



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

Thursday, 6 May 2021

Hon. Mark McGowan MLA  
Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector  
Management; Federal-State Relations  
13th Floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Premier,

**RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF GLOBAL HIGH-TECH MANUFACTURING HUB**

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. 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.

**High-tech hub**

We applaud the Government's announcement on 3 March 2021 that it will establish a dedicated hub in the South West Group Region, namely Henderson, Kwinana and Rockingham. We are pleased to note that the hub should support developing industries such as high-tech manufacturing, renewable energy production and storage, and defence.

The significant potential of this location to nurture industries that diversify the West Australian economy and create high-value, knowledge intensive jobs has long been championed by the South West Group and its member Councils.

**Governance**

Similarly, the Group has been advocating for improved governance and coordination for the Western Trade Coast for some time, as outlined most recently in our letter to Minister Saffioti dated 9 December 2020 (attached).

It is most pleasing to note that the recommendations in that letter have been recognised by your Government, as well as the need to develop an investment and trade strategy with supporting land planning framework, skills and workforce plans, and a supportive regulatory environment. We appreciate your Government's accessibility and openness to ideas.

## Connectivity

To support the aspirations in the announcement, we encourage Government to consider planning for public transport infrastructure that could improve accessibility to the hub for current and future workers. For example, a dedicated high-quality public transport connection to the area from Fremantle via the Coast, connecting to the Mandurah rail line. Such a connection would improve connectivity to Development WA's *Shoreline* project and the Port Coogee Master-planned development.

## Engagement with Local Government

We believe that the Local Government sector has an integral role to play in facilitating economic development outcomes in this Region. This may involve working with State Government to remove capacity constraints, coordinate infrastructure improvements and/or land use planning. We look forward to working with Government to deliver economic development outcomes and to create lasting job opportunities within our Region.

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

Yours sincerely



His Worship the Mayor  
Mr Jim O'Neill

Chair of the South West Group in 2021, and representing the following Local Governments:



Cc: Minister Rita Saffioti MLA  
Minister Roger Cook MLA  
Mr David Scaife MLA

Enc: South West Group Letter to Minister Saffioti dated 16 December 2020, titled:  
*Need for Western Trade Coast Masterplan and Governance Review*