



A Co-operative venture of the municipalities of:  
Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Kwinana, Melville & Rockingham

23 July 2020

Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation  
Level 11  
1 William Street  
PERTH WA 6000  
C/- amcconsult@advisian.com

Dear Premier,

## **RE: SUBMISSION ON AUSTRALIAN MARINE COMPLEX DRAFT STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND LAND USE PLAN**

### **Background**

The South West Group is a Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC) established in 1983 and comprising six member Councils in the South West Metropolitan Region including City of Cockburn, Town of East Fremantle, City of Fremantle, City of Kwinana, City of Melville and City of Rockingham.

The South West Group partners and collaborates with State and Federal Government, industry, business and community on activities that benefit and facilitate further economic development in the South West Metropolitan Region. The Vision for South West Metropolitan Region is to be the *"Economic Gateway to the West"*.

### **Nature of Interest**

The South West Group has been a sustained supporter of the Australian Marine Complex through financially contributing to the feasibility study of the original complex and advocating for State and Commonwealth financial support for its initial construction and development. The group also supports the expansion of defence activity within the region and the enhancement of capability of local industry to also support the marine and resources sectors.

### **General comments**

The South West Group supports the objectives outlined in this strategy, particularly the ambition to expand defence capability to continue to attract high levels of defence procurement, maintenance and sustainment to the region.

### **AMC Northern Harbour**

The proposed extension of Clarence Beach Road to support the development of Lots 15, 16 and 17 is a logical initiative but is likely to impact parking in and adjacent to the existing constructed formation. The development of multi-storey car parking on a cost recovery basis is likely to lead to increased "informal" parking. The South West Group prefer that a significant free or low cost parking area is established and that a regular shuttle operates within the AMC to connect with this parking.

### **AMC Southern Harbour**

The strategy's ambition is to only be able to support sustainment and maintenance of "a number of vessels" from Fleet Base East is stated without discussing the ability to handle the Canberra Class LHD vessels or HMAS Choules. The objective of the strategy to achieve a minimum of 10 metres dredged depth and having paired 200 metre long wharves gives the ability to have on water sustainment and maintenance of these vessels.

The Captain Cook Graving Dock A on Sydney Harbour can handle ships of 100,000 tonnes and is 345 metres long and 45 metres wide. The diagrammatic representation of the possible AMC dry dock has similar dimensions, therefore the South West Group support the AMC being able to handle sustainment and maintenance of all of the Australian Naval fleet.

The South West Group does not have a preference for the two options to develop the Southern Harbour.

### **Lots 15, 16 and 17 Clarence Beach Road**

The development of these lots as a common user facility with public funds is supported and a business case should be developed for submission to Infrastructure Australia and Infrastructure Western Australia.

### **Technology Precinct**

The strategy states that "there are significant future development opportunities within this precinct" without identifying what these might be or how they may be captured. The South West Group is concerned about the slow rate of development of the Technology Precinct and would like to see proactive steps to stimulate use of the site and a clear governance structure to drive delivery. The strategy confirms that the Technology Precinct is currently underutilised.

The strategy identifies eleven studies that should be undertaken to progress development of the Australian Marine Complex. The South West Group support an additional study to assess how development of the Technology Precinct can be accelerated and what governance structure or partnerships would stimulate that development. Alignment across the various Government agencies is vital to ensuring effective delivery of this component, and the plan as a whole.

This site will take time to fully develop, and so the use of a portion as an at-grade car park as a temporary land use is supported (with a shuttle link through the AMC).

Technology precincts typically have high level of amenity and the development of further amenities and services in this precinct is also supported. In its currently form and amenity level it will struggle to attract high value knowledge workers.

### **Public Transport Car Parking and Proposed Public Car Parks**

Car parking within the AMC needs careful consideration but given the distributed nature of the precinct and poor pedestrian facilities, it needs to be considered with a regular shuttle service. The South West Group supports significantly improved public transport throughout the South West Metropolitan Region. The proposal to relocate the 522 Bus is supported but requires much greater frequency. The South West Group does not support multi storey car parking being developed on a cost recovery basis.

## Roads and High Wide Load Corridors

It is inevitable that congestion will increase with population growth and economic growth. The South West Group supports the early construction of Rowley Road from the Kwinana Freeway to Rockingham Road and the upgrading from Tonkin Highway to the Kwinana Freeway.

It is time to review the High Wide Load Corridors in Metropolitan Perth to meet current aspirations from fabricators and to increase local industry competitiveness. The South West Group supports a review of High Wide Load Corridors and an assessment of the connectivity between Latitude 32 and the AMC. The South West Group wishes to be a stakeholder for any assessment of High Wide Load Corridors.

## Stakeholder for future studies

The South West Group wishes to be a stakeholder for the proposed:

- Vessel Lift and Transfer Technology Study
- Large Vessel Dry Berth Feasibility Study.
- Integrated Transport Plan.

## Timing

While the comments in this submission are presented in good faith and intended to be constructive, it is the South West Group's view that delaying and broadening the scope of the planning exercise would deliver better, more integrated outcomes, especially considering the imminent recommendation from the Westport process. Broadening the scope of the exercise would also enable inclusion of complementary elements such as those highlighted in the City of Kwinana's submission, these are:

- Western Trade Coast Masterplan;
- Western Trade Coast Economic Development Strategy;
- Western Trade Coast Integrated Land Use and Transport Plan; and
- High and Wide Load Planning taking into consideration the Perth Freight Network and Westport recommendations.

We trust this submission is helpful. If you require any further information, please contact South West Group Director, Tom Griffiths on 0406 420 854 or [director@southwestgroup.com.au](mailto:director@southwestgroup.com.au).

Yours sincerely



His Worship the Mayor

Logan K Howlett JP

Chair of the South West Group in 2020, and representing the following Local Governments:

