

Wednesday, 16 December 2020

Hon. Rita Saffioti MLA
Minister for Transport; Planning
9th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister,

RE: NEED FOR WESTERN TRADE COAST MASTERPLAN AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The South West Group is an alliance of six Local Governments in the South-West Metropolitan Area. Our members include the Town of East Fremantle and the Cities of Cockburn, Fremantle, Kwinana, Melville and Rockingham.

Our Gross Regional Product is almost \$30 billion, and the region includes almost 450,000 residents and 225,000 employed residents. The Region includes the 'Western Trade Coast' (WTC) comprised of the Kwinana Strategic Industrial Area, Australian Marine Complex, Latitude 32 and the Rockingham Industry Zone.

In recognition of the significant economic value generated by the Region, the South West Group members have a strong commitment to supporting sustainable development of its regional economy and to creating lasting employment opportunities. To support this commitment, the Group asks that the State Government consider the recommendations in this letter that aim to generate even greater economic value from the Western Trade Coast.

Context

- There are various stakeholders in the WTC, consisting of numerous State Government Agencies, Local Governments, industry groups and Federal Development Organisations.
- The WA State Government has committed to developing a Masterplan for Australian Marine Complex but not for the entirety of the Western Trade Coast.
- The need for a strategic and cohesive Masterplan for the Western Trade Coast has yet to be addressed and is becoming increasingly urgent, particularly when the State's decision on Westport is considered.
- Current governance arrangements have created a lack of strategic and long-term perspective, whereby State Government stakeholders react in an ad-hoc manner to private sector proposals.
- The criteria and process for determining best use of land and assessing competing proposals is unclear. Similarly, while Local Government has demonstrated its ability to make timely approvals, the strategic decision-making responsibilities still remain unclear.

- The current situation erodes private sector confidence and impedes attempts to attract high value industries and to generate greatly needed employment opportunities across the WTC and surrounding areas.
- There is a clear need to support the improvement of governance arrangements for the WTC.

Opportunities to work with Local Governments to:

- Leverage the strong momentum of the successful Westport process: re-examine the purpose of Latitude 32 to consider future land uses and expanded strategic industrial area.
- Consider opportunities for re-allocation of land as identified by the Masterplan.
- Identify and plan for freight and logistics linkages on sea, road and rail.
- Provide long-term clarity on urban development / encroachment pressures.
- Attract new industries that diversify WA's economic base.
- Develop a seamless and integrated approach to attraction of industry and enabling infrastructure.
- Provide clarity on the training and skills requirements into the future.

Recommendations

- 1 Co-produce a Masterplan for the Western Trade Coast with the Local Government sector (especially the Cities of Fremantle, Cockburn, Kwinana and Rockingham) to define a clear process for developing a Masterplan for the WTC.
- 2 Governance Review: examine current governance arrangements and work with the Local Government sector to consider options to improve the economic performance of the Western Trade Coast through establishment of an empowered and independent body that is committed to collaborating with the Local Government sector to deliver strategic objectives.

If you require further information, please contact Tom Griffiths, Director South West Group at 0406 420 854 or director@southwestgroup.com.au.

Yours sincerely

Logan Howlett

His Worship the Mayor

Logan K Howlett JP

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

