



### **9.3 FUTURE PROOFING PERTH'S EASTERN REGION – REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION ACTION PLAN 2009-2013**

**REFERENCE: COMMITTEES-9699**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek Council endorsement of the draft Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2009 – 2013. (*The Action Plan*)

#### **KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- Climate change represents huge challenges and opportunities for Local Government.
- In May 2008, the EMRC received \$50,000 funding from the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change to assist member Councils undertake climate change risk assessments and adaptation planning. This funding was allocated on the basis the EMRC contributed funding of \$43,375 to the project in 2008-2009.
- The EMRC and its member Councils have since undertaken a regional climate change risk assessment process, which was used to identify climate change risks and actions that can be undertaken to address these risks.
- The outcome of the project has been the development of the Action Plan which consolidates risk assessment and adaptation measures identified through the process into prioritised actions for implementation.
- Inputs used in developing the Action Plan include the Adapting to Climate Change Issues Paper and reports detailing the outcomes of the two regional risk workshops conducted in February 2009.
- It is anticipated that the EMRC Council and member Councils will need to make a long term commitment to fund the ongoing implementation of the Action Plan through to 2013 if real progress is to be achieved.
- The Action Plan is a foundation document that outlines what needs to be done over the next four years at a regional level to assist Perth's Eastern Region to adapt to climate change.
- The Action Plan also paves a way forward for the EMRC and its member Councils to take climate change adaptation to the next step and develop Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans for each of the member Councils.

#### **Recommendation(s)**

That:

1. Council endorse the Future Proofing Perth's Eastern Region - Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2009-2013 shown as Attachment 1.
2. Council endorse the EMRC's continued role to lead the implementation of the Action Plan and agrees to list for consideration the sum of \$50,000 in its budgets for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13.
3. A letter be forwarded to member Council Chief Executive Officers providing a copy of the Action Plan, along with a project plan for the development of individual Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans.
4. Member Councils be advised that a long term financial commitment is required in order to ensure progress is achieved in climate change adaptation.



*Item 9.3 continued*

## **SOURCE OF REPORT**

Executive Manager, Regional Services  
Senior Project Coordinator (Environmental)

## **BACKGROUND**

During the EMRC's 2007-2008 strategic planning processes, the EMRC and member Councils identified climate change as a key emerging issue affecting the Region.

A report on Future Proofing Perth's Eastern Region – Adapting to Climate Change was presented to the Council at their meeting on 21 February 2008. At that meeting Council resolved to:

- "1. SUPPORT THE FUTURE PROOFING PERTH'S EASTERN REGION – ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT.*
- 2. CONSIDER \$43,375 FOR ALLOCATION IN THE 2008/09 BUDGET FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FUTURE PROOFING PERTH'S EASTERN REGION – ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE SUBJECT TO FUNDING SUPPORT OF \$50,000 THROUGH THE AUSTRALIAN GREENHOUSE OFFICE LOCAL ADAPTATION PATHWAYS PROGRAM."*

(Ref: Committees-7378)

In May 2008, the EMRC received \$50,000 funding from the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change (formerly Australian Greenhouse Office) Local Adaptation Pathways Programme to assist the Region to undertake climate change risk assessments and adaptation planning. On that basis the Council of the EMRC agreed to contribute funding of \$43,375 to the project.

The project is based on the application of a risk assessment methodology accredited by the Australian Government and complements other emission reduction initiatives the Region is involved in, including Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) and Perth Solar City.

## **REPORT**

Climate change represents a huge challenge for Local Government, including impacts on infrastructure, land use planning, biodiversity, environmental health, fire and emergency services as well as parks and reserve management. Other broader key risks include the potential for changing economic viability of local industries and social dislocation.

Climate change can also present new opportunities whereby adaptation actions will generate significant social and environmental benefits and this will lead to more vibrant and resilient societies.

The EMRC and its member Councils have collaborated regionally to undertake a comprehensive climate change risk assessment to identify impacts and associated actions that will need to be undertaken in order to better prepare the region's community to adapt to the pressures climate change will bring. Local Government is in a position where it has no other option but to act on climate change adaptation, a point highlighted by Louise Hicks, Environmental Lawyer and Partner at DLA Phillips Fox, who presented at the recent Local Government Sustainable Development Conference on the climate change liability risks to Local Government. Louise stated that there was a strong need for Local Government to be leading the way in undertaking climate change risk assessments and incorporating adaptation actions into planning to minimise any future risks of litigation.



*Item 9.3 continued*

Outcomes of the project to date include:

- Formation of a project steering group made up of member Council officers to guide and drive the project and ensure effective integration across all seven participants;
- Engagement of highly experienced climate change consultants, Coastal Zone Management, to assist with the risk workshop facilitation, provide technical guidance and, most importantly, to mentor and develop participating staff to gain skills and experience;
- Development of an Issues Paper providing background information on the risks climate change presents to Local Government operations and services in Perth's Eastern Region. The Issues Paper was distributed to those attending the regional forum and workshops;
- A Communication and Consultation Strategy was developed in collaboration with the Steering Group to support implementation of the project;
- A Regional Forum on Thursday 5 February 2009 for Councillors and executive staff of the EMRC and member Councils. Climate change experts presented the environmental, economical and social impacts of climate change on Local Government operations and services;
- Two regional risk workshops held with the member Councils in February 2009; a risk assessment workshop and an adaptation planning workshop for the participating Councils' staff to identify risks to Local Government and develop adaptation options;
- The Action Plan was developed based on the inputs from the Issues Paper and workshop reports including the Risk Analysis Report and Adaptation Action Plan Report. The Action Plan identifies priority projects and funding. A workshop was held with project steering group members to finalise the Plan; and
- Milestone reports were prepared and submitted to the Australian Government in line with funding requirements.

The Action Plan is a foundation document that outlines what needs to be done at the regional level to adapt to climate change over the next four years. It also paves a way forward for the EMRC and its member Councils to take climate change adaptation to the next step and develop Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans for each of the member Councils.

The two levels of planning will enable alignment of the work that needs to be done within the Region through a well planned approach and will ensure that all member Councils are well placed to adapt to the challenges that are presented by climate change.

The Action Plan will also be used to advance advocacy for climate change adaptation action throughout the Region and better position the EMRC and its member Councils to leverage funding.

During the regional workshop process twenty immediate actions were identified for the EMRC to implement on behalf of the Region in the 2009/10 financial year. The immediate actions have been costed and will require EMRC officer time of \$50,000 in the 2009-10 financial year. Other actions identified are for the short term (2010-2011), medium term (2011-2012) and long term (2012-2013).



*Item 9.3 continued*

The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2009 - 2013 will be monitored annually to determine progress against the Plan, with a major review to be undertaken in 2011 – 2012 to evaluate progress and to identify any further actions that may be needed.

Localised action planning will occur alongside the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and involve facilitation of a climate change information session and workshop with the individual member Councils and their local communities and development of individual Action Plans.

### **STRATEGIC/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Implementation of the Action Plan will contribute to Key Result Area 1 of the EMRC Strategic Plan for the Future, specifically objective 1.6: To address climate change issues within the Region.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The implementation plan for 2009-2010 will be met from the EMRC's budget allocation of \$50,000. Member Councils' contributions of \$15,000 each will be used to support Local Action Planning.

It is anticipated that the EMRC Council and member Councils will need to make a similar long term commitment to fund the ongoing implementation of the Plan through to 2013 if real progress is to be achieved. At the recent Local Government Sustainable Development Conference the Gold Coast City Council highlighted the issues they faced with funding of their Climate Change Strategy only being for the first year of the project. They emphasised the need for secure and long term funding to effectively tackle climate change adaptation.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The environmental, social and economic costs of not adapting to climate change will be significant without adequate adaptation strategies in place.

The Action Plan 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 accommodates 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.



*Item 9.3 continued*

## **MEMBER COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Member Council</b>	<b>Implication Details</b>
Town of Bassendean	<p>Endorsement of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2009-2013 and of the EMRC's continued role in supporting implementation of the Plan 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.</p> <p>It is proposed that a contribution of \$15,000 from each member Council is allocated, as indicated in the project proposals provided to member Councils in February and March 2009. These funds will be used to progress Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans for member Councils.</p> <p>Member Councils recognise and provide for a long term funding commitment in their five year estimates to support ongoing implementation of climate change adaptation planning through to 2013.</p>
City of Bayswater	
City of Belmont	
Shire of Kalamunda	
Shire of Mundaring	
City of Swan	

## ATTACHMENT(S)

Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2009-2013 (Ref: Committees-9941)

## VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That:

1. Council endorse the Future Proofing Perth's Eastern Region - Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2009-2013 as shown as Attachment 1.
2. Council endorse the EMRC's continued role to lead the implementation of the Action Plan and agrees to list for consideration the sum of \$50,000 in its budgets for 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13.
3. A letter be forwarded to member Council Chief Executive Officers providing a copy of the Action Plan, along with a project plan for the development of individual Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans.
4. Member Councils be advised that a long term financial commitment is required in order to ensure progress is achieved in climate change adaptation.





*Item 9.3 continued*

Cr Pule asked if the Local Action Plan would cover risk issues such as carbon dioxide policies, social and health issues. The Executive Manager Regional Services advised the attachment to this report outlined a number of key priority risk areas including Risk Areas 8 and 9, that dealt with the decline in population and health and economic challenges and opportunities.

In response to Cr Godfrey's query on whether aboriginal culture and arts would be considered the Executive Manager Regional Services advised that this was being dealt with as part of the Tourism Strategy and was also being considered as part of the Swan and Helena Rivers Management Framework.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION(S)**

MOVED CR PULE

SECONDED CR GODFREY

THAT:

1. COUNCIL APPROVE THE FUTURE PROOFING PERTH'S EASTERN REGION - REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION ACTION PLAN 2009-2013 AS SHOWN AS ATTACHMENT 1.
2. COUNCIL APPROVE THE EMRC'S CONTINUED ROLE TO LEAD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN AND AGREES TO LIST FOR CONSIDERATION THE SUM OF \$50,000 IN ITS BUDGETS FOR 2010-11, 2011-12 AND 2012-13.
3. A LETTER BE FORWARDED TO MEMBER COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS PROVIDING A COPY OF THE ACTION PLAN, ALONG WITH A PROJECT PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUAL LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION ACTION PLANS.
4. MEMBER COUNCILS BE ADVISED THAT A LONG TERM FINANCIAL COMMITMENT IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO ENSURE PROGRESS IS ACHIEVED IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



**Future Proofing**  
**Perth's Eastern Region**  
ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE



**REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE  
ADAPTATION ACTION PLAN  
2009-2013**



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**INTRODUCTION**

Perth’s Eastern Region will need to adapt to the new reality that climate change will bring. Some of the impacts will develop slowly while others will be in the form of big events that will shock and devastate communities. Perth’s Eastern Region has no other options except to adapt and be ready for these events. Adaptation is about taking action to avoid, manage or reduce the consequences that will be brought about from climate events. Adapting to climate change must be integrated into day to day planning and risk management activities of Local Government and this discipline must be transferred within local communities.

Perth’s Eastern Region includes urban residential, rural residential, commercial and industrial areas, as well as extensive natural areas and agricultural land within the Eastern Swan Coastal Plain and the Darling Ranges. Scientific modelling indicates that the South West of Western Australia including Perth’s Eastern Region will continue to be hard hit by forecast reductions in rainfall, increased temperatures and further reductions in surface and groundwater resources.

