

MINUTES

CERTIFICATION OF CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5 FEBRUARY 2013

I, Ms Francesca Lefante, hereby certify that the following minutes [pages 1 to 152] of the Meeting of **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held on 5 February 2013 were confirmed at a meeting of the Committee held on 2 April 2013.



Signature

Ms Francesca Lefante

Person presiding at the Committee Meeting held on 2 April 2013

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

5 February 2013

(REF: COMMITTEES-14890)

A meeting of the Chief Executive Officers Advisory Committee was held at the EMRC Administration Office, 1st Floor, 226 Great Eastern Highway, BELMONT WA 6104 on **Tuesday, 5 February 2013**. The meeting commenced at **12:30pm**.

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairman opened the meeting at 12:35pm.

2 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

Committee Members

Ms Francesca Lefante (Chairman)	Chief Executive Officer	City of Bayswater
Mr Bob Jarvis (Deputy Chairman)	Chief Executive Officer	Town of Bassendean
Mr Stuart Cole	Chief Executive Officer	City of Belmont
Ms Rhonda Hardy	Acting Chief Executive Officer	Shire of Kalamunda
Mr Jonathan Throssell	Chief Executive Officer	Shire of Mundaring
Mr Mike Foley	Chief Executive Officer	City of Swan
Mr Peter Schneider	Chief Executive Officer	EMRC

EMRC Officers

Mrs Marilyn Horgan	Director Regional Services
Ms Theresa Eckstein	Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer (Minutes)

3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

4 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OR PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 MINUTES OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2012

That the minutes of the Chief Executive Officers Advisory Committee meeting held on 9 October 2012, which have been distributed, be confirmed.

CEOAC RESOLUTION(S)

MOVED MR THROSSELL SECONDED MR FOLEY

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2012 WHICH HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED, BE CONFIRMED.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6 PRESENTATIONS

Nil



7 ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Nil

8 BUSINESS NOT DEALT WITH FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil



9 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

9.1 REGIONAL SERVICES PROPOSED FUNDING PROGRAM

REFERENCE: COMMITTEES-15101

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Council with a first draft of project proposals and preliminary requirements for funding Regional Services activities for the period 2013/2014 to 2017/2018.

KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- The Draft Regional Services Projects Funding Summary 2013/2014 – 2017/2018 has been developed to achieve the objectives of the EMRC 2022 – 10 Year Strategic Plan, adopted by Council in December 2012.
- Initial draft projects and budgets have been developed for Council and member Council consideration.
- It is proposed for the period 2013/2014 - 2017/2018 that the following projects be supported for ongoing funding and delivery:
 - Regional Development projects include:
 1. Regional Transport Planning and Development;
 2. Regional Economic Development;
 3. Regional Youth; and
 4. Regional Advocacy and Sponsorship Programs.
 - Environmental Services projects include:
 1. Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program;
 2. Future Proofing for Climate Change;
 3. Achieving Climate Emission Reductions (ACER);
 4. Water Campaign;
 5. Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework; and
 6. Environmental Education.

Recommendation

That Council approves in principle support to the project proposals as outlined in the Regional Services Project Funding Summary 2013/2014 - 2017/2018 for use in initiating discussion with member Councils for consideration in the 2013/2014 draft budget.

SOURCE OF REPORT

Director Regional Services
Manager Environmental Services
Manager Regional Development



Item 9.1 continued

BACKGROUND

Regional Services delivers regionally based projects to member Councils in the areas of environmental protection, economic development (including event related programs) and transport planning. Projects and programs have varied in response to the needs of member Councils and regional issues that emerge and are deemed to be better dealt with on a regional basis.

The EMRC Establishment Agreement 1998 allows for the EMRC to provide a wide range of services to member Councils. Delivery of services is driven through an annual process aligned to the business planning and budget processes of all member Councils. This annual process provides for the EMRC to develop a set of proposals and associated funding models in order to provide clarity to elected members and member Council officers about what the EMRC's direction should be in delivering regional services and to seek agreement by all parties involved.

The project proposals are based on the EMRC funding model for Regional Development projects that was adopted by Council in 1999. In April 2000, Council reviewed the member Council/EMRC funding mix for Regional Development projects. At a meeting of Council held on April 27 2000, it was resolved that where a member Council/EMRC funding mix was to be adopted, the following formula would be utilised to determine contributions (Ref: Committees-1794):

“THAT THE ORIGINAL EMLAG MODEL (EMRC 50%, MEMBER COUNCILS 50%) BE REVISED WITH ONE THIRD SHARED EQUALLY BETWEEN THE SIX MEMBER COUNCILS, THE SECOND THIRD BE SHARED PROPORTIONALITY ACCORDING TO RATE REVENUE AND THE FINAL THIRD SHARED PROPORTIONALLY ACCORDING TO POPULATION”.

The funding model requires that for projects greater than \$50,000, and involving all six member Councils, the member Council contributions be calculated as outlined in the above resolution. The Regional Services model and framework was discussed at the 15 November 2007 meeting of member Council Chief Executive Officers. The Chief Executive Officers supported the development of the model and framework, noting that the principles were still relevant and that it formed a structured and logical way to go forward.

The Regional Services Funding Model and Framework identified four broad categories of projects and services:

- Full cost recovery projects and services;
- Partial cost recovery projects and services;
- EMRC funded projects and services; and
- EMRC support and administration.



Item 9.1 continued

For the current financial year (2012/2013) the following programs and projects are being delivered to member Councils:

Regional Development

- Regional Integrated Transport Planning;
- Curtin Transport Research Project;
- Regional TravelSmart Program;
- Regional Economic Development - Showcase Series, Industry Engagement Framework, Regional Digital Strategy;
- Regional Youth Report;
- Regional Events Program - Avon Descent Family Fun Days, Perth's Autumn Festival;
- Perthtourism.com website; and
- Regional Advocacy.

Environmental Services

- Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program;
- Future Proofing for Climate Change;
- Perth Solar City;
- Achieving Carbon Emissions Reduction (ACER) program;
- Water Campaign; and
- Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework.

To date, for the 2012/2013 financial period the EMRC has received \$1,340,276 in grants for the Region as listed below:

Project	Amount Received
Avon Descent Family Fun Days	\$ 250,000
Perth's Autumn Festival	\$ 67,411
Travel Smart Program	\$ 44,800
Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program	\$ 28,145
Eastern Tributaries Restoration Project	\$ 30,000
Swan River Trust	\$ 95,000
Caring for our Country - Eastern Tributaries	\$ 75,000
Perth Region NRM - Eastern Tributaries	\$ 15,000
Helping the Helena	\$ 37,500
Marri Canker Research	\$ 50,000
Community Energy Efficiency Program	\$ 647,420
Total	\$ 1,340,276



Item 9.1 continued

In 2011/2012, the EMRC received \$1,470,432 in grant money to assist with projects in the Region. The total amount received over the two years is \$2,810,708.

The total EMRC net contribution of \$1,251,340 for Regional Development and \$1,077,562 for Environmental Services projects and services (a total of \$2,328,902) from 2012/2013 is being derived from anticipated budgeted revenue from the commercial operations of the Red Hill Waste Management Facility. This contribution benefits all member Councils.

REPORT

The Regional Development and Environmental Services projects are consistent with the EMRC 2022 - 10 Year Strategic Plan adopted by Council 6 December 2012 and taking effect from 1 July 2013. (Committees - 14830) The Regional Services Directorate coordinates, facilitates and jointly funds major regionally significant projects that improve social, economic and environmental outcomes for Perth's Eastern Region.

The Regional Services Project Funding Summary 2013/2014 - 2017/2018 (Attached) outlines major project areas that will require a level of direct financial support and/or member Councils' officer time to provide input, advice, and the provision of data as required. Details of all such requirements will be managed operationally between EMRC and member Councils' officers, whereby specific actions will be developed and outlined in the project delivery plans for each project. These projects are outlined in Sections 1 and 2 of the Project Funding Summary.

Project delivery plans will be developed once the overarching strategic intent of the project proposals outlined in the Project Funding Summary have been agreed upon, in the first instance, by the EMRC Council via the Chief Executive Officers Advisory Committee and then through presentations to member Councils' Executive Officers and Executive staff in the first quarter of 2013.

Following the consultative process and final agreement of the projects, funding will be integrated into future annual and long-term budgets. It is anticipated that Member Councils will subsequently be invoiced for their agreed project contributions in the third quarter of 2013.

1. Regional Development Projects

The Regional Services Project Funding Summary proposes that the following Regional Development projects are supported for ongoing funding and delivery in 2013/2014. Table 1 summarises the projects and compares the 2012/2013 budget with the proposals for 2013/2014.



Item 9.1 continued

Table 1

Regional Development Projects	Adopted Budget 2012/2013	Proposed 2013/2014	Comment
1. Regional Transport Planning Projects			
Regional Integrated Transport Plan	68,972	66,356	Implement transport strategy actions, including advocating for priority roads.
RITS redevelopment	0	20,000	Redevelop Regional Integrated Transport Strategy
Travel Smart Programs	88,435	93,435	Employment of a regional TravelSmart Officer to implement Travel Smart projects
Curtin Transport Research	24,000	27,000	Undertake Curtin Research Study: Phase Two
Curtin Transport Research Consultation	0	15,000	Undertake Community Consultation
Walkability Audit Brief	0	20,000	Develop Regional Walkability Audit Brief
Travel Smart Education Forums	0	10,000	Conduct TravelSmart Educational Forums
Transport Vision	0	10,000	Develop Transport Vision Brief
Total	\$181,407	\$261,791	
2. Regional Economic Development Projects			
Regional Economic Development Plan	162,663	170,981	Implement economic development strategy actions
Facilitation of Economic Development Officers Group	2,000	2,000	Facilitation of Economic Development Officers Group
	0	3,000	Conduct Advocacy Tours
	0	10,000	Undertake Research Program - Regional Economic Development
Digital Strategy	64,455	65,000	Implement actions of RDS
Economic profile tools	34,000	34,000	Provide Economic and Social Profiling Tools
Perth Autumn Festival	128,252	154,000	Develop and promote Perth Autumn Festival
Showcase Series	0	15,000	Conduct Showcase Series
Industry Engagement Business Insights	46,333	30,000	Implement Business Insights Program Support Strategies
Avon Descent Family Fun Days	295,745	297,234	Develop and promote Avon Descent Family Fun Days.
PerthTourism.com.au	8,663	8,818	Development and maintenance of website
	0	6,000	Translate web site to Chinese
Total	\$742,111	\$796,033	
3. Regional Youth and Education*			
Facilitate Regional Youth Projects	36,909	46,909	Support for youth initiatives
Total	\$36,909	\$46,909	
4. Regional Advocacy and Sponsorship Projects*			
Implement Regional Advocacy Strategy	175,375	181,661	To implement Regional Advocacy Strategy activities
Sponsorship and Grants	30,000	30,000	Provide sponsorship /grants in line with Council recommendations
Total	\$205,375	\$211,661	
Total Project Investment	\$1,165,802	\$1,316,394	

* Regional Advocacy and Sponsorship Projects and Regional Youth are fully funded by EMRC.



Item 9.1 continued

Funding contributions requested are on par with those requested for 2012/2013 with the variation in Regional Development projects being the projects proposed to implement the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy.

For 2013/2014, funding contributions are sought to deliver an increased number of projects in the area of regional transport planning and TravelSmart as well as the activities from the development of the Regional Digital Strategy. Work in regional economic development, regional events and advocacy will build on the activities undertaken in 2012/2013 and will include activities identified in the Regional Youth Futures Report.

Table 2 below shows a summary of the proposed member Council contributions for the 2013/2014 financial year towards the proposed Regional Development projects and activities of \$1,316,394 outlined above in Table 1.

Table 2

Member Councils Contributions	REDS	Events	Travel Smart	RITS	Total Requested
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Town of Bassendean	12,411	4,686	3,286	5,561	25,944
City of Bayswater	21,944	9,482	6,588	11,194	49,208
City of Belmont	19,011	8,048	5,312	9,461	41,832
Shire of Kalamunda	20,111	8,048	5,710	10,111	43,980
Shire of Mundaring	17,911	7,387	4,966	8,811	39,075
City of Swan	36,611	17,475	11,338	19,861	85,285
	127,999	55,126	37,200	64,999	285,324

2. Environmental Services Projects

The program for Environmental Services Projects includes a number of ongoing programs that are undertaken using a combination of EMRC, member Council and grant funds. Environmental Services Projects include:

1. Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program (EHCMP);
2. Future Proofing for Climate Change;
3. Achieving Climate Emissions Reductions (ACER);
4. Water Campaign; and
5. Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework.

The Environmental Services business unit will continue to deliver on its core projects as well as focus on strategic regional issues and research such as Marri canker and water quality. Work will continue on the three year Community Energy Efficiency Program and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Two new projects are proposed for 2013/2014 following the completion of Perth Solar City program.

The proposed Sustainability and Environmental Education program will develop educational programs for each member Council on sustainability and environmental issues on the capacity of individuals and groups to create behavioural change.

A fee-for-service to assist member Councils undertake the review and development of strategic environmental policies and documentation is also proposed.



Item 9.1 continued

Table 3 below summarises the projects and compares the 2012/2013 budget with the proposals for 2013/2014.

Table 3

Environmental Services Projects	Budget 2012/13	Proposed 2013/14
	\$	\$
Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program	350,144	304,429
Future Proofing for Climate Change	117,151	117,151
ACER	63,436	65,935
Water Campaign™	94,765	98,135
Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework	117,214	119,883
Sustainability and Environmental Education Program	0	90,000
Perth Solar City	85,753	0
Total	828,463	795,533

Table 4 below shows a summary of the proposed member Council contributions for the 2013/2014 financial year towards the proposed Environment Services projects of \$795,533 outlined above in Table 3.

Table 4

Environmental Services Proposed Projects Contribution	
	\$
Town of Bassendean	51,090
City of Bayswater	54,273
City of Belmont	54,154
Shire of Kalamunda	58,989
Shire of Mundaring	82,159
City of Swan	57,669
Total	358,334

The Regional Services Project Funding Summary 2013/2014 - 2017/2018 (Attached) highlights achievements for the 2012/2013 financial year and outlines the proposed projects for delivery for Regional Development and Environmental Services from 2013/2014.

In principle support is sought to the project proposals as outlined in the Regional Services Project Funding Summary for use in initiating discussion with member Councils for consideration in the 2013/2014 draft budget. Presentations will be undertaken with the Executive of each member Council in the week beginning the 11 February 2013. These will facilitate member Council feedback and discussion on proposed projects and direction for 2013/2014.



Item 9.1 continued

STRATEGIC/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Key Result Area 1 – Environmental Sustainability

- 1.5 To contribute towards improved regional air, water and land quality and regional biodiversity conservation

Key Result Area 2 – Social Opportunities

- 2.1 To facilitate regional cultural and recreational activities

Key Result Area 3 – Economic Development

- 3.1 To facilitate increased investment in regional infrastructure
- 3.3 To facilitate regional economic development activities

Key Result Area 4 – Good Governance

- 4.2 To provide advice and advocacy on issues affecting Perth's Eastern Region
- 4.4 To manage partnerships and relationships with stakeholders
- 4.7 To continue to improve financial and asset management practices

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Table 5 below shows the combined member Council contributions towards Regional Development and Environmental Services projects proposed for the 2013/2014 financial year.

Attachment 1 provides the preliminary draft proposed project funding and expenditure summaries for Regional Development and Environmental Services projects for the period 2013/2014 – 2017/2018.

Table 5: Summary of Proposed Member Council Project Combined Contributions for Regional Development and Environmental Services Projects – 2013/2014

	Environmental Services	Regional Development	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Town of Bassendean	51,090	25,944	77,034
City of Bayswater	54,273	49,208	103,481
City of Belmont	54,154	41,832	95,986
Shire of Kalamunda	58,989	43,980	102,969
Shire of Mundaring	82,159	39,075	121,234
City of Swan	57,669	85,285	142,954
Total	358,334	285,324	643,658



Item 9.1 continued

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The Regional Services Directorate provides services that are targeted directly at enhancing the Region's sustainability. Projects are diverse to ensure they address key regional issues which fall under each of the broad areas of social, economic and environmental development and meet the outcomes of the Regional Economy Development Strategy, the Regional Environment Strategy, the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, the Regional Advocacy Strategy and the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy.

MEMBER COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

Member Council	Implication Details
Town of Bassendean	} Member Councils will be invited to support the projects being proposed in both a financial capacity in the case of some projects and with human resource support across all projects by way of providing advice, guidance and data as required during the implementation processes of all projects.
City of Bayswater	
City of Belmont	
Shire of Kalamunda	
Shire of Mundaring	
City of Swan	

ATTACHMENT(S)

Regional Services Project Funding Summary 2013/2014 to 2017/2018 (Ref: Committees-15145)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council approves in principle support to the project proposals as outlined in the Regional Services Project Funding Summary 2013/2014 - 2017/2018 for use in initiating discussion with member Councils for consideration in the 2013/2014 draft budget.

The EMRC Chief Executive Officer, Director Regional Services, Manager Regional Development and Manager Environmental Services will be meeting with member Councils Executive Team to discuss the Regional Services Proposed Funding Program 2013/2014. Individual member Councils comments and agreed contributions will be considered from these meetings.

Mr Foley proposed an amendment to the recommendation that the words "in principle support to" be deleted.

CEOAC RECOMMENDATION(S)

MOVED MR COLE

SECONDED MR FOLEY

That Council approves the project proposals as outlined in the Regional Services Project Funding Summary 2013/2014 - 2017/2018 for use in initiating discussion with member Councils for consideration in the 2013/2014 draft budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCIL RESOLUTION(S)

MOVED CR

SECONDED CR



Advancing Perth's Eastern Region 

REGIONAL SERVICES PROJECT FUNDING SUMMARY

For

**Regional Development
Environmental Services**

2013/2014 - 2017/2018

February 2013

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Executive Summary

The Regional Services Project funding summary for 2013/2014 - 2017/2018 highlights achievements for the 2012/2013 financial year and outlines the proposed projects for delivery from 2013/2014.

The Regional Development business unit will deliver an increased number of projects in the area of regional transport planning as well as the strategies from the development of the Regional Digital Strategy. Work in regional economic development and regional advocacy will build on that undertaken in 2012/2013 and include activities identified in the Regional Youth Futures Report.

The Environmental Services business unit will continue to deliver on its core projects as well as an increased focus on strategic regional issues and research such as Marri canker and water quality. Work will continue on the three year Community Energy Efficiency Program and climate change adaptation. Two new projects are proposed for 2013/2014 to replace the completed Perth Solar City program.

Section 1 - Regional Development Projects - Overview

The Regional Development team works with the EMRC's six member councils, regional stakeholders and government partners to stimulate economic growth and associated employment opportunities for the region.

The Regional Development team works collaboratively with member councils and regional stakeholders to:

- Encourage sustainable economic development in the region;
- Facilitate two key regional tourism events and activities;
- Facilitate integrated transport planning initiatives to provide an efficient, safe and integrated regional transport network; and
- Advocate for regional issues and opportunities to maximise the benefits for member councils and communities.

The Regional Development projects being proposed relate to the following strategic documents:

- Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Action Plan 2010-2013.
- Regional Economic Development Strategy 2010-2015.

The Regional Development Business Unit comprises six full time employees:

- Manager, Regional Development;
- Strategic Project Officer (Economic Development);
- Strategic Project Officer (Tourism & Community);
- Strategic Project Officer (Transport & Planning);
- TravelSmart Officer; and
- Administration Research Officer.

The positions of Manager Regional Development and Administration Research Officer are established to support the overall service area of the business unit. The four specialist positions are contract positions attached to the specific project delivery areas.

Member Council officers advise the EMRC on the development and delivery of strategies and projects through participation on steering groups as follows:

Project	Regional Officer Advisory Groups
Regional Transport and Land Use Development	Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Implementation Advisory Group (RITS IAG) <i>Comprising of Technical Directors from member councils, Department of Transport, Department of Planning, Main Roads, Public Transport Authority, WA Transport Forum and Perth Airport Pty Ltd</i>
TravelSmart Program	TravelSmart Officer Network <i>Comprising of all TravelSmart Officers in other local government organisations and key activity centres</i>
Regional Economic Development	Economic Development Officers Group (EDOG) <i>Comprising of Economic Development Officers from member councils</i>
Regional Events Program	Perth's Autumn Festival Project Team Avon Descent Family Fun Days Project Team <i>Comprising of Events, Recreation and Marketing Officers from member councils and participating Councils and/or organisations</i>

The Regional Development funding model requires that for member council contributions that are greater than \$50,000 for a single project, these contributions are as follows as agreed at the Ordinary meeting of Council 27 April 2000 (Ref: Committees-1794).

- One third shared equally between the six member councils;
- The second third be shared proportionately according to rate revenue; and
- The final third be shared proportionately according to population.

The Regional Development formula was last applied in 2004/2005 and an annual 5% increase was agreed. The formula applied in this report is based on an annual 3% increase from 2013/2014 to take into account CPI changes.

1.1 Regional Transport Planning

PURPOSE

The EMRC and its six member councils are committed to working with government and commercial partners to create and promote a transport network in Perth's Eastern Region that is efficient, safe and integrates all modes of transport.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Action Plan 2010-2013 examines transport and access issues affecting economic growth, liveability of the region and the wellbeing of the community.

The RITS Action Plan identifies prioritised strategies and actions to address transport and access issues in Perth's Eastern Region. Securing investment in infrastructure is a challenge to the implementation of RITS and the EMRC's role is predominantly to advocate the region's business case to government. The RITS Implementation Advisory Group is an important source of information and advice to EMRC to ensure advocacy activities are well targeted.

Since endorsement of the RITS, the EMRC has assisted with the following activities:

- Advocacy for the prioritisation of urban roads around Perth Airport.
- Participation in the State Government's Gateway WA Perth Airport and Freight Access Project Steering Committee.
- Participation in the City East Alliance Great Eastern Highway Upgrade Network Operations Working Group.
- Growth in TravelSmart programs such as delivery of TravelSmart Household through the Living Smart project.
- Promotion of Cycle Tourism experiences particularly through the Cycle Perth's Eastern Region brochure.
- Development of a Regional Cycle Network Masterplan to guide development and integration of local cycle paths across the region.
- Increased advocacy efforts for the Perth to Darwin Highway and safety upgrades to Great Eastern Highway Mundaring.
- Promotion of the Walkability Audit Tool in partnership with the Department of Transport to increase the take up of walking as an alternative mode of transport.
- Instrumental in the development of the Perth Hills Trails Masterplan.
- Employment of a TravelSmart Officer in partnership with the Department of Transport to implement the TravelSmart Program.

The employment of a Regional TravelSmart Officer was made possible from grant funding application in the Department of Transport's "TravelSmart Local Government Officer Program". As part of the contractual agreement with the Department of Transport, the Regional TravelSmart Officer will be required to meet the following objectives and milestones:

- Participate in the TravelSmart Local Government Officer Network and professional development offered by the Department of Transport;
- Develop a TravelSmart Work Plan for adoption by EMRC;
- Integrate TravelSmart travel information and behavioral approaches into the broad transport, land-use planning and community development polices of the EMRC;

- Initiate, develop and coordinate community events, programs and displays that promote and encourage sustainable transport especially during Bike and Walk Weeks;
- Work with EMRC employees to develop a Green Transport Plan for the organisation;
- Promote and assist the local community to engage in TravelSmart to School, Walking School Bus, LivingSmart and TravelSmart workplace programs; and
- Develop innovations in the promotion of travel alternatives such as walking, cycling and public transport.

Achievements for 2012-2013

1. Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Major Review

A Major Review of Regional Integrated Transport Strategy (RITS) has been undertaken. This was primarily desktop based and recommendations made to RITS Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) for the future development of the strategy. These be workshopped by the RITS IAG in February 2013.

2. Employment of a Regional TravelSmart Officer

A Regional TravelSmart Officer has been employed for a period of three years to target educational programs and development of Travel Demand Management Plans at employment and activity centres, including Perth Airport, Malaga, Kewdale/Welshpool, Forrestfield, Bassendean/Bayswater. Preliminary consultations with member councils have been undertaken in regards to the direction of the position and will continue to do so for TravelSmart related projects for the duration of the contract term.

3. Curtin University Study: Integrating Future Land Use to Proposed Public Transport Infrastructure : Phase One

EMRC has engaged Curtin University to undertake a follow on study from their previous study for EMRC which investigated the communities' aspirations for public transport in Perth's Eastern Region. The State Governments Public Transport Plan for Perth 2031, outlined the expansion of the Public Transport network in Perth and identified several routes similar to those identified by the community in the EMRC forums. It is a logical follow on from the community aspirations study to investigate the similarly identified public transport routes of the Airport Rail Spur, Ellenbrook and Mundaring. These selected routes will be audited to establish the development potential of land one kilometre either side of the routes.

4. Perth Hills Trails Master Plan

EMRC is an active member of the Perth Hills Trails Reference Group, which developed the Perth Hills Trails Master Plan in 2012/2013. The Master Plan included a review of all walking, horse riding, mountain biking, four wheel drive and trail bike trails in the Perth Hills. The resulting report included an Action Plan with recommended strategies for implementation over the coming 15 – 20 years.

What is planned for 2013-2014?

1. Implement Findings of Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Major Review

The major review findings of the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy and agreed upon recommendations made by the RITS IAG, will be progressed. The recommended outcome is the redevelopment of the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy with a timeframe of 2013-2016.

2. Curtin University Study: Integrating Future Land Use to Proposed Public Transport Infrastructure - Phase Two

The second component of the Integrating Future Land Use to Proposed Public Transport Infrastructure study will be to undertake a series of stakeholder engagement events.

With an emphasis on land use and transport integration, these engagements will encourage the community to envision what the future development of the land along the routes and stations could be. This component of the study will include consultation forums/workshops with developers, the community and Local/State Government.

The series of forum workshops will be designed to provide participants with access to the data collected during the audit phase. The first forum will focus on development proponents to determine the outlook of development and assess their views of the potential for development in the area. Three community forums/workshops across the EMRC region will determine the popular places and suitable locations for stops along the routes and the preferred nature of development at significant locations.

Findings from the audit and the forums will be presented at the final forum/workshop with government agency representatives. This will assist the relevant departments in making informed decisions about the potential for developing the rapid public transport routes. This project derives from the RITS Action 5.10 and Objective 5.3.

3. Activity Centre Walkability Network Master Plan

The findings from the Major Review of the RITS recommended developing an Activity Centre Walkability Network Master Plan.

The Plan will use the Walkability Audit Tool developed by the Department of Transport in partnership with the EMRC in 2011/2012. The tool is used to conduct audits and identify gaps and poor infrastructure in the pathway network. It is proposed that the audits focus around activity centres as identified in Directions 2031 and Beyond; schools, transport hubs and desired locations identified by member councils.

The master plan would compile a report of all priority improvements required to increase walking around these activity centres. This would form a Priority Walking Infrastructure Project List, which would become a regular item on the RITS IAG agenda. This project idea has derived from RITS Actions 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5, and Objective 3.3.

4. EMRC Transport Network Vision

The EMRC seeks to build on previous research on the communities' aspirations for public transport in the Perth's Eastern Region. This qualitative information provides a baseline for the desired public transport to develop a Transport Network Vision for Perth's Eastern Region. The research relates to RITS Actions 1.2, 1.3, 2.2 and 2.9.

The Regional Economic Development Strategy highlights the transport vulnerability of Perth's Eastern Region. The Vulnerability Index Assessment for Mortgage, Petrol and Inflation Risks and Expenditure, Perth, 2001 and 2006 rates Ballajura, Beechboro, Morley and Gooseberry Hill as 'Very High' vulnerability and Bassendean as 'High' vulnerability. This vulnerability can be reduced through the provision of Rapid Public Transport throughout Perth's Eastern Region.

The Transport Network Vision project would ultimately provide a network map identifying actions needed to reduce transport vulnerability throughout Perth's Eastern Region. The study would utilise PTA Smart Rider data and census data to determine where there are gaps in the public transport network, particularly for movements to and from high employment areas. The vision would ultimately be used as an advocacy tool.

5. Public Transport Service Investigation

The EMRC will survey the adequacy and desire for Public Transport of Local Businesses as part of the Industry Engagement Framework project. This will provide the basis information to determine whether pursuing a research study is feasible and to provide a foundation for advocating to the Public Transport Authority to conduct a survey to obtain information on community opinion and transport needs. This project links to RITS Actions 2.2 and 5.9, and REDS Actions 4.2 and 5.2.

6. Investigate the Benefits of a Business and/or Community Travel Survey

To complement the results of the “EMRC Transport Network Vision” (above), the viability of a travel survey targeting key business/community areas will be investigated. Information related to travel behaviour is currently limited to Australian Census Journey to Work and SmartRider data and therefore does not describe the non-work trips and trips made by non-public transport modes.

This additional information will help guide and identify future projects, allowing EMRC to advocate in support for sustainable transport provision in targeted areas of need. It will also help understand barriers and the potential for TravelSmart related projects to influence travel behaviour change towards sustainable transport modes. This project links to RITS Actions 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11 3.1, 5.1, 5.7 and 5.9.

7. TravelSmart Educational Forums

EMRC seeks to promote and educate the TravelSmart message across Perth's Eastern Region by facilitating TravelSmart Educational Forums, targeting relevant businesses and schools that individual member councils have identified as priority. These forums will help businesses and schools understand the benefits of facilitating sustainable transport behaviour and help identify priority areas for future projects, whilst also promoting the TravelSmart to School, Walking School Bus, LivingSmart and the TravelSmart workplace programs. This project links to RITS Actions 2.8, 5.1 and 5.5.

8. TravelSmart Communications and Marketing Tool

A TravelSmart Communications and Marketing Tool will be developed to assist the EMRC and its member councils integrate TravelSmart related information into relevant events and meetings where there is a potential to encourage staff and community members to choose a more sustainable method of transport.

This may include templates that can be included in various mediums of communication that highlight all the viable walking, cycling and public transport routes to the event/meeting location making the choice to use a sustainable transport method an easier option. This project links to RITS Action 5.1 and 5.8.

How will member councils benefit?

The provision of efficient and sustainable transport infrastructure in Perth's Eastern Region is a critical issue for both local and State Government with predicted population and transport demand growth for Perth in the medium to longer term. By utilising a regional approach for advocacy and service provision using best practice planning principles, member councils will benefit by minimising the dependency on motor vehicle use that contributes to road congestion, road trauma, air pollution, noise pollution, carbon emissions, and high transportation costs.

In addition, well planned activity centres the provision of walking and cycling infrastructure and travel demand management activities will encourage the use of alternative modes of transport and will help deliver economic, social and environmental benefits to the region.

What impact/support will this project have on member councils?

