attributes

- Land available
- Planning restrictions minimal
- Local employment available (farmers) adaptable skills
- Educate current businesses in E-commerce to help purchases in local business directory in area.
- Capitalise on the businesses that we have

Objective 3: *Key strategic infrastructure is identified and invested in*

- Business units
- Planning needs to be done on regional basis not in isolation with local implementation
- Good telecommunications

Objective 4: *Opportunities for marginalized Wheatbelt residents result in economic independence*

- Education employers
- Develop programs in the community to result in feeling of accomplishment
- Stronger partnerships between farming community and business community

Liveable Communities

Objective 1: *A collaborative strategy ensures health, education, aged and youth/children's services reflect the needs of current and future Wheatbelt residents*

- Equitable access to funding, facilities and services
 - Fundamental changes to service delivery models to meet the needs of local and regional residents
 - CLGF to have individual and regional component

Objective 2: *Communities innovate, co-operate and value diversity*

- Offering attractive opportunities for local and new residents
 - Ie. Wyalkatchem offering GP flying lessons as part of salary package
 - Ie. Southern Cross offering FIFO for GP to service surgery on week days
- Utilising what the community already has
- Develop a regional knowledge bank
 - Attract research centre to create new 'ideas'
 - Turn problems/issues into opportunities ie. Saline Water and opportunities to utilize saline water for industry diversification, employment, save and improve built infrastructure and environment

Note: Heartlands to be knowledge centre/collection centre of information for the Wheatbelt

Objective 3: *Diverse cultural, sport and recreational activities contribute to community well being*

- Equitable access to funding opportunities, facilities and services
- Rationalisation within a town and region
 - Ie. Build on community specialty
- Interaction between Government Departments and local community to better utilize community facilities and infrastructure ie. Library's, ovals, recreation facilities, performing and visual arts facilities
 - Reduce duplication

Objective 4: *Community amenity is well designed to enhance employment, lifestyle opportunities and community safety*

- Interaction, communication and commitment between Government Departments and local community
- Integrate local, regional and state plans to coordinate improved outcomes for local and regional community

Valued Natural Amenity

Objective 1: *Climate change opportunities are pursued, and risk minimized*

Objective 2: *Diverse natural assets are valued and managed to protect biodiversity with compatible land use*

Objective 3: *Water management is improved for the benefit of community amenity and industry development*

Objective 4: *Renewable natural resources are employed in a sustainable, profitable and productive manner*

- 'Carbon' plantations/farming diversification
- Renewable energy
 - Solar
- Capture and reuse of water
 - Desalinisation
- Leavers week
 - Tourism opportunity
- Art and Culture
- Recreation opportunities (dry or wet)
- Land availability
 - Defence training
 - Camps – schools, immigration detention centres
 - Environmental education
- Scientific/Environmental research

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