<b>How Climate Change is Likely to affect Perth’s Eastern Region</b>	
Climate change impacts for 2030 have been predicted to include (IPCC 2007, IOCI 2005):	Our Climate in 2070:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WA will be hotter, particularly in inland regions. Expected average temperature will increase 0.5 to 2 degrees.</li> <li>• Annual average number of days above 35 degrees could increase from the current 28 days to 29 – 48 days.</li> <li>• WA will be dryer, particularly in the South West. Rainfall reductions of 2 to 20% in annual rainfall with a 17% reduction in winter rain days and catchment runoff decreases of 5 to 40% are expected.</li> <li>• Sea-level will increase by 3 to 17 cm.</li> <li>• More frequent heat waves per year.</li> <li>• More frequent and severe droughts.</li> <li>• Increased bushfire risk.</li> <li>• Increased storm and flooding intensity.</li> <li>• More frequent and intense tropical cyclone occurrence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WA average temperature will continue to rise. Expected average temperature will increase up to 3 to 4 degrees.</li> <li>• Perth's annual average number of days above 35°C could increase from the current 28 days to 36 – 67 days.</li> <li>• WA will continue to become drier, with rainfall reductions of 5 to 20%.</li> <li>• Sea level will increase by 25 to 75 cm.</li> <li>• More frequent heat waves per year.</li> <li>• More frequent and severe droughts – up to 80% more droughts than current patterns.</li> <li>• Increased bushfire risk.</li> <li>• Increased storm and flooding intensity.</li> <li>• More frequent and intense tropical cyclone occurrence.</li> </ul>

Climate change represents a huge challenge for Local Government, including impacts

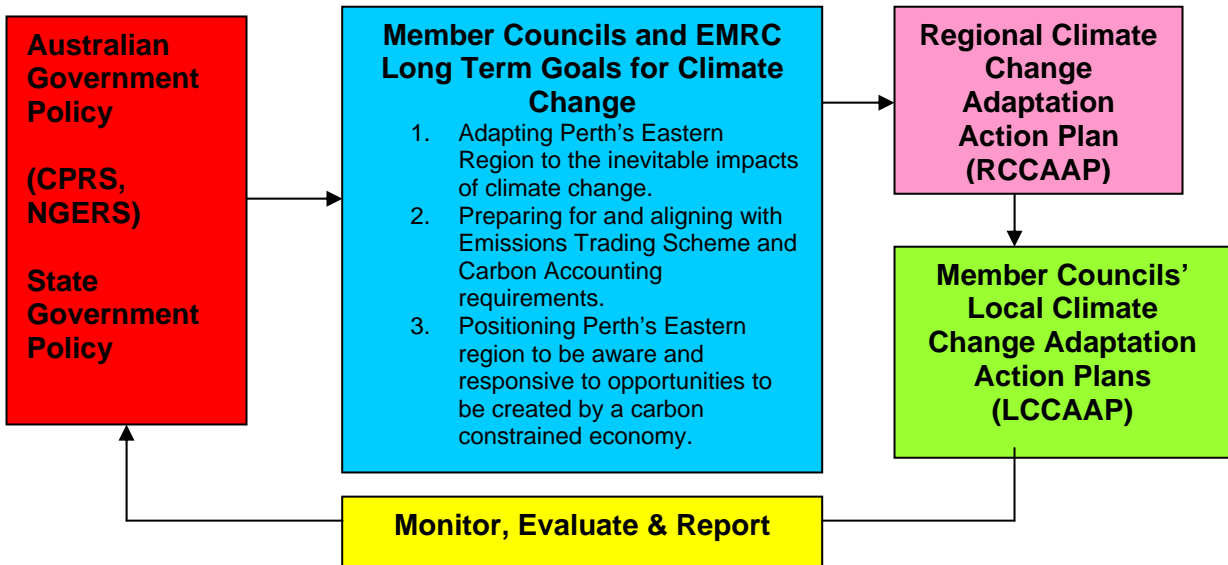
on infrastructure, land use planning, biodiversity, environmental health, fire and emergency services as well as parks and reserve management. Other broader key risks include the potential for changing economic viability of local industries and social dislocation.

Climate change can also present new opportunities whereby action taken to adapt will generate significant social and environmental benefits and this will lead to more vibrant and resilient societies. Climate change brings forth immense opportunities for building a new economy and if done well Perth's Eastern Region could position itself as an economic hub for the Perth's Metropolitan area and this in turn will bring wealth and prosperity to the Region. Opportunities for new emerging industry can include developing leading edge sustainable agriculture systems in the region, becoming a leader in water management technology, attracting renewable energy and 'clean tech' sector businesses and jobs, and setting up and attracting biotechnology research companies to the Region.

Mitigation continues to form a component of adaptation as it is only through continuing the commitment to reducing carbon emissions that climate change trends can be slowed or even halted.

The EMRC and its six member Councils - Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont, Shire of Kalamunda, Shire of Mundaring and City of Swan have collaborated to undertake a comprehensive regional risk assessment to identify impacts and associated actions that will need to be undertaken in order to better prepare the region's community to adapt itself under the pressures climate change will bring.

**REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION**



The outcome of the collaboration of the region's Local Government authorities has resulted in the *Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (RCCAAP)* which consolidates information collected from the *Future Proofing Perth's Eastern Region - Adapting to Climate Change* workshops held with the EMRC and its member Council

Officers in February 2009, as well as from the EMRC *Adapting to Climate Change Issues Paper*, the *Draft Risk Analysis Report*, and the *Draft Adaptation Action Plan Report*.

The *RCCAAP* will provide a lead document that will clearly delineate what needs to be done at the regional level to adapt to climate change. The *RCCAAP* is a key component of the regional strategic framework for climate change and will pave the way for the EMRC and its member Councils to take climate change adaptation to the next step and to develop Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans (LCCAAP) for each of the member Councils. The two levels of planning will enable alignment of the work that needs to be done within the region through a well planned approach and will ensure that all member Councils are well placed to adapt to the challenges that are presented by climate change.

### **THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN ADAPTATION**

Climate change adaptation will involve all levels of government as well as the business and residential communities. While government will be a key player the role of business and individuals in the community will also be critical because the scope and scale of adaptation is different to mitigation and taking action to adapt will clearly be seen as being in the best interest of individuals.

The Australian Government will have an important role to provide research on national priorities and to share knowledge and provide funding for adaptation measures. The Australian Government will also need to strengthen Australian Standards and Building Codes for improved infrastructure construction that will adjust Australia's asset stocks to withstand climate change.

State and Local Government will have a clear role in leading and implementing adaptation strategies into the communities. The relationship between the State and Local Government will be a critical success factor in achieving the action required. A key role for State Government will be to provide vulnerability assessment research and climate modelling so that Local Government's can make good planning decisions around the provision of community infrastructure.

In addressing climate change effectively for Perth's Eastern Region there will need to be significant pressure placed upon the State Government to recognise their role and to commence institutional alignment and resourcing of State Agencies to focus upon climate change adaptation.

### **VISION STATEMENT**

*Perth's Eastern Region will be a leader in climate change adaptation taking advantage of the opportunities created in a carbon constrained economy and evoking a sense of security, awareness and empowerment for residents living in the region.*

The vision will be achieved through the application of a best practice risk management framework that sets strong, clear goals and is underpinned by sustainable principles that drive all actions outlined in this plan.

## **AIM AND PRINCIPLES**

The aim of the *RCCAAP* is to provide a risk management approach and to clarify and develop regional and local policy and planning within the respective jurisdictions in order to enable the EMRC and its member Councils to adapt to the specific issues of climate change in Perth's Eastern Region.

The *RCCAAP* will address key issues by aiming to:

- 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 accommodates a changed climate;
- Identify and support vulnerable communities in the 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 Perth's Eastern region as a landscape ideal for economic opportunities resulting from climate change such as such as new industry, markets and technologies to locate in the Region.

The following principles will underpin all future planning of initiatives relating to climate change adaptation within the region, while also addressing the key drivers for change.

The key principles are to:

- Value and engage with all stakeholders in planning for climate change and provide opportunities for networking and information sharing across stakeholders;
- Enable and involve senior Local Government officers in the integration of climate change adaptation into Local Government planning and operations;
- Gain support and momentum for climate change action in Perth's Eastern Region;
- Identify, analyse and evaluate key climate change risks to Local Government;
- Identify priorities and partnerships to fill information gaps;
- Identify and plan local and regional adaptation responses to address climate change risks;
- Gain the endorsement and ongoing support of all member Councils to implement actions required to effectively future proof Perth's Eastern Region;
- Demonstrate that the EMRC and member Councils are leaders in understanding and adapting to climate change;
- Ensure that Local Government planning schemes and development plans for commercial and residential development reflect the principles of future proofing Perth's Eastern Region for climate change;

- Identify opportunities that can arise from climate change and exploit them to benefit the Region; and
- Ensure community awareness and engagement occurs during planning and implementation processes.

### **PRIORITY RISK AREAS**

The *RCCAAP* comprises of 10 priority risk areas which contain actions for implementing climate change adaptation across Perth’s Eastern Region.

The 10 Priority Risk Areas identified, listed in no particular order, are found in the table below.

<b>Number</b>	<b>Priority Risk Areas</b>
1	Infrastructure Failure
2	Impacts on Essential Services (Power Loss and Water Availability)
3	Watercourse Damage and Loss
4	Increasing Bushfires
5	Water Decline and Reduced Water Quality
6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Related Air Pollution
7	Loss of Ecosystems and Provision of Public Open Space
8	Decline in Population Health and Displaced Wellbeing
9	Economic Challenges and Opportunities
10	Changing Leadership and Development Requirements

Note: Some actions cross over more than one priority risk area.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

It is recognised that some of the actions identified within the *RCCAAP* may be able to be integrated into larger scale projects, such as the actions relating to planning and those relating to advocacy. These linkages will become more apparent as the plan moves into its implementation phase.

## **TIMEFRAMES**

The timeframes link to Local Government planning and budget cycles and were selected based on an understanding of the regional context in which the action would be implemented. This four year Plan will address each of the priority risk areas in turn and identify the actions necessary to achieve the objectives.

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Immediate	2009 - 2010	Actions to be completed in 2009-2010
Short term	2010 - 2011	Actions to be completed in 2010-2011
Medium term	2011- 2012	Actions to be completed in 2011-2012
Long term	2012 - 2013	Actions to be completed in 2012-2013
Ongoing	Are in progress and will continue as part of business as usual	Some activities within the RCCAAP have already commenced by virtue of other programs/projects being undertaken to date. These activities complement and support climate change adaptation and for that reason are being reflected in this Plan but will also be delivered through other Plans.

## **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The *RCCAAP* will be monitored annually to determine progress against the Plan. An annual progress report will be developed for member Councils outlining achievements to date and reporting on any issues or changes that may have occurred that will require minor adjustment to the Plan.

A major review will be undertaken in 2012-13 to identify future action that might be needed and to seek member Council support and agreement to continue to pursue climate change action.

## GLOSSARY

Adaptation	Making adjustments to existing activities and practices so that vulnerability to potential impacts associated with climate change can be reduced or opportunities realised.
Adaptation Action	Specific tasks required to ensure that the adaptation measure is implemented.
Acid Sulfate Soil	A soil with naturally occurring sediments that contain sulfides that have or may have the potential to generate sulfuric acid when exposed to air.
Algal Bloom	Algal blooms are the proliferation of either macroalgae (seaweed) or surface scum accumulation or brightly coloured water due to microalgae (phytoplankton).
Climate Change	A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.
Disease Vectors	An organism that does not cause disease itself but that transmits infection by conveying pathogens from one host to another, serving as a route of transmission.
Peak Oil	Peak oil is the point in time when the maximum rate of global petroleum extraction is reached, after which the rate of production enters terminal decline.
Resilience	The ability of human or natural systems to withstand, recover from or adapt to significant pressures and stresses without losing their essential characteristics.
Riparian	The area of land bordering a waterway, where the structure, function and composition of the landscape are influenced by the waterway.

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

AS – Australian Standard  
ASS – Acid Sulfate Soils  
ATSE – Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering  
BCA – Building Code of Australia  
BOM – Bureau of Meteorology  
CCP – Cities for Climate Protection  
CLAG - Co-ordinating Local Authorities Group  
CSIRO – Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation  
DEC – Department of Environment and Conservation  
DIA – Department of Indigenous Affairs  
DOH – Department of Health  
DOHg – Department of Housing  
DOW – Department of Water  
DOP– Department of Planning  
EMRC – Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council  
EPA – Environmental Protection Authority  
FESA – Fire and Emergency Services Authority  
HCWA – Heritage Council of WA  
LCCAAP- Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans  
LGIS – Local Government Insurance Services  
MRS – Metropolitan Regional Scheme  
MRWA – Main Roads WA  
PASS – Potential Acid Sulfate Soils  
PER – Perth’s Eastern Region  
PTA – Public Transport Authority  
RCCAAP – Regional Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan  
RAS – Regional Advocacy Strategy  
RES – Regional Economic Strategy  
RITS – Regional Integrated Transport Strategy  
SHRMF – Swan and Helena River Management Framework  
SRT – Swan River Trust  
WALGA – WA Local Government Association  
WAPC – WA Planning Commission  
WC – Water Corporation  
WP – Western Power  
WQIP – Water Quality Improvement Plan

## **Priority Risk Area 1 – Infrastructure Failure**

Climate change factors such as drought, bushfires and extreme temperatures have the potential to impact upon physical infrastructure. Extreme rainfall and flooding may also effect low lying developments, drainage, storm water and sewerage (ATSE, 2008) whilst bushfires will impact on community buildings and public open spaces. Local Governments may be faced with changing requirements in relation to higher building and construction standards when planning for and maintaining Local Government assets.

Local Government infrastructure, including roads, building and drainage may all require higher costs for maintenance, more frequent repair and maintenance schedules and additional costs for upgrading. Water tables may drop if the demand on aquifers increases during drier summers, and shrinking and drying of clay soil may also increase subsidence. As soil dries, trees send out longer and deeper roots, which may cause problems with foundations and drains.

Paving-over of open ground for roads, footpaths, driveways, and paved gardens has contributed to this problem and prevents rainwater from soaking into the ground and replenishing aquifers. Shallow foundations of buildings can be vulnerable to the natural expansion and contraction of the ground particularly in areas where clay dominates. Acid sulfate soils exposed by falling groundwater tables can degrade below ground infrastructure such as drainage pipes.

Climate change also poses risks to regional transport links and transport mechanisms. This relates to several factors including the high number of population centres in the region that are not yet well served by public transport networks. Although some of these costs are borne by other levels of Government, the EMRC and its member Councils have a role in ensuring that the region's needs are well understood by these Government agencies.

Although most of Australia's physical infrastructure has been designed to resist the effects of climate loading there is a need for comprehensive risk assessments to be conducted on existing and new infrastructure to ensure that they are resistant to climate change (ATSE, 2008).

### **Objective(s)**

- To ensure that Local Government infrastructure in Perth's Eastern Region is resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- To ensure Local Government has the skills and training to deliver new and higher standards for infrastructure provision.
- To ensure the relevant data required to support infrastructure planning is in place.

Action Required		Timeframe	Risk Level
1.1	Advocate to Department of Planning to hold workshops with Local Government Planners to ensure appropriate planning frameworks are in place to address climate change.	Immediate	High
1.2	Advocate to DOW to utilise and update existing flood modelling to identify priority areas and infrastructure across the region at high risk of flooding. Disseminate on ground implications information to member Councils.	Immediate	High
1.3	Advocate to DOW/WC to provide maps of areas in region at high risk of subsidence due to lowering of the groundwater table which may lead to building subsidence and damage to built assets. Disseminate on ground implications information to member Councils.	Immediate	High
1.4	Investigate the benefits of the EMRC joining the Green Building Council of Australia. If feasible to join then provide relevant information to member Councils to assist with factoring in green building design when building or renovating community assets.	Short	Low
1.5	Investigate a risk assessment framework that provides for best practice approach to undertaking risk assessments on climate change upon specific infrastructure (e.g. roads, paths, play areas etc). Provide training to member Councils on how to use the framework.	Short	Low
1.6	Investigate and feedback to member Councils on actions Water Corporation are undertaking with drainage in relation to climate change.	Medium	High
1.7	Provide advice to member Councils on the risks to infrastructure and effective adaptation strategies developed through the ongoing development of the National Adaptation Research Plan (NARP).	Medium	Medium
1.8	Identify existing information, gaps and partnerships in relation to the impacts of climate change on Local Government infrastructure (i.e. roads, paths drainage) in Perth's Eastern Region. Share information with member Councils.	Medium	Medium
1.9	Undertake a regional project developing guidelines that could be incorporated into Local Planning Schemes and development of guidance notes, checklists and Local Planning Policies that member Councils could adopt.	Long	Medium

	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
1.10	Advocate MRWA to improve signage along roads in areas which may be increasingly subject to flood risk.	Long	Medium
1.11	<p>Advocate for a review of Australian Standard 2870—1996 for Residential slabs and footings - Construction to ensure adequate climate change tolerances have been considered in relation to ground subsidence.</p> <p>Advocate to State Government/WAPC to support codes of practice for ground subsidence and to develop guidance notes for Local Government to support the Australian Standard.</p>	Long	Medium
1.12	Through the SHRMF, advocate to WAPC to acquire land in areas at high risk of flooding i.e. along foreshore and within close proximity to Local Government infrastructure and incorporate appropriate buffers to development along the foreshore.	Ongoing	Medium

## **Priority Risk Area 2 – Impacts on Essential Services**

### **2.1 Power Loss**

The provision of power and energy are essential services provided for by the State Government and as such Local Government has limited ability to influence future proofing of these services other than through advocacy.

Disruption to electricity and fuel and/or power supplies may result in consequences such as increased electricity and fuel costs; lack of access to air conditioning and lighting; and disruptions to medical equipment, refrigeration and commercial equipment, resulting in various negative health and financial consequences.

Local Government is a large consumer of power through its street lighting program, whereby the infrastructure for street lighting is owned by the State, Local Government pays tariffs for the power consumed. Street lighting is an area that Local Government needs to consider this service under climate change scenario.

Underground power is an important mitigating option for disruption to power services, however the State operates the underground power program and has supported a funding policy that is not financially viable to residents in Perth's Eastern Region.

Under Peak Oil scenarios petrol prices are estimated to escalate upwards to eight dollars a litre by 2018 (Infrastructure Australia, 2008). Increased fuel costs are likely to have flow on impacts to food production, food transport and transport mobility for member Council residents. There may be a need for Local Government to upgrade its energy infrastructure to cope with the changing climate conditions.

#### **Objective(s)**

- Strongly advocate for improved power services to minimise power disruption to the region.
- Investigate and encourage means for introducing greater uptake of viable energy alternatives for the region.
- Help communities and business understand the impact of rising fuel prices under peak oil scenario.

<b>Action</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
2.1.1	Advocate to State Government regarding the need to decrease the disruption of power supply to the region by increasing funding support for alternatives to overhead power.	Immediate	High
2.1.2	Investigate current research and directions on power and fuel supply solutions and technologies and keep member Councils informed through the development of a bi-annual climate change newsletter.	Immediate	Low
2.1.3	Advocate to State Government agencies to develop a public awareness campaign of the potential impacts of climate change and how they may affect electricity and fuel supply.	Short	High
2.1.4	Advocate to State Government and Australian Government for measured incentives for alternative energy and improve energy efficiency through the continuation of rebate schemes for installation of insulation, renewable energy systems, solar hot water systems in private residences and local industry and promote schemes through existing community communication channels across the region.	Short	High

## 2.2 Water Availability

Water shortages and climate change are two of the most important environmental issues for Australians according to a recent report by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Climate is a fundamental driver of the water cycle. It determines how much water is available for use in the short and long term. In addition to natural variability, increased concentrations of greenhouse gases are leading to a long term trend which superimposes on the natural variability, as is the case with a winter drying trend over south-west Western Australia since the late 1960s.

The sustainability of water systems, irrigation systems, farming systems and dryland landscapes is dependent on climate variability and the transition to climate resilience with regards to water availability is a shared journey, a partnership between Water Corporation, State Government and Local Government, households, business, industry, agriculture and schools to ensure that Perth's Eastern Region and surrounding areas can adapt to the drying climate and ensure enough water for future generations.

Objectives:

- Continue to encourage and raise awareness of increased water efficiency throughout the region.
- To advocate to State Government to achieve positive outcomes in the area of sustainable water management.
- To ensure that member Councils' water conservation issues are addressed.

Action		Timeframe	Risk Level
2.2.1	Increase awareness of water efficiency through ensuring this topic is included in all opportunities, such as through 'Living Smart' and the Water Campaign™, where community engagement is occurring throughout the region.	Immediate	High
2.2.2	Investigate BCA regulations on grey water retrofitting for all building types and provide ongoing updates on progress to member Councils.	Short	Extreme
2.2.3	Advocate State Government to support/strengthen regulations that call for water efficiency targets and expand greywater reuse application areas including indoor use.	Short	High
2.2.4	Investigate Code of Practice for the Reuse of Greywater in Western Australia (2005) to determine approved applications of greywater and provide ongoing information support to member Councils.	Short	High
2.2.5	Investigate Australian Guidelines for Water Recycling: Storm Water Harvesting and Reuse	Short	High

	(draft May 2008) with a focus on rainwater harvesting and reuse. Provide ongoing information support to member Councils.		
2.2.6	Advocate to State Government for increased resources for enforcement of regulations relating to downstream water supply.	Long	High

### **Priority Risk Area 3 – Watercourse Damage and Loss**

Perth's Eastern region contains a major portion of Perth's most iconic strategic asset – the Swan River. In ensuring the ongoing future proofing of the Swan River, its tributaries and catchments within Perth's Eastern region, four (4) sub risk groups have been identified that require specific focus and attention given the significant impacts each has upon the River under climate change scenario.

#### **3.1 Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) and Potential Acid Sulfate Soils (PASS)**

Watercourses in Perth's Eastern Region are used for both public and private extraction and provide important environmental flows supporting wetlands and groundwater-dependent vegetation. Falling groundwater tables and pressure for inner city high rise density development in an around waterways have the potential to expose potential acid sulfate soils (PASS). Soils with a high to moderate PASS risk occur in the interdunal swales, flats and creeklines such as Ashfield Flats, Baigup, parts of Ascot or Viveash. Rural areas such as Wooroloo also face potential threat from acid sulfate soils.

#### **Objectives**

- To increase community awareness of Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) and Potential Acid Sulfate Soils (PASS).
- To ensure that Local Government Officers have access to the best practice information that will assist in management of Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) and Potential Acid Sulfate Soils (PASS).

<b>Action</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
3.1.1	Increase awareness of ASS (in liaison with DEC) and provide all relevant local government officers across the region with ongoing information and developments in relation to ASS.	Medium	Medium
3.1.2	Provide a forum for all relevant local government officers and other stakeholders who have an interest in learning or updating their knowledge about ASS.	Long	Low
3.1.3	Advocate to the State Government for improved mapping of ASS & PASS identifying locations and advising Member Councils of risk areas.	Long	Medium

### 3.2 Foreshore erosion and subsidence

Foreshore erosion and subsidence poses a significant risk to infrastructure, vegetation and habitat along waterways. It also can be a risk to public safety and amenity. Rigid building structures along the river foreshores such as dual use paths, bridges, jetties, retaining wall and sandy beach fronts as are at risk from erosion and subsidence. As sea level rises occur and flooding from increased storm activity the river and its community assets will be under threat unless adaption measures are put in place sooner rather than later.

The Swan Helena River Management Framework provides for a strategic approach to addressing the issues of foreshore erosion and its support for its ongoing implementation will be critical to providing for increasing pressure that will be placed upon the river and its catchment under climate change scenario.

#### **Objective(s)**

- To increase community and political awareness of stream bank erosion and subsidence.
- To ensure that Local Government Officers have best practice guidelines and information that assist in the management of stream bank erosion and subsidence.

<b>Action</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
3.2.1	Work with WAPC and SRT to support an improved understanding and application of best practice stabilisation techniques for private landholders of foreshores within the region.	Short	Medium
3.2.2	Increase community awareness and behaviour change towards river bank erosion and subsidence issues affecting the Swan and Helena Rivers in Perth's Eastern Region through existing regional communication channels and improved signage around the river.	Medium	Medium
3.2.3	Advocate for increased political awareness and funding for regional projects to protect river foreshore assets.	Ongoing	Medium
3.2.4	Promote and provide support for the use of the SRT Best Practice Approaches to Foreshore Stabilisation manual within member Council and advocate to State Government to develop improved policy for river bank management.	Ongoing	Medium

### 3.3 Flooding

Riverine systems are likely to be impacted by alterations to sea levels and tidal and saltwater incursion further up the Swan River (Swan River Trust, 2007) leading to salt water incursion into wetlands and groundwater supplies, flooding of low lying areas and altered biodiversity.

The consequences of increased periodic river flooding events include:

- Damage to infrastructure;
- Higher risks to public safety and therefore higher costs for management, e.g., signage for peak events, temporary road and park closures and diversion of traffic;
- Higher costs for storm water drainage maintenance, repairs and upgrades; and
- Higher emergency management and response costs.

#### **Objective(s)**

- To ensure that Perth's Eastern Regions community infrastructure is resilient to flooding.
- To increase the level of understanding of the possible flooding impacts on Perth's Eastern Region.

<b>Action</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
3.3.1	Factor climate change into project brief for interpretation plan for trails and heritage along Swan and Helena Rivers.	Immediate	Medium
3.3.2	In partnership with SRT, DIA, HCWA and relevant heritage bodies, identify priority places from SHRMF Heritage Audit vulnerable to flooding; investigate research methods for protecting these sites; and seek commitment for funding and monitoring.	Long	Medium

### 3.4 Sedimentation

Drought conditions are likely to exacerbate erosion and downstream sedimentation. Higher sediment loads enter rivers following extreme rainfall events or extreme bushfire events, both of which are projected to increase with climate change. Changed climatic conditions are also likely to produce conditions that favour riparian and aquatic weeds and algal blooms (Australian Government Department of Climate Change, 2009). Sedimentation may also lead to increased blockage of gutters and drains.

Given that Perth's Eastern Region is located in an important catchment area abound by significant industrial and rural land use activities, nutrient loading has already been highlighted in recent studies as being a key issue for the Region.

#### **Objective(s)**

- To increase community awareness of sedimentation issues.
- To ensure that Local Government officers have best practice guidelines and information to assist in the management of sedimentation.

<b>Action</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
3.4.1	Develop and disseminate community information through existing communication mechanisms for educating residents about runoff and sedimentation issues and the role of the local community in reducing the impacts, including access to funding programs for community landcare actions.  Target building and construction i.e. developers, builders, land owners. Hand out with information with building licenses etc	Immediate	Medium
3.4.2	Seek funding for a sustainability/environmental education officer for the region.	Short	Low
3.4.3	Investigate opportunities to work in partnership with SRT and relevant Member Councils through the WQIP process for BMP for drainage (i.e. installation of "living" drains in industrial areas) to minimise sediment in the stormwater system, reduce blockages and improve water quality.	Long	Medium
3.4.4	Promote the utilisation of relevant policy and guidelines within EMRC NRM Policy Manual for managing sedimentation issues.	Ongoing	Medium

## **Priority Risk Area 4 – Increasing Bushfires**

Bushfire management is an issue that will require a shared response from all layers of government and the community. The bulk of scientific evidence argues that the magnitude and intensity of bushfires is expected to rise as a result of climate change. An increase in the intensity and frequency of fire weather is likely to:

- alter the distribution and composition of ecosystems;
- lower the yield and quality of water from fire-affected catchments;
- threaten the security of plantation forests;
- increase smoke-related respiratory illness;
- increase greenhouse gases to the atmosphere;
- increase damage to property, livestock and crops;
- increase the exposure of insurance companies to loss; and
- increase the risk of injury, trauma and death to humans.

(Lucas et al, 2007).

Bushfire risk was a key focus for hills-based Local Governments during the future proofing workshops. The risks to communities from bushfires, including the heightened risks during extreme weather events are self-evident. Bushfire has the potential to take lives, destroy infrastructure and property. As a result of this, the social and economic fabric of local communities or regions can be devastated. Risks to Local Governments include risks to staff involved in fire-fighting or residents in the local areas, Local Government infrastructure and facilities and involvement in rebuilding communities. Further effects on Local Government include disruption to Local Government services, increased demand for Local Governments to address fire risks related to development and land management, as well as impacts on land and reserve management by Local Governments.

It also includes higher costs through loss and damage of both public and private infrastructure, loss of natural vegetation and the loss of the significant community and Local Government investment in environmental management. The costs to Local and State Government for provision and support of career and volunteer services, facilities, equipment and training would rise as would the costs to volunteers from missed employment. Flow on costs may include higher costs for bushfire education, awareness and compliance monitoring costs. Secondary costs would also rise, such as health costs from lower air quality impacting on respiratory illnesses and rising insurance premiums in bushfire risk areas.

### **Objective(s)**

- Ensure that the EMRC and its member Councils and their communities recognise the shared responsibility for fire management and are well prepared for the challenge.
- Ensure that the Region has the best possible bush fire coordination response in place.

<b>Action</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
4.1	Increase awareness within the community of acceptable burning regimes to improve air quality by disseminating community information through existing communication channels.	Immediate	High
4.2	Advocate, support and encourage FESA to increase awareness of bushfire in Perth's Eastern Region including mitigation and control measures.  Disseminate community information through existing communication mechanisms and channels for educating residents about bushfire issues (climate change) and the role of the local community in reducing the impacts.	Immediate	Medium
4.3	Facilitate a forum of relevant Member Council planning and fire control officers and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. FESA) to discuss issues in relation to the built environment and bushfire risk in a changing climate.	Medium	Medium
4.4	Advocate for a change to the Bushfire Act to authorise Local Governments to act all year to order pre-season work.	Medium	Medium
4.5	Advocate to State Government to improve communication infrastructure for emergency warnings.	Long	Medium

## **Priority Risk Area 5 – Water Decline and Reduced Water Quality**

The consequences of reduced rainfall and declining groundwater tables include higher costs for managing natural water features in parks and reserves such as creeklines and lakes/wetlands. These costs may include management of botulism outbreaks at more locations and over longer periods than is current, replacement or re-establishment of vegetation lost through changing hydrology, higher costs for monitoring vegetation and for analysing and responding to observed changes. This may also impact upon the orchards of the hills and the vineyards of the Swan Valley. These two industries provide direct economic benefit to the region as well as visitor attractions linked to the identity of these areas. Climate change may impact on the direct viability of these primary industries.

Reduced water quality leading to illness and disease is also a concern with consequences such as increased prices and increased competition for water. This may also have impacts on public health programs and result in more demands on Local Government Environmental Health Officers.

Salinity is another significant environmental problem. While salt is naturally present in many of our landscapes, farming practices which replaced native vegetation with crops and pastures have caused an increase in salinity on the land and water resources.

### **Objective(s)**

- To ensure water resources are well managed within Perth's Eastern Region.
- To provide ongoing education to the community on best practice water management.
- To research and investigate ways to better manage water and vector borne disease.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
5.1 Through the Water Campaign support member Councils in identifying sites across the region such as leisure and community centres where greywater use will not pose a problem to human health or the receiving environment.  Continue to share water quality best management practice information.	Short	High
5.2 Keep abreast of State and Australian Govt research on the potential changes in rainfall and identify impacts on the region to water resources and advise member Councils.	Medium	Extreme
5.3 Advocate to the State Government for valid and user friendly reports on water quality monitoring of surface and groundwaters throughout the region.	Medium	High

Action	Timeframe	Risk Level
5.4 Advocate to DOH in relation to the introduction of appropriate legislation for ongoing monitoring and soil testing for sites where greywater is applied, and for greater regulation on compliance of health issues with respect to greywater and rainwater.	Long	Medium
5.5 Advocate to State Government to consider ways for providing sewerage services to industrial areas, and other areas where feasible to address water quality and leaching issues.	Long	High
5.6 Continue to support Member Councils water quality and water conservation actions through the Water Campaign™ programme, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory and data management;</li> <li>• Action planning;</li> <li>• Water efficient appliances;</li> <li>• Rainwater tanks; and</li> <li>• Greywater use.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Low

## **Priority Risk Area 6 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Related Air Pollution.**

Perth's Eastern Region will face some difficult challenges when it comes to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and potential air pollution. The Region contains Western Australia's major airport, heavy transport networks, large industrial sectors and significantly lacks in efficient public transportation services in and across the Region. All these aspects will give rise to vehicle dependency and increasing pollution. It also creates opportunities for reducing air pollution from improved public transport networks, and transitions to fuel efficient or hybrid vehicle technologies.

The establishment of a carbon price at the national level will be a key driver for emissions reduction across the Region; Local Government and the business community will need support in understanding its implications.

In 2006 Western Australia was recorded as the State with the third highest level of emissions per person in Australia. Local Government in Perth's Eastern Region has been actively reducing emissions through the Cities for Climate Protection Program, however it is recognised that this alone will not solve the issue. The Australian Government has a key role in mechanisms to reduce emissions, with the State Government playing a key role in monitoring and driving policy and statutory mechanisms to reduce air pollution and improve air quality. Business and community sectors also have key roles.

As Local Governments continue to incorporate eco friendly practices into operations, at the regional level there will be an ongoing need to keep member Councils abreast of new efficiency technologies, national and state policy making (such as the Emissions Trading Scheme) so that Perth's Eastern Region is well positioned not only to adapt for climate change but also to seize opportunities that will also arise.

<b>State/Territory</b>	<b>Emissions per tonnes per person</b>
NT	76.9
Queensland	41.8
WA	34.2
NSW	23.5
Victoria	23.5
SA	17.9
Tasmania	17.4
ACT	3.3

Source -State and Territory per capita emissions of greenhouse (AGO, 2006)

### **Objective(s)**

- To facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy in Perth's Eastern Region.
- To provide education to the community on of the need for emissions reduction.

Action		Timeframe	Risk Level
6.1	Monitor development on the Australian Government's policy making front in relation to the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), National Greenhouse and Energy and Reporting Framework (NGERS) and the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency and provide advice and any opportunities to member Councils.	Immediate	Low
6.2	Investigate options for an emission abatement measuring process that can be utilised in accord with the introduction of ETS and report to member Councils.	Immediate	Low
6.3	Work with State Government through the Perth Solar City project to assist Local Governments and their communities to adapt to a low carbon environment by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promoting the use of solar technologies to generate energy and hot water,</li> <li>• undertaking a smart grid pilot program,</li> <li>• trialling direct load control mechanisms and simpler time of use tariffs to reduce energy use and costs,</li> <li>• implementing a Living Smart program in the region,</li> <li>• providing free home energy audits</li> <li>• Implementing demonstration projects at Local Government facilities to demonstrate solar technologies and energy efficiency and demand measures; and</li> <li>• provide opportunities for home owners, tenants, schools and businesses to participate in the Perth Solar City project.</li> <li>• Undertake a cost payback study for installing renewable energy infrastructure such as solar lighting on public buildings.</li> </ul>	Short	Medium
6.4	Advocate to Western Power/Synergy for the establishment of a suburb/Local Government area database of energy consumption levels and disseminate with electricity bills.	Long	Medium
6.5	Continue to support member Councils in their emission mitigations actions.	Ongoing	Medium

## **Priority Risk Area 7 – Loss of Ecosystems and Provision of Public Open Space**

The natural ecosystems in Perth's Eastern Region are already under stress and climate change will add further major pressure. Natural ecosystems are important to all aspects of life as they provide ecosystem services essential for all life as well as supporting regional industries and economies. A healthy natural environment is also essential for the health and well being of local communities by providing recreational opportunities. Climate change presents a real challenge for the Perth's Eastern Region in maintaining the current level of provision and amenity of sporting, recreational and leisure facilities. Local Government is required to balance finite resources against the community's expectations for increasing access to high quality public open spaces while also complying with a range of statutory obligations being placed upon them by state and federal agencies relating to aspects of public open space provision. These include protection, rehabilitation and management of areas of the conservation, assessment and reporting provisions for water usage and a range of sustainability initiatives.

Failure to build resilience into our natural ecosystems and help them to adapt to climate change will result in far reaching consequences with many animal and plant species being lost forever.

It has been predicted (IPCC, 2005) that up to 30% of local species may be lost in southwest ecosystems as reduced water availability and increasing temperatures adversely impact on biodiversity. Climate change has the potential to change the nature and extent of threatening processes, to what extent is still to be fully established through research, modelling and evidence.

Reduced rainfall and changed temperature regimes may result in local native species being unable to breed or survive in their current habitats. Fragmentation resulting from past development means that species are likely to be replaced by invasive weed species, which may change bushfire fuel loads. Grassy weeds in particular contribute to more evenly spaced continuous fuel loads compared to natural woodlands facilitating bushfire spread, which speeds the process into a vicious cycle of loss impacting on human safety and infrastructure as well as environmental assets and values.

Falling groundwater levels and reduced groundwater allocations, increasing evaporation and urban expansion are also set to present a significant challenge for governance, policy development and management concerning the ongoing provision of irrigated sports grounds, public open spaces, verges and medians across Perth's Eastern Region.

Diverse and resilient ecosystems can better withstand disturbances such as fire, drought and invasive species and such systems can also store carbon over time. The interconnection between human and natural systems can be an opportunity to secure a better quality of life for Perth's Eastern Region.

## **Objectives**

- To build ecosystem resilience across Perth's Eastern Region.
- To promote, encourage and support sustainable land management within the community.
- To ensure the ongoing provision of adequate public open space within Perth's Eastern Region.
- To create, develop and implement improved sustainable public open space management practices.

<b>Action</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
7.1	Seek information from SRT on progress of oxygenation river project and advise member Councils of the outcomes.	Immediate	Medium
7.2	Research existing best management practice guidelines on pest and weed management in relation to climate change and refer material to member Councils.  Provide a coordinated approach to funding and activities.	Medium	Medium
7.3	Work with relevant member Councils and other stakeholders to identify and progress mechanisms to enable landowners to understand and mitigate the impacts of climate change on the natural features on their properties (particularly along the river, watercourses and bushland areas).	Long	Medium

## **Priority Risk Area 8 – Decline in Population Health and Wellbeing**

There is a growing recognition that climate change will have significant impacts on human health and populations. The increase in people suffering from disease and injury due to heatwaves and severe weather impacts such as floods, fires and storms will lead to ever increasing issues with mental health and stress and displaced and homeless people.

### **8.1 Health**

There may be an increased workload for Environmental Health Officers and management requirements to deal with potential health risks associated with changing climate including increased risk of vector, food and water borne disease as seasonal epidemics such as Ross River virus spread south with changing climatic conditions and increased injury levels sustained as a result of more frequent extreme weather conditions (floods, cyclones, gales).

There may be consequences for Local Governments whose facilities may not have adequate heating and cooling particularly with aged care and childcare facilities. There may also be additional occupational health and safety concerns particularly for outdoor workers.

#### **Objective(s)**

- To ensure that community are aware of the health impacts of climate change.
- To ensure that vulnerable groups are supported and able to adapt.

<b>Action</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
8.1.1	Advocate to State Government to develop education program to assist vulnerable community members to protect them against heat stress.	Short	Extreme
8.1.2	Provide staff training/education on potential mental, physical and social health impacts of heat stress, vector-borne disease etc.	Short	High
8.1.3	Review and update event risk management guidelines for events held in the region in relation to health implication of climate change e.g. heat stress, mosquito vector-borne disease.	Long	High

## 8.2 Displaced People

Displaced populations was identified as being a high risk to Local Government services and operations, with climate change possibly resulting in increased urban immigration on a regional, national and international level. Rising sea levels could see “climate refugees” relocate to Australia with consequences for Local Governments such as increased pressure for social services and social issues, pressure to develop current undeveloped lands may also result with a need to meet increasing housing pressure.

### Objective(s)

- o Ensure that vulnerable groups are supported and able to adapt.

<b>Action</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
8.2.1	Advocate to the State/Australian Government to ensure they have a robust policy on displaced people due to climate change. Seek advice on potential intake/Increased population (climate change refugees) and potential impacts on housing targets and community services.	Long	High

## **Priority Risk Area 9 – Economic – Challenges and Opportunities**

Business and industry across Perth's Eastern Region may experience displacement due to climate change impacts. Often cited examples include loss of vineyards in the Swan Valley and orchards in the Perth Hills due to increases in temperature and humidity.

Business, industry and community may incur increased financial pressure as service provider costs rise to meet rising charges in areas including; water, fuel, electricity and Local Government rates. Flow on political implications may prevent service providers from further increasing costs to pay for the built and natural inputs, in turn adding to the fiscal impost on Local Government.

Increased costs and liability risks to member Council's services and operations are likely with possible increased insurance premiums also adding pressure.

Local Government has always been at the forefront of supporting communities to deal with climate change. The growing role of Local Government in strategic planning to foster economic development provides it with the mandate to support adaptation and innovation by existing industries; to facilitate a change in the industry mix to better match the altered climatic, economic and planning and regulatory conditions; and to attract new industries offering solutions to climate change. Early adopters will reap the greatest benefit for their communities and local economy, as new product markets emerge in response to climate change and changing global economics.

Perth's Eastern Region has a competitive advantage given its inland location from vulnerable coastal conditions and spread of existing residential, commercial and industrial areas; employment self sufficiency and self containment rates are also much better than other corridors of Perth's metropolitan area. The WAPC's "Directions 2031 - Draft Spatial Framework for Perth and Peel" estimates that the current 63% employment self-sufficiency will increase to 75% by 2031. This, combined with a forecast population growth of 37% for the North East Sub-region by 2031 will require a creating an additional 42,000 jobs and an additional 40,000 dwellings.

Access and provision of transport in and around the region will be a critical success factor for enabling local employment and local economic growth. The future of transport in the region will need to shift from car dependency to alternative modes of transport and this issue will become a major responsibility for local government. In particular, industries that require high inputs of carbon/energy and imported materials will be vulnerable, whereas industries requiring low levels of imports and carbon energy will yield opportunities, such as service industries including health and education.

### **Objective(s)**

- To position Perth's Eastern Region to recognise and seize opportunities for new and innovative business development and investment.
- To ensure that the EMRC and its member Councils are prepared for potential economic impacts from climate change liability issues.
- To facilitate integrated land use and transport planning, encouraging alternative transport modes to reduce car dependency.

<b>Action</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
9.1	Investigate and develop business growth and investment attraction strategies to maximise the opportunities presented in the 'Clean Technology' industry sector.	Short	High
9.2	Develop and implement strategies to increase employment self-sufficiency over the long term to reduce the need for commuter travel, and the resultant infrastructure, service and energy requirements.	Short	High
9.3	Advocate for increased funding of the Travelsmart Program to enable continuation of existing programs with Belmont and Swan and expansion beyond.	Short	Low
9.4	Develop partnerships to design, fund and deliver programs that encourage and assist local businesses to develop the skills to adapt their business practices to the challenges presented by climate change.	Medium	High
9.5	Advocate to the Australian Government to provide consumer rebates/incentives for use of cheaper/cleaner fuel sources.	Medium	High
9.6	Develop a Regional Green Transport Plan to support the community to move to alternative modes of transport and reduce car dependency.	Long	High
9.7	Advocate for improved public transport infrastructure to reduce car dependency.	Ongoing	High

## **Priority Risk Area 10 – Changing Leadership and Development Requirements**

Local Government operations cover an extensive range of activities and extremely large asset portfolios. It is inevitable that most of these activities and assets will be impacted by climate change. Therefore decision makers in Local Government must show leadership and avail themselves of the right tools and information to see problems differently and solve them creatively. The decisions that will come with climate change adaptation will be unprecedented and in a changing decision making environment people will need to have the capacity (mental power) and skills to respond to changes.

The EMRC and member Councils in meeting the challenges that climate change will bring must be prepared to formerly embed climate change into mainstream management and governance decision making, much in the way that sustainability has been embedded. This means that climate change impacts and risks must be explicitly recognised and incorporated across all Local Government plans and procedures.

An improved decision making environment will enable capacity building so that all those involved have access to the rights skills development, training, education and information as it relates to climate change and a carbon economy. By development and rollout of a range of new tools such as lateral thinking and risk assessment and giving this information to the right people, the region will be better equipped to deal with uncertainly and complexity.

A broader issue for climate change adaptation will be to understand the legal liability environment that all levels of government will find themselves embroiled. This will require the clarification of issues and associated legal responsibilities such as disclaimers and insurance requirements protect local government from litigation from climate change events. Insurers will also need to be transparent on matters of indemnification in order to make a level playing field for all. Liability issues for Local Government are an emerging concern, with the Climate Risk Group, an advisor to government and business, advising that developers and Local Governments may face risk litigation for negligence if they fail to factor climate change into planning

### **Objective(s)**

- For Perth's Eastern Region to address climate change by demonstrable leadership and building community and institutional capacity.
- To ensure the EMRC and member Councils have clear understanding of their legal responsibilities for climate change and have a planned strategy to meet their statutory responsibilities.

<b>Action</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
10.1	Facilitate a regional forum on insurance and litigation in relation to climate change impacts for local government.	Immediate	High
10.2	Undertake a program that facilitates the development of Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans (LCCAAP) for all member Councils.	Immediate	High
10.3	Ensure climate change predictions/information is considered in regional decision making processes	Immediate	Medium
10.4	Provide climate change information of particular relevance to member Councils (climate change newsletter).	Immediate	Low
10.5	Advocate to State Government to run workshops on climate change with the community on practical steps to adapt.	Immediate	Low
10.6	Develop a communication and engagement strategy that brings together all the community engagement elements through the RCCAAP in order to deliver the most efficient and cost effective approach.	Immediate	Low
10.7	Investigate costs and seek funding for CSIRO/BOM to develop regional scenarios for climate change. If costs are too high advocate for government funding to support. Use scenarios to determine the impacts on the region and disseminate information to member Councils.	Immediate	Low
10.8	Advocate to Department of Premier and Cabinet and Office of Climate Change to develop a policy position and to build policy cohesion across all agencies in regards to climate change adaptation.	Short	Medium
10.9	Advocate to WALGA to provide leadership in best mitigation and adaptation practices for Local Government.	Short	Low
10.10	Partner with WALGA to survey and identify staff involved in climate affected business units to identify job specific information, training and resources that they will require.  Advocate to WAPC and WALGA to develop training for Planning Officers to assist them assess development applications and ensure buildings	Medium	Medium

<b>Action</b>		<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Risk Level</b>
	comply with State Government adopted environmental design requirements.		
10.11	Advocate to the State and Australian Government's to clarify what are the legal liabilities facing the three levels of government with respect to climate change.	Medium	High
10.12	Advocate to WALGA to develop Councillor/Staff training module and conduct workshops on legislative/policy changes to ensure understanding of the legal implications of not enforcing preventative measures.	Medium	Low
10.13	Advocate to BCA/DPI/WAPC to develop standard planning conditions that incorporate climate change. (i.e. building design and construction, building ratings, water savings, subdivision – appropriate development areas etc)	Medium	Low
10.14	Advocate to WALGA and DEC to engage qualified personnel for advice on legal liability relating to climate change.	Medium	Low
10.15	Advocate to universities for the integration of climate change, energy and water efficient building design principles to be incorporated into planning, building and design oriented courses.	Medium	High
10.16	Develop a quality assurance program incorporating a process for assessing/rating planning decisions to ensure climate change risks are considered and can be quantified.	Long	High
10.17	Advocate to DPI/WAPC to incorporate a peer review feedback mechanism into planning decisions to ensure climate change is considered.	Long	Low

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## 9.4 REGIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY – DISCUSSION

**REFERENCE: COMMITTEES-9900**

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Council with a Discussion Paper that presents some of the issues and characteristics of regional advocacy and outlines a proposed framework for development of the Regional Advocacy Strategy.

### KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Council at its meeting on 30 April 2009 endorsed a process for the development of a Regional Advocacy Strategy which included the development of a Discussion Paper to outline research findings, identify guiding principles and set an overall direction for advocacy in the Region.
- The Discussion Paper presents some of the issues and characteristics of regional advocacy; outlines a proposed framework for the Regional Advocacy Strategy and attempts to achieve consensus on the main features of the Regional Advocacy Strategy through identification of key discussion points.
- The Discussion Paper provides an opportunity for member Council's to provide input into the development of the Regional Advocacy Strategy.
- It is envisaged that member Councils will be given the opportunity to provide comment on the Discussion Paper. These comments will then be drawn upon when drafting the Regional Advocacy Strategy document later in 2009.

#### Recommendation(s)

That Council endorses the Regional Advocacy Strategy - Discussion Paper and writes to member Councils requesting their comments on the discussion points raised within the Paper to be provided to the EMRC by 23 October 2009.

### SOURCE OF REPORT

Executive Manager, Regional Services

### BACKGROUND

Council at its meeting on 30 April 2009 (Ref: Committees-9046) resolved inter alia that it "*Endorses the development of a Regional Advocacy Strategy using the approach outlined in that report*".

The report contained a schedule of work that included the development of a Discussion Paper outlining research findings, drafting guiding principles and setting an overall direction.

This phase has now been completed and the Discussion Paper is shown as an attachment to this report.