In-kind support will be required from member councils in the form of officer time to participate in the RITS IAG and TravelSmart project teams which will be focused upon the activities listed above over the next 12 months. Ongoing support for the Travel Smart Officer is required for Year 2 of the three year program.

Member Council support is sought to undertake the following Regional Transport Planning and Development projects:

Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Redevelopment	\$20,000
Curtin Study: Phase Two Community Consultation	\$15,000
Regional Walkability Audit Brief	\$20,000
Transport Network Vision	\$10,000
	\$65,000
Travel Smart - Year 2 Project	\$37,200
Total Support Requested	\$102,200

Five Year Financial Summary

Adopted Budget 2012/13	Regional Transport Planning and Development	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	Operating Income					
	Member councils contributions TravelSmart					
(1,343)	Town of Bassendean	(3,286)	(5,299)	0	0	0
(2,692)	City of Bayswater	(6,588)	(10,624)	0	0	0
(2,172)	City of Belmont	(5,312)	(8,568)	0	0	0
(2,333)	Shire of Kalamunda	(5,710)	(9,209)	0	0	0
(2,029)	Shire of Mundaring	(4,966)	(8,010)	0	0	0
(4,633)	City of Swan	(11,338)	(18,290)	0	0	0
(15,202)	Member council Contribution TravelSmart	(37,200)	(60,000)	0	0	0
	Member council Contribution: RITS Projects					
0	Town of Bassendean	(5,561)	(5,728)	(5,900)	(6,077)	(6,259)
0	City of Bayswater	(11,194)	(11,530)	(11,876)	(12,232)	(12,599)
0	City of Belmont	(9,461)	(9,745)	(10,037)	(10,338)	(10,648)
0	Shire of Kalamunda	(10,111)	(10,414)	(10,727)	(11,049)	(11,380)
0	Shire of Mundaring	(8,811)	(9,075)	(9,348)	(9,628)	(9,917)
0	City of Swan	(19,861)	(20,457)	(21,071)	(21,703)	(22,354)
	Council Contribution RITS	(64,999)	(67,039)	(68,959)	(71,027)	(73,157)
(44,800)	Department of Transport Grant - TravelSmart	(22,800)	0	0	0	0
(0)	Grants - Cycling Initiatives*	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)
(0)	Grants - Walking Initiatives*	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)
(60,002)	Total Income	(154,999)	(157,039)	(98,959)	(101,027)	(103,157)
Operating Expenditure						
68,972	Implement Regional Integrated Transport Strategy 2010-2013 Public Transport Service Investigation Transport projects	66,356	68,839 40,000	71,565 40,000	74,408 40,000	74,408 40,000
88,435	Implement TravelSmart programs Travel Smart Education Forums	93,435	93,435	0	0	0
0	RITS Redevelopment	20,000	0	0	0	20,000
24,000	Implement Curtin Phase Two Research Community consultation	27,000 15,000	0	0	0	0
0	Regional Walkability Audit Brief	20,000	0	0	0	0
0	Transport Network Vision	10,000	0	0	0	0
0	Walking and Cycling*	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
181,407	Total Expenditure	281,791	232,274	141,565	144,408	164,408
112,405	Net EMRC Contribution	126,792	75,235	42,606	43,381	61,251

* Expenditure for cycling and walking projects will only occur if grants can be secured.

1.2 Regional Economic Development

PURPOSE

Regional economic development activities seek to achieve and maintain a prosperous future for the region and its residents. A range of activities that facilitate the alignment of workforce, skills, enabling infrastructure, investment, land and leadership to the needs of industry are delivered to support economic growth.

It is critical that the EMRC responds to the expected residential population growth in the region over the next 20 years through effective investment in economic development in order to ensure sufficient employment opportunities. This aligns to key State Government planning strategies such as the Department of Planning's Directions 2031 and Beyond.

BACKGROUND

The EMRC has supported member councils and industry stakeholders to achieve economic development outcomes since 1998. Since establishment of the Economic Development Officers Group (EDOG) in September 2007, regional economic development activities undertaken by the EMRC have continued to address barriers to business and industry growth and investment attraction.

Economic development is also identified as a key result area in the EMRC's Strategic Plan for the Future 2010/11-2013/14, which includes the objective *"to facilitate regional economic development activities"*.

In 2010 the EMRC, in association with EDOG and other stakeholders, developed the Regional Economic Development Strategy 2010-2015 (REDS) which sets in place a structured framework for the delivery of economic development activities over four years and identifies the following seven Key Focus Areas:

- **Local Jobs for Local People** - To improve employment self-containment by working with partners to focus on initiatives that align the availability of local jobs to the local working resident population.
- **Buy Local, Supply Local** - To maximise local supply and demand opportunities through initiatives that reduce leakage of economic activity to other areas.
- **Think Smart, Work Smart** - To increase the output value of Perth's Eastern Region by developing and attracting knowledge intensive and creative industries, encouraging innovation in existing businesses, and generally creating higher value employment opportunities in the region.
- **Joining the Dots** - To create world class enabling infrastructure that maximise economic productivity, creates competitive advantage for businesses in Perth's Eastern Region and resolves infrastructure bottlenecks that inhibit growth.
- **Work Hard, Play Hard** - To protect, improve and promote the livability of Perth's Eastern Region through the supply and diversity of housing, education, health, culture and vibrancy to attract workers to live and enjoy the Region in which they work.
- **Natural Growth** - To ensure that economic growth complements rather than compromises the environmental future of Perth's Eastern Region by taking an environmentally responsible and sustainable approach.
- **Responsible Leadership** - To provide good governance that facilitates responsible economic growth, advocates for Perth's Eastern Region, and encourages all stakeholders to work collaboratively together, equipped with the best knowledge to exercise sound leadership.

The Strategy defines a series of objectives and actions within each Key Focus Area and these form the basis for future activities. The REDS is monitored, reviewed and evaluated on an ongoing basis through a number of mechanisms including:

- Regional meetings of the Economic Development Officers Group;
- The monitoring of KPI's;
- Quarterly Regional Development Activity Reports which are presented to the CEO Advisory Committee and EMRC Council;
- A minor review of the Strategy undertaken annually; and
- Where appropriate, the community is informed of significant developments through the EMRC website, media releases and newsletter.

Achievements for 2012-2013

1. Economic Development Officers Group (EDOG) Facilitation

The EDOG meetings have been hosted and facilitated by the EMRC since the group's establishment in 2007 and provide a forum for the discussion of regional economic development matters. These meetings are also linked to new projects as directed by member councils and the strategy.

2. Showcase Series

In June 2011, the EDOG identified the need to expand the former industrial tours to incorporate Small to Medium Enterprises. The 'Showcase Series' was created and coordination was undertaken by the EMRC.

Two showcases have been undertaken in 2012. The first event held in March 2012 was focused on Digital Media and featured keynote presentations from NBN Co and Fortis, a cloud computing company. The event included 'stalls' from 5 local businesses operating in the digital space and attracted over 60 people from more than 30 local businesses in the region. The second event held in September 2012 focused on Health and featured keynote presentations from the CEO of the Midland Health Campus Project and a local entrepreneur operating in the pharmaceutical industry. This event was also successful with over 55 people attending the event from over 30 local businesses.

A third event is scheduled for February 2013 and will focus on Transport to reflect the importance of Perth's Eastern Region as a transport and industry hub.

3. Provision of Regional Profiling Tools

The EMRC coordinated the continued subscription to REMPLAN, profile.id, and atlas.id. These tools provide economic and socio-demographic profiling data for the Region and provide member councils and other stakeholders with online access to profiling data. In 2012/13 several updates occurred including the incorporation of statistics from the 2011 Census to underpin timely data provision for the region. A publically available 'Economic Profile' for the region is available and this has also been translated to Chinese to promote the region to Chinese audiences and attract investment opportunities from Australia's largest trading partner. Annual training for member councils and key stakeholders has been provided for all available regional profiling tools.

4. External Program Review

Research was undertaken to identify REDS actions that complement those activities being undertaken, planned, or of interest to other stakeholders (e.g. State and Federal Government departments). This process aimed to promote the establishment of on-going communication channels and to discuss opportunities for support to deliver REDS actions.

An example of this is:

- Cluster Development: Department of Commerce, Enterprise Connect: The EMRC attended several workshops and forums focused on establishing stronger connections between academia, industry and government in the hopes of providing better support for the establishment of clusters. Relationships

have been established with key players from several relevant State departments, research institutes and industry bodies (including Department of Commerce, Enterprise Connect, Hunternet, Cluster Navigation and Curtin University).

5. Independent Research Program

Research to identify key insights that will influence delivery of REDS actions has been undertaken. The detailed scope for these research projects is determined by EDOG to ensure that the research provides the basis to support local outcomes. A perception research survey will be undertaken to assess how Perth's Eastern Region is perceived as a place to live work and play (Action 5.2).

6. Industry Engagement Framework

The development of the Industry Engagement Framework (IEF) has been undertaken in close consultation with EDOG. The Framework consists of several tools chosen specifically for their ability to engage with business and industry in creative and innovative ways.

The Framework leverages many of the REDS actions that require engagement with businesses and industry stakeholders to capture insights that will inform the development of tailored support strategies into the future. The Framework was developed to create the Industry Engagement Framework Toolkit, an agreed approach for capturing feedback from businesses in Perth's Eastern Region.

The IEF formed the 'development phase' of the project and was implemented via the Business Insights Program (BIP) which formed the 'delivery phase'. The Framework has been able to embed methods, tools and branding to support member councils with their own priorities in addition to providing a regional platform for engaging with business and industry.

7. Business Insights Program

The Business Insights Program is the application of the Industry Engagement Framework (IEF) and its associated tools to capture insights from business and industry in Perth's Eastern Region. The BIP has provided a channel for member councils to promote their profile by providing a two-way mechanism for information exchange and networking with local businesses. This two-way information exchange and networking supports a number of additional REDS actions relating to advocacy, education and promotion activities within the strategy (e.g. networking, business improvement etc.).

It has facilitated the development of relationships between existing business networks and associations (e.g. local chambers of commerce, small business support centers and business associations) and increased the potential for knowledge sharing across existing business networks to encourage creativity and innovation.

8. Regional Digital Strategy

The EMRC is facilitating, through the engagement of a consultant, the development of a Regional Digital Strategy (RDS) through extensive consultation with partnering member councils, business, industry and the community. The Strategy will act as a guide in the delivery of agreed regional broadband activities to ensure that it operates in conjunction with member council's existing strategies.

The RDS will prepare Perth's Eastern Region to make the most effective use of the technology associated with the Digital economy. The development of a RDS will assist to strengthen and diversify the economy and contribute to business viability and sustainable employment for residents of Perth's Eastern Region.

The RDS will complement member council priorities and provide the strategic direction for member councils to develop and/or align local economic digital strategies to leverage regional directions.

9. Regional Economic Development Strategy 2010-2015 Minor Review

The Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) was completed in November 2010. This was driven by changes in the economic environment and the need for alignment of regional activities with economic development strategies of member councils. The strategy has since been utilized as the baseline against which all regional economic development activities have been completed and measured.

The monitoring, review and evaluation of the REDS takes place on several levels including a minor review to be undertaken annually which focuses on the updating of actions in accordance with important State and Federal strategies released since the initial development of the document. A desktop review of the objectives and actions contained in the strategy will be presented and work shopped at the March 2013 meeting of the Economic Development Officers Group.

10. Regional Events

In 2011, member councils approved the EMRC continuation of facilitating the Perth's Autumn Festival, the Avon Descent Family Fun Days and the website www.perthtourism.com.au. (Ref: Committees-12366). All other activities from the Regional Tourism Strategy 2010 - 2015 have either been completed or re-identified under the Regional Economic Development Strategy.

Avon Descent Family Fun Days

The Avon Descent Family Fun Days are a series of family-orientated events held annually on the banks of the Avon and Swan Rivers on the first weekend of August with the aim of engaging local communities and visitors with the Avon Descent white water race. EMRC coordinates annual Lotterywest grant funding to assist councils with event staging costs and support a significant regional marketing campaign coordinated by EMRC.

EMRC has applied for and acquitted funding from Lotterywest on behalf of the member councils and the Shires of Toodyay and Northam since 2004. Since 2005 and including 2012, the EMRC has received Lotterywest funding totaling \$1,724,828.34 (ex GST). The EMRC's ongoing relationship with Lotterywest has resulted in a streamlined grant funding agreement for the Avon Descent Family Fun Days, which reduces the paperwork requirements from member councils as part of the grant application and acquittal processes and increases the amount of funding available on a regional basis

Significant achievements in 2012/2013 include:

- Increased collaboration on the 2012 Avon Descent Family Fun Days, for greater integration with the race event. It is estimated that over 23,000 people attended the five family fun day events held at Northam, Toodyay, Guildford, Belmont and Bayswater from 3 August to 5 August 2012.
- Securing and administering a Lotterywest grant for \$250,500 for the 2012 Avon Descent Family Fun Days event on behalf of the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont, Shire of Northam, City of Swan and Shire of Toodyay.
- Coordination of a collaborative marketing campaign on behalf of participating councils to promote the 2012 Avon Descent Family Fun Days to the wider Perth metropolitan and intrastate areas. The \$90,000 regional marketing campaign consolidated and cross-promoted marketing efforts, and achieved an estimated \$160,000 in advertising value.
- Recognition as a finalist in the 2012 WA Tourism Awards in the 'Tourism Marketing' for the regional marketing campaigns coordinated for the 2011 Avon Descent Family Fun Days.
- Partnering with the Northam's Avon Descent Association, Lotterywest and Eventscorp to undertake a strategic review of the Avon Descent, including the family fun days. The review included extensive analysis and stakeholder consultation, and provides a strategic plan to grow the Avon Descent as a major event.

- Seeking the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding and fee for service arrangement with the Shire of Northam and Shire of Toodyay for the Avon Descent Family Fun Days.

Perth's Autumn Festival

Perth's Autumn Festival is an annual six week program of events coordinated by EMRC that collaboratively promotes member council nominated tourism, community and cycling events held in Perth's Eastern Region under the umbrella of 'Perth's Autumn Festival'.

Significant achievements in 2012/2013 include:

- Coordination of the 2013 Perth's Autumn Festival program, with eight tourism, community and cycling events held throughout Perth's Eastern Region from 14 March to 5 May 2013. It is estimated that the festival will attract over 20,000 people based on previous years.
- Continued support for councils to implement the 'Clean and Green by 2013' Strategy Action Plans for the Perth's Autumn Festival.
- Liaison with Lotterywest to expand the scope of Perth's Autumn Festival by applying for a grant, which delivered \$67,411 (ex GST) on behalf of the City of Bayswater, City of Belmont and City of Swan to assist member councils with event staging costs.
- Recognition as a finalist in the 2012 WA Tourism Awards in the 'Tourism Marketing' for the regional marketing campaigns coordinated for the 2012 Perth's Autumn Festival.

11. Regional Online Portal

PerthTourism.com.au is a regional tourism website maintained by the EMRC that provides information events, trails and experiences in Perth's Eastern Region to over 50,000 residents and prospective visitors each year. The website refers enquiries to the three Visitor Centres located in the region for detailed product information and bookings. The website is also used as a central point of information for the annual Perth's Autumn Festival and Avon Descent Family Fun Day events.

EMRC continued development of and increased visitor statistics to the regional tourism website during 2012 / 2013. The website saw a 30% increase in unique visitor numbers during 2012 / 2013 compared with 2011 / 2012. A plan was developed for a proposed project for a Chinese tourism website to leverage the increased federal and state government focus on China as a growing tourism market.

What is planned for 2013-2014?

A number of activities and projects will be continued for 2013 – 2014 in concert with several new projects that are proposed for the period.

1. Economic Development Officers Group (EDOG) Facilitation

The EMRC will coordinate the EDOG meetings on a bi-monthly basis. The meetings provide a forum for the discussion of regional economic development matters with officers from member councils along with providing the EMRC with direction on project detail. These meetings are also a forum for the presentation of REDS progress, presentation of research findings, discussion and feedback.

2. Industrial Advocacy Tours

EDOG identified the need to re-launch the Industrial 'Famil' Tours previously undertaken by the EMRC. These were a series of half day tours for the EMRC and member council officers involved in economic development and strategic planning of industrial areas in Perth's Eastern Region. The purpose was to familiarise EMRC and member council staff with industrial estates in order to maximise cross promotion of opportunities for investment attraction to Perth's Eastern Region.

The tours were expanded to include the Chief Executive Officer Advisory Committee members and relevant member council senior officers, along with local Councilors and State government representatives. At the direction of EDOG the final tour in the series was held in April 2011 and the tours were replaced with the Showcase Series of events, which were targeted towards small to medium enterprises/local businesses.

In November 2012, EDOG identified a 'gap' in the shift from these tours and agreed to re-launch the familiarisation tours with a specific advocacy agenda targeted towards state agencies and politicians. It was agreed there was a need for both the Familiarisation Tours and the Showcase Series and a commitment was made from EDOG to support this.

3. Continued Provision of Regional Profiling Tools

The REMPLAN, *profile.id*, and *atlas.id* tools provide economic and demographic profiling data for the region and will continue to be provided to allow member councils and other stakeholders' access to useful profiling data relating to Perth's Eastern Region. Statistics from the 2011 Census have been incorporated into all tools to underpin timely data provision for the region. Regular training for member councils and key stakeholders will be coordinated by the EMRC in 2013-2014.

4. Showcase Series

The EMRC will continue to facilitate the Showcase series in 2013/14 following strong support from the EDOG and strong support from the local businesses in the region, as evidenced by the high levels of attendance feedback received at each event already held. Topics will be identified by EDOG on a situational basis, taking into consideration the social, economic and political context.

The Showcase Series acts as a regional platform for information sharing and networking. The purpose of the Showcases is to increase the output value of Perth's Eastern Region by developing and attracting knowledge intensive and creative industries to encourage innovation in existing business and create higher value employment opportunities in the region.

5. Strategic Project Officer (Digital)

The development of a Regional Digital Strategy (RDS) through extensive consultation with partnering member councils, business, industry and the community will be completed in June 2013. The Strategy acts as a guide in the delivery of agreed regional broadband activities and ensures that it operates in concert with member council's existing strategies.

The establishment of the RDS complements member council priorities and provides the strategic direction for member councils to develop and/or align local economic digital strategies to leverage regional directions. Upon the completion of the RDS, there will be a series of actions that require completion. It may be necessary that a Strategic Project Officer (Digital) be employed by the EMRC and be responsible for:

- Acting as the central point of contact for all NBN related enquiries;
- Providing digital direction and training to member councils;
- Developing and delivering digital strategies for member councils on a needs basis; and
- Providing digital workshops to assist business and community in becoming 'digital ready'.

The specifics of the role will be identified by the RDS which will highlight the strengths and gaps in the Region and provide the necessary direction for the potential role.

6. Business Insights Program Support Strategies

The application of the Industry Engagement Framework through the Business Insights Program (BIP) is expected to capture comprehensive data and reveal significant insights into the challenges and

opportunities faced by business and industry in Perth's Eastern Region. The resulting data will form the basis of tailored support strategies to continue assisting local business. Based on the success of the project (due for completion in June 2013) the Engagement Framework will be continued into the 2013/14 period to achieve consistency for the local businesses involved and provide consistent platforms through which they can be engaged.

7. Research Program

This project will utilise seed funding to research the barriers to matching local residents to local jobs. A funding partner will be sought (potentially a tertiary education institute). This project will leverage existing barriers identified through consultation with EDOG and seek solutions to the issue of local employment retention.

8. Regional Events

Avon Descent Family Fun Days

The annual Avon Descent Family Fun Days will continue to be promoted and developed in collaboration with the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont, Shire of Northam, City of Swan and Shire of Toodyay. Funding will be sought from Lotterywest for the future Avon Descent Family Fun Days.

Annual Lotterywest funding of \$250,500 assists councils to meet the costs of staging five family fun day events including infrastructure, services and entertainment. The funding also supports a significant collaborative regional marketing campaign coordinated by EMRC, which is developed in collaboration with participating councils. In 2012 the \$90,000 regional marketing campaign coordinated by EMRC achieved over \$150,000 in estimated advertising value – delivering approximately \$30,000 to each of the participating councils, and a similar result is anticipated for 2013.

In 2012, EMRC partnered with the Northam's Avon Descent Association, Lotterywest and Eventscorp to undertake a strategic review of the Avon Descent white water race, including the family fun days. EMRC will continue to work closely with these key stakeholders to implement the recommendations arising from the review in the continued development of the family fun days.

Perth's Autumn Festival

The annual Perth's Autumn Festival will continue to be promoted and developed in collaboration with member councils. The flexibility of the Perth's Autumn Festival regional event program allows member councils to nominate one community or tourism event and one cycling event held within their region during the time period. Event organisers are encouraged to use the events to create a profile that can benefit the local community and Perth's Eastern Region by attracting visitation through tourism and activities.

Through participation in the Perth's Autumn Festival, member councils receive access to an event management consultant, event business planning support and festival branded marketing collateral. EMRC also coordinates a regional marketing campaign that delivers over \$180,000 in estimated advertising value. The total value of this support is conservatively estimated at around \$10,000 to \$20,000 per event.

Following discussions with Lotterywest, EMRC sought grant funding support to grow the Perth's Autumn Festival and in 2013, EMRC applied for grant funding to support three member council events. In 2014, the grant funding opportunity will be expanded to further develop additional festival events and support event infrastructure, services, entertainment and EMRC's regional marketing campaign.

9. Regional Online Portal

EMRC will continue development and maintenance of both English and Japanese PerthTourism.com.au websites. Following an increased focus by the state and federal governments on China as a growing tourism market, EMRC will develop a Chinese tourism website, linked to the existing English and

Japanese sites. Similar to the existing Japanese website, the Chinese site will provide simplified information on experiences and trails in Perth's Eastern Region.

How will member councils benefit?

Member councils have made a significant contribution to the development of the Regional Economic Development Strategy and in doing so have ensured the alignment of regional priorities with their local area economic development priorities. The Regional Economic Development Strategy will deliver outcomes that support member councils through increasing local employment, supporting industry investment, advocacy for regional priorities, and promoting the region as a whole. The Strategy complements local priorities of member councils, to maximise leverage and make effective use of collective resources.

Close collaboration with member councils is planned and member councils will benefit from the sharing of research and information as well as realising potential value from engagement with businesses.

Activities will support the delivery of REDS actions and in turn will directly help member councils with their own economic development activities. The activities require seeking insight from businesses through the assistance of member councils. The engagement process and associated tools are expected to support member councils while increasing their profile with businesses in their local area.

What impact/support will this project have on member councils?

In-kind support will be required from member councils in the form of officer time to participate in the Economic Development Officers Group, Perth's Autumn Festival and Avon Descent Family Fun Days project teams which will be focused upon the activities listed above over the next 12 months. In addition, member councils will be required to support the continued delivery of the mini showcases conducted in their council area and to give input to regional submissions and project proposals that may occur during the period.

The *Business Insights* Program will require participation of member councils to participate in engagement activities. Member councils may be also required to make in-kind and financial contributions to leverage grant funding for additional opportunities that may arise during the year, although these will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Member council support is sought for the following projects:

Business Insights Program Support Strategies	\$30,000
Regional Digital Officer	\$65,000
Showcase Series	\$15,000
Economic and Social Profiling	\$12,000
Chinese Tourism Website	\$ 6,000
Regional Events	\$55,126
Total Support requested	\$183,126

Five Year Financial Summary

Program Title	Regional Economic Development					
Adopted Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
\$	<i>Operating Income</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Member councils Contributions: REDS					
(13,127)	Town of Bassendean	(12,411)	(12,783)	(13,167)	(13,562)	(13,969)
(26,564)	City of Bayswater	(21,944)	(22,603)	(23,281)	(23,979)	(24,699)
(21,420)	City of Belmont	(19,011)	(19,581)	(20,169)	(20,774)	(21,397)
(2,000)	Shire of Kalamunda	(20,111)	(20,714)	(21,336)	(21,976)	(22,635)
(11,953)	Shire of Mundaring	(17,911)	(18,448)	(19,002)	(19,572)	(20,159)
(47,727)	City of Swan	(36,611)	(37,709)	(38,841)	(40,006)	(41,206)
(122,791)	Member council Income REDS	(127,999)	(131838)	(135,796)	(139,869)	(144,065)
	Member council Contribution: Regional Events					
(4,463)	Town of Bassendean	(4,686)	(4,920)	(5,166)	(5,424)	(5,586)
(9,030)	City of Bayswater	(9,482)	(9,956)	(10,454)	(10,976)	(11,305)
(7,955)	City of Belmont	(8,048)	(8,450)	(8,873)	(9,316)	(9,595)
(7,955)	Shire of Kalamunda	(8,048)	(8,450)	(8,873)	(9,316)	(9,595)
(7,035)	Shire of Mundaring	(7,387)	(7,756)	(8,144)	(8,551)	(8,807)
(16,643)	City of Swan	(17,475)	(18,349)	(19,266)	(19,843)	(20,438)
(53,081)	Member council Income Regional Events	(55,126)	(57,881)	(60,776)	(63,426)	(65,326)
(250,500)	Other contributions: Avon Descent Family Fun Days grant funding (Lotterywest)	(250,500)	(250,500)	(250,500)	(250,500)	(250,500)
(67,411)	Perth's Autumn Festival grant funding (Lotterywest)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
(20,000)	Perth's Autumn Festival sponsorship	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)

Program Title	Regional Economic Development					
Adopted Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
(0)	Shire of Northam	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)
(0)	Shire of Toodyay	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)
(513,783)	Total Income	(513,625)	(520,219)	(527,072)	(533,795)	(539,891)
	<i>Operating Expenditure</i>					
	Implement Regional Economic Development Strategy					
	Facilitation of EDOG Research Program					
	Advocacy Tours					
164,663	Cycle PER Brochure	190,981	196,710	202,612	208,690	214,950
64,455	Regional Digital Strategy	65,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
0	Showcase Series	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
34,000	Economic community profile tools	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000
46,333	Industry Engagement Framework & Business Insights Program	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
166,680	Perth's Autumn Festival	154,000	155,000	157,000	159,000	160,000
295,745	Avon Descent Family Fun Days	297,234	298,783	301,383	303,159	303,159
8,663	Perth Tourism website	8,818	8,979	9,156	9,341	9,341
0	Develop Chinese Tourism website	6,000	0	0	0	0
780,539	Total Expenditure	801,033	808,472	819,151	829,190	836,450
266,756	<i>Net EMRC contribution</i>	287,408	288,253	292,079	295,395	296,559

1.3 Regional Youth and Education

PURPOSE

To consider priority projects to improve regional youth and education opportunities.

BACKGROUND

Historically, the EMRC has engaged in youth focused activities in response to external funding opportunities that align to the organisation's business or project directions. It is recognised that state government agencies and community organisations are the principal providers of education and employment services to youth.

A Regional Youth and Education Discussion Paper presented to Council in 2012, identified the region has a wide range of agencies delivering services for young people and that member Councils are actively involved in the delivery of a range of youth initiatives in their communities. This includes youth development through community capacity building, direct service provision and/or financial and in-kind support to community based providers.

Information provided in the Regional Youth and Education Discussion Paper was used as a foundation for engagement with member Councils and key stakeholders. Consultation sought to identify regional priorities and identify the role of the EMRC with regard to such priorities.

Four priority regional projects have been identified and these regional activities will support those underway or proposed by member councils, the community sector and government. The youth projects complement the direction, projects and initiatives already outlined in the Regional Economic Development Strategy, the Regional Environment Strategy and Regional Advocacy Strategy.

What is planned for 2013-2014?

The Regional consultation with key stakeholders undertaken in 2012 highlighted the strengths and gaps within the youth sector in Perth's Eastern Region. Member Councils, their partner agencies and other key regional organisations identified improved regional collaboration and a unified approach to lobbying and advocacy as opportunities to significantly improve the services available to young people in the Region.

The EMRC was seen as being well placed to lead the regional advocacy, linking lobbying for improved youth infrastructure and services with their existing Regional Advocacy Strategy. The development of strong regional networks to support member Councils was also seen to align with the EMRC's objectives, however, it was not considered the EMRC needed to be the sole driver of such collaboration.

Building on existing EMRC strengths to deliver the Bush Skills for Youth program was seen to complement the EMRC's Environmental Strategy and supporting the development and delivery of a Regional Youth Week Forum during National Youth Week 2014 would enhance the EMRC's Regional Events program.

1. Eastern Region Youth Network

The development of the Eastern Region Youth Network (ERYN) will build on the existing Swan and Surrounding Suburbs Youth Network, SaSSYNet and the Swan NEST project auspiced by RISE (formerly Hills Community Support Network). ERYN could coordinate the development of strong regional networks and skills development training and support for those engaged in the provision of youth services in Perth's Eastern Region.

Allocation of funds within the Regional Economic Development Program will support the development of regional networks. The Network would be supported to source funds to support the development of a regional training calendar from another funding provider.

2. Regional Advocacy and Lobbying

Advocating on behalf of member Councils and the non-government sector to garner support from State and Federal Government for increased programs, services and facilities for young people in Perth's Eastern Region is critical to the development of a 'joined-up' approach to meeting the needs of the Region's young people. Such advocacy includes raising awareness of the needs of young people as part of the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy and seeking to develop a regional approach to the development of key infrastructure, such as community 'hubs' which will deliver services for young people. This priority project can be considered as part of the Regional Advocacy Program.

3. Bush Skills for Youth

The development of a Bush Skills program to support local environmental groups attract young volunteers is aligned to the EMRC's Eastern Hills Catchment Management Programme. Whilst the EHCMP currently operates in the City of Swan and the Shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring, the Bush Skills for Youth program and associated volunteering activities could also be activated in the Cities of Bayswater and Belmont and the Town of Bassendean, particularly in relation to river/foreshore focused projects.

There is also an opportunity as part of the program to engage with other youth volunteering organisations such as Useful Inc to develop new and innovative ways of involving young people in environmental projects. This project is included in the Environmental Services Program. Funding for this project will be sought from Lotterywest.

4. Regional Youth Week Forum

A Regional Forum during National Youth Week 2014 would bring together key stakeholders to re-visit the priorities for young people and youth services in the Eastern Region. It would build on the work of the regional network group, ERYN and on the forum to be hosted by the Swan NEST program in 2013.

Allocation of funds within the Regional Economic Development Program will support the development of regional networks, critical to the delivery of a Regional Youth Forum. Seed funding will also be used to leverage grant funding from other funding sources.

This Forum could be a precursor to the development of a series of Regional Youth Week activities across member Council areas in 2014/15. It is anticipated that any such calendar of activities would attract funding from external organisations.

Five Year Financial Summary

Regional Youth Projects						
Adopted Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
\$	Operating Expenditure	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
36,909	Facilitate Youth initiatives	(46,909)	(46,909)	(46,909)	(46,909)	(46,909)
	Regional Environment Project	<i>See Environmental Services</i>				
	Regional Advocacy Project	<i>See Regional Advocacy Program</i>				
36,909	Total Expenditure	46,909	46,909	46,909	46,909	46,909
36,909	Net EMRC contribution	46,909	46,909	46,909	46,909	46,909

1.4 Regional Advocacy Program and Sponsorship

PURPOSE

The Regional Advocacy Program seeks to build capacity within the EMRC and its member councils to attract an increased share of benefits and services to Perth's Eastern Region through a framework that delivers effective regional advocacy campaigns.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Advocacy Strategy 2010-2013 was adopted in September 2009 to provide a strategic direction for future advocacy efforts across the region. The Strategy establishes nine key regional issues of priority impacting on member councils as the focus for advocacy activity and actions associated with these priority issues are agreed annually by Council.

Achievements for 2012-2013

The focus of regional advocacy was on a range of strategic issues raised by member councils and EMRC strategies such as the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy, the Regional Environmental Strategy and the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan. Other topics raised at meetings with politicians included issues facing the Swan and Helena River systems, the impact of the Carbon Pricing legislation for local governments, rollout for the National Broadband Network, strategic transport and road infrastructure, including Great Eastern Highway Mundaring safety issues and the need for the Perth Airport rail link and the need for a university presence in the region.

A regional promotion document that aims to attract investment and increase awareness of the Perth's Eastern Region is under development. This document has applicability to the achievement of outcomes in the Regional Economic Development Strategy 2010-2015 and also the Regional Advocacy Strategy 2010-2013.

A pre-budget submission outlining five priority areas for Perth's Eastern Region for the Western Australian Government to consider in its deliberations in framing the 2013-2014 State Budget was provided to the Premier, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the National Party as well as to all eastern metropolitan local members. The five priority areas were Strategic Waste Management, Road and Rail Infrastructure, Public Transport, Swan and Helena River systems and Essential Infrastructure.

The following submissions were lodged in response to various strategic direction documents:

- Public Transport for Perth in 2031;
- Capital City Planning Framework - A Vision for Central Perth;
- Metropolitan Local Government Review Panel;
- Priority Plan for Investment in the Swan Canning Catchment;
- Swan River Trust Draft River Protection Strategy and;
- State Coastal Planning Policy.
- Pre Budget Submission to the State Government.

The EMRC provides representation for the region on numerous peak bodies and committees and including:

- Gateway WA Steering Committee and Environmental Reference Group;
- City East Alliance Network Operations Group;
- Perth Region NRM Local Government Reference Group;

- The Swan Canning Policy Forum;
- Swan Canning Riverpark Iconic Trails Steering Group;
- Swan River Trust Committees;
- WALGA Greensense Emissions Reporting Platform and Climate Change;
- Cities as Water Supply Catchments;
- Forum of Regional Councils;
- Municipal Waste Advisory Council and committees - Officers Advisory Group, Household Hazardous Waste Committee, Contaminated Sites Committee;
- Australian Landfill Owners Association;
- Waste Management Association of Australia; and
- Perth Solar City – Consortium.

What is planned for 2013-2014?

An annual review of regional advocacy issues in relation to the nine key areas identified in the Regional Advocacy Strategy and the progress of existing projects will be undertaken in April 2013 and a report will be provided to Chief Executive Officers Advisory Committee to provide an update and to establish advocacy priorities for 2013-2014.

How will member councils benefit?

Advocacy and relationship building aims to increase awareness of Perth’s Eastern Region, the role of the EMRC, and to identify future funding opportunities that can support regional scale projects and activities.

What impact/support will this project have on member councils?

Member councils will be invited to participate in regional advocacy campaigns. This may require providing information or making people available to attend meetings, events or other advocacy activities. Elected Members will also have a critical role to play in regional advocacy requiring them to be prepared to attend events and delegations and to gather community intelligence on key regional issues needing to be addressed.

Five Year Financial Summary

All advocacy project expenses are met by EMRC.

Adopted Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/2018
\$	<i>Operating Expenditure</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
175,375	Implement Regional Advocacy Strategy	181,661	188,171	195,408	202,866	203,885
30,000	Sponsorships and Grants	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
205,375	Net EMRC contribution	211,661	218,171	225,408	232,866	233,885

1.5 Summary Proposed Member Council Contributions

The table below shows a summary of the proposed member council contributions for the 2013/2014 financial year towards the proposed Regional Development projects totaling \$1,316,394 and outlined in Sections 1.1 to 1.5.

Member Councils Contributions	REDS	Events	TravelSmart	RITS	Total Requested
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Town of Bassendean	12,411	4,686	3,286	5,561	25,944
City of Bayswater	21,944	9,482	6,588	11,194	49,208
City of Belmont	19,011	8,048	5,312	9,461	41,832
Shire of Kalamunda	20,111	8,048	5,710	10,111	43,980
Shire of Mundaring	17,911	7,387	4,966	8,811	39,075
City of Swan	36,611	17,475	11,338	19,861	85,285
	127,999	55,126	37,200	64,999	285,324

Section 2 – Environmental Services Projects – Overview

The Environmental Services business unit works towards two main objectives of the EMRC 2022 – 10 Year Strategic Plan.

“To contribute towards improved regional air, water and land quality and regional biodiversity conservation” and “to address climate change issues within the region”.

All of the Environmental Services strategies emanate from the EMRC 2022 – 10 Year Strategic Plan and all activities and projects are listed in the Regional Environment Strategy 2011 - 2016 and the annual Business Unit Plan which becomes the source document for guiding the work of the business unit throughout the year.

Environmental Services comprises 11 FTE's:

- Manager Environmental Services
- Administration Officer
- Environment and Sustainability Coordinator
- Environmental Advisor
- NRM Coordinator
- NRM Officers x 2
- Environmental Consultants x 4

Two positions, the Manager Environmental Services and the Administration Officer, are established to support the overall service area and their associated costs are fully funded by the EMRC. The nine specialist positions are contract positions attached to the specific delivery areas and their costs are incorporated into the following project summaries outlined in this section.

The Environmental Services team provides regional coordination of projects to member councils through the Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG) established to assist in setting the direction for the Regional Environment Strategy (RES).

The Environmental Services projects being proposed for continuation include:

1. Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program (EHCMP)
2. Future Proofing– Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (RCCAAP)
3. Achieving Carbon Emission Reductions (ACE_R) Program
4. Water Campaign™
5. Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework

Two new projects have been proposed for 2013/2014 and details are provided in Section 2.7 and 2.8 of this Report.

1. Environment and Sustainability Education
2. Review / Develop Strategic Environmental Policies and Documentation

Achievements for 2012-2013

Regional Environment Strategy (RES)

The Regional Environment Strategy (RES) 2011-2016 was approved by Council in November 2011. The vision is:

“A region supporting healthy ecosystems and habitat for flora and fauna, where the air, land and waterways are clean, there is green space, highly efficient buildings and transport systems, renewable energy and minimal waste and emissions”.

Major projects undertaken under the RES in 2012/13 include:

- Continued implementation of the Swan and Helena Rivers Regional Recreational Path Development Plan. Path priorities were evaluated in a workshop with member councils and funding streams sought.
- Sustainable Landscaping – Two sustainable landscaping projects were completed for the City of Bayswater.
- Commenced development of a Best Practice Alternative Weed Management Manual – EMRC held discussions with Edith Cowan University about a potential research partnership.
- Energy Audits for Local Government – trained EMRC staff members completed Level 2 Energy Audits of two City of Bayswater senior citizen facilities, and one sporting facility together with two City of Bayswater large community facilities being retrofitted under the Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP).
- Sustainable Street Lighting (Research) – Preliminary research was undertaken and a letter of support was provided to WALGA for a State-wide local government funding application.
- Review Environmental Strategies – A review and development of a new *Environmental Management Plan* for the Shire of Mundaring was completed. A review of Town of Bassendean’s *Environmental Management Plan* commenced and completion is anticipated in 2013. A review of the City of Bayswater’s Local Environment Strategy commenced.
- Marri Canker - EMRC commenced a collaborative partnership with Murdoch University to undertake research into the treatment of Marri Canker.
- Priority Tributaries project - Addressing the threats contributing to poor or declining water quality of priority coastal hotspots through implementing on-ground management actions identified in Water Quality Improvement Plans. 15 hectares of on ground work was completed.
- Helping the Helena River project - EMRC is working collaboratively with the Swan River Trust and the Department of Water to undertake non nutrient water quality monitoring of the Helena River. This project builds on The Helena River Fish and Macroinvertebrate Surveys 2010 and 2011 which found abundances of native freshwater aquatic species were significantly low. Habitat degradation, such as from eutrophication and catchment pollution, is a significant threat to this unique fauna.
- Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training was completed with EMRC and member council staff.

Successful Grants

- Implementation of Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program; grant from the City of Swan \$28,145
- Eastern Tributaries Restoration Project; grant from DEC Community Environmental Grants \$30,000
- Swan River Trust – Community Led Projects \$95,000
- Caring for Our Country – Eastern Tributaries Project \$75,000

- Perth Region NRM – Implement Eastern Tributaries Project \$15,000
- Helping the Helena – Undertaking seasonal water quality monitoring to determine relationship between pollutants and the scarcity of fish and mussels in the lower and middle reaches in the Helena River \$37,500 (State NRM Office)
- Marri Canker research project - undertake trial treatments for Marri Canker and to develop a mobile phone application \$50,000 (State NRM Office)
- Community Energy Efficiency Program – “Re-energising Perth's Eastern Region: Energy efficient lighting, air-conditioning and pool pump retrofits of key community facilities and street lighting in Perth's Eastern Region” \$647,420

Unsuccessful Grants

- Private Landholder Conservation Incentives \$500,000
- Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse \$307,377
- State NRM fund – Alternative Weed Management - \$39,357

What is planned for 2013-2014?

In 2013/2014, the EMRC will implement projects outlined in the Regional Environment Strategy (RES) including:

- Marri Canker research project – EMRC have partnered with Murdoch University to undertake trial treatments for Marri Canker and to develop a mobile phone application (app). The app will provide a number of functions which will include:
 - Establish trial treatment sites where the effectiveness of treatments can be measured.
 - Map the severity and impacts of Marri Canker using information from phone app data.
 - Undertake community education to raise the profile of Marri Canker and educate local government officers and the community through workshops.
- Helping the Helena - EMRC will undertake seasonal water quality monitoring of pollutants (e.g. pesticides, herbicides, heavy metals, hydrocarbons), sampled on a bi-monthly basis for 12 months to provide a baseline data set in partnership with the Department of Water, Swan River Trust and Murdoch University.
- Implementing the Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) with the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater and Shire of Mundaring to upgrade or retrofit street lighting, pool pump efficiency and other high energy using fixtures such as internal lighting at four facilities to improve the Councils' energy efficiency, and mitigate the increasing costs of operating these respective facilities, as well as showcasing energy efficiency to communities across Perth's Eastern Region.
- Undertaking a review of the RES.
- Seeking funding for a Bush Skills for Youth program to encourage the involvement of young people in environmental projects. This project was identified as a priority project in the regional youth services consultation undertaken by the EMRC in 2012.
- Environmental and Sustainability Education Officer – EMRC will establish an Environmental and Sustainability Education Officer for the Region.
- Continue to seek grants to deliver Energy and Water Audits for small business – Small business face rising energy and water costs.
- Alternative Weed Management – EMRC will continue to investigate viable alternative weed management techniques and seek funding and partnerships with universities to trial alternative techniques.

2.1 Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program (EHCMP)

PURPOSE

The EHCMP supports a coordinated strategic approach to the restoration of land, bushland and creek lines in Perth's Eastern Region. This has been achieved through a range of natural resource management (NRM) activities responding to member council, community and regional NRM groups' needs.

BACKGROUND

The EHCMP is a highly successful partnership between the Shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring, City of Swan, Swan River Trust, Perth Region NRM and the EMRC that has operated over the past decade. The program aims to achieve a coordinated strategic approach to the restoration of land, bush land and creek lines through a range of natural resource management (NRM) activities and practices within the Councils, broader community and regional NRM groups.

Funding received by EHCMP (as of January 2013) in 2012/2013 is \$272,500 as detailed in the table below.

Funding Body	Project	Amount Received
Swan River Trust	Community Led Projects	\$95,000
Perth Region NRM/Caring for Our Country	Eastern Tributaries Project	\$90,000
State NRM Office	Marri Canker	\$50,000
State NRM Office	Helping the Helena	\$37,500
Total Funding		\$272,500

Achievements for 2012-2013

1. Helena River Trial Environmental Flows - Benefits to Aquatic Fauna and Water Quality

The Swan River Trust funded the Helena River Trial Environmental flows project. The surveys conducted for the project were undertaken by Wetland Research & Management on behalf of the EMRC. The surveys were designed to aid development of strategies to increase aquatic fauna habitat through restoration and protection of the river and the greater Helena catchment.

The report assesses the benefits of environmental flow releases from the Helena River Pipehead Dam (PHD) on aquatic fauna and water quality downstream of the PHD relative to conditions in pools upstream of the PHD.

The primary ecological values requiring protection that environmental flows should target are considered to be:

- i) Native fish and crayfish;
- ii) Aquatic macroinvertebrate diversity;
- iii) Riparian vegetation;
- iv) Water quality;
- v) Channel form. Winter flushing flows are required to maintain channel form and these no longer occur naturally due to regulation by Mundaring Weir. While summer releases won't aid in protecting channel form, the lack of flushing exacerbates poorer water quality that occurs over summer.

The ideal release scenario would be to mimic inflows to Mundaring Weir as per the current Department of Water (DoW) operating strategy for other Darling Range dams. This strategy would maintain the upper reach (*i.e.* above the PHD) as well as the lower reach below the PHD.

The 2010 - 2012 studies revealed larger populations of native fish downstream of PHD compared to upstream, especially western minnows and western pygmy perch. This likely reflects the beneficial effects of environmental releases over the last few years, which have led to increased survival and recruitment. Environmental flows also provide riffle habitat which supports greater diversity of macroinvertebrates.

2. Swan River Trust

The Swan River Trust made a further commitment to continue to fund the Community Led Projects – EHCMP in 2012/2013 providing \$95,000 (ex. GST) to coordinate the program. This funding supports the NRM Coordinator role.

3. Perth Region NRM

Through continued funding by the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country Program ,Perth Region NRM funded the Eastern Hills Tributaries Project with \$75,000 (ex. GST) for the 2012/2013 financial year. There was an additional \$15,000 for on-ground works.

This project focuses on priority 1, 2 and 3 sites as outlined in the "Swan Canning Tributary Foreshore Assessment Project 2008". 15 hectares of on ground work has been completed in 2012/2013.

4. Eastern Catchment Management Plan (ECMP)

Public comment for the draft individual catchment group action plans was completed. The Jane Brook Catchment Group action plan, final draft and the second draft for Blackadder Woodbridge Catchment Group was completed.

5. Strengthening Our Streams (SOS)

The State NRM Office funded program (\$47,415) was completed. The project delivered weeding and planting of 11,000 local native species in 3 sites along priority tributaries in the eastern region, total area of onground activity was 2 hectares. The re-establishment of riparian vegetation will provide wildlife habitat, buffer nutrients and fertilisers, reduce incidence of algal blooms, reduce erosion and sedimentation issues and improve water quality.

6. Eastern Tributaries Restoration Project

EHCMP, in partnership with three member councils (Kalamunda, Mundaring and Swan) completed weed control and revegetated riparian zones on priority tributaries of the Swan and Canning Rivers. The project will improve priority waterways, the positive outcomes will include; increased ecological integrity, reduced erosion, improved water quality improved links between bushland and other foreshore sites, adding depth to corridors along both sides of the river amongst other environmental benefits.

The project was funded by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Community Grants fund (\$30,000).

7. Watsonia Road Threatened Ecological Communities Conservation Project

The DEC funded project (\$23,155) aimed to protect and improve the ecological integrity of 3 reserves near Watsonia Road in Gooseberry Hill. The work completed included weed mapping, weed control, dieback mapping and treatment.

This project was a collaborative project between EMRC, Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), and Shire of Kalamunda. The financial acquittal of the project was undertaken during 2012/13.

8 Bush Skills for the Hills

The EHCMP delivered a series Bush Skills for the Hills workshops in 2012. Courses conducted include Applying for Grants, Bushcare Basics, Bushcare – The good the bad and the ugly, Native fauna after dark, Chemical free weed control, The secret life of plants, Native grass workshop, Buzz in march out, and 2 movies, Bag it and Food Inc.

9 Greenpage Newsletter

The Greenpage Newsletter continued to be distributed in 2012/2013. Approximately 1,000 people subscribe to the newsletter.

10 Awards and Recognition

The EHCMP has long been recognised for its successful and innovative service delivery. Recent recognition includes:

- Winner of the WA Landcare Award- “Local Government Landcare Partnership Award” category 2011
- Nominated for the 2012 National Landcare awards in the category of “Local Government Landcare Partnership”

What is planned for 2013-2014?

The EHCMP team will continue to support participating member councils and their community groups in protecting and managing the biodiversity, waterways and catchments of the relevant member councils.

This includes:

- Providing officers to work in participating member council's offices to ensure maximum benefit and integration for member councils. This includes providing advice to member council staff on NRM issues.
- Seeking funding and assisting member councils and community groups to source significant external funding for NRM and on-ground projects.
- Providing project development and implementation of on-ground projects.
- Providing executive and technical support to Catchment Groups, as well as supporting some of the 130 plus friends groups in the region.
- The continued production and distribution of the Greenpage newsletter on a bi-monthly basis.
- Running and delivering, in partnership with participating member councils, the annual Bush Skills for the Hills series of free environmental training workshops. These include annual sessions on volunteer management and safety, practical bush land management and restoration skills. These are attended by up to 350 community members each year.
- Seeking funding from Lotterywest for a Bush Skills for Youth program to encourage the involvement of young people in environmental projects. This project was identified as a priority project in the regional youth services consultation undertaken by the EMRC in 2012.
- Delivery of the annual Eastern Hills Landcare Volunteer Recognition event attended by Eastern Region volunteers.
- Provide private landholder support, including site visits, responding to phone enquiries, assistance with technical expertise, property planning training and, where appropriate, assisting with accessing external funding and support for protecting and managing creek lines and bush land.
- Representing participating member councils in forums and networks.

- Recruitment of community volunteers through promotional events at suitable sites within the region. This could include liaison with external agencies such as Useful Inc to attract youth volunteers.
- Continue to be involved in and initiate research projects that address threats to the natural environment.
- Review and comment on strategic documents relevant to the natural environment of the eastern region.

How will member councils benefit?

EHCMP provides a planned, structured and coordinated program which has been developed specifically in collaboration with the participating member councils, catchment groups and NRM Officers. It ensures that volunteer participation is effective, provides structured and ongoing environmental management and saves duplication of resources and work for similar projects within the region.

The value for member councils includes:

- Appropriate management of conservation reserves, well beyond the level of on-ground management possible by the member council alone.
- Generation of significant income from external grants for conservation projects within the member council, particularly where volunteer hours provide leverage for large grants.
- Implementation of member council environmental strategies.
- Friends Groups and associated Catchment Groups will be a major force in the implementation of regional and State Government NRM strategies.
- Volunteers keep watch on the bush land in their area. This translates into reduced vandalism repair costs and more rapid reporting of suspicious behaviour.
- Friends and Catchment Groups also provide a social avenue for residents to become actively engaged in their community, and to gain a sense of personal contribution and value.
- Incorporating new and innovative approaches to land management, improving on current best management practices.

What impact/support will EHCMP have on member councils?

- Ongoing funding contributions from the Swan River Trust, Perth Region NRM, City of Swan and the Shires of Mundaring and Kalamunda will be the key to maintaining the program.

Five Year Financial Summary

Program Title		Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program				
Adopted Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	Operating Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	Member council Contributions					
(28,145)	Shire of Kalamunda	(28,989)	(29,859)	(30,755)	(31,677)	(32,628)
(28,145)	Shire of Mundaring	(28,989)	(29,859)	(30,755)	(31,677)	(32,628)
(28,145)	City of Swan	(28,989)	(29,859)	(30,755)	(31,677)	(32,628)
(228,100)	Operating Grant Income	(192,500)	(192,500)	(192,500)	(192,500)	(192,500)
(5,000)	Other Income	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)
(317,535)	Total Income	(284,467)	(287,077)	(289,765)	(292,351)	(301,121)
	Operating Expenditure					
350,144	Total Expenditure	304,429	314,790	326,136	338,163	348,308
32,609	Net EMRC contribution	19,962	27,713	36,371	45,812	47,187

* *Figures exclude GST*

2.2 Future Proofing for Climate Change – Regional and Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Planning

PURPOSE

Climate Change Adaptation Action Planning outlines what needs to be done at a regional and local level to assist Perth's Eastern Region to adapt or 'future proof' itself to the effects and impacts of our changing climate.

Adapting to climate change, particularly in South West WA, represents one of the biggest challenges and opportunities faced by Local Government and must be addressed in a continuing and sustained manner at both a regional and local level.

BACKGROUND

The Future Proofing Perth's Eastern Region - Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (RCCAAP) 2009-2013 identifies regional risks and actions to assist local government operations, services and communities in adapting and building resilience to climate change.

The implementation and progression of these regional actions, along with the development of Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans (LCCAAP's) for each member council has been ongoing.

Achievements for 2012-2013

- A comprehensive progress report on the status of each of the RCCAAP actions;
- The EMRC and member councils signed the Western Australian Local Government Declaration on Climate Change, a commitment which recognised the significant and continuing effects that climate change will have on the Region;
- The RCCAAP has been utilised to better position the EMRC and its member councils to leverage funding, such as \$647,000 through the federal government's Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP), one of only seven WA recipients from 63 applications across Australia;
- Extensive scoping of current flood modelling information, including the projected impacts of sea level rise. Advocacy for more localized flood modelling for the region, via Geoscience Australia, the Department of Water (DoW), and the University of Western Australia;
- A submission on State Planning Policy 2.6 - State Coastal Planning Policy, particularly regarding the possible effects of sea level rise on EMRC's four river-based Councils;
- Advocacy of local government needs to the Department of Planning and WALGA to ensure appropriate planning frameworks are in place to address climate change;
- Advocacy to DoW for mapping of areas in the Region at high risk of subsidence due to lowering of the groundwater table;
- Advocacy to DoW and the Department of Health (DoH) for updated policy and guidelines for greywater re-use;
- Ongoing representation on the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities and related projects;
- Information for member council staff on accessing mapping of Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) in the Region, as well as information on training in ASS for LG officers;
- Advocacy for increased political awareness and funding for regional projects to protect river foreshore assets, as well as development of a *River Protection Strategy*;

- Development of guidelines for the management of roadside vegetation, reconciling both conservation of biodiversity and bushfire risk;
- Advocacy to the Department of Premier and Cabinet and Department of Environment and Conservation (Climate Change Unit) to develop a policy position and to build policy cohesion across all agencies in regards to climate change adaptation;
- Continuous monitoring of emerging funding opportunities, including National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) grants, and the federal government's suite of Clean Energy Future grants which includes funding to assist small to medium businesses in the Region to become more energy efficient and reduce costs;
- Ongoing advice and monitoring of research relating to climate change impacts to member council officers; and
- Representation on the WALGA Senior Officer Group on Climate Change, along with involvement in other networking and information sharing opportunities.

What is planned for 2013-2014?

Both the RCCAAP and LCCAAPs are action documents to address emerging risks to the Region. They are regularly reviewed and updated, including incorporating new climate change impact and adaptation information and knowledge as it becomes available, allow for corrective action, and avoid mal-adaptation. Regular monitoring also ensures that the process is implemented in a timely and cost effective manner.

1. Regional Climate Change Adaptation Actions

The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2009-2013 identified actions for four years, and current funding for climate change projects will expire in June 2013. However adapting to climate change must be addressed in a continuing and sustained manner. Both the RCCAAP and LCCAAPs contain actions which extend beyond 2013, and some LCCAAP actions are noted to continue at least until 2030.

In October 2012, Council approved the *Future Proofing Perth's Eastern Region - Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (RCCAAP) 2009-2013* to be extended to June 2015, with a review to be undertaken in the first half of 2013, and proposed actions for 2014 – 2015 presented to Council in June 2013.

In 2013-2014, it is proposed that, in consultation with member councils, the EMRC undertakes a comprehensive review of the RCCAAP with a view to incorporating the knowledge and experience that has been gained from 2009-2013 into an updated and prioritised series of actions to address the risks the Region faces from changing climate. The EMRC would be responsible for implementing this action plan.

2. Local Climate Change Adaptation Actions

Locally, climate change adaptation is being incorporated into member council internal operations and expanded across their local communities, with each member council taking a unique approach.

Each member council is at different stages of developing and implementing their LCCAAP:

- Bassendean and Belmont have had their LCCAAP approved for 12 months or more
- Mundaring has had their LCCAAP approved for less than 6 months; and
- Bayswater and Kalamunda are yet to finalise their LCCAAP.

In 2013-2014, it is proposed that the EMRC continues to assist member councils with the development and implementation of their LCCAAP's in order to further embed climate change risk management across all Council decisions and operations. Typically, implementation of local actions has been via a working group in each Council, consisting of representatives of each department.

How will member councils benefit?

Continuing a commitment to climate change adaptation at both a regional and local level will ensure future liability issues can be addressed now and reduce the potential for member councils to face litigation resulting from a lack of climate change adaptation planning.

The actions identified in the RCCAAP have successfully guided and advanced advocacy for climate change adaptation throughout the region. RCCAAP actioning has helped keep member councils and their communities informed of the latest best practice climate change impact and adaptation information and knowledge as it becomes available, provided appropriate resources and training for Council staff, and better positioned the EMRC and its member councils to identify and leverage emerging opportunities.

The RCCAAP has also guided each member council in developing their own Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (LCCAAP), further enabling the integration and embedding of adaptation measures into the day to day planning and decision making of Councils, across all departments within each Council.

Another significant benefit will be the leadership that will be demonstrated to the community by local government. Climate change impacts will directly affect local communities and with good strategic planning in place residents will be reassured that their interests are being taken into account and they will be better prepared for whatever issues climate change presents.

What impact/support will this project have on member councils?

The environmental, social and economic costs of not adapting to climate change will be significant without adequate adaptation strategies in place. Regional and Local Climate Change Adaptation projects will:

- Promote resilience and support local communities in partnership with local government to improve the management of the local environment and community public assets;
- Secure future-focussed transport, planning and building systems that support low emissions and accommodate a changed climate;
- Identify and support vulnerable communities in Perth's Eastern Region to adjust to the cost of a low emissions economy so they are not further disadvantaged as a result of climate change; and
- Promote innovation and regional security in order to position the region for economic opportunities resulting from climate change such as new industry, markets and technologies.

Five Year Financial Summary

Program Title	Future Proofing - Climate Change Regional Adaptation Action Plan					
Adopted Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	Operating Income		\$	\$	\$	\$
	Member councils					
(15,000)	Member council Contributions: City of Bayswater	(15,000)	(15,000)			
(15,000)	Town of Bassendean	(15,000)	(15,000)			
(15,000)	City of Belmont	(15,000)	(15,000)			
(15,000)	Shire of Kalamunda	(15,000)	(15,000)			
(15,000)	Shire of Mundaring	(15,000)	(15,000)			
0	City of Swan*	0	0			
(75,000)	Total Income	(75,000)	(75,000)			
	Operating Expenditure					
117,151	Implement climate change actions as per Regional Adaptation Action Plan Progress Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans for member councils	117,151	117,151			
42,151	Net EMRC contribution	42,151	42,151			

Figures exclude GST.

***City of Swan withdrew from Future Proofing in 2010/11.**

2.3 Achievements Perth Solar City

The EMRC and all member councils have been active participants in the project design, development and implementation of the Perth Solar City project since 2005. The project was supported by \$13.9 million in Australian Government funding through the Solar Cities Program. State, Local Government and industry funding has also been contributed on the basis of at least \$2 for every \$1 of Australian Government funding.

The project was delivered through the Perth Solar City Consortium, of which the EMRC is a member on behalf of member councils. Other consortium members include State Government agencies and industry partners. The project was launched by the Federal Minister for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts in November 2009 and will be completed in June 2013. Most components were delivered in 2010 and 2011 with the final year of the project 2012/13 focusing on evaluating the project.

The Perth Solar City project aimed at building long-lasting behaviour change in energy efficiency and conservation. The program sought to increase the uptake of new solar technologies and to break down barriers to participation in direct greenhouse action by residents, businesses and public institutions.

Overall outcomes of project

- 15 Demonstration projects were installed by EMRC and member councils. These installations include:
 - 3.6kW PV system and lighting retrofit at the Bassendean Memorial Library;
 - 4.08kW PV system and street lighting upgrade at the Town of Bassendean's Ashfield Reserve;
 - 15kW PV installation at the City of Bayswater's "The RISE";
 - 2kW PV monocrystalline and 0.8kW upgrade to total 2kW thin film PV installation at the City of Belmont's Ruth Faulkner Library;
 - Installation of solar pool heating and lighting retrofit at the City of Belmont's Oasis Leisure Centre;
 - Installation of an Energy Reduction and Demand Management System and lighting retrofit at the Shire of Kalamunda's Administration building;
 - Installation of a 2kW PV system at the Shire of Kalamunda's Public Library in addition to the installation of solar tube lighting throughout the Library;
 - 16kW PV installation on the Shire of Mundaring's Administration building;
 - Installation of a 5kW PV system at the Swan View Youth Centre;
 - 1kW PV system installation at Midland Library and a 2kW PV installation at the Ellenbrook library within the City of Swan;
 - City of Swan's 10kW PV installation at the Altone Park Leisure Centre;
 - 9kW PV installation at the EMRC Administration building;
 - 9kW tracking PV system at the EMRC Red Hill Waste Management Facility; and
 - 4.38Kw ground mounted system (thin film, monocrystalline and polycrystalline) installed at EMRC Hazelmere Recycling Centre.

- The Living Smart behaviour change program was delivered to 10,000 households throughout the Perth Eastern Region between April 2010 and April 2011. Living Smart provided the intensive community engagement component of the Perth Solar City program and has:
 - Built community capacity to adopt energy efficiency behaviour and low cost technologies;
 - Overcome information and motivational barriers relating to the adoption of Solar Technologies (PV and solar hot water);
 - Motivated and connected households to suppliers of other Perth Solar City Program offerings including home assessments, solar technology products, events and workshops; and

- Achieved or exceeded the majority of its project targets including over 42,253 residents engaged by letter or telephone, 6,342 personalised information services “deliveries”, over 25,000 interactive feedbacks on meter readings and over 2,000 referrals for energy audits.

The project concludes on 30 June 2013.

2.4 Achieving Carbon Emission Reductions (ACER)

PURPOSE

The ACER: Achieving Carbon Emission Reductions Program is an initiative developed to encourage and support member councils in Perth's Eastern Region to monitor, report on and reduce their corporate carbon emissions. The ACER Program also provides advice, information and education to member councils, the community and local businesses within the region on energy efficiency, carbon emissions and other climate change related issues.

BACKGROUND

The ACER Achieving Carbon Emissions Reduction Program was developed in 2009 by the EMRC in collaboration with its member councils. The ACER Program was initiated in response to the Australian Government's withdrawal of funding for the Cities for Climate Protection Program in 2009. The EMRC and its member councils determined that it was necessary to continue to monitor and to mitigate their emissions as well as to educate the community through leading by example.

One key priority identified by member councils was the implementation of a cost effective inventory system to replace the inventory systems and software previously provided by ICLEI. Under the ACER Program, the EMRC and participating member councils joined the WALGA Emissions Reporting Platform hosted by Greensense Consulting which was developed for local governments. This platform is an online software system used to collect and display carbon emissions data - mainly from electricity, gas and fuel use. Data will be used to target areas of operations which require energy efficiency measures to be implemented as well as ensure accurate monitoring and reporting of carbon emissions. The ACER Officer is a member of the Platform Steering Committee which meets regularly to review the progress of the platform and agree future development.

A DIY "Home Energy Audit Kit" is available for loan from local libraries in participating member councils. The Kit was developed to enable staff and residents to audit the efficiency of their homes and suggests efficiency changes to reduce energy consumption. The Kits allow the local community access to tools which they can use to undertake their own home energy audit and begin their journey to energy efficiency.

The ACER Program was a finalist in the WA Sustainable Energy Awards for Innovation and Excellence for 2010 within the category of Community and Regional Initiative.

Achievements for 2012-2013

- Successful funding application developed and lodged for the Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP), resulting in \$647,420 funding to the Region.
- Provision of advice and support to Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) project being implemented in the Region;
- Ongoing implementation of the WALGA Emissions Reporting Platform for participating member Councils;
- Full emissions profiles (carbon footprint) completed for each participating member council;
- Evaluation of achievements under CCP and ACER Program to date including reporting of corporate carbon emissions and abatement and energy efficiency measures adopted;
- Finalisation and implementation of the City of Bayswater's Greenhouse Abatement Plan (GAP);
- Finalisation and implementation of the Town of Bassendean's Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS);
- Finalisation and implementation of the Shire of Mundaring's Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS);

- Setting of future targets and beginning of action planning under the Carbon Reduction Strategy/ Greenhouse Abatement Plan;
- Assisting the City of Belmont to implement actions under their Environment Plan;
- Assistance with carbon mitigation actions across the Region;
- Providing assistance to develop and implement energy efficiency trial projects across the region in areas of operations which require energy efficiency measures to reduce energy costs;
- Developing new community awareness projects to be implemented within the region; and
- Maintenance of Home Energy Audit Kits and collation of community feedback.

What is planned for 2013 – 2014?

Program priorities identified by member councils for EMRC support of their carbon reduction and energy management activities include:

- Continuing to develop and implement aspects of the ACER program on behalf of member councils. In 2013/2014, these include:
 - Ongoing implementation of the WALGA Emissions Reporting Platform;
 - Ongoing implementation of the City of Bayswater's Greenhouse Abatement Plan including objective setting, action planning and action implementation;
 - Ongoing implementation of the Town of Bassendean's Carbon Reduction Strategy including objective setting, action planning and action implementation;
 - Ongoing implementation of the Shire of Mundaring's Carbon Reduction Strategy including objective setting, action planning and action implementation;
 - Assisting the City of Belmont to develop and implement actions under their Environment Plan;
 - Assistance to continue with carbon mitigation actions across the Region;
 - Providing assistance to develop and implement energy efficiency trial projects across the region in areas of operations which require energy efficiency measures to reduce energy costs;
 - Developing new staff and community awareness projects to be implemented within the region; and
 - Maintenance of Home Energy Audit Kits and collation of community feedback.
- Identifying grants and funding in relation to energy efficiency and climate change mitigation on behalf of member councils; and
- Provision of advice and support to Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) project being implemented in the Region.

How will member councils benefit from participating in ACER?

Perth's Eastern Region aspires to be a leader in strategically dealing with climate change within the local government sector and wishes to inspire others to also take up the challenge of mitigation both within their corporate operations and their community. A proactive approach at the local and regional level is needed to deal with the challenges posed by climate change.

Member councils will derive direct benefits from being involved in the ACER Project as follows:

- Assistance to achieve their strategic objectives related to climate change;
- Assistance to achieve carbon reduction priorities to meet targets;
- Assistance to achieve actions in Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan under Future Proofing Project;
- Cost effectiveness through mitigation actions often resulting in lower energy or fuel consumption and therefore lower costs;
- Sharing of resources to achieve common or compatible projects;
- Support in seeking external funding (noting recent success with Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEP) funding);
- Visibility of member councils' climate change mitigation commitments at community events;
- Advice on emerging issues in climate change, emissions policy and reporting and related matters; and
- Frees up time for the Council's Environmental Officer/Coordinator to tackle other environmental matters.

What impact/support will this project have on member councils?

Participating member councils will be required to provide funding based on their individual requirements formulated through a project planning process. Once each member council has identified specific needs then the generic tasks such as managing their emissions reporting platform and implementing carbon reduction actions will be incorporated into the overall plan and costed on an hourly basis and changed accordingly.

Member council officers will be required to provide ongoing input into the delivery of ACER related activities and to provide direction and feedback to the EMRC. The EMRC employs a dedicated officer to coordinate and to implement the requirements of the program.

Five Year Financial Summary

Program Title	Achieving Carbon Emissions Reduction					
Adopted Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	Operating Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
(9,991)	Member council Contributions: Town of Bassendean	(10,290)	(10,600)	(10,920)	(11,248)	(11,585)
(12,825)	City of Bayswater	(13,210)	(13,610)	(14,018)	(14,438)	(14,871)
(12,825)	City of Belmont	(13,210)	(13,610)	(14,018)	(14,438)	(14,871)
(0)	Shire of Kalamunda *	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
(7,931)	Shire of Mundaring	(8,170)	(8,415)	(8,667)	(8,927)	(9,165)
(0)	City of Swan *	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
(43,572)	Total Income	(44,880)	(46,235)	(47,623)	(49,051)	(50,942)
	Operating Expenditure					
63,436	Implement ACER program	65,935	68,544	71,404	74,393	76,625
19,864	Net EMRC contribution	21,055	22,309	23,781	25,342	25,683

* *Figures exclude GST*

* *Figures exclude cost of WALGA Greensense Platform annual subscription (refer to below)*

* *City of Swan and Shire of Kalamunda withdrew from the ACER project in 2010 and 2011*

WALGA Greensense Platform Costs for 2013/14 (paid directly by member councils to Greensense, not included in EMRC budget figures)

- Bassendean \$3,713.15 (ex GST)
- Bayswater \$3,713.15 (ex GST)
- Belmont \$3,766.20 (ex GST)
- Mundaring \$3,660.10 (ex GST)

2.5 Water Campaign™

PURPOSE

The Water Campaign™ provides local governments with a framework and structured approach to actively assess their consumption of water and to understand how their activities affect water quality within their area. The project delivers Water Action Plans to address the issues identified and to achieve water reduction goals that have been set by member councils. This can result in significant water use reductions and cost savings for participating Councils and demonstrates Local Government leadership in the management of our precious water resources.

BACKGROUND

The Water Campaign™ is a sustainability initiative from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and the Australian Government. Progression through this program framework is marked by milestones which progress the water management initiative through a series of steps outlined below.

- Milestone 1** Conduct a water consumption inventory and analysis for Corporate and Community consumers. Produce a water quality checklist, analysing and selecting water quality priority areas for both Corporate and Community sectors;
- Milestone 2** Develop water goals in four action areas;
- Milestone 3** Produce a Water Action Plan;
- Milestone 4** Undertake implementation of the Water Action Plan, assessment and reporting of the quantitative and qualitative benefits resulting from the implemented actions; and
- Milestone 5** Review and evaluate Council's progress in the Water Campaign™ by conducting a re-inventory.

There are 126 Councils participating in the Water Campaign™ program throughout Australia, which includes 42 Councils from Western Australia, six of which are the EMRC Member councils.

Achievements for 2012-2013

Member councils are actively engaged in the Water Campaign™ and to date have achieved the following:

City of Belmont

In August 2010 the City of Belmont completed Milestone 5 in corporate and community modules. After completing Milestone 5 in 2011/12 the City started the whole process again, undertaking an inventory and reviewing and resetting the Water Action Goals, target year as well as reviewing and developing new actions. During 2012/13 the City undertook a re-inventory to track how the City is progressing towards achieving the newly set goals and to investigate high water consuming accounts within the City.

Town of Bassendean

In 2011/12 the Town of Bassendean achieved the Milestone 4 of the Water Campaign™ as well as undertaking Stage One of Milestone 5 of the Water Campaign™. During 2012/13 the Town of Bassendean undertook Stage Two of Milestone 5 with the expectation to complete the Milestone 5 of the Water Campaign™ by the end of June 2013.

City of Bayswater

In 2011/2012 the City of Bayswater achieved Milestone 1 and 2 of the Water Campaign™. During 2012/13 the City has developed a Milestone 3 Water Action Plan outlining the actions that the City needs to implement in order to achieve the goals set at Milestone 2. It is expected that the Water Action Plan will be endorsed by the Council by the end of June 2013.

Shire of Kalamunda

The Shire of Kalamunda in 2011 decided not to continue with EMRC's services of progressing the Shire through the Water Campaign program due to the employment of their own Environmental Sustainability Project Officer. The EMRC is undertaking water audits of two of the Shire's facilities in 2013.

Shire of Mundaring

In 2011/2012 the Shire of Mundaring completed Milestone 4 of the Water Campaign™ and undertook Stage One of Milestone 5. During 2012/13 the Shire undertook the Second Stage of Milestone 5 with the expectation to complete the Milestone 5 of the Water Campaign™ by the end of June 2013.

City of Swan

In 2011/2012 the City of Swan achieved Milestone 1 of the Water Campaign™ completing both corporate and community water consumption inventory. The City is currently progressing through Milestones 2 and 3 of the Water Campaign™ with the expectation to have it completed by the end of June 2013.

Other Achievements

Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities

In August 2011, Council approved a sponsorship of \$10,000 from the Occasional Grants and Sponsorship Program to Department of Water and the University of Western Australia to support the Cities as Water Supply Catchments program and the bid to establish a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Water Sensitive Cities (WSC) in WA.

Since that time the University of Western Australia (UWA) in partnership with the Centre for Water Sensitive Cities at Monash University have been successful in their proposal to establish a national Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Water Sensitive Cities. The CRC officially commenced in July 2012 and will continue for a period of 9 years.

The vision for the Centre for Water Sensitive Cities is to transform cities and their communities in ways that will help them to live in harmony with natural water environments. The Centre will play a pivotal role in transforming Australian cities to become resilient to current and future challenges.

The benefits for EMRC being a member of CRC are:

- Having access to the latest research on best management water practices including stormwater harvesting, water sensitive urban design and groundwater management. This is a critical issue with the water shortages in Perth and the requirement of member Councils to continue to reduce their water allocations whilst accommodating further urban development;
- Collaboration on water management with a number of different agencies including universities, state and local government and non-government organisations from across Australia and overseas;
- Being able to share information with our member and client Councils as part of Water Campaign and EMRC Environmental Services consulting services; and
- Delivery of new and existing water projects as per the Regional Environment Strategy 2011-2016.

Stormwater Harvesting Grant

The EMRC collaborated with the Department of Water to lodge a joint funding application with some of the member Councils for stormwater harvesting and reuse under the National Urban Water and Desalination Plan for \$307,377. Unfortunately the application was unsuccessful.

What is planned for 2013-14?

- Progress the Town of Bassendean through the Post-Milestone 5 Water Campaign™ framework, undertaking a water consumption re-inventory, review of the existing goals, and establishing new water conservation and water quality goals as well as new target years. Assisting the Town with the Waterwise Council Program.
- Continue to progress the City of Bayswater through the Water Campaign™ milestone framework assisting the Council with implementing and reporting on actions as part of Milestone 4 of the Water Campaign™.
- Progress City of Swan through the Water Campaign™ milestone framework, assisting the Council with implementing and reporting on actions as part of Milestone 4 of the Water Campaign™.
- Progress the Shire of Mundaring through the Post-Milestone 5 Water Campaign™ framework, undertaking a water consumption re-inventory, review of the existing goals, and establishing new water conservation and water quality goals as well as new target years. Assisting the Shire with the Waterwise Council Program.
- Progress the City of Belmont through the Post-Milestone 5 Water Campaign™ framework, undertaking a water consumption re-inventory, and tracking the City's progression towards the newly set water goals and target year. Assisting the City with the Waterwise Council Program re-endorsement.
- Offer services in community sustainability education with a focus on water (and energy) conservation. This could include offering household and small business sustainability assessments and ongoing sustainability initiatives that encourage water conservation in the community.
- Continue to offer the member councils a water efficiency auditing service that will allow audits to be undertaken of identified high consuming accounts.
- Identify potential water management projects for participating councils and continue to seek funding opportunities available to the councils. Provide assistance with funding application development and submissions.
- Investigate opportunities with the Water Corporation to develop a partnership to deliver a regional water wise program to householders.
- Assist member councils with best practice water sensitive urban design and irrigation practices.

How will participating councils benefit?

Participation in the Water Campaign™ will result in the member councils generating significant water use reductions and cost savings, and will demonstrate their leadership in the management of precious water resources. The program also supports Councils in groundwater management which will enable Councils to comply with recent State legislation requiring all Councils to ensure their groundwater extraction is below 7,500 kilolitres per hectare.

Progressing through the Water Campaign™ milestone framework has a great potential to provide the following benefits to participating councils:

Economic

- Increase in financial savings associated with the implementation of water conservation measures;
- Reduction of scheme/groundwater consumption through an alternative water supply use such as stormwater, greywater and treated wastewater;
- Water savings through the implementation of best practice water management including sustainable use of groundwater and scheme water management;
- Establishment of environmental indicators through water consumption and water quality analysis to measure and compare the success of programs;
- Assisting community members to reduce their water use accruing financial savings; and
- Improvements in the local economy through the development of new markets in areas such as water efficient devices, irrigation and landscape services.

Social

- Improvement of community relations and fostering a greater sense of community through development of partnerships with the commercial residential and industrial sectors of the community; and
- Establishment of local leadership in the area of the water resource management.

Environmental

- Contribution to the sustainable management of water resources;
- Improvements in water quality through the implementation of initiatives such as erosion and sediment control; reduced use of chemicals and the containment and appropriate disposal of gross litter etc.

What impact/support will this project have on member councils?

Financial and in-kind support is required from member councils to:

- meet Federal/ State funding requirements and support potential projects;
- provide input into project application development;
- provide ongoing support to ensure Water Campaign™ progress; and
- ensure integration of other proposed projects supporting the Water Campaign™.

Five Year Financial Summary

Program Title	Water Campaign TM					
Adopted Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
\$	<i>Operating Income</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
(10,741)	Member council Contributions: City of Bayswater	(11,063)	(11,395)	(11,737)	(12,089)	(12,452)
(10,156)	Town of Bassendean	(10,800)	(10,774)	(11,097)	(11,420)	(11,762)
(10,646)	City of Belmont	(10,944)	(11,294)	(11,633)	(11,972)	(12,331)
(0)	Shire of Kalamunda*	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)
** (12,607)	Shire of Mundaring	(15,000)	(13,374)	(13,776)	(14,178)	(14,603)
(13,308)	City of Swan	(13,680)	(14,118)	(14,541)	(14,964)	(15,413)
(24,654)	Other Client LGAs	(25,920)	(24,654)	(24,654)	(24,654)	(24,654)
(82,112)	Total Income	(87,407)	(85,609)	(87,438)	(89,277)	(91,215)
	<i>Operating Expenditure</i>					
94,765	Water Campaign TM	98,135	101,661	105,528	109,612	112,900
12,653	Net EMRC Contribution	10,728	16,052	18,090	20,335	21,685

* *Figures exclude GST*

* *Shire of Kalamunda withdrew from the Water Campaign in 2011.*

** *Negotiations were held between the Shire of Mundaring and EMRC to increase the Shire's Water Campaign funding contribution from \$12,607 to \$15,000 in 2012/13.*

2.6 Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework

PURPOSE

The Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework (SHRMF) seeks to activate and realise the rivers' potential as natural, cultural and economic assets for Perth's Eastern Region.

BACKGROUND

The SHRMF was initiated by the EMRC on behalf of member councils with support of the Swan River Trust and the Western Australian Planning Commission. The strategic framework provides a vision for the future protection and development of the Swan River and its major tributary, the Helena River. The SHRMF identifies roles and responsibilities and allocates strategic actions to all stakeholders to guide the ongoing management and development of the rivers.

The SHRMF was endorsed by the EMRC and the Cities of Bayswater, Belmont, Swan and Town of Bassendean in 2007 and outlines objectives to:

- achieve social benefits;
- protect environmental values;
- enhance cultural and natural heritage;
- promote sensitive design and development; and
- promote integrated planning and management.

The framework recommends preparation of regional level planning strategies and guidelines to ensure a co-ordinated effort to tackle the large scale issues that cross Council boundaries. The project has involved the City of Bayswater, the Town of Bassendean, the City of Belmont and the City of Swan.

Since development and endorsement of the SHRMF, a number of high priority regional projects have been completed. These include:

- Perth's Eastern Region Swan River Trails Project (2008);
- SHRMF Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance (2009);
- Swan and Helena Rivers Regional Recreational Path Development Plan (2009);
- Best Management Practices for Shore Stabilisation – Approaches and Decision Support Framework (2009) (Led by Swan River Trust);
- Best Management Practices for Shore Stabilisation – Concept Designs for Shore; a Stabilisation at selected sites in the City of Bayswater (2009) (Led by Swan River Trust);
- Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan – Stage 1 (2011); and
- Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines (Draft) (2011).

The reports are foundation documents guiding implementation of the Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework and, according to the Swan River Trust and National Trust, potentially, the whole Swan and Canning Rivers system.

Achievements for 2012-2013

- Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines – Feedback sought on Guidelines through stakeholders and incorporated. Endorsement of the guidelines sought through Council.
- A strategy is being developed from the information collected and the ideas generated from a stakeholder workshop held in July 2012 around how the EMRC and the member councils can work together to progress the regional recreational path development plan.
- The EMRC made a submission to the State government for consideration when developing the 2013-2014 State budget. The EMRC pre-budget submission outlines five priority areas for Perth's Eastern Region and identifies issues for concern which includes the Swan and Canning rivers.
- The "Priority Plan for Investment in the Swan Canning Catchment" developed by WALGA and the Swan Canning Policy Forum outlining a funding strategy for the Swan Canning Catchment is still with the State Government for consideration.
- Submission provided to the "Review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 - Discussion Paper: Seven proposals to regulate and amend the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 for improved clarity, compliance, effectiveness, efficiency and certainty."
- Submission provided on the "Draft River Protection Strategy" to the Swan River Trust.

What is planned for 2013-14?

- Continued implementation of priority actions outlined within the SHRMF in consultation with the member Councils.
- Advocacy – representations will continue to be made at agency and political levels to increase funding to the Swan River. The EMRC will work with its member Councils to advocate and develop collaborative submissions, as funding programs become available.
- Swan and Helena Rivers Regional Recreational Path Development Plan – seek funding to implement trail construction and maintenance priorities.
- Foreshore Funding Strategy – will inform ongoing advocacy and create an overview of funding sources, availability, partnerships, works and priorities. This will enable advance planning for collaborative submissions; highlight regional needs and link with work done by Swan Canning Policy Forum as well as supporting other major projects in the SHRMF, such as the Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan and Regional Recreational Path Development Plan. Lead agencies have been identified as including EMRC, Swan River Trust, Western Australian Planning Commission and local government.
- Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan – Stage two of the project will seek to undertake further consultation with the Noongar and general community to refine the selection of sites, themes and stories for interpretation related to the European, Noongar and natural heritage meta-themes from the Swan and Helena Rivers Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance. Detailed designs and costings for each member council to construct interpretation at selected sites will also be developed.
- Develop and deliver a Noongar Cultural Awareness Training program – Noongar cultural awareness entails an understanding of Noongar culture, values, beliefs and protocols. Understanding of Noongar culture and values may assist local governments when dealing with the Noongar community and the services it provides. As part of the development of the Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines project a lack of cultural awareness was identified as a key issue for local government officers. This project will seek to increase the awareness of local government officers in relation to Noongar culture, values, beliefs and protocols.

How will member councils benefit?

Social

- Improved community engagement in Swan River foreshore restoration activities in the Cities of Bayswater, Belmont and Swan, and Town of Bassendean;
- Inclusive Noongar consultation;
- Increased public safety and amenity along the Swan River foreshore; and
- Increased tourism and recreational opportunities at key sites along the Swan River.

Environmental

- An integrated approach to foreshore management across four member councils; and
- Improved foreshore stability.

Economic

- Opportunities to value add to current individual local government river projects;
- Opportunities to increase funding applications through collaborative submissions;
- Provision of employment opportunities; and
- Informed advocacy for funding and political support for priority actions from State and Federal Government.

What impact/support will this project have on member councils?

Member councils will be required to make in-kind and financial contributions to leverage grant funding for projects that arise from implementation of regional strategies including;

- Regional Recreation Path Development Plan path construction
- Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan
- Development and delivery of a Cultural Awareness Training Programme.

In-kind support will be required from member councils in the form of officer time to participate on the Regional Environmental Advisory Group and to provide technical input into submissions and project briefs.

Five Year Financial Summary

All project expenses are met by EMRC.

Program Title	Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework					
Adopted Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
\$	<i>Operating Expenditure</i>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
117,214	Implement SHRMF Plan	119,883	122,664	125,714	128,897	132,763
\$117,214	<i>Net EMRC Contribution</i>	119,883	122,664	125,714	128,897	132,763

** Figures exclude GST*

2.7 Sustainability and Environmental Education (New Program)

PURPOSE

Local Governments have strategies and practical programs to generate sustainable and environmental outcomes. However, not all Local Governments have the time or resources to devote to education. The EMRC aims to fill this gap and educate Councillors, staff and the community on sustainability and environmental issues, and develop the capacity of the individuals or groups to create sustainable behaviour change.

EMRC will employ educational, behavioural change and facilitation techniques used by Edward de Bono (Six Thinking Hats and Power of Perception), Doug McKenzie-Mohr (Community Based Social Marketing) and Living Smart Facilitation (Behaviour Change) to develop individual educational programs for each member council.

BACKGROUND

Environmental education refers to organised efforts to teach people about how the natural environment functions and particularly, how human beings can manage their behaviour and ecosystem in order to live sustainably.

Environmental education is a learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment and associated challenges, develops the necessary skills and expertise to address the challenges, and foster attitudes, motivations and commitment to making informed decisions and take responsible action (UNESCO, Tbilisi Declaration, 1978).

The EMRC along with member councils have identified sustainable and environmental education as a gap within member councils and that it is something that is desired but the capacity to deliver such a program has not been available. As a result this project has been included as a proposed Engagement Project under EMRC's Regional Environmental Strategy 2011 – 2016 (P3.6.8). These proposed projects were developed and agreed to by member councils as areas in which they require assistance.

As a result, the EMRC is looking for support to develop this role within the organisation to deal directly with sustainability and environmental education. EMRC will work with each member council to discuss each Council's individual needs and requirements. Based on this, individual Project Plans will be developed.

What is planned for 2013 – 2014?

Objectives include:

- To increase awareness and sensitivity about the environmental and sustainability challenges;
- To enhance knowledge and understanding about the environmental and sustainability challenges;
- To encourage an attitude of concern for the environment and help to maintain environmental quality;
- To teach skills to mitigate environmental problems; and
- To increase existing knowledge on environmental related programs and promotion of member council sustainability and environmental achievements.

Delivery process includes:

- Development of individual Project Plans for 2013/2014
- Development of the workshop and its content
- Pre and post-workshop surveys

- Delivery of workshop
- Outcomes report

How will member councils benefit?

Education has been identified as a gap within member councils during the development of the Regional Environment Strategy. Member Councils have always included community engagement and education within a number of environmental programs such as Water Campaign, ACER, Perth Solar City and Future Proofing but due to priorities within the project often the community side falls away as other actions take precedence. The benefit of participating in this project is that it aims to overcome this gap by developing the role of a dedicated education officer.

What impact/support will this project have on member councils?

The impact of this project will be very positive for member councils because it will assist with promotion and education of sustainability and the environment. By dedicating time to community education, this will assist with building and strengthening support within the community for environmental action. Additionally through sustainability and environmental education, member councils will be able to promote their programs achievements and success stories.

Five Year Financial Summary

Program Title	Sustainability and Environmental Education					
Adopted Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
\$	Operating Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
(0)	Member council Contributions: Town of Bassendean	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)
(0)	City of Bayswater	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)
(0)	City of Belmont	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)
(0)	Shire of Kalamunda	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)
(0)	Shire of Mundaring	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)
(0)	City of Swan	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)
(0)	Total Income	(90,000)	(90,000)	(90,000)	(90,000)	(90,000)
	Operating Expenditure					
0	Implement Program	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
0	Net EMRC contribution	0	0	0	0	0

* **Figures exclude GST**

2.8 Review / Develop Strategic Environmental Policies and Documentation (Fee-for-service)

PURPOSE

To provide review services to member councils for key strategic environmental and sustainability documents to ensure that they:

- Consider all relevant environmental and sustainability related issues;
- Are appropriately aligned with stakeholder needs;
- Are appropriately aligned with current legislation, state government requirements and guidance areas; and
- Where necessary, provide appropriate strategic direction for environmental management activities.

The EMRC will work with each member Council to identify their individual needs and requirements. A Project Plan will then be developed specifically tailored for the member council.

BACKGROUND

Local Government authorities are active in environmental management with the majority of actions being undertaken by a range of staff from different business units. Strategic environmental documentation provides direction and a framework for future environmental management activities aimed at meeting statutory obligations and best management practices for the Local Government sector. It is vital for Local Government to undertake a review process of its major environmental strategies to ensure that Council complies with current legislation, policy and guidelines at Federal and State Government levels.

EMRC has identified Strategic Environmental Policies and Documentation as a gap within a number of member councils and as such has included providing assistance in developing and implementing strategic environmental documentation as a proposed Advocacy Project under EMRC's Regional Environmental Strategy 2011 – 2016 (P3.5.2). These proposed projects were developed and agreed to by member councils as areas in which they require assistance.

As a result the EMRC is looking for support to develop this role within the organisation to deal directly with policy and environmental documentation review and development. EMRC will work directly with each member council to discuss individual needs and requirements. Based on this, individual Project Plans will be developed.

What is planned for 2013 – 2014?

Objectives include:

- To keep Council strategic documents up-to-date with State and Federal requirements;
- To address Council environmental management needs; and
- To provide future environmental management direction.

The Project is a fee-for-service program and as a result the outcomes of the project will be based on the individual requirements of the member council.

How will member councils benefit?

The benefit to member councils seeking assistance from EMRC to review and/or develop strategic environmental policies and documentation, is that by doing so this frees up time that would have otherwise had to be committed by member council staff.

Additionally EMRC already has the knowledge and expertise in house. Some of the documents that EMRC has already developed include:

- Shire of Broome's Environmental Management Strategy (under development)
- Shire of Mundaring's Environmental Management Plan (Complete)
- Town of Bassendean's Environmental Management Plan (under development)
- City of Bayswater's Local Environmental Strategy (under development)
- Collective Biodiversity Strategy (Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater and City of Belmont)
(Complete)

What impact/support will this project have on member councils?

This project will support member councils to continue to deliver projects and outcomes while EMRC develops these documents on behalf of the member council.

Financial Summary (Fee-for-service)

This project is a fee-for-service project. Additionally member councils will also be required to contribute in-kind hours to the project to assist with implementation.

2.9 Summary

The table below shows a summary of the proposed member council contributions totaling \$358,334 (45%) for the 2013/2014 financial year towards the proposed Environmental Services projects of \$795,533 outlined in Sections 2.1 to 2.8.

1. Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program (EHCMP)
2. Future Proofing– Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (RCCAAP)
3. Achieving Carbon Emission Reductions (ACE_R) Program
4. Water Campaign™
5. Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework
6. Sustainability and Environmental Education
7. Review / Develop Strategic Environmental Policies and Documentation

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS 2013/2014

Project	Total Cost
Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program	304,429
Future Proofing	117,151
ACER	65,935
Water Campaign	98,135
Perth Solar City	0
Education Program	90,000
Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework	119,883
Total Environmental Services Projects	\$795,533

Environmental Services Proposed Projects Contribution	
Town of Bassendean	51,090
City of Bayswater	54,273
City of Belmont	54,154
Shire of Kalamunda	58,989
Shire of Mundaring	82,159
City of Swan	57,669
Total	\$358,334

Please note

- **Does not include GST**
- **Does not include cost of WALGA Greensense Platform**
- **Does not include cost of End of Year Volunteer event (applicable to Kalamunda, Mundaring and Swan)**

Section 3 - Member Council Individual Financial Contributions Summary

3.1 Town of Bassendean

Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1,343	Regional Travel Smart Program	3,286	5,299	0	0	0
0	Regional Integrated Transport Strategy	5,561	5,728	5,900	6,077	6,259
13,127	Regional Economic Development	12,411	12,783	13,167	13,562	13,969
4,463	Regional Events	4,686	4,920	5,166	5,425	5,586
15,000	Future Proofing for Climate Change	15,000	15,000	0	0	0
15,000	Perth Solar City	0	0	0	0	0
9,991	ACER	10,290	10,600	10,920	11,248	11,585
10,156	Water Campaign™	10,800	(10,774)	11,097	(1,420)	11,762
0	Environment and Sustainability Education	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
0	Review / Develop Strategic Environmental Policies and Documentation	FFS	FFS	FFS	FFS	FFS
69,080	Total Funding Being Sought	77,034	80,104	61,250	62,732	64,161

* *Figures exclude GST*

* *FFS – Fee for service*

3.2 City of Bayswater

Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2,692	Regional Travel Smart Program	6,588	10,624	0	0	0
0	Regional Integrated Transport Strategy	11,194	11,530	11,876	12,232	12,599
26,564	Regional Economic Development	21,944	22,603	23,281	23,979	24,699
9,030	Regional Events Program	9,482	9,956	10,454	10,976	11,305
15,000	Future Proofing for Climate Change	15,000	15,000	0	0	0
15,000	Perth Solar City	0	0	0	0	0
12,825	ACER	13,210	13,610	14,018	14,438	14,871
10,741	Water Campaign™	11,063	11,395	11,737	12,089	12,452
0	Sustainability and Environmental Education	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
0	Review / Develop Strategic Environmental Policies and Documentation	FFS	FFS	FFS	FFS	FFS
91,852	Total Funding Being Sought	103,481	109,718	86,366	88,714	90,926

** Figures exclude GST*

** FFS – Fee for service*

3.3 City of Belmont

Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2,172	Regional Travel Smart Program	5,312	8,568	0	0	0
0	Regional Integrated Transport Strategy	9,461	9,745	10,037	10,338	10,648
21,420	Regional Economic Development	19,011	19,581	20,169	20,774	21,397
7,955	Regional Events Program	8,048	8,450	8,873	9,316	9,595
15,000	Future Proofing for Climate Change	15,000	15,000	0	0	0
15,000	Perth Solar City	0	0	0	0	0
12,825	ACER	13,210	13,610	14,018	14,438	14,871
10,646	Water Campaign™	10,944	11,294	11,633	11,972	12,331
0	Sustainability and Environmental Education	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
0	Review / Develop Strategic Environmental Policies and Documentation	FFS	FFS	FFS	FFS	FFS
85,018	Total Funding Being Sought	95,986	101,248	79,730	81,838	83,842

* *Figures exclude GST*

* *FFS – Fee for service*

3.4 Shire of Kalamunda

Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2,333	Regional Travel Smart Program	5,710	9,209	0	0	0
0	Regional Integrated Transport Strategy	10,111	10,414	10,727	11,049	11,380
2,000	Regional Economic Development	20,111	20,714	21,336	21,976	22,635
7,955	Regional Events Program	8,048	8,450	8,873	9,316	9,595
28,145	Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program	28,989	29,589	30,755	31,677	32,628
15,000	Future Proofing for Climate Change	15,000	15,000	0	0	0
15,000	Perth Solar City	0	0	0	0	0
0	ACER	0	0	0	0	0
0	Water Campaign™	0	0	0	0	0
0	Sustainability and Environmental Education	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
0	Review / Develop Strategic Environmental Policies and Documentation	FFS	FFS	FFS	FFS	FFS
70,433	Total Funding Being Sought	102,969	108,376	86,691	89,018	91,238

** Figures exclude GST*

** FFS – Fee for service*

Does not include cost of ECHMP End of Year volunteer event

3.5 Shire of Mundaring

Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2,029	Regional Travel Smart Program	4,966	8,010	0	0	0
0	Regional Integrated Transport Strategy	8,811	9,075	9,348	9,628	9,917
11,953	Regional Economic Development	17,911	18,448	19,002	19,572	20,159
7,035	Regional Events Program	7,387	7,756	8,144	8,551	8,807
28,145	Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program	28,989	29,589	30,755	31,677	32,628
15,000	Future Proofing for Climate Change	15,000	15,000	0	0	0
15,000	Perth Solar City	0	0	0	0	0
7,931	ACER	8,170	8,415	8,667	8,927	9,195
**12,607	Water Campaign™	15,000	13,374	13,776	14,178	14,603
0	Sustainability and Environmental Education	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
0	Review / Develop Strategic Environmental Policies and Documentation	FFS	FFS	FFS	FFS	FFS
99,700	Total Funding Being Sought	121,234	124,667	104,692	107,533	110,309

* *Figures exclude GST*

* *FFS – Fee for service*

Does not include cost of ECHMP End of Year volunteer event

** Negotiations were held between the Shire of Mundaring and EMRC to increase the Shire's Water Campaign funding contribution from \$12,607 to \$15,000 in 2012/13.

3.6 City of Swan

Budget 2012/13	Project Summary	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
4,633	Regional Travel Smart Program	11,338	18,290	0	0	0
0	Regional Integrated Transport Strategy	19,861	20,457	21,071	21,703	22,354
45,727	Regional Economic Development	36,611	37,709	38,841	40,006	41,206
16,643	Regional Events Program	17,475	18,349	19,266	19,843	20,438
28,145	Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program	28,989	29,589	30,755	31,677	32,628
15,000	Perth Solar City	0	0	0	0	0
13,308	Water Campaign™	13,680	14,118	14,541	14,964	15,413
0	Sustainability and Environmental Education	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
0	Review / Develop Strategic Environmental Policies and Documentation	FFS	FFS	FFS	FFS	FFS
123,456	Total Funding Being Sought	142,954	153,512	139,474	143,193	147,039

* *Figures exclude GST*

* *FFS – Fee for service*

Does not include cost of ECHMP End of Year volunteer event

Section 4 - Summary of Proposed Member Council Combined Contributions 2013/2014

The table below shows the combined proposed member council contributions towards the Regional Development and Environmental Services projects proposed for the 2013/2014 financial year.

Proposed member council contributions for proposed Regional Development projects are 22% of the total value of \$1,316,394.

Proposed member council contributions for proposed Environmental Services projects are 45% of the total project value of \$795,533.

	Environmental Services	Regional Development	Total
Town of Bassendean	51,090	25,944	77,034
City of Bayswater	54,273	49,208	103,481
City of Belmont	54,154	41,832	95,986
Shire of Kalamunda	58,989	43,980	102,969
Shire of Mundaring	82,159	39,075	121,234
City of Swan	57,669	85,285	142,954
Total	\$358,334	\$285,324	\$643,658



9.2 REGIONAL SERVICES CONSULTING RATES 2013/2014 AND MISCELLANEOUS ADMINISTRATION FEES

REFERENCE: COMMITTEES-15089

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Council's approval of the proposed 2013/2014 Regional Services consulting rates and Administration Fees and Charges for the use in developing the draft budget for 2013/2014.

KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Regional Services coordinates, facilitates and jointly funds and manages major regionally significant projects that aim to improve social, economic and environmental outcomes for Perth's Eastern Region.
- The Regional Services consulting rates have evolved over time to meet the needs of the member Councils by providing a mix of rates based on the diversity of tasks and experience required to fulfil consulting activities.
- The rates for member Councils have generally increased each year in accordance with CPI.
- For the 2013/2014 budget year, a rate increase of between 2.20% and 2.94 % is proposed.
- The proposed Regional Services consulting rates will be used to develop the draft 2013/2014 budget.
- In order to recover costs, an administration fee for photocopying of documents provided to members of the public has been set.

Recommendation(s)

That the 2013/2014 Regional Services Consulting Rates and Administration Fees and Charges, forming Attachment 1 and 2 to this Report, be accepted for the use in developing the draft budget for 2013/2014.

SOURCE OF REPORT

Director Regional Services
Manager Environmental Services
Manager Regional Development
Manager Administration and Compliance

BACKGROUND

Consulting rates are reviewed on an annual basis as part of the preparation of the annual budget.

The Regional Services consulting rates have evolved over time to meet the needs of the member Councils by providing a mix of rates based on the diversity of tasks and experience required to fulfil consulting activities. The rates have generally increased each year in accordance with CPI or marginally lower than CPI.

The Regional Services Project Funding Summary 2013/2014 – 2017/2018 Agenda Item 9.1 (Ref: Committees-15101) 5 February 2013, outlines proposed Regional Services projects. Project costs for these projects are determined using the proposed consulting rates.

An administration fee for the photocopying of documents provided to members of the public was imposed by Council on 19 April 2012 to take effect from 1 July 2012 (Ref: Committees-13892).



Item 9.2 continued

Over the period 2012/2013, the EMRC Environmental Services team has provided external consulting services to the Town of Victoria Park, City of South Perth and the Shire of Broome expected to amount to approximately \$57,383 of revenue.

REPORT

EMRC recognises the importance of maintaining reasonable charge out rates for member Councils to maintain the current levels of utilisation in line with member Council budget expectations, as well as provide a service that is competitive in the marketplace to benefit member Councils.

Regional Services Consulting Rates

The consulting rates are used to develop the draft 2013/2014 budget and form part of the Regional Funding Summary presented as Agenda Item 9.1 (Ref: Committees-15101) to the EMRC Council and member Councils for consideration and approval.

It is proposed that the Regional Services consulting rates for 2013/2014 for member Councils be increased by between 2.20% – 2.94%.

It is proposed that *Other Organisations Consulting Fees* are not increased as they are currently in line with commercial consulting rates. The rates are based around three levels of consultants in addition to Manager and Director. It is expected that most consulting activities would be undertaken by the Coordinators, Consultants and Project Officers in order to provide the best value for money proposition for member Councils.

Regional Services is committed to aligning its consulting service and regional project delivery activities to meet member Council needs as its highest priority.

Administration Fees and Charges – Photocopy Fees

Under section 6.16 of the Local Government Act 1995, a local government may impose and recover a fee or charge for any goods or service it provides, other than those for which a service charge is statutorily imposed. Under section 6.16(3), fees and charges are to be imposed in accordance with an annual budget but can be imposed during the financial year and amended from time to time.

Under section 6.17(1), Local Governments may determine the amount of a charge but are required to consider the costs of providing the service, its importance to the community and the price at which it can be provided by an alternative supplier.

From time to time, the EMRC receives requests to provide photocopies of various materials including, but not limited to, agendas and minutes. The schedule of fees proposed to deliver this service for black and white and colour is shown in Attachment 2.

STRATEGIC/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Key Result Area 1 – Environmental Sustainability

- 1.5 To contribute towards improved regional air, water and land quality and regional biodiversity conservation
- 1.6 To address climate change issues within the region

Key Result Area 2 – Social Opportunities

- 2.2 To facilitate regional cultural and recreational activities



Item 9.2 continued

Key Result Area 3 – Economic Development

- 3.1 To facilitate increased investment in regional infrastructure
- 3.3 To facilitate regional economic development activities

Key Result Area 4 – Good Governance

- 4.4 To manage partnerships and relationships with stakeholders
- 4.6 To provide responsible and accountable governance and management of the EMRC
- 4.8 To improve financial and asset management practices

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed rates will be used to develop detailed budgets and project plans for Regional Services consulting activities.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The rates being proposed for the EMRC member Councils recognise the competing demands on budgets from other sources and have been designed to facilitate the achievement of a sustainable service delivery arrangement.

MEMBER COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

Member Council	Implication Details
Town of Bassendean	} The Regional Services Consulting Rates are used annually to assist with the formulation of budgets and for member Councils to be able to utilise EMRC consultancy services as and when required.
City of Bayswater	
City of Belmont	
Shire of Kalamunda	
Shire of Mundaring	
City of Swan	

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. 2013/2014 Regional Services Consulting Rates (Ref: Committees-15143)
2. Administration Fees and Charges (Ref: Committees-15142)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the 2013/2014 Regional Services Consulting Rates and Administration Fees and Charges, forming Attachment 1 and 2 to this Report, be accepted for the use in developing the draft budget for 2013/2014.



Item 9.2 continued

CEOAC RECOMMENDATION(S)

MOVED MR FOLEY

SECONDED MR COLE

That the 2013/2014 Regional Services consulting rates and Administration Fees and Charges, forming Attachment 1 and 2 to this Report, be accepted for the use in developing the draft budget for 2013/2014.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCIL RESOLUTION(S)

MOVED CR

SECONDED CR

2013/2014 REGIONAL SERVICES CONSULTING RATES
Regional Services (Environmental Services & Regional Development) Consulting Rates

	Prior Year Actuals					Proposed	
	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	% Change
<i>Member Council Consulting Fees</i>							
Consultant Director	\$88.00	\$92.00	\$96.00	\$99.00	\$102.00	\$105.00	2.94%
Consultant Manager	\$78.00	\$82.00	\$86.00	\$88.50	\$91.00	\$93.00	2.20%
Consultant Coordinator	\$68.00	\$71.00	\$74.00	\$76.00	\$78.00	\$80.00	2.56%
Consultant	\$60.00	\$63.00	\$66.00	\$68.00	\$70.00	\$72.00	2.86%
Project Officer	\$46.00	\$48.00	\$50.00	\$51.50	\$53.00	\$54.50	2.83%
<i>Other Organisations Consulting Fees</i>							
Consultant Director	\$165.00	\$174.00	\$182.00	\$187.50	\$187.50	\$187.50	0.00%
Consultant Manager	\$145.00	\$153.00	\$160.00	\$165.00	\$165.00	\$165.00	0.00%
Consultant Coordinator	\$145.00	\$153.00	\$160.00	\$165.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	0.00%
Consultant	\$132.00	\$139.00	\$145.00	\$149.50	\$125.00	\$125.00	0.00%
Project Officer	\$115.00	\$121.00	\$127.00	\$131.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	0.00%

* Note : All hourly rates are exclusive of GST

ADMINISTRATION FEES AND CHARGES

Photocopy Fees	\$ Per Page
Black & White A4 print	\$ 0.35
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Colour A4 print	\$ 0.45
Colour A3 print	\$ 0.60

* Prices are inclusive of GST



9.3 REGIONAL YOUTH CONSULTATION REPORT

REFERENCE: COMMITTEES-15136

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Council with an update on the stakeholder consultations on the Regional Youth and Education Discussion Paper as per the Council resolution of 21 June 2012.

KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- A report to the 21 June 2012 Council meeting proposed that the EMRC use the information in the Regional Youth and Education Discussion Paper to prioritise relevant youth projects for the Region in partnership with member Councils and key stakeholders.
- The report proposed that regional activities should support those underway or proposed by member Councils, the community sector and government and complement the direction and initiatives already outlined in the Regional Economic Development Strategy, the Regional Environment Strategy and Regional Advocacy Strategy.
- Council resolved that further consultation was required to identify and prioritise regional youth projects aligned with the current EMRC direction and strategies and a Regional Youth Consultant was employed to engage stakeholders.
- Over a three month period planned engagement activities were conducted, including a stakeholder workshop, youth survey, face to face meetings with key agencies, email submissions and a presentation to the regional directors of key State Government agencies.
- Seven key areas of opportunity were identified and four project areas have been highlighted for action:
 - Eastern Region Youth Network (ERYN) – to promote collaboration, peer support and training opportunities for those working with young people in Perth's Eastern Region;
 - Bush Skills for Youth – refocusing the existing EMRC Bush Skills Program to target young people;
 - Regional Advocacy and Lobbying – including a focus on services and infrastructure required to meet the needs of young people in Perth's Eastern Region. This includes improved access to public transport; and
 - Regional Youth Week – working with member Councils and regional partners to deliver a youth forum in 2014 and a calendar of activities in 2015.

Recommendation(s)

That Council approves to the release of the full Consultation Report – Regional Youth Futures to member Councils and key stakeholders participating in the consultation process.

SOURCE OF REPORT

Director Regional Services
Regional Youth Consultant



Item 9.3 continued

BACKGROUND

A Regional Youth and Education Discussion Paper was developed in accordance with a resolution made at Council's meeting of 18 February 2010 (Ref: Committees-10423).

The Discussion Paper was to be a scoping document which included an environmental scan of the services already provided by member Councils and other agencies prior to the development of any strategy. It was proposed that any agreed role should add value across the Region and not duplicate the activities already being delivered by member Councils. It was not intended that regional collaboration would replace member Councils' existing programs and services but rather value-add, address gaps and support member Councils.

At its meeting of 16 February 2012 the Regional Youth and Education Discussion Paper was tabled and Council approved its release to member Councils for a six week consultation period (Ref Committees-13540). Following the consultation period, at its meeting on 21 June 2012, Council considered the discussion paper (Ref: Committees-14177), together with comments made by member Councils.

Feedback received from member Councils during the comment period confirmed that member Councils have committed considerable resources to youth services and are actively involved in the delivery of a range of youth initiatives in their communities. Member Council feedback did not articulate the need for the development of a Regional Youth and Education Strategy, rather a refocusing of resources within existing EMRC projects and a collaborative approach to strategic regional youth initiatives that will address gaps in service provision and support those delivered by member Councils, the community sector and government.

At its meeting of 21 June 2012 (Ref: Committees-14177) Council resolved that:

- "1. COUNCIL NOTES THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL YOUTH AND EDUCATION STRATEGY HAS NOT BEEN SUPPORTED BY MEMBER COUNCILS.*
- 2. COUNCIL NOTES THAT A WORKSHOP WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO IDENTIFY AND PRIORITISE RELEVANT REGIONAL YOUTH PROJECTS FOR INCORPORATION INTO EXISTING EMRC STRATEGIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MEMBER COUNCILS AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS.*
- 3. COUNCIL APPROVES THAT AGREED YOUTH PROJECTS THAT COMPLEMENT THE DIRECTION, PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES OUTLINED IN THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY AND REGIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY BE SCOPED AND DEVELOPED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE."*

REPORT

In response to the 21 June 2012 Council resolution it was proposed confirmation of project themes and gaps in youth service activities be sought through engagement with member Council officers and key stakeholders, including youth representatives. A Regional Youth Consultant was employed to:

- Undertake consultations with member Councils and key stakeholders to identify regional priorities;
- Seek input from Member Councils and key stakeholders on emerging priorities and the role the EMRC and member Councils in addressing these priorities;
- Assess and prioritise potential focus areas and projects;
- Undertake detailed scoping, costing and the identification of investment/partnership opportunities for agreed regional projects; and
- Develop a report for presentation to the Chief Executive Officer Advisory Council (CEOAC).



Item 9.3 continued

The project commenced in September 2012 with the development of a stakeholder engagement plan. The major focus of the consultation process was the engagement of member Councils and key stakeholders via a workshop. This was designed to:

- Involve key staff from member Councils;
- Involve youth focused agencies from across Region;
- Encourage comment on ideas outlined in the discussion paper;
- Explore the strengths and opportunities;
- Identify priority needs within the region; and
- Elicit commitments from agencies to support priority projects.

Information from the workshop was then used to establish the level of support for the further development of proposed project ideas for consideration as regional projects that complement the direction, projects and initiatives already outlined in the Regional Economic Development Strategy, the Regional Environment Strategy and Regional Advocacy Strategy.

Further stakeholder input was obtained using written feedback, face-to-face meetings with individual agencies and a presentation to the Midland District Leadership Council comprised of the Regional Directors of State Government human services agencies.

Whilst the primary target group for engagement was member Councils and agencies delivering services to young people in Perth's Eastern Region, young people from across the Region were also given the opportunity to have input via surveys and the use of *Livepad 41*, an interactive engagement tool.

The five Focus Areas identified in the Discussion Paper were used to frame the consultations. These areas are:

- Youth capacity building and leadership;
- Regional collaboration;
- Youth in environmental management;
- Creative and engaged youth; and
- Supporting youth.

Opportunities for collaborative work in each of these focus areas were highlighted during the consultation process. The strengths and weaknesses of the projects suggested in the Discussion Paper were also acknowledged and regional challenges and opportunities were examined.

Service providers participating in the consultation workshop identified the priority needs of young people and the workers who support them as:

- Exploring genuine youth engagement through, volunteering and embedding youth engagement into Community Engagement initiatives, including the planning of facilities and public spaces where young people will congregate;
- Communication and support to enable young people to access programs and services offered by Member Councils;
- Building on and adding value to existing programs to enable improved youth participation;
- Advocating and lobbying for appropriate resources to support the development and delivery of quality programs, services and facilities to support young people across Perth's Eastern Region;
- Identifying, developing and resourcing models of regional and local collaboration; and
- Professionalising the sector – supporting networking, professional development and the discussion of emerging issues across the Region.



Item 9.3 continued

Opportunities aligned with the strategic direction of the EMRC were suggested for consideration by Council. It was considered these would add value to the work already being undertaken by member Councils and would strengthen regional collaboration. Seven key priority areas for consideration by the EMRC were identified:

1. Supporting the development and maintenance of strong regional networks;
2. Supporting a regional approach to skills development for those engaged in providing services to support young people in Perth's Eastern Region;
3. Encouraging the participation of young people in community based environmental projects;
4. Advocating on behalf of member Councils and the non-government sector to garner support from State and Federal Government for increased programs, services and facilities for young people in Perth's Eastern Region;
5. Advocating for improved access to safe and reliable transport for young people across Perth's Eastern Region;
6. Supporting the organisation of a Regional Youth Forum in 2014 to coincide with National Youth Week; and
7. Supporting Member Councils and other key stakeholders to develop a program of activities to celebrate Regional Youth Week in 2015. This program of activities would build on the Regional Youth Forum held in 2014.

These seven areas have been translated into four key potential project areas for consideration by CEOAC and Council:

1. Eastern Region Youth Network

The development of the Eastern Region Youth Network (ERYN) will build on the existing Swan and Surrounding Suburbs Youth Network, SaSSYNNet and the Swan NEST project auspiced by RISE (formerly Hills Community Support Network). ERYN could coordinate the development of strong regional networks and facilitate professional development training and support for those engaged in the provision of youth services in Perth's Eastern Region.

Proposed funds to support this initiative are included in the Regional Services Project Funding Summary 2013/2014 - 2017/2018 provided in this Agenda 9.1 (Committees-15101) The Network will also be encouraged to apply for funding from other sources to support the skills development element of this project.

2. Regional Advocacy and Lobbying

Advocating on behalf of member Councils and the non-government sector to garner support from State and Federal Government for increased programs, services and facilities for young people in Perth's Eastern Region is critical to the development of a 'joined-up' approach to meeting the needs of the Region's young people. Such advocacy includes raising awareness of the needs of young people as part of the Integrated Transport Strategy and seeking to develop a regional approach to the development of key infrastructure, such as community 'hubs' which will deliver services for young people.

This project will be undertaken as part of the EMRC's Regional Advocacy Program and no additional funding is required.

3. Bush Skills for Youth

The development of a Bush Skills program to support local environmental groups and attract young volunteers is aligned to the EMRC's Eastern Hills Catchment Management Programme.

Whilst the EHCMP currently operates in the City of Swan and the Shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring the Bush Skills for Youth program and associated volunteering activities could also be activated in the Cities of Bayswater and Belmont and the Town of Bassendean, particularly in relation to river/foreshore focused projects.



Item 9.3 continued

There is also an opportunity as part of the program to engage with other youth volunteering organisations such as Useful Inc to develop new and innovative ways of involving young people in environmental projects.

External funding will be sought for this project which is included in the Environmental Services section of the Regional Services Project Funding Summary 2013/2014 - 2017/2018 provided in this Agenda 9.1 (Ref: Committees-15101)

4. Regional Youth Week Forum

A Regional Forum during National Youth Week 2014 would bring together key stakeholders to re-visit the priorities for young people and youth services in the Eastern Region. It would build on the work of the regional network group, ERYN and on the forum to be hosted by the Swan NEST program in 2013.

Proposed funds to support this initiative are included in the Project Funding Summary 2013/2014 - 2017/2018. The Network will also be encouraged to apply for funding from other sources to support the skills development element of this project

This Forum could be a precursor to the development of a series of Regional Youth Week activities across member Council areas in 2014/15.

It is anticipated that any such calendar of activities would attract funding from external organisations.

In addition to the possible projects identified for EMRC consideration, opportunities were also suggested for individual member Councils' consideration. These are outlined in the Executive Summary of the Regional Youth Futures Report (see attachment) and are as follows:

1. Exploring ways of improving online engagement and embedding youth friendly engagement mechanisms into ongoing community engagement processes;
2. Participation in Regional Networks such as the SaSSY Network seeking to expand this network to be truly inclusive of the Region;
3. Supporting their staff, and those working in partner agencies, to access Regional professional development programs to assist them to work more effectively with young people;
4. Supporting the development of youth peer education programs such as Youth Educating Peers, in conjunction with YACWA and local youth services;
5. Exploring opportunities to support outreach services from Midland Headspace and other therapeutic or specialist services to facilitate access for young people from their jurisdictions;
6. Participating in Regional planning and lobbying activities, convened by the EMRC, which seek to increase the funding for programs, services and facilities to support young people across the Region;
7. Supporting youth and community staff to develop linkages with schools and alternative education providers;
8. Investigating opportunities to work in conjunction with Partnership Broker Service providers and others involved in supporting young people in their transition from school to further training and/or employment;
9. Supporting youth arts opportunities by working with young people and youth arts organisations to develop a range of art/music projects in local communities;
10. Exploring the development of alternative models of volunteering to attract young people to volunteer in community projects;
11. Participating in the organisation and delivery of a Regional Program of youth activities to support the celebration of National Youth Week on a Regional basis in 2015; and
12. Exploring partnerships with agencies such as Act-Belong-Commit to promote improved mental wellbeing for young people through active community participation.



Item 9.3 continued

STRATEGIC/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Key Result Area 1 – Environmental Sustainability.

1.5 To contribute towards improved regional air, water and land quality and regional biodiversity conservation.

Key Result Area 2 – Social Opportunities

2.2 To facilitate regional cultural and recreational activities

Key Result Area 3 – Economic Development

- a. To facilitate increased investment in regional infrastructure
- b. To import the development of regional education and training opportunities

Key Result Area 4 – Good Governance

4.2 To manage partnerships and relationships with stakeholders

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications associated with the proposed priority regional youth projects will be considered in the Regional Services Project Funding Summary 2013/2014 - 2017/2018.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Strengthening regional networks and enhancing the skills of those working within the youth sector will improve the quality of services provided by agencies and will provide greater opportunities for resource sharing and collaboration between agencies.

Lobbying and advocacy on behalf of the sector will support the development of additional programs, services and facilities across the Region, improving access for young people.

MEMBER COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

Member Council	Implication Details
Town of Bassendean City of Bayswater City of Belmont Shire of Kalamunda Shire of Mundaring City of Swan	<p>Regional Youth Activities align with and complement member Council youth development priorities.</p> <p>Any financial implications for member Councils arising from projects will be developed and integrated into future budget proposals for member Councils consideration.</p>

ATTACHMENT(S)

Regional Youth Futures Executive Summary (Ref: Committees-15139)



Item 9.3 continued

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council approves to the release of the full Consultation Report – Regional Youth Futures to member Councils and key stakeholders participating in the consultation process.

The Director Regional Services gave a brief overview of the Regional Youth Consultation Report including the consultation undertaken with member Councils, key youth service agencies, State government heads of department and youth.

The projects proposed fit within existing EMRC strategies and complement work being undertaken by member Councils.

CEOAC RECOMMENDATION(S)

MOVED MR JARVIS

SECONDED MR FOLEY

That Council approves the release of the full Consultation Report – Regional Youth Futures to member Councils and key stakeholders participating in the consultation process.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCIL RESOLUTION(S)

MOVED CR

SECONDED CR



Promoting Perth's Eastern Region 

Regional Youth Futures



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**A strong responsive youth sector;
resilient healthy young people**



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Executive Summary

The Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) became involved in youth activities in 1999 when the Eastern Metropolitan Local Authorities Group (EMLAG) was folded into the EMRC. One of the first projects undertaken by the EMRC was the development of a Regional Youth Strategy, adopted in 1999.

The EMRC sought to clarify its role with regard to youth activities and in 2010 developed a Regional Youth and Education Discussion Paper. The Discussion Paper included input from member Councils and suggested five key focus areas for consideration:

- Youth capacity building and leadership;
- Regional collaboration;
- Youth in environmental management;
- Creative and engaged youth; and
- Supporting youth.

On 21 June 2012 the Council determined further consultation with key stakeholders was required and resolved to:

1. Undertake a workshop to identify and prioritise relevant regional youth projects for incorporating into existing EMRC strategies, in partnership with member Councils and key stakeholders; and
2. Employ a regional youth coordinator to undertake workshops and facilitate the development of agreed project plans.

Subsequently a consultant was employed to coordinate the engagement of stakeholders and the development of a Report. The project brief was to:

- Undertake consultations with member Councils and key stakeholders to identify regional priorities;
- Seek input from Member Councils and key stakeholders on emerging priorities and the role the EMRC and member Councils in addressing these priorities;
- Assess and prioritise potential focus areas and projects;
- Undertake detailed scoping, costing and the identification of investment/partnership opportunities for agreed regional projects; and
- Develop a report for presentation to the Chief Executive Officers Advisory Committee (CEOAC).

This Report provides an overview of the outcomes of the consultations, highlighting the priorities – for both young people and the workers in youth focused agencies across Perth’s Eastern Region. It provides comment on projects suggested in the Discussion Paper and illustrates some emerging opportunities which build on the strengths already evident in Perth’s Eastern Region. Key points made in relation to each of the Focus Areas are as follows.

Youth Capacity Building and Leadership

Participants in the stakeholder workshop agreed that opportunities which promote team work and civic engagement as well as individual development were more likely to support the development of young leaders who were willing and able to make valuable contributions to their communities both now and into the future. They indicated there was benefit in providing opportunities for young people to be involved in practical programs or the planning and development of activities where they can test their skills and learn through working with others.

Regional Collaboration

The emphasis of the workshop participants when considering Regional Collaboration was on the collaboration and partnerships already in existence between their agencies and partner organisations in the Eastern Region. One of the key strengths was identified as the SaSSY (Swan and Surrounding Suburbs Youth) Network, although they agreed this would probably benefit from a name change if it was to be fully inclusive of the Eastern Region. They identified where agencies were working well together, with the Midland Headspace development listed as an example of the benefits of strong collaboration.

Regional Collaboration was seen as critical to the development of a robust and viable youth sector. Workshop participants identified the support and facilitation of regional collaboration as one of the key roles of the EMRC, but it was not considered necessary for the EMRC to **drive** this collaboration.

Youth in Environmental Management

There is an opportunity to build on the EMRC's Bush Skills for the Hills program to provide workshops specifically for young people to foster their interest in and responsibility for local bushland conservation. Whilst the EMRC has previously applied (unsuccessfully) for funding, preliminary discussion with Lotterywest as part of the consultation process has indicated potential interest in Bush Skills programs. Such funding would be based on the assumption that the project encourages youth volunteering in local environmental projects and facilitates the ongoing engagement of young people in community initiatives.

Creative and Engaged Youth

Many local governments have made strong commitments to engaging their local communities and Western Australian Department of Local Government's Integrated Planning Framework requires Councils to engage as part of their Strategic Community Planning processes. Meaningful participation of young people is however not always considered as part of the process.

Participants in the Consultation workshop highlighted the need for meaningful consultation with, and participation of, young people as part of the planning and delivery of local government services. Councils have a unique role to play in the lives of young people and a robust and relevant process for engaging young people will ensure local government resources are used in the most effective way for the community as a whole and young people in particular.

Supporting Youth

Consultation with stakeholders identified an increasing number of young people with complex needs. These needs go across spectrums and require interventions and supports from those within the health sector, education, training and employment as well as youth workers. A 'joined up approach' to the provision of services is therefore essential.

Young people indicated there is a need for additional support services to help them to deal with issues such as relationships, alcohol and other drugs, family issues, mental health, sexual health and identity. When surveyed, a significant proportion (72%) identified this as either the most important or second most important issue.

Participants agreed the importance of additional or improved therapeutic and specialist services.

They reported that many areas within Perth's Eastern Region have few specialised services for young people and access to services is often hampered by poor public transport. Access to services which support young people with mental health problems was considered to be of the highest priority. Whilst the establishment of the Midland Headspace Centre, due to open in January 2013, will help, access for young people outside of Midland remains an issue.

