



THE ECONOMIC GATEWAY TO THE WEST

A cooperative venture of the municipalities
of Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle,
Kwinana, Melville and Rockingham

Statement released: 31 October 2018

MEDIA STATEMENT

SOUTH WEST GROUP WELCOMES DEFENCE STRATEGY

Chair of the South West Group, Mayor Russell Aubrey, has acknowledged the good work undertaken by the State Government to produce and establish a WA Defence Strategic Plan that will drive development of this important industry for the state.

‘The South West metropolitan Perth is one of the most capable regions in Australia to support the ongoing development of the defence industry through fabrication, maintenance, refitting and operations support, particularly for maritime services’.

‘The region contains significant economic assets such as: major industrial areas associated with the Western Trade Coast; high performing Ports; the largest defence facility in Australia (HMAS Stirling); a general aviation airport and commercial precinct; major public and private hospitals; universities and activity centres; as well as thriving retail, commercial and industrial centres.’

‘The defence industry is worth over a billion dollars to the South West metropolitan region and supports almost 5,000 jobs, and we are pleased to see it well recognised as an industry vital to the region and the state by the McGowan Government. The six Local Governments within the South West Group look forward to working with the State Government on delivering parts of the Strategy that are relevant to our region.’ Mr Aubrey said.

‘Finally, the South West Group is united in our appreciation of Major General Jeff Sengelman for reaching out and engaging with us on development of this important strategic plan’ Mr Aubrey said.

South West Group Director Tom Griffiths added that ‘access to the Indian Ocean is expected to be vital to Australia’s security and prosperity in the coming decades. Due to its wealth of strategic assets, strong population and skilled workforce, the South West metropolitan region is ideally positioned to support the development of this vital industry’.

‘The region, which covers Fremantle down to Rockingham, is expected to grow to almost 550,000 people by 2026. The region’s attractive and diverse mix of lifestyle, natural attractions and employment opportunities makes it an ideal location for defence personnel and their families. It is also important to recognise the geo-political importance of the strategic defence assets within our region and how well that positions our region to attract future investment and in securing sustainment and maintenance work.’

‘We welcome the opportunity to work with the State on several of the actions within the strategy. For instance, our Member Local Governments should be involved in the master

planning and management of the Henderson precinct. We can add significant value to the process and will ultimately be involved in much of the implementation.' Mr Griffiths said.

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About the South West Group

The South West Group, formed in 1983, is a Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC) comprising the following member Councils: Cockburn; East Fremantle; Fremantle; Kwinana; Melville; and Rockingham. The South West Group acts as a regional advocate for increased investment, sustainable development, employment creation, and the prosperity of the region. For more information, visit www.southwestgroup.com.au or e-mail the South West Group Director Tom Griffiths at director@southwestgroup.com.au.