### REPORT

The development of a Regional Advocacy Strategy (RAS) will provide an overarching framework from which all future advocacy and leveraging activities will be guided using a standardised approach approved by Council. In developing a RAS the EMRC will need to establish principles, standard approaches and guidelines that can underpin and guide strategic advocacy activities and to identify regional short and long term issues that need to be targeted.



#### *Item 9.4 continued*

This Discussion Paper presents some of the issues and characteristics of regional advocacy; outlines a proposed framework for the RAS and attempts to achieve consensus on the main features of the RAS through identification of key discussion points.

The Discussion Paper contains information as follows:

- What is advocacy;
- Why do we need to strengthen our advocacy effort in Perth's eastern region;
- The benefits of regional advocacy;
- A framework for a Regional Advocacy Strategy;
- Guiding Principles which will guide the ethics and values of regional advocacy.
- The Goals that we are aiming for; and
- The Key Focus Areas that will require action, development and resourcing.

The key focus areas will cover issues such as:

- The priorities for the region and the key messages to be delivered;
- Clarifying and agreeing on who our key audiences are to be;
- Ensuring that advocacy has a consistent set of processes and tools for delivery of effective advocacy campaigns;
- Providing elected members and staff with the skills and capabilities to deliver effective advocacy; and How regional advocacy will be implemented, monitored and reviewed.

The Discussion Paper provides ideas and suggestions on all these topics and provides an opportunity for member Council's consideration into the development of the Regional Advocacy Strategy. In order to garner member Council support, input and understanding of the regional advocacy program member Councils are urged to provide comment on the Discussion Paper. These comments will then be drawn upon when drafting the Regional Advocacy Strategy document later in 2009.

### **STRATEGIC/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The advocacy and relationship building activities support a range of key outcomes and outcome objectives and is consistent with the core process "Provide Advice and Advocacy" as identified in the EMRC Strategic Plan.

This report aligns to EMRC Policy 1.8 Lobbying and Advocacy Policy.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Regional Advocacy Program received funding in the budget for 2009-10. The funding will be used to support an undertake advocacy activities.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The future sustainability of Perth's Eastern Region will be enhanced by the ability of the region to pool its resources to compete for and attract government and private sector funding into the region.

An annual regional investment into an effective ongoing advocacy strategy, supported by strategic and robust campaigns will become an essential tool for ensuring the Region's ability to attract funding and investment is fully exploited.



*Item 9.4 continued*

## **MEMBER COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Member Council</b>	<b>Implication Details</b>
Town of Bassendean	} All member Councils will need to allocate time to review, consider and comment on the Regional Advocacy Strategy - Discussion Paper by 3 November 2009.
City of Bayswater	
City of Belmont	
Shire of Kalamunda	
Shire of Mundaring	
City of Swan	

## **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Regional Advocacy Strategy – Discussion Paper (Ref: Committees-9951)

## **VOTING REQUIREMENT**

Simple Majority

## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Council endorses the Regional Advocacy Discussion Paper and writes to member Councils requesting their comments on the discussion points raised within the Paper to be provided to the EMRC by 23 October 2009.

## **Discussion Ensued**

Mr Trail questioned the role of EMRC to undertake advocacy activities on behalf of member Councils.

The Chairman, Mr Throssell advised the document at this stage was only a draft framework about direction for member Councils on regional advocacy.

Mr Jarvis requested that the date for comments on the discussion paper from the member Councils be revised to early November 2009 and it was agreed that 3 November 2009 would be a more suitable deadline.

## **CEOAC RECOMMENDATION(S)**

MOVED MS LEFANTE

SECONDED MR COLE

That Council endorses the Regional Advocacy Discussion Paper and writes to member Councils requesting their comments on the discussion points raised within the Paper to be provided to the EMRC by 3 November 2009.

**CARRIED 5/1**

## **COUNCIL RESOLUTION(S)**

MOVED CR GODFREY

SECONDED CR ZANNINO

THAT COUNCIL ENDORSES THE REGIONAL ADVOCACY DISCUSSION PAPER AND WRITES TO MEMBER COUNCILS REQUESTING THEIR COMMENTS ON THE DISCUSSION POINTS RAISED WITHIN THE PAPER TO BE PROVIDED TO THE EMRC BY 3 NOVEMBER 2009.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



**REGIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY  
DISCUSSION PAPER  
SEPTEMBER 2009**



Source –EMRC Presentation to the Member for Bennelong the Honourable Maxine McKew

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Regional Advocacy Strategy – Discussion Paper is to provide a draft framework from which member Councils can provide early input into the development of the Regional Advocacy Strategy.

The focus of the Discussion Paper is to:

- Grow a stronger and deeper understanding (and interest) of what advocacy is and how it can work under a best practice model;
- To garner buy in and to seek feedback from elected members and staff in the Region to assist in the formulation of the Strategy; and
- To guide the development of the Strategy by providing options and opportunity for all the member Councils to clearly understand the approach being taken to formalise the EMRC's regional advocacy role.

## **INTRODUCTION**

As a regional body the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) acts on behalf of its six member Councils and their communities for the benefit and sustainability of Perth's Eastern Region. This often requires the EMRC to undertake advocacy activities in the pursuit of specific and desired outcomes for the region.

The importance placed on this advocacy role is reflected in the EMRC's Strategic Plan for the Future 2009-2014, which identifies undertaking lobbying and advocacy activities on issues affecting Perth's Eastern Region as an important objective of good governance.

For the most part this advocacy role has been undertaken on a case by case or project by project basis with differing degrees of formal planning; most often occurring on an ad-hoc basis. In order to facilitate a more comprehensive and targeted regional advocacy program the EMRC Council at its meeting in April 2009 endorsed the development of a Regional Advocacy Strategy (RAS).

This discussion paper will present some of the issues and characteristics of regional advocacy; outline a proposed framework for the RAS and attempt to achieve consensus on the main features of the RAS through identification of key discussion points.

## **WHAT IS ADVOCACY**

At its simplest advocacy is the pursuit of influencing outcomes. It is a continuous process of gathering, organising and formulating information into key messages to be communicated to targeted audiences, for a specific purpose such as policy or legislative change, development of programs or the allocation of resources.

Advocacy is not the same as general education or awareness raising. Rather advocacy aims to directly influence key decision makers for the purpose of a specific outcome. For example raising awareness about the importance of waste management is not in itself advocacy, although it can play a part in supporting advocacy. Communicating to key government employees the need for a change in the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* is an example of advocacy.

For advocacy to be effective it needs to: identify the key issues and desired outcomes, have clearly articulated messages, target the appropriate people (i.e. the decision makers and those who can influence the outcome) and use appropriate and effective methods to deliver the message.

Regional advocacy is advocacy undertaken for the benefit of the region as a whole and requires advocacy across a range of prioritised issues and outcomes rather than advocacy about a singular issue. Regional advocacy is not confined to one or two main players but requires input from all member Councils and the EMRC to work in a collaborative model.

## **WHY DO WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN OUR ADVOCACY EFFORT IN PERTH'S EASTERN REGION**

There are a number of key reasons why advocacy efforts need to be strengthened in Perth's Eastern Region.

1. The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Disadvantaged Areas shows that Perth's Eastern Region is the most disadvantaged region in the Perth metro area. This means that Perth's Eastern Region has the largest proportion of people on low incomes and should become a focus for current and future funding programs.
2. For the past 2-3 decades much of Perth's development has focused on building new Greenfield areas to the north and south of the Perth CBD and regenerating infill locations such as East Perth and Subiaco. When it comes to development Perth's Eastern Region has fallen short on State and Federal Government expenditure.
3. Perth's Eastern Region has not had a structured, coordinated and cohesive approach in place that engages with all levels of community to ensure that funding investments made by State and Federal governments have been equitable.

Effective advocacy can ensure that the EMRC and its member Councils:

- Have an early awareness of proposed legislative or policy changes that will impact upon Perth's Eastern Region;
- Can more effectively attempt to influence policy and legislative changes;
- Can ensure its voice is heard on matters that will affect Perth's Eastern Region;
- Develops and maintains valuable contacts and networks that can be utilised to support the EMRC's goals and objectives;
- Can rapidly mobilise an effective and targeted response to opportunities and issues as they arise;
- Can ensure relevant stakeholders and decision makers have a clear understanding of the issues and outcomes that are a priority for Perth's Eastern Region; and
- Can ensure Perth's Eastern Region is considered favorably for investment, program and development opportunities.

## **BENEFITS OF A REGIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY**

Formalising the EMRC's advocacy role through the development of a Regional Advocacy Strategy will enable the Region's advocacy activities to be founded upon:

- a framework agreed to by its six member Council's;
- a clear understanding of the long term priorities and initiatives;
- the internal resources to contribute to the delivery of effective advocacy; and
- knowledge of the external organisations and individuals that can provide positive benefits and outcomes for the Region.

Assessment of the EMRC's past advocacy activity is largely positive. The Canberra Delegation undertaken in 2008 was well directed (targeted the right people), comprehensive (impressive array of meetings) and seemed productive. The major deficiencies identified were a lack of mechanisms to maintain key relationships over time and ability to monitor and evaluate the ongoing effectiveness of this particular activity.

The development of a Regional Advocacy Strategy will enable the EMRC to improve, strengthen and focus its existing advocacy activities. It will ensure the Region is equipped to reach its goals, or set new ones, with more resources than it had originally and ensure that these goals are understood and supported by all stakeholders.

## **FRAMEWORK FOR A REGIONAL ADVOCACY STRATEGY**

The Regional Advocacy Strategy is concerned with improving the capacity and ability of the EMRC and its member Councils to effectively advocate for the region. The Strategy therefore focuses on high level strategic actions at an organisational level as opposed to detailing specific advocacy actions in the pursuit of an identified issue. While detailed advocacy actions won't be identified within the Strategy, the Strategy will develop the mechanisms for developing detailed advocacy actions through Advocacy Implementation Plans.

A proposed framework for the Regional Advocacy Strategy is presented below. It contains a

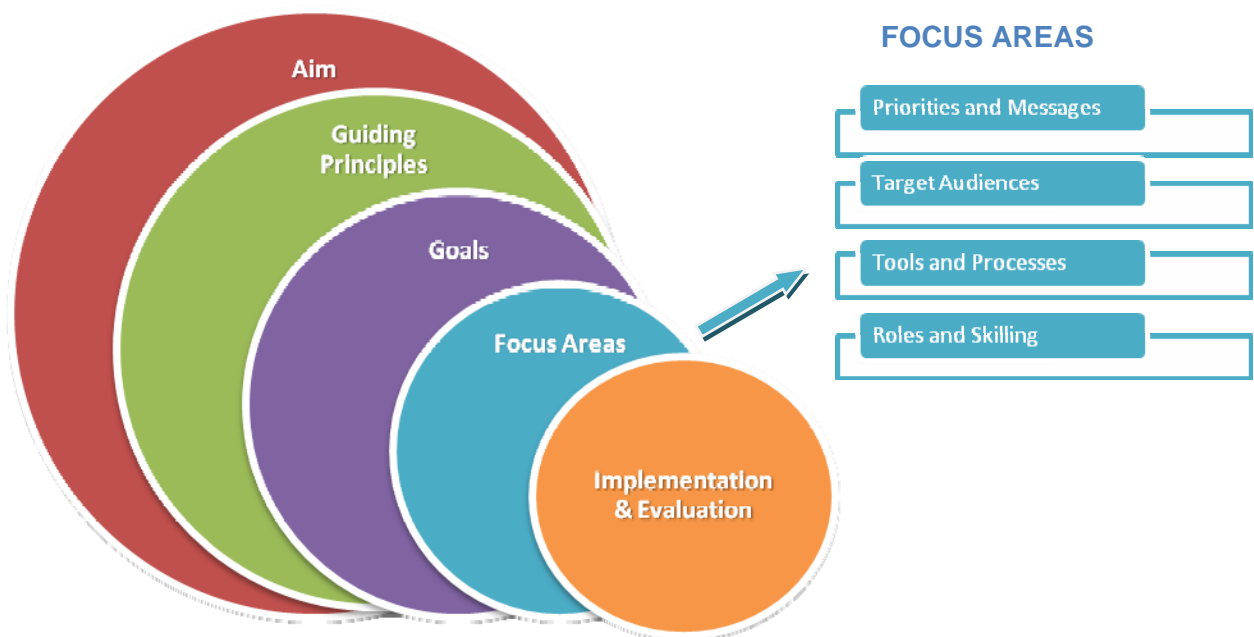
number of key elements: Aim, Guiding Principles, Goals, Key Focus Areas, Implementation and Evaluation.