The overall priorities for the consultation workshop participants were:

- Exploring genuine youth engagement through, volunteering and embedding youth engagement into Community Engagement initiatives, including the planning of facilities and public spaces where young people will congregate;
- Communication and support to enable ALL young people to access programs and services offered by Member Councils;
- Building on and adding value to existing programs to enable improved youth participation;
- Advocating and lobbying for appropriate resources to support the development and delivery of quality programs, services and facilities to support young people across Perth's Eastern Region;
- Identifying, developing and resourcing models of Regional and local collaboration; and
- Professionalising the sector – supporting networking, professional development and the discussion of emerging issues across the Region.

The report makes recommendations regarding projects which respond to these priorities and other concerns expressed by consultation participants, suggesting ways in which the EMRC can support member Councils and community based agencies to respond more effectively to the needs of young people in Perth's Eastern Region.

It is recommended that the EMRC considers:

1. Supporting the development and maintenance of strong regional networks.
2. Supporting a regional approach skills development for those engaged in providing services to support young people in Perth's Eastern Region.
3. Encouraging the participation of young people in community based environmental projects.
4. Advocating on behalf of member Councils and the non-government sector to garner support from State and Federal Governments for increased programs, services and facilities for young people in Perth's Eastern Region.
5. Advocating for improved access to safe and reliable transport for young people across Perth's Eastern Region.
6. Supporting the organisation of a Regional Youth Forum in 2014 to coincide with National Youth Week.
7. Supporting Member Councils and other key stakeholders to develop a program of activities to celebrate Regional Youth Week in 2015. This program of activities would build on the Regional Youth Forum held in 2014.

In some instances the recommendations can be implemented by expanding or modifying the focus of existing EMRC activities. For example the EMRC can advocate for improved access to safe and reliable transport as part of the *Regional Integrated Transport Strategy* and for a general improvement in the allocation of Government resources to support young people as part of its ongoing *Regional Advocacy* program.

To deliver on other recommendations, partnerships between the EMRC, Member Councils and other stakeholders will be required.

There is an opportunity for the EMRC to build on the networks and collaborative projects already emerging in the Region through the allocation of funds through its Sponsorship and Grants Program. Utilising seed funding and providing small grants to leverage funding from other providers is also an option.

Such collaborative approaches are in line with the EMRC's 10 Year Strategic Plan as they will contribute to the development of regional cultural and recreational activities for young people and will enhance the overall quality of programs and services in the Region.

The EMRC may also choose to tailor its Environmental programs to support the recruitment of young people into environmental groups and projects in the Eastern Region. This supports the EMRC in its implementation of the Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program and could provide a vehicle for the identification, investigation and development of new environmental and sustainability initiatives.

Discussions with potential funding partners as part of the consultation process indicated an interest in such an approach.

In addition to the possible projects identified for the EMRC, opportunities were also suggested for individual member Councils' consideration, including:

1. Exploring ways of improving online engagement and embedding youth friendly engagement mechanisms into ongoing community engagement processes.
2. Participation in Regional Networks such as the SaSSY Network, seeking to expand this network to be truly inclusive of the Region.
3. Supporting their staff and those working in partner agencies to access Regional professional development programs to assist them to work more effectively with young people.
4. Supporting the development of youth peer education programs such as Youth Educating Peers, in conjunction with YACWA and local youth services.
5. Exploring opportunities to support outreach services from Midland Headspace and other therapeutic or specialist services to facilitate access for young people from their jurisdictions.
6. Participating in Regional planning and lobbying activities, convened by the EMRC, which seek to increase the funding for programs, services and facilities to support young people across the Region.
7. Supporting youth and community staff to develop linkages with schools and alternative education providers.
8. Investigating opportunities to work in conjunction with Partnership Broker Service providers and others involved in supporting young people in their transition from school to further training and/or employment.
9. Supporting youth arts opportunities by working with young people and youth arts organisations to develop a range of art/music projects in local communities.
10. Exploring the development of alternative models of volunteering to attract young people to volunteer in community projects.
11. Participate in the organisation and delivery of a Regional Program of youth activities to support the celebration of National Youth Week on a Regional basis in 2015.
12. Exploring partnerships with agencies such as Act-Belong-Commit to promote improved mental wellbeing for young people through active community participation.

EMRC Role and Opportunities

Table 1: EMRC Role and Opportunities

OPPORTUNITY	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	ROLE/RESOURCING	ACTION
Supporting the development and maintenance of strong regional networks	<p>EMRC 10 Year Strategic Plan – Objective 2.1 To facilitate regional cultural and recreational opportunities: 2.1.3 Define and develop the role of the EMRC in assisting member Councils to achieve social outcomes for the Region. and; 4.2 to Manage partnerships and relationships with stakeholders</p> <p><i>Supporting and maintaining strong regional networks will improve social outcomes for young people across the Region and will foster and enhance relationships with and between stakeholders.</i></p> <p>Regional Economic Development Strategy 2010 – 2015 – Responsible Leadership: Objective 7.3 Encourage collaboration between all stakeholders</p> <p><i>Supporting and maintain regional networks will encourage collaboration between stakeholders.</i></p>	<p>Facilitation & Partnership (Funding from Regional Development budget) – provide seed funding to support the inclusion of Member Councils in the Regional Network. This can be linked with the project above.</p> <p>Facilitation of quarterly network meetings for Member Councils’ youth and community development managers and coordinators. This will include the provision of a venue and basic catering and allocation of a staff member to be responsible for convening the meetings.</p> <p>Allocation of funds in accordance with Regional Project Summary – Regional Youth Projects (\$36,909 salaries budget)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the cooperation of member Councils, support the ongoing development of the SaSSY network (currently Bassendean, Mundaring and Swan) in an expanded form to include the local government areas of Belmont, Bayswater and Kalamunda. • Explore the reestablishment of network meetings for youth and community development coordinators and managers of member Councils (as per Economic Development Officers meetings)
Supporting a regional approach skills development for those engaged in providing services to support young people in Perth’s Eastern Region	<p>EMRC 10 year Strategic Plan - Objective 2.1 To facilitate regional cultural and recreational opportunities: 2.1.3 Define and develop the role of the EMRC in assisting member Councils to achieve social outcomes for the Region.</p> <p><i>Supporting and facilitating the professional development of those working with young people will enhance the quality and reach of programs and services in the Region.</i></p>	<p>Facilitation & Partnership – working with the Swan NEST group to access additional funding for a Regional Training Calendar.</p> <p>Lobbying – St John of God have expressed an interest in funding. Approximately \$12,000 required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with Swan NEST project to support the establishment of a professional development series of activities across Perth’s Eastern Region • Explore funding opportunities to help extend and sustain the Swan NEST project. This could involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the provision of funds through the EMRC Sponsorship and Grants program ○ matched funding with external agency, for example St John of God Health Service or Lotterywest

OPPORTUNITY	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	ROLE/RESOURCING	ACTION
<p>Encouraging the participation of young people in community based environmental projects</p>	<p><i>EMRC 10 Year Strategic Plan – Objective 1.5 To contribute towards improved regional air, water and land quality and regional biodiversity conservation:</i></p> <p>1.5.3 Implement the Eastern Hills Catchment Management Programme 1.5.5 Identify, investigate and develop new environmental and sustainability opportunities.</p> <p><i>Involving young people in the EHCMP will benefit both young people and the environment. Encouraging young people to participate in environmental programs can promote the development of new innovative initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>Regional Environment Strategy 2011 – 2016 – Biodiversity Conservation: Objective 3.3 – To continue to support member Councils and community groups in their bushland management activities.</i></p>	<p>Program development and delivery</p> <p>The EMRC Environmental Services Team will be responsible for this project.</p> <p>EMRC to develop and facilitate the delivery of a program linking young people with environmental groups.</p> <p>EMRC to coordinate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local groups to offer participation opportunities. • Member Councils support for projects on public land. • Funding of \$40,000 to be sought from Lotterywest • Big Help Mob – liaison for volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the Bush Skills for Youth environmental program • Liaise with Lotterywest regarding funding for the program • Develop and submit application for Lotterywest funding for Bush Skills for Youth. • Liaise with relevant Member Councils and local catchment groups to gain support for the proposed project • Work with local catchment groups to support them to develop volunteering opportunities which are attractive to young people • Explore opportunities to work with Useful Inc. and their Big Help Mob to involve young people in targeted volunteer projects
<p>Advocating on behalf of member Councils and the non-government sector to garner support from State and Federal Government for increased programs, services and facilities for young people in Perth's Eastern Region</p>	<p><i>EMRC 10 Year Strategic Plan – Objective 4.1 To Provide advice and advocacy on issues affecting Perth's Eastern Region</i></p> <p>4.1.1 Implement the Regional Advocacy Strategy.</p> <p><i>Advocacy on behalf of Member Councils and the Sector will promote enhanced Regional services for young people</i></p>	<p>Advocacy – Liaise with Member Councils to develop an Advocacy plan to support the lobbying of State and Federal Governments for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional funding for existing youth services and funding for new services • Funding for the development of facilities <p>Nil additional resourcing required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include advocacy for improved services for young people in the annual advocacy program • Convene a meeting of Member Councils to explore a regional approach to facilities provision, including service hubs for young people • Identify and lobby for the resources to support the development of priority regional facilities

OPPORTUNITY	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	ROLE/RESOURCING	ACTION
Advocating for improved access to transport for young people across Perth's Eastern Region	<p>EMRC 10 year Strategic Plan Objective 3.1 To facilitate increased investment in regional infrastructure: 3.1.1 Continue the implementation of the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy.</p> <p>Regional Integrated Transport Strategy Action Plan 2010 – 2013 – Key Focus Area 2 – Public Transport Service Provision</p> <p><i>Young people are key users of public transport and their ability to access services is directly related to transport access.</i></p>	<p>Advocacy & Engagement – Encourage key stakeholders to engage with young people to seek their views on transport in the Region.</p> <p>Nil additional resourcing required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the needs of young people are considered in the planning for an integrated transport system for the Eastern Region • Consider consultation with the Region's young people as part of the implementation of the Regional Integrated Transport Strategy • Promote and assist member Councils and their local communities to engage in TravelSmart to School, Walking School Bus, LivingSmart and TravelSmart workplace programs • Encourage member Councils to engage young people in the development of comprehensive travel demand management initiatives as part of the TravelSmart program
Supporting the organisation of a Regional Youth Forum in 2014	<p>EMRC 10 Year Strategic Plan Objective 2.1 To facilitate regional cultural and recreational activities: 2.1.1 Continue to coordinate regional events.</p> <p><i>A Regional Youth Forum will provide the opportunity for identification of emerging issues and can also provide a vehicle for recognising the achievements of young people in the Region. The Forum could also bring together Youth Agencies to explore with young people opportunities for future Regional Youth Week activities.</i></p> <p>Regional Economic Development Strategy 2010 – 2015 – Responsible Leadership: Objective 7.3 Encourage collaboration between all stakeholders</p>	<p>Facilitation & Partnership</p> <p>Encourage Member Councils to participate in the Swan NEST project to develop a truly regional network.</p> <p>Support this group to develop a Regional Youth Forum in 2014 through the provision of seed funds to assist with leveraging of other funding.</p> <p>Staff support – consider allocating a Regional Development staff member to participate in the Network</p> <p>Allocation of Funds – EMRC seed funding from within Regional Development Budget as outlined in the Regional Projects Summary - \$10,000 Lotterywest – matching funding \$10,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Swan NEST to hold a regional forum for Service Providers in 2013. • Work with the NEST participants and other partners to use the information gathered from the Regional Youth Services Forum in 2013 to plan and deliver a Regional Youth Forum in 2014, during National Youth Week. • Allocate staff resources to work with the Swan NEST participants – this will be within existing resources. • Support the development of funding applications.

OPPORTUNITY	STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	ROLE/RESOURCING	ACTION
Supporting Member Councils and other key stakeholders to develop a program of activities to celebrate Regional Youth Week as part of National Youth Week in 2015. This program of activities would build on the Regional Youth Forum held in 2014	<p>EMRC 10 year Strategic Plan As Above</p> <p><i>Regional Youth Week could become part of the Regional Events' Calendar. It can provide an opportunity for Member Councils to host youth focused activities which can also provide a means of youth consultation/engagement and can facilitate the development of local leadership opportunities.</i></p> <p>Regional Economic Development Strategy 2010 – 2015 – Responsible Leadership: Objective 7.3 Encourage collaboration between all stakeholders</p>	<p>Facilitation & Partnership Encourage Member Councils to participate in the Swan NEST project to develop a truly regional network.</p> <p>Support this group to develop a range of activities for a Regional Youth Week in 2015 through the provision of seed funds to assist with leveraging of other funding.</p> <p>Support the group to explore other funding options as above.</p> <p>Staff support – consider allocating a Regional Development staff member to participate in the Network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage member Councils to work together and with members of the regional networking group to develop a program of Regional activities during National Youth Week. • Explore opportunities for funding from Lotterywest and Healthway for the Regional program. • Develop a calendar of events for youth week 2015, based on information gathered from the 2014 youth forum and the commitments made by Member Councils and other agencies.

Member Council Opportunities

In addition to the opportunities outlined in the recommendations there are further opportunities for member Councils to demonstrate their commitment to young people within their jurisdictions.

Table 2: Member Council Opportunities

OPPORTUNITY	LINK (to member Council strategic documents and projects)
Explore ways of improving on-line engagement and embedding youth friendly engagement mechanisms into ongoing community engagement processes.	City of Bayswater – Youth Services Engagement Strategy 2012 – 14; Strategy 1 City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Participation Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 1 Youth Communication & Engagement Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 City of Swan – Youth Charter (draft) City of Swan – Community Engagement Policy and Framework
Participation in Regional Networks such as the SaSSY Network seeking to expand this network to be truly inclusive of the Region.	City of Bayswater – Youth Service Engagement Strategy 2012 – 14; Strategy 2 City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Relationships across the Community Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 1 Youth Communication & Engagement Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Swan View Youth Centre Shire of Mundaring, City of Swan & Town of Bassendean – Swan NEST participation
Supporting their staff and those working in partner agencies to access professional development to assist them to work more effectively with young people.	City of Bayswater – Youth Services Engagement Strategy 2012 – 14; Strategy 2 City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Leadership and Intergenerational Stewardship Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 2 Strategic Resourcing Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Swan View Youth Centre Shire of Mundaring, City of Swan & Town of Bassendean – Swan NEST participation
Supporting the development of youth peer education programs such as Youth Educating Peers (YEP), in conjunction with YACWA and local youth services	Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Health & Wellbeing and Sexual Health City of Swan – partnership with YACWA to deliver pilot YEP program
Exploring opportunities to support outreach services from Midland Headspace and other therapeutic or specialist services to facilitate access for young people from their jurisdictions.	City of Swan consortium membership City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Support Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 2 Strategic Resourcing; Phase 4 Collocation & Partnerships Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Mental Health; PACS
Participating in Regional planning and lobbying activities convened by the EMRC which seek to increase the funding for programs, services and facilities to support young people across the Region.	City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Support Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 2 Strategic Resourcing Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 City of Swan Strategic Community Plan City of Belmont Community Development Plan – Services & Facilities for Youth

OPPORTUNITY	LINK (to member Council strategic documents and projects)
Supporting youth and community staff to develop linkages with schools and alternative education providers.	City of Bayswater – Youth Services Engagement Strategy 2012 – 14; Strategy 2 Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 1 Communication & Engagement Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Education, Training & Employment Town of Bassendean – Bassendean Youth Centre Education Program and participation in North East Metropolitan (NEM) Youth Transitions Project
Investigating opportunities to work in conjunction with Partnership Broker Service providers and others involved in supporting young people in their transition from school to further training and/or employment.	Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Education, Training & Employment City of Swan – participation in NEM Youth Transitions project Town of Bassendean – participation in NEM Youth Transitions project City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Relationships with the community
Supporting youth arts opportunities by working with young people and youth arts organisations to develop a range of art/music projects in local communities. This could include a regional approach to Urban Art.	City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Celebrate Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 1 Communication & Engagement Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Culture & Arts City of Swan – HYPER Festival and associated activities
Exploring the development of alternative models of volunteering to attract young people to volunteer in community projects.	Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 2 Strategic Resourcing Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Culture & Arts (Seen and Heard’s Crew events include music gigs) City of Swan – HYPER Team City of Swan – Swan Volunteer Development Service
Exploring opportunities to participate in the organisation and delivery of a Regional Program of youth activities to support the celebration of National Youth Week on a Regional basis in 2015.	Member Council Youth Advisory Committees City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Celebrate City of Swan – draft Youth Charter – Celebrate
Exploring partnerships with agencies such as Act-Belong-Commit to promote improved mental wellbeing for young people through active community participation.	City of Swan – One Life project City of Belmont – Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 14 – Celebration & Participation Shire of Kalamunda Youth Consultation Plan – Phase 1 Communication & Engagement Shire of Mundaring Youth Policy 2012 – 17 – Mental Health



9.4 REGIONAL ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION GUIDELINES

REFERENCE: COMMITTEES-14444

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Council with the updated copy of the Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines following feedback from stakeholder consultation.

KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Clause 4 of the 1998 Establishment Agreement of the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council includes the facilitation of regional Aboriginal reconciliation issues as a “regional purpose” of the EMRC and is defined as a continuing project and service under Schedule 1.
- Since 2004 the EMRC has monitored Aboriginal affairs to inform member Councils of developments that may have implications for their business operations and service delivery.
- In 2009 the Swan and Helena River Management Framework (SHRMF) Steering and Officer Working Group members prioritised the need for a regional Aboriginal consultation process to assist in improving the current planning and consultation processes and to enable more consultative and respectful engagement with the Aboriginal community. In 2010 the Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines project was initiated.
- A stakeholder workshop held on 10 March 2011 identified a number of issues with undertaking Aboriginal engagement and consultation in relation to project activities. The workshop findings were used to inform the development of the guidelines.
- The Draft Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines have been completed with the assistance of Kallip Pty Ltd and the draft document has been distributed to the Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG), member Council CEOs and key stakeholder agencies and individuals involved in the development of the guidelines for comment.
- Comments received have been considered and incorporated into the document where appropriate.
- The Guidelines are designed to assist member Councils within the Swan Helena River Management Framework project area with Aboriginal engagement and consultation.

Recommendations:

That:

1. The Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines be distributed to member Councils, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA), Swan River Trust (SRT), Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and other relevant stakeholders.
2. The guidelines be reviewed periodically to ensure they remain current in relation to Aboriginal affairs in Perth’s Eastern Region.

SOURCE OF REPORT

Director Regional Services
Manager Environmental Services



Item 9.4 continued

BACKGROUND

Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)* and the *Commonwealth Native Title Act (1993)* Local Governments have statutory responsibilities in relation to the protection and preservation of Aboriginal heritage and Aboriginal consultation.

In November 2004 EMRC Council discussed policies and procedures for Aboriginal consultation in the Region in order to facilitate a regional strategic approach to Aboriginal heritage matters. At the meeting it was resolved as follows:

“THAT:

- 1. THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PRINCIPAL LEGAL OFFICER BE REQUESTED TO UNDERTAKE A PRESENTATION TO A FUTURE MEETING OF THE CEOAC ON THE POTENTIAL FOR AN INDIGENOUS HERITAGE MANUAL AS A TOOL FOR ASSISTING MEMBER COUNCILS TO IMPROVE BOTH PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES IN MEETING THEIR STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS IN RELATION TO ABORIGINAL HERITAGE MATTERS.*
- 2. A PRESENTATION BE MADE TO COUNCIL ON REGISTERED SITES, NATIVE TITLE CLAIMS AND ANY OTHER INDIGENOUS HERITAGE MATTERS.”*

In December 2004 the Swan River Concept Plan and Management Strategy project initiative was presented to the EMRC Council after it agreed to develop a strategic vision aimed at enhancing use of the Swan River through carefully planned land use activities that contribute to the region's economic, social, heritage and environmental values. The strategy was developed between 2005 – 2007 and resulted in the Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework (SHRMF).

On 21 September 2006 presentations were made to the EMRC Council by representatives of the National Native Title Tribunal and WA Department of Indigenous Affairs. The development of a heritage manual tool and of Aboriginal Heritage Inventories to assist member Councils was discussed. A workshop was held on 19 October 2006 which explored Aboriginal issues and possible approaches to Aboriginal cultural heritage protection and management. The Draft Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework, which was out for public comment at this time, also highlighted the need for a regional and strategic level approach to Aboriginal consultation. This information was discussed at the 7 December 2006 EMRC Council meeting to seek clarification on the EMRC's role in Indigenous issues to facilitate the most efficient use of resources and effort to assist member Councils. At this meeting it was resolved:

“THAT:

- 1. EMRC MAINTAIN A WATCHING BRIEF ON INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS AND INFORM MEMBER COUNCILS OF DEVELOPMENTS THAT MAY HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR THEIR BUSINESS OPERATIONS AND SERVICE DELIVERY.*
- 2. A PRESENTATION TO THE CEOAC ON THE POTENTIAL FOR AN INDIGENOUS HERITAGE MANUAL NOT PROCEED AT THIS TIME, GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTY RELATED TO NATIVE TITLE CLAIMS AND THE POTENTIAL OUTCOMES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION STRATEGY PROPOSED IN THE SWAN AND HELENA RIVERS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK DRAFT REPORT.”*

An information bulletin was provided at the EMRC Council meeting of 4 October 2007 to inform the Council of the intended approach to be taken in relation to Indigenous engagement as a result of correspondence received regarding developments at the Red Hill Waste Management Facility and the Perth's Eastern Region Swan River Trails Project draft report. Legal advice recommended that the EMRC engage in some form of Aboriginal heritage consultation and that an anthropological consultant be engaged to determine who should be consulted.



Item 9.4 continued

The SHRMF was received by Council in June 2007 and provision made in subsequent budgets to progress development of high priority strategies and actions. High priority projects were identified through a number of SHRMF Steering and Officer Working Groups comprising of external stakeholders and member Councils' staff and to date the following high priority projects have been completed:

- Perth's Eastern Region Swan River Trails Project;
- Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance;
- Regional Recreational Path Development Plan;
- Best Management Practices for Foreshore Stabilisation – Swan River Trust and EMRC;
- Best Management Practices for Shore Stabilisation - Concept Designs for City of Bayswater – Swan River Trust and EMRC; and
- Swan and Helena Rivers Foreshore Trail Interpretation Plan – Stage One.

The Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance and the Regional Recreational Path Development Plan reports were received by the EMRC Council in September 2009. The reports identified the need to conduct further consultation with the Aboriginal community to ensure that any future infrastructure including interpretation, trails and foreshore restoration works were sensitive to Aboriginal heritage and cultural issues.

Relevant recommendations in the Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance included:

- Consultation with representatives of the Noongar community should be ongoing to ensure that the large numbers of closed and open sites in the study area are respected and protected;
- Preparation of interpretation should reflect the contrasting long history of the Noongar occupation and the continuing history interlinked with recent settlers along the Rivers;
- Preparation for interpretation of historic heritage places should include consultation with relevant community groups and the local authority. Interpretive material should be prepared and checked by an interpretation professional to ensure that it is historically accurate and culturally appropriate;
- Trails involving any form of infrastructure (e.g. signage, pathways) must be environmentally friendly and sensitive to Indigenous cultural issues understood through consultation and research; and
- Any infrastructure or physical works for trails and other interpretation proposed should be subject of Section 18 applications under the Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972) in order to minimise risk of cultural conflict or legal action during or after construction.

Recommendations in the Regional Recreation Path Development Plan of relevance included:

- This report be referred to key indigenous groups and engage with key indigenous stakeholders in the ongoing implementation of the proposed riverside path network and ongoing development of the interpretation plan; and
- Consider the recommendations of the Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance when implementing this report in relation to Aboriginal consultation and the development of an interpretation plan.

At a workshop in 2009, the SHRMF Steering and Officer Working Group members prioritised the need for a regional Aboriginal consultation process to assist in improving the current planning and consultation processes through Section 18 applications under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and to enable more consultative and respectful engagement with the Aboriginal community.

A project was initiated in 2010 to develop Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines under the guidance of the Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG) which was established in 2010 (replacing the suite of former SHRMF steering and working groups) to progress the implementation of the SHRMF and other EMRC environmental projects and activities.



Item 9.4 continued

At the Chief Executive Officer Advisory Committee (CEOAC) meeting of 11 October 2011 a report was presented introducing the Draft Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines to be considered for Council approval to seek stakeholder comment. At the meeting it was resolved (CEOAC 11 October 2011 Report Item 9.4) inter alia:

“THAT THE DRAFT REGIONAL ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION GUIDELINES BE REFERRED TO MEMBER COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT BEFORE BEING REFERRED BACK TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ENDORSEMENT.”

The draft guidelines were referred to the member Council Chief Executive Officers in November 2011 for review and comment and feedback was provided by the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring. It should be noted that the City of Belmont and the Shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring provided initial feedback through their representative on the Regional Environmental Advisory Group which was incorporated into the draft document being presented. The comments received were taken into consideration in the final report.

At the meeting of Council held on 16 February 2012, (Ref: Committees–13551) it was resolved:

“THAT:

- 1. COUNCIL RECEIVE THE DRAFT REGIONAL ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION GUIDELINES FORMING THE ATTACHMENT TO THIS REPORT.*
- 2. THE DRAFT REGIONAL ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION GUIDELINES BE FOWARDED TO THE SOUTH WEST ABORIGINAL LAND AND SEA COUNCIL (SWALSC), DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS (DIA), SWAN RIVER TRUST (SRT), WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PLANNING COMMISSION (WAPC) AND STAKEHOLDERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE GUIDELINES FOR COMMENT.”*

The draft guidelines were referred to the following stakeholders for comment in March 2012 (EMRC-141460):

- South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council;
- Department of Indigenous Affairs;
- Swan River Trust;
- Perth Region NRM;
- Western Australian Planning Commission;
- Kallip Pty Ltd;
- National Trust of Australia (WA); and
- Redsphear

REPORT

The Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines document provides a framework for member Council officers to better undertake Aboriginal consultation in order to meet legislative requirements and to identify who, how and what needs to be communicated within the local Aboriginal community in a manner that is inclusive and respectful of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

The guidelines are intended to be a resource for local government officers within the SHRMF project area to facilitate a process of engagement with the Aboriginal community which is inclusive and respectful of Aboriginal cultural heritage.



Item 9.4 continued

The project was developed in a staged process involving:

- Formation of a project steering group;
- Desktop research on existing Aboriginal consultation strategies and plans;
- Contact with relevant agencies and providers identified as project stakeholders (DIA, Perth Region NRM, WALGA, Heritage Council, WAPC/DPI, SWALSC, SRT, Midland Redevelopment Authority);
- Stakeholder consultation to determine current practices and issues experienced with Aboriginal consultation;
- A workshop with member Councils and wider agencies to inform member Councils on current consultation requirements, best practice approaches and support available;
- Development of Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines including consultation tools and resources; and.
- Seeking feedback from member Councils and other agencies involved with the development of the guidelines.

In 2010 a desktop assessment and interviews with member Councils' officers and relevant stakeholders were conducted to determine current local government Aboriginal consultation processes and models and to identify issues with these processes. Current information, research and resources were identified and reviewed through online search engines and searching of international, national and state government agency and stakeholder websites. This information was collated into a report to provide an overview of current Aboriginal engagement and consultation processes and an Issues Paper was developed from interview responses to highlight stakeholder concerns related to current Aboriginal engagement and consultation processes.

From the information collected it appeared that there are a number of plans and model documents available on how to undertake general Aboriginal engagement and consultation, however there is a lack of guidance for local government officers and the Aboriginal community on matters such as standard payment fees, knowledge of Aboriginal cultural protocols and local government protocols. This information was used to form the basis of a regional stakeholder workshop held on 10 March 2011 facilitated by Ken Hayward of Kallip Pty Ltd.

The workshop was conducted in two sessions. In session one a hypothetical exercise was undertaken by table groups in order to determine current practices in Aboriginal consultation and engagement. Session two was a facilitated discussion on the outcomes of the exercise and then presentations were given by the City of Swan on the Swan Indigenous Reference Group and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council on Native Title functions and the current Native Title negotiations with the State government.

The workshop session identified a number of key issues that face local government officers including:

1. Lack of cultural awareness training;
2. The need to include the Noongar community throughout the whole process of programme and project development from the concept/ideas stage;
3. Knowing who to contact; and
4. Timing – explanation to community; ongoing consultation; start the engagement as early as possible.

The information from the stakeholder workshop which sought to address some of the issues and opportunities identified and discussed, informed the development of the draft guidelines. The aim of the guidelines is to provide a practical set of tools to assist local government officers with Aboriginal engagement and consultation within the Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework project area.

The draft Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines have been completed and distributed to REAG members, member Council CEOs and key stakeholders for comment. Feedback has been received from the Town of Bassendean; Shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring; Cities of Belmont and Swan; South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council; Department of Indigenous Affairs; Swan River Trust; Perth Region NRM; and National Trust of Australia (WA). Key themes from the feedback received included:



Item 9.4 continued

- Document structure and layout;
- Clarifying document context;
- Linking guidelines to statutory planning processes; and
- Reconciliation perspective/approach.

Comments received have been taken into consideration and incorporated into the document where appropriate and relevant. Consideration has been given in the guidelines to new developments in relation to native title and the State government's work on a standardised procedure for heritage consultation being developed by the interagency reference group on Native Title and Heritage within the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Relevant documents produced to date are the Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Guidelines (2011) and a Draft Government Standard Heritage Agreement (2012). This information has been included or referred to as relevant. These are areas that should be monitored to maintain the currency and applicability of the guidelines.

It is proposed that the guidelines (attachment) will be distributed to member Councils and key stakeholder agencies involved in their development and review. The guidelines will be reviewed periodically to ensure they remain current in relation to Aboriginal affairs in Perth's Eastern Region

STRATEGIC/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Draft Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines align with Clause 4 of the 1998 Establishment Agreement of the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council which includes the facilitation of regional Aboriginal reconciliation issues as a "regional purpose" of the EMRC and is defined as a continuing project and service under Schedule 1.

Key Result Area 1 – Environmental Sustainability

- 1.5 To contribute towards improved regional air, water & land quality and regional biodiversity conservation

Key Result Area 2 – Social Opportunities

- 2.2 To facilitate regional cultural and recreational activities

Key Result Area 3 – Economic Development

- 3.3 To facilitate regional economic development activities

Key Result Area 4 – Good Governance

- 4.4 To manage partnerships and relationships with stakeholders

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The budget to complete the Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines comes from the EMRC 2012/2013 Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework budget. The budget includes officer time and implementation of other Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework projects.