There are four Key Focus Areas:

- 1) Priorities and Messages;
- 2) Target Audiences;
- 3) Tools and Processes; and
- 4) Roles and Skilling.

This paper will provide a more detailed discussion on each component of the framework in order to gather member Council feedback to assist with shaping the development of the RAS. Recommendations are made as a starting point for discussion rather than presenting a finalised option.

**Diagram 1 - Conceptual Framework for a Regional Advocacy Strategy**



## AIM

An overarching aim reflects the purpose of the Strategy and will provide guidance to the development and implementation of the Strategy. All components of the Strategy should support the achievement of the aim.

### Recommendation 1

**The aim of the Regional Advocacy Strategy is to build capacity within the EMRC and its member Councils to attract an increased share of benefits and services to the Perth's Eastern Region through a framework that delivers effective advocacy campaigns.**

#### *Discussion Point 1*

***Do you agree with the recommended aim? How do you think it could be improved?***

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Guiding Principles will reflect the beliefs and values that underpin the Strategy's goals, objectives and activities and indicate the manner in which the Strategy will be implemented.

The Guiding Principles recommended for the RAS have been derived from the shared values and themes of the EMRC and its member Councils as follows.

<b><i>Common themes for member Councils</i></b>	<b><i>Common values for member Councils</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainability</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People Focus</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved quality of life</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Customer focus</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respect for diversity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Excellence</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic prosperity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leadership</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organisational capacity and professionalism</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Innovation</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Integrity</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partnerships</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teamwork</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accountability</li></ul>

*Source: Member Councils and EMRC Strategic Plans for the future*

Regionally focused, guiding principles that reflect the values and aims of the member Councils, and will inevitably govern many of the Region's related advocacy efforts, may include some or all of the examples given in the following recommendation.

## Recommendation 2

The Guiding Principles of the RAS are:

- Advocacy effort is focused on issues that are of regional significance and will create positive benefits and long term sustainability for Perth's Eastern Region.
- Advocacy campaigns will be conducted with integrity, respect and accountability at all times.
- Advocacy campaigns will raise the profile of and promote the innovation and leadership that is occurring throughout the Perth Eastern Region.
- The advocacy framework will be inherently flexible enough to respond to emerging issues and opportunities for the Perth Eastern Region.
- Advocacy effort will engage and involve staff and people from diverse backgrounds and interests and support our people to become excellent advocates for the Region.
- Advocacy effort will seek to mobilise new and non-traditional partners in the response to regional issues.

### *Discussion Point 2*

*Do you agree with the recommended Guiding Principles? How do you think they could be improved?*

## GOALS

Goals are the state of affairs that a plan is intended to achieve.

The advocacy goal needs to encapsulate *the what* and *the why*. Internally, the advocacy goal will help to keep work focused. Externally the goals will encapsulate the program of work for the benefit of others such as targeted constituencies, community groups, the media and potential partners.

Goals need to realistic and achievable so that they can be measured over time.

The following goals are developed to be consistent with the Key Focus Areas (KFA) that this Strategy will focus on as well as the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) that will measure the effectiveness of the advocacy effort over time.

### Recommendation 3

The Goals of the RAS are to:

- Identify and commit to regional long and short term advocacy issues that will be persuaded by sound strategy and targeted action (*the what – internally focused*);
- Identify and build ongoing relationships with parties that can influence decision making and provide the benefits being sought for the Region (*the what and the why - externally focused*);
- Ensure that the Region has the capacity to achieve its advocacy program whilst allowing for flexibility and capability to quickly respond to new emergent issues that may bring great benefit to the Region (*the why – internally focused*);
- Develop the resources and collateral needed that best demonstrates the image desired for Perth’s Eastern Region (*the what and the why - internally focused*); and
- Prepare our people to be the best advocates they can be to make Perth’s Eastern Region the best it can be (*the what and the why - externally focused*).

#### **Discussion Point 3**

***Do you agree with the recommended Goals? How do you think they could be improved or are there gaps?***

## KEY FOCUS AREAS

The key focus areas provide the substance and the detail of the Strategy. Each key focus area (KFA) will have its own objectives and actions which will contribute to achieving the aim of the Strategy. A description of each of the key focus areas is given and objectives for each key focus area are recommended. This discussion paper will seek to find consensus on the key focus areas and their objectives and then as part of developing the Strategy the relevant actions will developed.

### **KFA 1 - Priorities and Messages**

This key focus area relates to the ‘what’ of advocacy - what are the key issues, what outcomes are we trying to achieve and what are our key messages.

Unless we have a clear understanding of what we are trying to communicate and what we want to achieve then it is unlikely that we will be successful. Clearly identifying what our messages and priorities are will enable everybody in the region to deliver and support those priorities and messages.

The EMRC already has a good understanding of the key issues facing the region. The following **Nine Key Regional Issues of Priority** are identified for consideration:

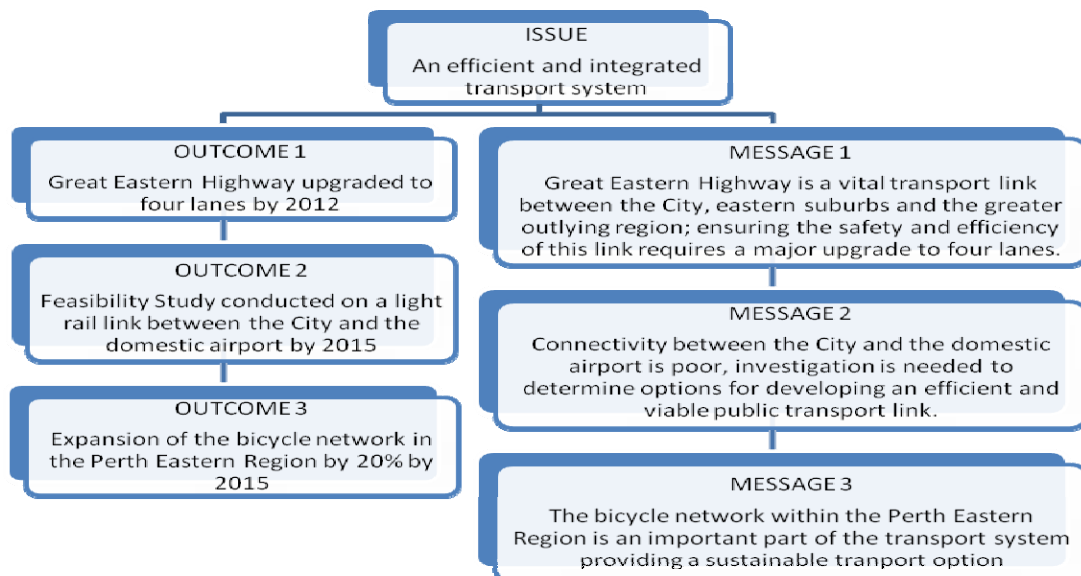
- 1) The health, protection and sustainable use of the Swan and Helena Rivers;
- 2) An effective and integrated transport system;
- 3) The establishment of broadband in the region;
- 4) The continued and timely delivery of underground power;
- 5) Facilitation of appropriate and sustainable tourism development;
- 6) Facilitation of economic development and investment opportunities;
- 7) Continued improvement of regional waste management activities;
- 8) A natural environment that is protected enhanced and maintained for future generations; and
- 9) Enhanced social inclusion and access to health, education and community services for all residents.

For each issue there will be a number of desired outcomes that the Region will want to achieve. It is important that these outcomes are identified and prioritised for each issue and that they are tangible, achievable, focused and clearly articulated rather than just a wish list for the Region. The more focused the outcomes, the more effective the advocacy will be. If there are too many desired outcomes the advocacy effort will be stretched and what the Region is trying to achieve will be unclear.

For each issue there should also be a number of core messages identified. These messages are statements designed to persuade others of a position or point of view. It explains what is being proposed, why it is worth doing, and the positive impacts of the proposal.

An example of how the issues, outcomes and messages relate to each other is represented in the below diagram.

**Diagram 2 – Relationship between issues, outcomes and messages**



## Recommendation 4

The objectives for Key Focus Area 1 (Priorities and Messages) are:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Objective 1.1 | To identify and agree to the key desired outcomes for each issue.             |
| Objective 1.2 | The identified outcomes are prioritised into high, medium and low priorities. |
| Objective 1.3 | Core messages for each issue are clearly identified and articulated.          |

### ***Discussion Point 4***

***Do you agree with the nine key regional issues identified in this discussion paper? Are any missing, or can any be dropped?***

### ***Discussion Point 5***

***Do you agree with the recommended objectives for Key Focus Area 1? How could they be improved?***

## KFA 2 - Target Audiences

This key focus area relates to the 'who' of advocacy – who can help the Region to achieve its goals, who do we need to influence and who do we need to interact with.

Advancing the interests of Perth's Eastern Region through proactive representation and effective working relationships – in particular with the Federal and State Governments is seen to be and has been endorsed by the EMRC Council and member Council Chief Executive Officers as a key enabler for investment and development in the Region.

Understanding and focusing on the desired target group is essential for successful advocacy. If the wrong group is targeted, expected results will not be achieved and valuable and scarce resources will be wasted. Ideally, these advocacy targets will become advocacy partners, partnering with the EMRC to achieve common goals.

There are generally two types of target groups.

**Primary Audiences:** those who have the actual formal authority to deliver the outcomes required.

- Federal Ministers
- Federal Department Heads and Senior Officers
- National Funding Institutions
- State Ministers
- State Department Heads and Senior Officers
- State Funding agencies ( i.e. Lotteries West)

**Secondary Audiences:** are others who have the ability to influence outcomes.

- the media (to generate awareness, interest and a sense of urgency)
- local political constituencies
- local business and community groups
- State Peak agencies (i.e. WALGA, WACOSS, PERTH NRM etc.)

## Recommendation 5

The objectives for Key Focus Area 2 (Target Audiences) are:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Objective 2.1</b> | <b>Maintain a cooperative and productive relationship with State and Federal Government Ministers and their Departments.</b>  |
| <b>Objective 2.2</b> | <b>Maintain consistent and effective participation in relevant regional organisations and peak bodies for the purpose of influencing outcomes beneficial to Perth's Eastern Region.</b> |
| <b>Objective 2.3</b> | <b>Represent and promote the interests of Perth's Eastern Region at key conferences, meetings and other forums.</b>   |
| <b>Objective 2.4</b> | <b>Develop protocols for communication with different stakeholders and target groups.</b>   |

### ***Discussion Point 6***

***Do you agree with the recommended objectives for Key Focus Area 2? How could they be improved?***

## **KFA 3 - Tools and Processes**

This focus area relates to the 'how' of undertaking advocacy activities and will include actions relating to having a consistent set of processes and tools for delivering advocacy while retaining flexibility and adaptability to respond to emerging issues and opportunities as they arise.

The primary tool that will be developed is an Advocacy Implementation Plan template. This template will provide a corporate framework for the development of Advocacy Implementation Plans which will be used to plan and guide advocacy effort for specific issues and outcomes.

The Advocacy Implementation Plan template will provide a framework for identifying:

- Strategic intent and desired outcomes;
- Target groups and stakeholders;
- Opportunities and barriers;
- Economic, environmental and social benefits;
- Advocacy activities to be undertaken; and
- Evaluation and monitoring.

Other tools and processes that may be developed include:

- Templates for policy proposals, correspondence;
- Standard generic text that can be used in submissions and applications etc;
- Promotional materials and collateral;
- Process for the quick establishment of working groups to respond to emerging issues and opportunities; and
- Streamlined processes for approval of advocacy activities with a deadline or short time frame i.e. funding applications and consultation submissions.

## **Recommendation 6**

**The objectives for Key Focus Area 3 (Tools and Processes) are:**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Objective 3.1</b> | <b>Develop an Advocacy Implementation Plan template in consultation with key staff.</b>                              |
| <b>Objective 3.2</b> | <b>Develop Advocacy Implementation Plans for the key issues and outcomes identified as part of Key Focus Area 1.</b> |
| <b>Objective 3.3</b> | <b>To design and develop appropriate processes, methods and materials to support advocacy campaigns.</b>             |

### ***Discussion Point 7***

***Do you agree with the recommended objectives for Key Focus Area 3? How could they be improved?***

### **KFA 3 - Roles and Skilling**

This focus area also relates to the 'who' of advocacy – who will advocate on our behalf, what will their roles be and how can the EMRC support and improve their advocacy efforts.