Item 9.4 continued

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Social:

- Improved community engagement in Swan River foreshore management activities in the Cities of Bayswater, Belmont and Swan, and Town of Bassendean;
- Improved community engagement in the Shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring; and
- Facilitate reconciliation through inclusive and meaningful Noongar engagement and consultation.

Environmental:

- Conservation and protection of biodiversity along the Swan and Helena Rivers; and
- Opportunity to incorporate Noongar Traditional Ecological Knowledge in environmental management of the Swan and Helena Rivers.

Economic:

- Opportunities to value add to current individual local government river projects; and
- Provision of employment opportunities.

MEMBER COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS

Member Council

Town of Bassendean
City of Bayswater
City of Belmont
Shire of Kalamunda
Shire of Mundaring
City of Swan

Implication Details

The guidelines may be utilised to support decision-making in relation to Aboriginal engagement and consultation for the Swan Helena Rivers Management Framework projects.

ATTACHMENTS

Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines (Ref: Committees-15140)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority



Item 9.4 continued

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That:

1. The Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines be distributed to EMRC member Councils, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA), Swan River Trust (SRT), Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and other relevant stakeholders.
2. The guidelines be reviewed periodically to ensure they remain current in relation to Aboriginal affairs in Perth's Eastern Region.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer of Kalamunda acknowledged the work of the EMRC to develop the guideline.

CEOAC RECOMMENDATION(S)

MOVED MR THROSSELL

SECONDED MS HARDY

That:

1. The Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines be distributed to EMRC member Councils, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA), Swan River Trust (SRT), Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and other relevant stakeholders.
2. The guidelines be reviewed periodically to ensure they remain current in relation to Aboriginal affairs in Perth's Eastern Region.

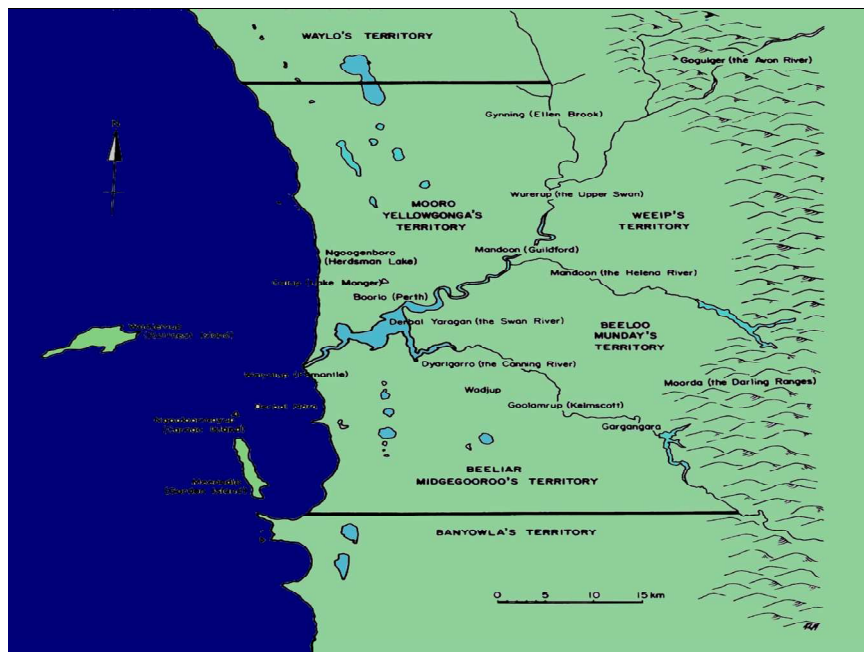
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCIL RESOLUTION(S)

MOVED CR

SECONDED CR

REGIONAL ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION GUIDELINES



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First published in 2013.

Cover page images:

Figure 1 Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) with Perth city to the west

Figure 2 Traditional Whadjuk Custodial Boundaries

Informant Yagan: Extract from Robert Lyons Diary 1830s in *'Nyungar People'* Neville Green (1984)

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INTRODUCTION

The health and management of the Swan and Helena Rivers and foreshore areas is of high importance to the EMRC and its six member Councils. An important part of managing and maintaining the health and quality of these areas is ensuring appropriate and meaningful engagement with local Aboriginal peoples/communities and traditional owners.

Member Councils have identified difficulties in undertaking meaningful engagement and applying the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* to achieve the required outcomes in implementing works programmes along the river foreshore. Costs of consultation are high and breaches of the Act can result in severe penalties.

The Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines have been developed to assist local government officers in dealing respectfully, efficiently and effectively with river management, project planning, and approvals relating to Aboriginal heritage, whilst also ensuring compliance with legal requirements including the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

The EMRC and its six member Councils wish to support traditional owners and Aboriginal peoples/communities in their desire to care for their country. Partnerships between member Councils and traditional owners will provide a means for the passing on of knowledge and skills about country. It will build capacity for the next generation of traditional owners to continue managing country with traditional and non-traditional environmental knowledge and facilitate opportunities for reconciliation and stronger relationships between traditional owners (in particular the Whadjuk people) and member Councils.

The guidelines build on previous work undertaken by the EMRC and its member Councils and more recently the Swan and Canning Rivers Iconic Trails project with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), Perth Region Natural Resource Management, Swan River Trust and the National Trust (WA)

SWAN AND HELENA RIVERS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework (SHRMF) was initiated by the EMRC on behalf of its member Councils with the support of the Swan River Trust and Western Australian Planning Commission in 2007. The strategic framework identified roles and responsibilities and allocated strategic actions to all stakeholders to guide the ongoing sustainable management and development of the eastern reaches of the Swan River and its major tributary, the Helena River.

To date five key documents have emerged from the framework:

- Perth's Eastern Region Swan River Trails Project; EMRC, Kulbardi Hill Consulting and Transplan;
- Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance – EMRC, Latitude Creative Services, Heritage and Conservation Professionals and National Trust (WA);
- Regional Recreational Path Development Plan – EMRC and Transplan;

- Best Management Practices for Foreshore Stabilisation – Swan River Trust and EMRC;
- Best Management Practices for Shore Stabilisation - Concept Designs for City of Bayswater – Swan River Trust and EMRC;
- Heritage Audit of the Swan Canning Riverpark – Swan River Trust, National Trust (WA).

The Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance and the Regional Recreational Path Development Plan reports identified the need to conduct further consultation with the Noongar community to ensure that any future infrastructure including interpretation, trails and foreshore restoration works were sensitive to Aboriginal heritage and cultural values.

Relevant recommendations in the Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance included:

- Consultation with representatives of the Noongar community should be ongoing to ensure that the large numbers of closed and open sites in the study area are respected and protected;
- Preparation of interpretation should reflect the contrasting long history of the Noongar occupation and the continuing history interlinked with recent settlers along the rivers;
- Preparation for interpretation of historic heritage places should include consultation with relevant community groups and the local authority. Interpretive material should be prepared and checked by an interpretation professional to ensure that it is historically accurate and culturally appropriate;
- Trails involving any form of infrastructure (e.g. signage, pathways) must be environmentally friendly and sensitive to Aboriginal cultural issues understood through consultation and research; and
- Any infrastructure or physical works for trails and other interpretation proposed should be subject to Section 18 applications under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* in order to minimise risk of cultural conflict or legal action during or after construction.

Recommendations in the Regional Recreation Path Development Plan of relevance included to:

- Refer this report to key Aboriginal groups and engage with key Aboriginal stakeholders in the ongoing implementation of the proposed riverside path network and ongoing development of the interpretation plan; and
- Consider the recommendations of the Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance when implementing this report in relation to Aboriginal consultation and the development of an interpretation plan.

The SHRMF Steering and Officer Working Group members prioritised the need for Regional Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines to assist in improving the current planning and consultation processes through Section 18 applications under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. This would enable more consultative and respectful engagement whilst also streamlining current processes.

DEVELOPING THE GUIDELINES

Information was collated from a desktop assessment and stakeholder consultations to identify the key issues in Aboriginal consultation and processes.

Desktop assessment

Current information, research and resources were identified and reviewed through online search engines and searching of international, national and state government agency and stakeholder websites. Other local government approaches and experiences were also reviewed.

Stakeholder consultation

Interviews were conducted with member Council officers (Town of Bassendean, Cities of Bayswater, Belmont, Swan and the Shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring) on the Regional Environmental Advisory Group (REAG) and other relevant member Council staff. The aim of the interviews was to outline the project and obtain information regarding current activities, guiding documents, consultation processes, and issues experienced.

External stakeholder groups were interviewed to provide their points of view and to seek clarification on current Aboriginal consultation processes and practices. This included regulatory and administrative agencies involved with Aboriginal matters (the Department of Indigenous Affairs, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and Perth Region NRM) and other local government agencies (City of South Perth, City of Fremantle and City of Armadale).

A stakeholder workshop was held with representatives from local government authorities, regulatory and administrative agencies and private companies. The workshop provided information on current Aboriginal engagement and consultation practices, issues faced by local governments, the current regulatory framework and the role of the native title representative bodies. This information was then explored through a facilitated discussion and used in the development of the guidelines.

OVERVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES

These guidelines have been developed to support member Council officers to undertake appropriate and meaningful engagement with local Noongar peoples and traditional owners to facilitate reconciliation and collaboration. They are based on the fundamental principles developed by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) to ensure Noongar participation in decision-making¹ and support an acceptance and understanding that Noongar culture lives through the people who are descendants of the original inhabitants. To ensure the guidelines are a useful and effective document, they have been structured under four headings:

- Why Engage?
- When to Engage?
- Who to Engage?
- How to Engage?

DEFINITIONS

Throughout the document the following terms have been used as defined by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council ² and the Federal government³.

Aboriginal people(s)	Broad collective noun for an Indigenous Australian of Aboriginal descent.
Noongar	Language term used to broadly identify Aboriginal people from the South West Region of Western Australia. Alternative spellings include Nyungar, Nyoongar, Nyoongah, Nyungah, Nyugah, Yunga Noongar are made up of 14 different language groups.
Traditional Owner	Aboriginal representatives of the traditional language group that inhabited an area prior to European settlement and are recognised as traditional owners by local Aboriginal communities.
Whadjuk	One of the 14 Noongar language groups associated with the Swan Coastal Plain and Jarrah Forest which are defined by ⁴ geographic area and ecological distinctions. Alternative spelling Wadjuk.

WHY ENGAGE?

Engagement is an ongoing process or conversation that builds trust and relationships. It is not a single process or set of activities. Engagement involves respectfulness, building cultural awareness, connections, capacity, trust and promoting dialogue⁵.

There are a number of reasons why local government should engage with Noongar people(s) and traditional owners including:

1. To facilitate reconciliation;
2. To help protect, conserve and respect Noongar cultural heritage;
3. Collaboration; and
4. Fulfil legal responsibilities for Aboriginal heritage sites.

Engagement is a process that involves people and communities in problem solving and decision-making to build trust and relationships. The input of Noongar peoples and traditional owners in project planning can improve project outcomes and ensure that projects are developed that respect Noongar cultural heritage. Early engagement of Noongar peoples in the initial planning process will help identify relevant heritage protocols and any social, cultural or environmental needs. Early engagement can also assist with the identification of community needs and the development of relevant projects, programmes and policies. Engagement provides opportunities for information to be sought, provided and exchanged and to encourage and support interaction and participation between local government authorities and Noongar people(s) and traditional owners.

The main pieces of legislation related to Aboriginal cultural heritage are the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)*. The Swan and Helena Rivers are registered Aboriginal heritage sites as defined by the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CWLTH)

Native title is the name given to the recognition of rights held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have maintained a traditional connection to areas of land and waterways in accordance with their laws and customs since European settlement. Under the *Native Title Act 1993 (NT)*, a claim may be brought before the Federal Court of Australia to determine if Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples have demonstrated a traditional connection to the land and waters of the claim area. The role of the Native Title Tribunal is to assess applications for a native title claim and to facilitate and mediate between all the parties that have interests in the claim area.

Under the NT Act, a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) is an organisation with the primary role of representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders within their designated region. Not all claimants are represented by a NTRB or service delivery agency. Some claimants choose private solicitors or other people to represent them, or they are unrepresented. The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) is the NTRB for the south west region of Western Australia.

The *Native Title Act 1993* requires consultation with registered native title claimants and their legal representatives about proposed public works and management plans. Other consultation requirements may arise from native title determinations.

In 2009, the Western Australian government signed a Heads of State Agreement with SWALSC aimed at resolving the native title claims over Perth and the south west of WA by the negotiation process. In December 2011, the Western Australian Government made an in-principle offer to SWALSC on behalf of the Noongar community to resolve all native title claims in the south west. Negotiations have continued throughout 2012⁶.

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACT 1972 (WA)

The Swan and Helena Rivers are registered Aboriginal heritage sites as defined by Section 5 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (AH Act)*. The purpose of the AH Act is the preservation of places and objects customarily used by, or traditional to, the original inhabitants of Australia on behalf of the community⁷. The AH Act places an obligation on landowners not to destroy or damage Aboriginal heritage sites. This is achieved by making it an offence under Section 17 of the AH Act to excavate, damage or destroy Aboriginal sites. Where an owner of the land may want to use their land in a way that might damage or destroy an Aboriginal site, consent to use the land in a particular way may be applied for under Section 18 of the AH Act through the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA). Authorisation can also be obtained to use land under Regulation 10 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974* if the use is considered non-deleterious.

In Western Australia, Aboriginal consultation is not a statutory requirement. However it is required as part of applications made under Section 18 of the AH Act and under Regulation 10 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974*.

Whilst there is a legal obligation upon owners of land to obtain authorisation to use land that may be significant, there is a lack of guidelines and standards to assist landowners make decisions about appropriate consultation levels, payments and the scale of works needed to be undertaken. "Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Guidelines" are available to help landowners comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and to provide guidance on how to manage activities to avoid or minimise harm to Aboriginal sites⁸.

In cases where there is little or no recorded information relating to the site/s that may be impacted upon, a full heritage survey is highly likely to be requested to allow the application to be appropriately assessed. This process can become both costly and time consuming and, as such, needs to be considered early on in the planning stages of activities and projects. Early engagement with Noongar people(s) and traditional owners can assist with identifying and assessing the importance of sites to the community and the management of cultural heritage matters.

Section 18

Under Section 18 the proponent must lodge a completed Section 18 notice to the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) where it will undergo initial assessment by DIA officers. When the application is complete and all requests for further information by the DIA have been satisfied, an assessment by the Aboriginal Cultural and Material Committee (ACMC) is conducted. If the works are deemed acceptable, then a recommendation is made to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs who provides approval in writing.

A process flow chart of the Section 18 approval process can be downloaded from the Department of Indigenous Affairs at: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Section-18-Applications/Application-process/>

Key details regarding the Section 18 authorisation process⁹ are as follows:

- Aim to identify any Aboriginal Heritage sites or objects located within the project area and analyse their importance;
- Aim to determine the effect or potential effect of proposed works on the cultural heritage values of Aboriginal sites and identify measures to avoid or minimise these impacts;
- Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee - meets the first Wednesday of every month except January¹⁰. Deadlines for Section 18 application submissions to Registrar to be forwarded to committee for meeting;
- Have to provide a Heritage Consultant's details for:
 - Ethnographic survey
 - Archaeological survey
 - Aboriginal consultation;
- Informant - a person who provides information about his or her culture to an anthropologist, archaeologist or other heritage consultant;
- Length of time valid - can be for the "proposed lifetime of a project" e.g. including future maintenance requirements if known such as that required for infrastructure upkeep;

- Section 18 remains open as long as there are no changes in landowner (otherwise new landowner must reapply) or changes in the type of works to be undertaken as part of a project; and
- Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework Heritage Audit and Statement of Significance (2009) can be used as supplementary information for a Section 18 application.

The most common issue identified with the Section 18 notice application process was the amount of time they can take to be approved and the costs involved in order to meet the consultation requirements and undertake Aboriginal Heritage Surveys.

Regulation 10

A Regulation 10 authorisation is referred to the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites for approval of enhancement activities rather than the Section 18 notice application process of going through the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC) and the Minister of Indigenous Affairs for approval. Approval time for a Regulation 10 authorisation is usually shorter than applying for a Section 18 notice approval. It is not clear when a Regulation 10 authorisation may be obtained instead of a Section 18 approval being applied for without seeking advice from the DIA.

Key details regarding the Regulation 10 authorisation process are as follows:

- The Registrar has the discretion to issue approvals for work that is non-deleterious and aimed at enhancing the heritage values of the site. The Registrar will still need details of the site, the nature of the activity and a clear outline of Aboriginal community views. However the Regulation 10 application does not have to be considered by the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee. If all the necessary information is provided and is clearly not detrimental to the site, approval will usually be issued within a few weeks of being submitted. It is still recommended that this, like any other approval, is sought well in advance of the planned commencement of works.
- Examples of enhancement (non-deleterious) activities may include:
 - Maintenance
 - Restoration
 - Interpretation
 - Removal of material (non-preferred option)
 - NRM work - revegetation, interpretation
- Form for a non-deleterious purpose¹¹:
 - need to show consultation
 - send to Registrar of Heritage Places
 - officers process - can request more or less time
 - usually shorter turnaround time (few weeks or months).

Section 18 and Regulation 10 applications require:

- Communication between the party proposing the works and the Aboriginal people who have connection to the significant site(s);
- Investigating and recording the level of significance of the site, the impacts of the works and any agreement reached by both parties;
- Providing the records, along with a completed application form, to the Department of Indigenous Affairs.

WHEN TO ENGAGE?

Engagement should occur as early as possible in any consultation process and any project planning activities to ensure relevant engagement and to increase opportunities for good outcomes to be achieved for everyone involved¹².

Generally speaking, there are a number of situations when consultation should occur including:

- pursuing general engagement of the Noongar community for project specific activities on land or water that occur on or near Aboriginal cultural and heritage sites that may require legislative compliance (Section 18 or Regulation 10 approval under the AH Act) and ;
- when undertaking cultural heritage management activities (Ask First Consultation Framework¹³); and;
- when developing and implementing policies and programmes related to Aboriginal matters.

LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT

The level of consultation required will depend on the type of activity to be undertaken; the level of impact of an activity and the location of the activity and whether it may impact on Aboriginal heritage. The consultation matrix provides a decision-making tool in regard to actions required; risk assessment and the initial level of consultation. Activities that may be undertaken by local governments have been summarised in Table 1 as follows.

Table 1 Consultation Matrix for assessing appropriate level of engagement

Type of Activity	Level of Discussion (see below)					
	Non site specific	Not Listed as a Heritage Site (see Level of Risk below)		Heritage Site – Listed (see Heritage Site below)		
		Low Risk	High Risk	Information Assessed (IA) (Insufficient Information, Lodged Data)	Registered Site (R)	Stored Data
Planning and Development						
New concepts and ideas	Engage	Engage	Engage	Support	Support	No action
Programme development and planning	Engage	Engage	Engage	Support	Support	

Project planning and development	Engage	Engage	Engage	Consult	Consult	
Building and Construction						
Excavation	Not applicable as site specific activities	Feedback	Support	Consult	Consult	
Demolition		Feedback	Support	Consult	Consult	
Hard engineering (e.g. foreshore stabilisation techniques)		Feedback	Consult	Consult	Consult	
Soft engineering (e.g. survey and enhancement works)		No action	Feedback	Support	Support	
Earthworks		Feedback	Consult	Consult	Consult	
Enhancement and Maintenance						
Revegetation	Not applicable as site specific activities	No action	Inform	Inform	Support	
Weed control		No action	Inform	Inform	Support	
Ripping (mechanical)		Feedback	Support	Support	Consult	
Interpretation		Feedback	Support	Feedback	Support	
Removal of material (non-preferred)		Feedback	Support	Support	Consult	
Monitoring (e.g. water monitoring or plant survey)		No action	Feedback	Support	Support	

**Adapted from Department of Water - Aboriginal Heritage and Native Title Guidelines for On-Ground Works, Pilot Document, March 2008 and the Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Guidelines 2011 Department of Indigenous Affairs and Department of Premier and Cabinet Native Title Unit.*

LEVEL OF DISCUSSION

The matrix should be used to determine the initial level of discussion that may be required. It may become necessary to progress through the different levels after the initial discussion depending on the situation and outcomes of the initial discussion.

Engage: Initiate and establish contact and communication channels with the Aboriginal people(s) to determine if any Aboriginal cultural heritage matters should be considered/included/developed. Ask first.

No Action: No discussion required as no Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sites identified and no implications for Aboriginal cultural heritage matters.

- Inform: A heritage site may exist, however, there will be no disturbance of the site from the activity. The activity may enhance the cultural, environmental and ecological values of the site. Advise the appropriate Aboriginal peoples in writing of the activity to be undertaken. No feedback is requested. Seek advice from DIA as to whether a Regulation 10 approval will be required. If approval is required the level of discussion will progress.
- Feedback: A heritage site may exist and there may be limited disturbance of the site from the activity. The activity may enhance the cultural, environmental and ecological values of the site. Advise the appropriate Aboriginal peoples of the activity to be undertaken in writing and through the Whadjuk Claim Working Party Group and request feedback. Seek advice from DIA as to whether a regulation 10 approval will be required. If approval is required the level of discussion will progress.
- Support: A heritage site is likely to/does exist and there will be limited disturbance of the site from the activity. The activity may enhance the cultural, environmental and ecological values of the site. Advise the appropriate Aboriginal people of the activity to be undertaken in writing and through the Whadjuk Claim Working Party Group and obtain written support. Seek advice from DIA as to whether a Section 18 or Regulation 10 approval will be required. If approval is required the level of discussion will progress.
- Consult: A heritage site is likely to/does exist and there will be disturbance of the site from the activity. The activity may enhance the cultural, environmental and ecological values of the site. Involve the appropriate Aboriginal peoples throughout the planning, development and implementation of the proposed activity, project or programme through the Whadjuk Claim Working Party and/or by writing to the appropriate people. Invite the appropriate Aboriginal peoples to provide professional advice throughout the planning, development and implementation of the proposed activity, project or programme which may include on-site and off-site meetings. The aim is to allow opportunities for involvement, collaboration and empowerment to achieve consensus on the proposed activity, project or programme. Document involvement and obtain written support on what is agreed to. This level of discussion may necessitate a Section 18 application under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.
- Heritage Survey: A heritage site exists, there is no previous heritage information or there is insufficient information in previous heritage surveys and the activity will disturb the site. The activity may enhance the cultural, environmental and ecological values of the site. A heritage consultant (anthropologist/archaeologist) should be contracted to undertake a full heritage survey¹⁴ (anthropological and ethnographic research and Aboriginal community consultation) to fulfil the requirements of a Section 16 or Section 18 application under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

LEVEL OF RISK

Risk level may be assessed in terms of the type of activity to be undertaken; location of the activity; level of impact of the activity and likelihood of Aboriginal heritage impact.

Low risk: Artificial drains, dams (off-stream), sumps, developed land,

High risk: Natural waterways (river, creek, stream, brook), swamps, lakes, estuaries, springs, dams (in-stream), uncleared/undisturbed land, sites that have limited aboriginal cultural and heritage information available that may be considered significant by local Noongar community.

A comprehensive Heritage Risk Assessment Matrix is provided in the Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Guidelines which focuses on reducing the risk of Aboriginal cultural heritage and/or Aboriginal sites from being impacted by land use activity.

HERITAGE SITE

The Register of Aboriginal sites is maintained by the DIA and contains information on site files, heritage survey reports and the Aboriginal Heritage Management System. Online access to the system is available through the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (AHIS) and can provide information on the status of a site and access to survey reports. The AHIS site definitions can be found on the Department of Indigenous Affairs website¹⁵. An overview of Aboriginal heritage sites is also provided in the *“Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Guidelines”*.

WHO TO ENGAGE?

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND COMMUNITIES

It can be difficult to ensure that all the appropriate individuals and family groups are engaged in the consultation process. Local Government officers are advised to check with SWALSC and the DIA to ensure representatives of the correct family groups with heritage connections to the project area are consulted. Getting this right is very important as it maintains integrity. It is also important to demonstrate as wide as possible consultation with the Noongar community. There are existing databases of information held at SWALSC and the DIA¹⁶. Local Government officers are advised to contact these organisations for the most current information.

Identify Who Speaks For Country

A respectful protocol is firmly entrenched in the lived experience of Aboriginal people throughout Australia. In establishing and maintaining good relations with traditional owner groups, it is imperative to speak to the correct people who have heritage connections to certain areas in Perth's Eastern Region.

Noongar are made up of 14 different language groups which correspond to different geographical areas with ecological distinctions. Language groups within Perth's Eastern Region include the Yued, Whadjuk, Binjareb/Pinjarup and Wardandi associated with the Swan Coastal Plain and the Whadjuk, Binjareb/Pinjarup, Balardong, Wilman, Ganeang/Goreng associated with the Jarrah Forest¹⁷.

It is recommended best practice to contact SWALSC to determine who speaks for country.

Consultation Fees

There are no obligations under Western Australian legislation for payment to be made to Aboriginal people for consultation. However it is standard practice that when Aboriginal consultation is undertaken, payments will be made to the representatives at an agreed rate and/or per representative. Payments may be made for services including but not limited to:

- Welcome to Country expenses
- Consultation fees
- Meeting expenses (on-site and off-site meetings)
- Site monitoring
- Administration support
- Catering
- Travel reimbursement costs
- Special events

It is recommended that Local Government authorities include Aboriginal engagement and consultation activities into their daily operations and, as such, should allow for any associated costs in their financial planning processes.

This may include budgeting in capital works programmes, environmental management and community development areas.

Table 2* outlines a recommended payment fee for different types of consultation services which may be provided¹⁸.

Table 2 Indicative Consultation Payment Schedule

Subject	Service Provided	Payment Rate
Whadjuk Working Claim Group Party Meeting	Input , advice and feedback into project /development and implementation	No payment required as a function of the Native Title Representative Body under the <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)</i>
Aboriginal Consultant	Heritage related survey and field work	\$400 - \$500 per person per day
Elder	Provision of cultural knowledge information Welcome To Country Special Events	\$400-\$500 per person per day
Community representative	Non-heritage related activities – meeting attendance; participation on consultative group/s; general meetings an	To be negotiated between parties

**Disclaimer – Whilst all care has been taken in the compilation of this information, these prices are a guide only and may vary between different organisations and Aboriginal peoples and groups. Payment is based on an Elder consulting. Where a senior or junior community member is consulted prices may be subject to negotiation.*

Prices may be subject to negotiation between parties dependent on financial resources and service/s to be provided.

Prices may be subject to GST and indexed to the Consumer Price Index.

STAKEHOLDERS

South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council – Whadjuk Claim Working Party Group

The Whadjuk Claim Working Party Group is representative of family groups who have traditional and custodial rights to the Perth metropolitan region. In June 2011 the Whadjuk people filed a Native Title determination application which passed the registration test and is listed on the Register of Native Title Claims. As registered native title claimants, the claim group has applied to the Federal Court to determine whether the group holds native title in the area outlined in the application. The group has gained some negotiation and procedural rights while their claim is pending¹⁹.

Government, government agencies, developers, archaeologists, anthropologists, Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people have an opportunity to present information and seek input into project development, planning and preparation. Presentations should provide precise information on what they would like advice/input on and, where relevant, on project location including maps, land tenure, scope of works and include heritage site information.

In following protocol, all Local Governments should present all projects for approval to the Whadjuk Claim Working Party Group. The group meet around every eight weeks²⁰ and require notification at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting for any agenda items. Meetings are co-ordinated by the SWALSC Regional Development Unit which should be contacted with any requests.

There are a number of traditional owner groups who do not attend these meetings. In the preparation stage of planning and consultation, contact should be made with SWALSC and DIA for a list of the relevant people who should be consulted.

The Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA)

The DIA can provide guidance and advice in the following areas:

- Register of significant sites;
- Access to site survey information;
- Informants list;
- Section 18 requirements;
- Regulation 10 requirements;
- Heritage consultants;
- Site visits;
- Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee;

The DIA Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (AHIS) can provide information on the status of a site in relation to whether it is a significant site and access to survey reports. The AHIS can be accessed from: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/AHIS/>.

Aboriginal Peoples

To obtain information about the Aboriginal cultural heritage of an area it is best to contact the relevant Aboriginal peoples for that particular area. At a minimum the following people should be consulted:

- Determined native title holders;
- Registered native title claimants;
- Relevant native title representative bodies(e.g. SWALSC);
- Traditional Owners;
- Site informants as held by the DIA; and
- Any other Aboriginal persons with relevant cultural knowledge of a particular area.

Heritage Consultants

Consultants such as anthropologists, archaeologists and historians may be required to provide assistance where site survey reports are required, and to liaise between different organisations and the community. Aboriginal peoples may also provide specialist information about an area's cultural heritage and provide services such as field work, site surveys and site monitoring.

Local Government officers should use internal processes such as tender and contract specifications to ensure that requested services can be delivered in a timely and appropriate manner that will benefit everyone and comply with regulatory requirements.

Contact the DIA for a consultant list or use the link below to access professional bodies:
<http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Section-18-Applications/Heritage-management/Aboriginal-heritage-surveys/Archaeological-surveys/>.

The DIA can provide information on site informants and SWALSC can advise on relevant Aboriginal peoples with cultural heritage knowledge for a particular area.

HOW TO ENGAGE?

Best practice in regard to engagement of the Noongar community is to ensure Noongar interests are being addressed through early engagement and the active involvement of local Noongar peoples and traditional owners with heritage connections to the region where activities may be undertaken.

Where possible, include Noongar peoples and traditional owners in your project planning and implementation. This may require working with an Aboriginal staff member or a staff member from another organisation linked to the project via a partnership with your Local Government. Partnerships with Aboriginal organisations, reference groups and committees can facilitate achieving the desired outcomes.

Having Aboriginal peoples seeing the benefits of being involved in a programme or project is subject to believing and knowing they are helping drive the concept. Motivation of people is a prerequisite to any programme or project development.

PRINCIPLES FOR ENGAGEMENT

These guidelines are based on fundamental principles developed by SWALSC²¹ that ensure Noongar people's participation in decision-making and support an acceptance and understanding that Noongar culture lives through the people who are descendants of the original inhabitants. Principles for engagement include:

1. Prior informed consent
2. Mutual respect
3. Nation building/relationship building
4. Equal partnerships between Noongar and non-Noongar communities
5. Acknowledgement of Noongar Country
6. Acknowledgement of Noongar Culture
7. Acknowledgement of Noongar knowledge and expertise
8. Understanding that Noongars live their culture
9. Women's/Men's Business

PROTOCOLS

Protocols can be classified as a set of rules, regulations, processes, procedures, strategies or guidelines. Protocols are the ways in which you work with people, and communicate and collaborate with them appropriately.

Principles for developing protocols between parties include:

- Relationships built on respect and trust
- Information
- Education
- Legislation and regulations
- The need to negotiate decisions/agreements
- Acknowledging different cultural values

The SWALSC Noongar consultation protocols document²² has been developed by SWALSC under the direction of, and in collaboration with, Noongar Elders and the traditional owners of the Perth metropolitan region and encompasses:

- Early engagement
- Realistic timeframes
- Cultural protocols
- Resources
- Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement of Country
- Intellectual property rights
- Confidentiality
- Showing results

These protocols should be used by Local Governments to engage with the Noongar community and in relation to activities involving Aboriginal cultural heritage matters.

PROCESS FOR CONSULTATION

Engagement and consultation is an ongoing process from the planning phase to implementation to monitoring and feedback. Consultation should involve all relevant parties/organisations and allow input to be sought, information to be provided and shared throughout the stages and the processes involved with a project including feedback from traditional owners and representative members from family groups. A consultation process is outlined below and a consultation checklist is provided in Table 3.

1. Planning and development should consider all factors involved with the proposed idea, programme, activity or project including research, location, scope of any works, approvals required for works, benefits, potential issues or impacts and any other relevant information to assist with the consultation process. Be clear on why you are consulting; the aim of the consultation and what needs to be achieved by the consultation. Other factors to consider include:
 - Co-ordination and management of the consultation;
 - Identifying resources required to undertake the consultation such as timing, people and budget;
 - Choosing a method of consultation;

- Analysis;
 - Feedback;
 - Response to recommendations; and
 - Monitoring and evaluation.
2. Identify the relevant stakeholders by contacting SWALSC and the DIA and any other relevant groups that may have an interest in the proposed activity. Once the relevant people have been identified, arrange an initial meeting to outline the scope of the proposed activity and/or works. Information should be clearly set out and include maps, data, technical information, benefits, issues, impacts and any other relevant facts related to the proposed activity.
 3. Ensure that relevant Noongar groups are provided with enough time to consider the information. Further consultation may be required with other members of the community. Noongar governance processes should be taken into consideration and sufficient time and flexibility should be allowed for.
 4. At the initial meeting establish an ongoing communication process/method for consultation and level of involvement of the Noongar community for the proposed activity/project. This may include establishing a specific working group or more broad consultation. Consider any employment opportunities for local Noongar people.
 5. Ensure ongoing involvement of interested Noongars in the project (establish a communication method/process). It is critical to actively illustrate that Noongar comments, concerns and suggestions have been taken into consideration.
 6. Noongar involvement may be required in monitoring, management and rehabilitation activities under the Section 18 consent process. Ensure that appropriate processes are undertaken to identify appropriate people to carry out these activities, recognising that time may be needed to reach a consensus on both appropriate methods to be used and the individuals to carry them out (consider during steps 2 and 3).
 7. Where a Regulation 10 approval is required for the proposed activity, this may require Noongar involvement in planning the activity and site visits. Ensure that appropriate processes are undertaken to identify appropriate people to carry out these activities, recognising that time may be needed to reach a consensus on both appropriate methods to be used and the individuals to carry them out (consider during steps 2 and 3).
 8. Ensure ongoing feedback and review of the activity/project with relevant Noongars. This is particularly important if there is a significant impact on culturally sensitive/significant areas (establish as part of communication method/process).
 9. Undertake and document/record consultation process in line with cultural protocols (see Protocols section of guidelines).
 - 10.

Table 3 Consultation Checklist for Local Government Officers.

Have we....	
Undertaken research into Aboriginal heritage and cultural matters and/or the Aboriginal community to be engaged?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identified a need to engage/consult with the Aboriginal community? Have a clear purpose?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undertaken planning and development of proposed activity (considering all factors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allocated resources to undertake consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allowed adequate time for consultation to be built into project timelines (including Local Government, statutory approvals processes, meeting schedules, Noongar governance processes)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identified who needs to be involved in the consultation (all stakeholders)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identified a method of consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identified a communication process/method to allow input and feedback between participants?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identified potential risks in the consultation and appropriate strategies to minimise the risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provided the community with information about the level of involvement expected of them throughout the consultation process and any future actions that may be required?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developed mechanisms to monitor the consultation process that allow for flexibility to make changes if required?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developed an evaluation of the consultation process built into project timelines?	<input type="checkbox"/>

TIMEFRAMES

Local Governments, State government agencies, regulatory processes, and peak organisations are procedurally governed by deadlines and meeting schedules.

Local Government officers should be aware that Noongar governance processes are complex and require extended family networks to be kept informed as part of the consultation process. Noongar Elders and representatives have high consultation demands and meeting commitments, and are usually engaged in multiple projects. Some cultural protocols such as attending funerals for sorry business will always take precedence over other commitments. Consideration and flexibility should be allowed for in preparation and

planning to ensure that time factors will be manageable and respectful of governance processes and cultural protocols.

Be open and clear that the proposed activity has a beginning and end. Always revisit this important point during feedback sessions as part of your consultation.

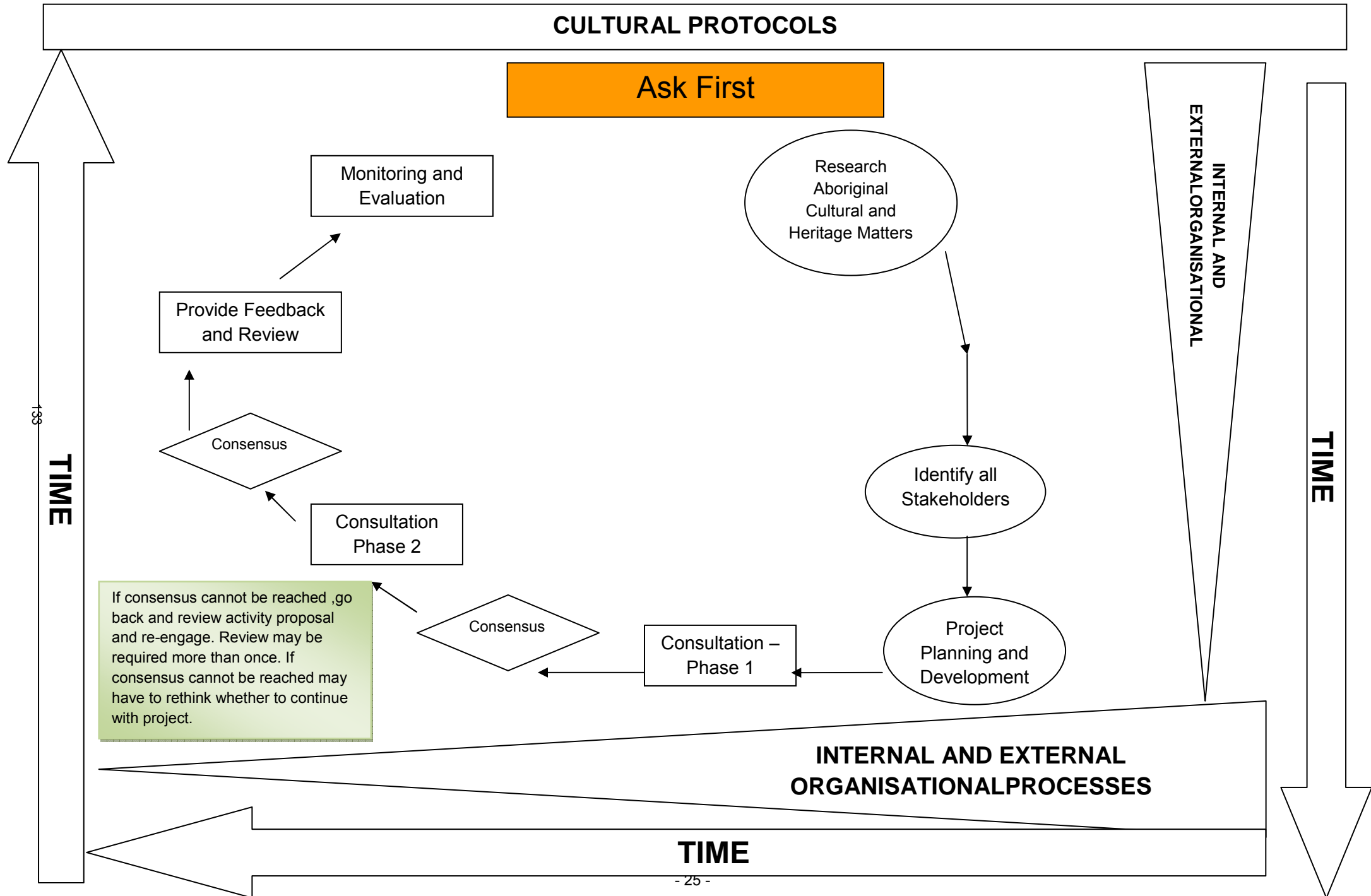
Be aware that a 'no show' at appointments does not necessarily mean a lack of commitment to a project or programme. Aboriginal people may have unavoidable family commitments or harsh economic circumstances. These may include:

- Transport – not readily available or difficulty using public transport;
- Telephone – no access to a telephone to cancel and change appointments;
- Family responsibilities – these can take priority;
- Housing – homeless or highly mobile;
- Death – funerals take precedence over everything else in an Aboriginal community and relatives will travel a great distance to be with grieving family;
- Births – families and relatives gather together for births and care of the baby; and
- Finances – if finances are low, money will go towards food for the family rather than transport to an appointment.

Timeframes should allow for internal Local Government processes (budgeting, tender and contract requirements, works programme schedules); consultation activities that may need to be undertaken; liaison and feedback from the Whadjuk Claim Working Party Group; liaison with the DIA; research, preparation and planning for Section 18 applications and the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee meeting schedule.

Figure 1 illustrates the components of engagement and consultation when seeking approval to undertake specific activities.

Figure 1 – Components of Engagement and Consultation



RESPECTING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Aboriginal people live within a different world view to non-Aboriginal people and these differences may not be immediately apparent. Take your time to observe, listen and learn. Some important points include:

- When meeting someone and establishing a rapport, ask about who their family is – not: “Are you Aboriginal?” or “Where do you work?”
- Be who you are. Maintain your integrity and remain firm in your intent to include Aboriginal people and foster good relations. This will be one of the first things Aboriginal people perceive; and
- Do not get involved in community politics.

Touching	Touching is used as an expression of acceptance, welcoming or direct communication.
Discipline	Adult members of the family have rights to discipline the children.
Eye contact	Aboriginal people may avoid eye contact. It is not polite to gaze into another’s eyes.
Plain talk	Plain talk is the best way to communicate. Too many explanations may confuse the issue.
Yes	Yes, does not always mean ‘yes’ as a direct answer to a question.
Quiet time	A pause in the conversation does not reflect avoidance – just thinking time.
Family business	Family business means all the family including children and Elders.
Non-verbal communication	Awareness of different cultural relationships within a group.

Communicating with people from another culture is often difficult. While it is not necessary to be an expert on a culture or linguistics to communicate effectively with others, it is essential to be aware that these differences may exist.

A number of communication difficulties are commonly encountered when dealing with Aboriginal people. Several are outlined below. Keep in mind however, that there is huge diversity in the Aboriginal community.

“Are we speaking the same language?”

- Aboriginal people seek information by hinting at an issue rather than discussing it directly. A common example is Aboriginal people make a statement then wait for you to either confirm or refute it.
- Time is important to many cultures and time to think is essential for Aboriginal people, especially when important decisions are to be made. Don’t always expect immediate answers, you may have to wait until another time after community discussions have taken place.

- Nodding does not always mean 'yes'. Nodding is a cultural norm which encourages smooth social relationships. So an Aboriginal person may nod but may not agree with you or understand what you have said.
- 'I don't know' may have more to do with your inappropriate communication rather than the Aboriginal person's lack of knowledge. It may also be due to a lack of an appropriately developed relationship.

NOTES

1. See South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council “*Final Report Swan and Canning Rivers Iconic Trails Project*” available on the SWALSC website at:
<http://www.noongar.org.au/news.php>
2. See South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, *Living Culture – Living Land and its people. Noongar Protocols – Welcome to Country*
3. See at 1 above and South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council *Noongar Consultation Protocol Guidelines: Living Culture – Living Land and its people*
4. See above
5. Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, *Closing the Gap: the engagement spectrum.*
6. Further information is available on the SWALSC website at:
<http://www.noongar.org.au/> and the Department of Premier and Cabinet website at:
<http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/lantu/Claims/Pages/TheState%27sIn-Principle%20Offer.aspx> and
<http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/lantu/MediaPublications/Pages/Publications.aspx>
7. In 2011 the State government appointed a consultant to lead the reform of Aboriginal cultural heritage process. In April 2012 the State government released a discussion paper related to reviewing the AH Act. .
8. The cultural heritage due diligence guidelines are available from the Office of Native Title (WA) website at:
<http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/lantu/MediaPublications/Pages/Publications.aspx> and the DIA website at: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Section-18-Applications/Application-process/>
9. Information on Section 18 approval process and forms are available from the DIA website at: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Section-18-Applications/Application-process/>
<http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Heritage-and-Culture/Resources/Forms-and-publications/>
10. The ACMC meeting schedule is available on the DIA website at:
<http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Boards-And-Committees/ACMC/Meeting-Schedule/>
11. A Regulation 10 form can be obtained by contacting the Department of Indigenous Affairs.

12. Refer to Consulting Citizens: A Resource Guide, Government of Western Australia, 2002, for detailed consultation information. The document can be downloaded from: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/Documents/ReportsPublications/ConsultingCitizensSept2005.pdf>
13. See Ask First: A guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values, Australian Heritage Commission available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahc/publications/commission/books/ask-first.html>
14. Information on heritage surveys is available on the DIA website at: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Section-18-Applications/Heritage-management/Aboriginal-heritage-surveys/>
15. The AHIS can be accessed at: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Site-Search/Aboriginal-Heritage-Inquiry-System/>.
Site definitions are available at: <http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Heritage-and-Culture/Resources/Policies-and-procedures/Site-Assessment-Policy/>
16. The Swan Indigenous Reference Group is no longer operating in the City of Swan.
17. See above at 1
18. Adapted from Government of Western Government Standard Heritage Agreement and Department of Water Aboriginal Heritage and native Title Guidelines for On-Ground Works
19. See National Native Title Tribunal website for claimant applications and registrations. Search application <http://www.nntt.gov.au/Applications-And-Determinations/Search-Applications/Pages/Search.aspx>
Registration Test Decisions - <http://www.nntt.gov.au/Applications-And-Determinations/Registration-Test/Pages/search.aspx>
20. The Metro Working Party meeting schedule can be downloaded from the SWALSC website at: <http://www.noongar.org.au/meetings.php>
21. See above at 4
22. As above
23. An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan Template has been developed by Perth Region NRM for local government. The document can be downloaded at: <http://www.perthregionnrm.com/pr-nrm-programs/indigenous-cultural-heritage-program/resources.aspx>

24. See Denis Byrne and Maria Nugent A spatial approach to Aboriginal post-contact heritage available at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/MappingAttachment.htm>

25. Refer to SWALSC protocols document “Living Culture – Living Land and its people” available at: <http://www.noongar.org.au/news.php>

GLOSSARY*

Consensus:	A form of decision-making which does not necessarily mean agreement; rather it means achieving an outcome that all participants can live with.
Consultation:	A tool of engagement used to gather and provide information and obtain feedback from people and communities through clearly defined channels. A two-way transfer of information that provides an opportunity to engage people in the activities of government and educate communities about government and decision-making processes. Can be concerned with the outcome of the consultation and/or reaching agreement about the process of consultation.
Elder:	The person or persons designated as the keepers of cultural knowledge in family and community. They are usually elder people but the responsibilities may be given to a younger person by some families. Family groups determine who the elders will be within their family group
Engagement:	A process that involves people and communities in problem- solving and decision-making to build trust and relationships. The level of engagement can range from the provision of information, to involvement through consultation, collaboration, decision-making and implementation.
Informant:	A person who provides information about his or her culture to an anthropologist, archaeologist or other heritage consultant.
Non-deleterious:	Refers to types of activities which may be carried out on land that may require approval under Regulation 10 of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974</i> .
South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council:	The native title representative body of the majority of Noongar people who are the traditional owners of the South West of Australia.

* *Definitions from SWALSC protocol document and Consulting citizens: A Resource Guide*

Tools for Engagement

There are a number of different engagement strategies and activities that Local Government can undertake to strengthen relationships with the Noongar and Aboriginal community.

1. Cultural Awareness

Local Government will benefit from providing staff with Cultural Awareness Training. Training in this field will allow Local Government officers to gain a greater understanding of interaction between non-aboriginal and Aboriginal Australian individuals, families and groups. Staff will also learn about Australian society from Aboriginal perspectives within the history of Australia. Cultural awareness training should be an ongoing process as part of an organisation to facilitate reconciliation, build cultural awareness, connections, capacity and trust between Local Governments and the Noongar and Aboriginal community.

Benefits of cultural awareness training include being able to recognise cultural differences and to see where these differences may cause conflict or difficulty in communication; recognising the similarities that makes us all human and to help in identifying ways to communicate and be inclusive.

2. Significant Dates

Getting to know your community also includes attending, participating in and supporting Indigenous events. These events can be included in local government community event calendars.

DATE	EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE
26 January	Australia Day Day of Mourning Invasion Day Survival Day	A day to remember and celebrate. What made our nation what it is today – the landing of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove and the loss of sovereign rights for Indigenous Australians.
21 March	Harmony Day	To create and promote harmony within communities that embraces cultural diversity and addresses racism. Opportunity to support and encourage Noongar and other Aboriginal people's participation.
25 April	ANZAC Day	Aboriginal men and women fought alongside other Australian heroes. Fighting for a free world.
26 May	National Sorry Day	Established a year after the "Bringing them Home Report" was tabled in Federal Parliament (1997) after the inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

DATE	EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE
		A National Sorry Day Committee maintains a website with an events calendar at: http://www.nsd.org.au/
27 May to 3 June annually	National Reconciliation Week	To acknowledge and celebrate the culture and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and to discuss reconciliation and consider ways to address disadvantage faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The Reconciliation WA website http://www.reconciliationwa.org/
27 May	1967 Australian Referendum Anniversary	90% of eligible voters supported changes to the constitution related to Section 51 giving the Federal Parliament the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Section 127 to ensure that Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders would be counted in the census.
3 June	Mabo Day	This day marks the anniversary of the 1992 High Court of Australia's decision in the Mabo case. The decision recognised the Native Title rights of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by legally dismissing the doctrine of "Terra Nullius".
1 July	Coming of the Light Festival	Celebrates the day the London Missionary Society first arrived in Torres Strait. The missionaries landed at Erub Island in 1871 and introduced Christianity to the region.
1 – 7 July	NAIDOC Week	National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. NAIDOC week is a way of celebrating and promoting a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our culture. Visit http://www.naidoc.org.au/ for details.
4 August	National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day	A day for the Kulungars (the children) observed since 1988. http://www.snaicc.asn.au/
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	Recognises the first United Nations (UN) Working Group on Indigenous Populations meeting in Geneva in 1982. A celebration of culture and diversity and to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous peoples.
10 December	Human Rights Day	Celebrates the anniversary of the adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The declaration can be viewed at: http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml

3. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management

Aboriginal cultural heritage management can encompass the protection and enhancement of Aboriginal heritage; the assessment of threats to Aboriginal heritage; foster appreciation and respect for Aboriginal cultural heritage values and to help fulfil heritage survey requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

Aboriginal cultural heritage management plans can be used to guide activities for the protection and enhancement of Aboriginal cultural heritage. To ensure the protection and enhancement of Aboriginal cultural heritage, it is necessary to incorporate Aboriginal traditional knowledge as part of the planning, implementation and operational processes when developing projects and management plans²³.

Heritage management is also used to assess the threats to a heritage site(s). Threats can include natural processes such as erosion, present-day practices such as road building or mining and the risk that people will pilfer artefacts if they find out about the site. The protection of a site can be supported by demonstrating how significant a site is through significance assessment. Significance assessment is carried out by heritage professionals who can carry out detailed field research, but it is often done because of the work of other people in the community and heritage professionals in Aboriginal communities.

A heritage assessment is a process by which Aboriginal heritage values within a local government area may be identified. These values may be tangible, that is associated with particular objects; or intangible, including places where no physical evidence remains but that have particular meaning for the Aboriginal community.

Heritage assessments are a strategic and proactive way for a Local Government to improve its planning and service delivery to include the Aboriginal community. They provide an opportunity to involve Aboriginal people early in the planning process to identify any cultural issues or important places which can reduce the chances of lengthy project delays due to discovering Aboriginal cultural heritage values late within the project planning process. Through heritage assessments, a better understanding can be gained of the important Aboriginal heritage places within a Local Government area that it may wish to protect and maintain culture. Heritage assessments can also assist with decision-making on development and location of services and infrastructure.

Cultural mapping is inclusive of family groups who have heritage connections to areas and regions. Importantly this process is inclusive of other Aboriginal people living in the municipality²⁴.

4. Reconciliation Action Plan

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP trademark pending) is a tool developed by Reconciliation Australia that organisations can use to build relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The purpose of a RAP is to develop actions for organisations to engage within their sphere of influence in the national effort to close the 17-year gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and other Australians (Reconciliation Australia, 2006).

Reconciliation Australia provides access to a toolkit and resources where organisations choose to sign up to develop a RAP.

Local governments are in an excellent position to champion reconciliation between all groups in their respective regional boundaries and in particular to celebrate Noongar and Aboriginal culture.

5. The Aboriginal Flag – A Symbol of Recognition

Flying the Aboriginal Flag on commemorative days is a strong symbol of recognition. The Australian Aboriginal Flag was designed in 1971 by artist Harold Thomas, an Elder from the Northern Territory, to be a recognisable symbol of unity and identity for Aboriginals.

The flag was first raised in Adelaide's Victoria Square on National Aborigines Day, 12 July 1971. It was recognised nationally by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities after it was flown above the "Tent Embassy" outside Parliament House in Canberra in 1972 when Aboriginal people were seeking national justice, including land rights, improvements to education, legal rights and health.

On 14 July 1995 the flag gained official recognition 'as the flag of the Aboriginal peoples of Australia and a flag of significance to the Australian nation generally' under the *Flags Act 1953 (Cwlth)*.

*The **black** is often said to represent the Aboriginal people of Australia.*

*The **red** to depict the earth, ochre and the spiritual relationship to the land.*

*The **yellow** to represent the sun, the constant giver of life.*

The Aboriginal flag should be flown or displayed with the black at the top and the red at the bottom.

In 1997 the Federal Court recognised Harold Thomas as the author of the flag and as a result the Australian Aboriginal flag is protected under copyright and may be reproduced only in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968 (Cwlth)* or with the permission of Harold Thomas. Mr Thomas has awarded a licence for the manufacture and marketing of the Australian Aboriginal Flag to Carroll and Richardson Flags where flags can be purchased.

Permission is not required to fly the Australian Aboriginal Flag.

More information on flag protocols can be found on the Australian Government website It's An Honour <http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/symbols/otherflag.cfm>.

6. Noongar Languages/Dual Naming - Noongar Place names

Local Government can play an important role in the promotion of Aboriginal languages. This role in creating broader community awareness of Aboriginal languages is recognised in other regions and States. Dual naming can play a major role by prompting appreciation and fostering respect for historical Aboriginal links and symbolic recognition of Aboriginal places.

Local Governments are encouraged to consider the appropriate use of Noongar names for newly proclaimed public places and roads, or if upgrading. In new land developments it is important that the use of Noongar names is carefully negotiated with the Noongar community.

Local Governments are also encouraged to consider dual-naming already European named geographical features such as rivers, creeks, waterfalls, islands, hills and caves. This is especially important for those cultural and environmental features of significance to the local Aboriginal community.

Local Government's place-naming policies should include procedures for identifying and selecting the names of local places and features in the local Aboriginal language and consultative mechanisms to verify the appropriateness of suggested names.

7. Local Government Council Policy and Processes

Local Governments can recognise and acknowledge the Aboriginal community through Council policy and processes which can be incorporated in operational activities. This may include:

- Conducting ceremonies such as traditional Welcome to Country and Acknowledgment of Country²⁵;
- Developing a Reconciliation Action Plan;
- Developing Statements of Commitment and Memoranda of Understanding;
- Setting Indigenous employment targets;
- Seeking input from the Aboriginal community into Council activities, programmes and project planning and seeking new concepts and ideas; and
- Providing ongoing cultural awareness training for staff.

Local Government policy that acknowledges, respects and promotes Noongar and Aboriginal culture can create racial harmony in the community and provide guidelines and raise awareness for Local Government officers and elected members.

8. Resource List

Organisation	Resource Name	Source
Australian Heritage Commission	Ask First - A Guide to Respecting Indigenous Heritage Places and Values (2002)	http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/ahc/publications/commission/books/ask-first.html
Department of Indigenous Affairs (WA) ATSIS (Aust Govt)	Consulting Citizens - Engaging with Aboriginal Western Australians	http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/Documents/ReportsPublications/ConsultingCitizensSept2005.pdf
Department of Premier and Cabinet (WA)	Consulting Citizens: A Resource Guide	http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/panels/ca/papers/ca1117cb2-323-3e-scan.pdf
Department of Indigenous Affairs and Department of Premier and Cabinet Native Title Unit	Cultural Heritage Due Diligence Guidelines	DIA website at: http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/en/Section-18-Applications/Application-process/ DPC website: http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/lantu/MediaPublications/Pages/Publications.aspx and the
Department of Premier and Cabinet - Native Title Unit (WA)	Guide to the Government Indigenous Land Use Agreement and Standard Heritage Agreements-July-2012	http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/lantu/MediaPublications/Pages/Publications.aspx
Perth Region NRM	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Template	http://www.perthregionnrm.com/pr-nrm-programs/indigenous-cultural-heritage-program/resources.aspx
Local Government Association of NSW	Engaging with local Aboriginal communities: A Resource Kit for Local Government in NSW document (2007) Examples of a Memorandum of Understanding and Statement of Commitment	http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_DocumentsIndex.asp?documenttype=10&sectionid=1&actionid=1&next=y&irecx=4&mi=31
Reconciliation Australia	Promote and build reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians for the wellbeing of the nation. Administer Reconciliation Action Plans	www.reconciliation.org.au
Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) - Local Government Consultation and Engagement	Consultation and engagement with Indigenous and Aboriginal People	http://www.vlga.org.au/Resources/Consultation_and_Engagement/Engaging_Hard_to_Reach_Groups/Indigenous_and_Aboriginal_People.aspx

Organisation	Resource Name	Source
South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council	Final Report, Executive Summary Report and Consultation Protocol Guidelines - Swan and Canning Rivers Iconic Trails Project – Living Culture – Living Land and its people.	http://www.noongar.org.au/news.php
Australian Government. Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	Engagement with Indigenous Australians (2010).	http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/engagement/engagement/Pages/default.aspx
It's An Honour Website	Federal Government Recognition and Awards website. Information on flags, Australian symbols, coat of arms, national anthem, protocols for using, flying symbols and flags etc.	http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/symbols/otherflag.cfm
NSW Department of Environment and Heritage	Denis Byrne and Maria Nugen – A spatial approach to Aboriginal post-contact heritage (Three parts)	http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nswcultureheritage/MappingAttachment.htm
RUAH Community Services	Perth Aboriginal Resources Directory – 3 rd Edition 2012	http://www.ruah.com.au/page/General

9. Contact List

Organisation Name	Contact	Information / Services	Telephone/Fax	Email	Address	Web
South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council	Regional Development Unit Co-ordination of Whadjuk Working Group	Native Title Representative Body	Phone: (08) 9358 7400 Fax: (08) 9358 7499	reception1@noongar.org.au	HomeTown Centre, 1490 Albany Highway Cannington WA 6107	www.noongar.org.au
Department of the Premier and Cabinet - Native Title Unit		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Policy • Research • Claims • Projects (Agreements, whole-of-government strategies). 	Phone: (08) 6552 5333 Fax: (08) 6552 5339	nativetitle@dpc.wa.gov.au	Native Title Level 3 Dumas House 2 Havelock St West Perth WA 6005 Postal Address: Locked Bag 3001 West Perth WA 6872	http://www.nativetitle.wa.gov.au/Pages/Default.aspx
Department of Indigenous Affairs	Heritage Officer (Southern) Heritage and Culture Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access, advice and information on Heritage sites in Southern region • DIA Informants List • <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> compliance 			Street address: Level 1, 197 St Georges Terrace, Perth, Western Australia Postal address: PO Box 7770, Cloister's Square Perth, Western Australia 6850	www.dia.wa.gov.au

Organisation Name	Contact	Information / Services	Telephone/Fax	Email	Address	Web
Department of Indigenous Affairs	Executive Officer: Camille Kirby	Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC)	Phone: (08) 9235 8059 Fax: (08) 9235 8088	acmc@dia.wa.gov.au	As above	As above
Department of Indigenous Affairs	Dr. Kathryn Przywolnik	Registrar of Aboriginal Sites	Phone: (08) 9235 8000	registrar@dia.wa.gov.au	As above	As above
Department of Indigenous Affairs Regional Office Metro / Wheatbelt	Project Officer	Provide advice and information on Heritage sites in Southern region	Phone: (08) 9374 8900	n/a	Ground Floor, South Node, LANDGATE Building Old Gt Northern Hwy PO Box 1696 Midland 6936	As above
Landgate		Native title services (Native Title Project Management and Native Title Plan and Mapping)	Phone: (08) 9273 7373 Fax: (08) 9273 7666	customerservice@landgate.wa.gov.au	Head Office Old Gt Northern Hwy PO Box 1696 Midland 6936	www.landgate.wa.gov.au

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South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, 2011, *Noongar Consultation Protocol Guidelines: Living Culture – Living Land and its people*, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, Cannington, Western Australia.

South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, 2011, *Living Culture – Living Land and its people. Noongar Protocols – Welcome to Country*. South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. Cannington, Western Australia.

State Development Department 2008, *Section 18 Process Form* Department of State Development, Perth, viewed May 2011, <<http://www.dsd.wa.gov.au/6630.aspx>>.



12 FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Chief Executive Officers Advisory Committee will be held on **5 March 2013 (informal)** at the Shire of Mundaring, 7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring WA 6073 commencing at 12:30pm with lunch at 12 noon.

Future Meetings 2013

Chief Executive Officers' Advisory Committee (CEOAC) meetings commencing at 12 noon:

Tuesday	5	March (informal)	at	Shire of Mundaring
Tuesday	2	April	at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	7	May (informal)	at	Town of Bassendean
Tuesday	4	June	at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	2	July (informal)	at	City of Bayswater
Tuesday	6	August	at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	3	September	at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	8	October (informal)	at	City of Swan
Tuesday	19	November	at	EMRC Administration Office

Mr Foley and Mr Cole will be apologies at the meeting of 5 March 2013.

13 DECLARATION OF CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1:15pm.