#### ***Elected Members Role***

Elected Members are the community's duly elected representatives and their key role is to make decisions and to advocate on behalf of the community. The EMRC Chairman will take the major role as figurehead for the regional advocacy program. The Chairman's role will be critical in providing legitimacy and status to advocacy campaigns. The Chairman will need to be aware that this role will be time consuming as his presence will be critical to the success of the advocacy programs.

EMRC Councilors will also play a critical role, but will be secondary to that of the chairman. EMRC Councilors will, by their presence and show of support to advocacy campaigns and activities, demonstrate to target audiences that the Region is serious about what it wants. Member Council Mayors, Presidents and Councilors will also play an important role in providing strength to the advocacy effort particularly in relation to issues and outcomes that are important to their local area and community.

#### ***Staff Role***

All EMRC staff and member Council staff are advocates for the region and although they may not realise it they undertake advocacy activities everyday through their interactions with external stakeholders and other levels of government. These everyday interactions can either assist or harm the Region's advocacy efforts. This means that all officers across the Region will need to be aware of the Region's advocacy goals and be able to recognise that their day to day activities contribute to achieving these goals.

In addition key staff within the EMRC and its member Councils such as CEO's, Directors, Executive Managers and senior staff will have specific roles to play as part of the Region's advocacy efforts, such as implementing Advocacy Implementation Plans, representing the region at public events, and attending forums and meetings. These roles need to be clarified and staff given the adequate support and resources to fulfill their roles.

Creating an advocacy centric culture across the Region will provide new skills sets, as well as new mindsets, so all staff can play their part.

**Recommendation 7**

The objectives for Key Focus Area 4 (Roles and Skilling) are:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Objective 4.1</b> | <b>Ensure the EMRC Chairman and Councilors and member Council Mayors, Presidents and Councilors understand their role and actively participate in the advocacy effort.</b> |
| <b>Objective 4.2</b> | <b>Ensure all member Council and EMRC staff understand their role and actively participate in advocacy effort.</b>   |
| <b>Objective 4.3</b> | <b>Provide all member Council and EMRC staff with adequate skills, training and resources to undertake their advocacy roles.</b>   |

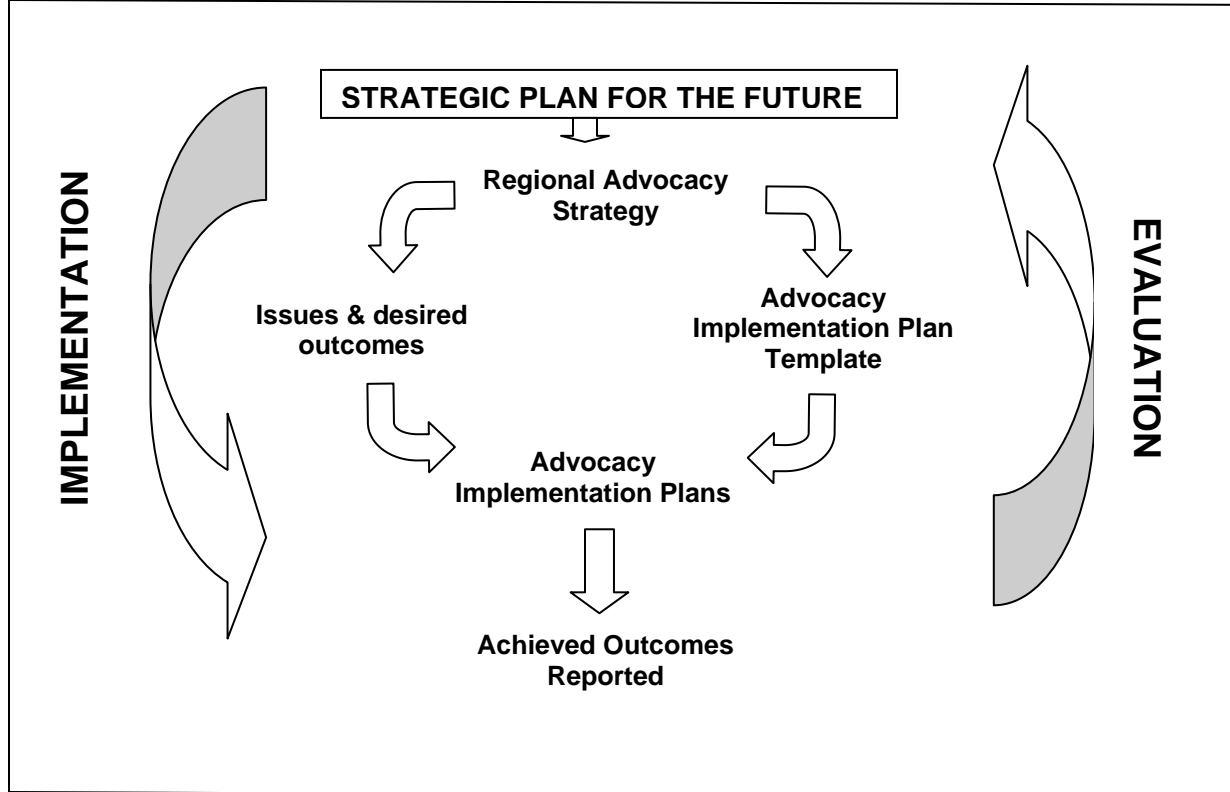
***Discussion Point 8***

***Do you agree with the recommended objectives for Key Focus Area 4? How could they be improved?***

## IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION

For the Regional Advocacy Strategy to achieve its goals emphasis needs to be placed on implementation (in particular adequate resourcing) and effective and ongoing evaluation and monitoring. A conceptual framework for implementation and evaluation of the RAS is shown in the diagram below.

**Diagram 3: Strategic Framework for Advocacy Implementation**



### Resourcing

Adequately resourcing the RAS requires the establishment of an ongoing annual budget which includes expenditure on:

- officer time;
- travel;
- development of materials; and
- hosting and attendance of events.

The EMRC has allocated a budget for the 2009-10 advocacy program that includes the above-mentioned costs; however it is suggested that member Councils consider the value of the advocacy program and determine whether they wish to contribute to the advocacy program on an annual basis in order to strengthen the program. This annual contribution could be used to provide better resources, training and support to member Councils and their staff to strengthen their internal advocacy culture.

**Discussion Point 9**

**Would member Councils be prepared to contribute to the EMRC advocacy program annually? If so what types of activities would be preferred in return for this contribution? What level of contribution would be seen as appropriate?**

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

Effective implementation also requires regular reporting. All member Councils should be informed of advocacy programs as they are implemented. Advocacy progress reports were introduced to Council in 2007 and occur on a 3-4 monthly basis – this should continue through the Regional Services Activity Report.

In addition to ongoing progress reports effective evaluation will require the development of key performance indicators (KPI's). KPI's should reflect progress towards achievement of the Strategy's goals rather than simply the completion of actions. Indicators will be developed as part of the Strategy, however, some examples are shown below. New monitoring systems may need to be established to allow ongoing monitoring of these KPI's.

(Goal 1) Identify and commit to regional long and short term advocacy issues that will be persuaded by sound strategy and targeted action.

KPI 1.1 Number of Advocacy Implementation Plans completed.

KPI 1.2 Number of outcomes achieved for each issue.

(Goal 2) To identify and build ongoing relationships with parties that can influence decision making and provide the benefits being sought for the Region.

KPI 2.1 Number of conferences, meetings and forums attended.

KPI 2.2 Level of awareness that target audiences have about the Region.

(Goal 3) Ensure that the Region has the capacity to achieve its advocacy program whilst allowing for flexibility and capability to quickly respond to new emergent issues that may bring great benefit to the Region.

KPI 3.1 Amount of external funding received.

KPI 3.2 Number of emergent issues dealt with.

(Goal 4) To develop the resources and collateral needed that best demonstrates the image desired for Perth's Eastern Region.

KPI 4.1 Level of expenditure for development of materials and collateral.

KPI 4.2 Number of resources developed.

(Goal 5) To prepare our people to be the best advocates that can be to make Perth's Eastern Region the best it can be.

KPI 5.1 Amount of advocacy related training provided to staff.

KPI 5.2 Level of awareness and understanding that staff have about the Region's advocacy goals.

The RAS should be reviewed every two to three years along with a review of the issues and outcomes so that new issues and priorities can be determined. This will allow the RAS to be a living document that will evolve over time as issues confronting the region change and as outcomes are achieved.

***Discussion Point 10***

***Do you agree with the suggested key performance indicators and the processes outlined for monitoring and evaluating the advocacy effort? What improvements would you suggest?***

**CONCLUSION**

**Strategic Significance**

In order for the RAS to have ongoing strategic significance that is aligned to the direction of the EMRC and its member Councils it is recommended that throughout future revisions of the EMRC Strategic Plan, advocacy is maintained as a key strategy. This will confirm and promote advocacy as an important regional role for the EMRC.

It would also be beneficial to the regional advocacy program if member Councils recognised advocacy as a strategic activity and incorporated it into their Strategic Plans. This would effectively demonstrate regional consensus on the importance of advocacy for the Perth Eastern Region into the future and would also provide greater focus to member Council's local advocacy effort.

**Timeline**

Comments on the Discussion Paper are required to be submitted by 3 November 2009. During November 2009 the drafting of the RAS will be undertaken incorporating and reflecting member Council feedback.

**Contact Details**

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**Please submit comments against the discussion points outlined  
within the document to:**

The Chief Executive Officer  
EMRC  
Po Box 234 Belmont WA 6984

Or by email to  
[rhonda.hardy@emrc.org.au](mailto:rhonda.hardy@emrc.org.au)

**By COB 3 November 2009**

**Thank you**



## **9.5 ITEMS CONTAINED IN THE INFORMATION BULLETIN**

### **REFERENCE: COMMITTEES-9945**

The following items are included in the Information Bulletin, which accompanies the Agenda.

#### **1 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 1.1 *DIRECTIONS 2031 DRAFT SPATIAL FRAMEWORK FOR PERTH AND PEEL*  
(Ref: Committees-9938)
- 1.2 *ENVIRONS AUSTRALIA 2009 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS* (Ref: Committees-9875)
- 1.3 *ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ACTIVITY REPORT – JUNE 2009 TO AUGUST 2009*  
(Ref: Committees-9931)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Information Bulletin be noted.

#### **CEOAC RESOLUTION(S)**

MOVED MR FOLEY

SECONDED MR TRAIL

That the information bulletin be noted.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **10 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

Nil

## **11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **11.1 EVENTS IN THE REGION**

10 October 2009, Saturday	City of Belmont	Mayoral Dinner
10-11 October, Sat & Sunday	City of Swan	Spring in the Valley
1-30 November 2009	City of Belmont	Let's Celebrate Belmont
6 December 2009, Saturday	City of Belmont	Civic Dinner
6-7 December 2009	Town of Bassendean	Bassendean Festival
1 May 2010	City of Swan	Mayoral Dinner

### **11.2 OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **11.2.1 ELECTION OF EMRC REPRESENTATIVES**

The Chief Executive Officer of EMRC reminded the member Councils of Section 7.1(4) of the Establishment Agreement which states that it is intended that the Mayor or President of each member Council be appointed to the EMRC. This was raised in the context of the coming October Ordinary Council elections.



### **11.2.2 REGIONAL IMAGE LIBRARY**

The Executive Manager, Regional Services tabled a briefing note for member Council's consideration advising that a request had been made by the City of Swan for the investigation into and development of a regional image library. This concept will be referred to the EMRC Shared Services Group for their consideration.

### **11.2.3 REGIONAL TOURISM STRATEGY**

The Executive Manager, Regional Services advised a letter is being forwarded to member Councils requesting nominations for representatives on the Project Steering Group to work on the Regional Tourism Strategy. Representatives from the Experience Perth, Tourism WA and Westralian Airports Corporations have expressed their willingness to take part in the project.

## **12 FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The next meeting of the Chief Executive Officers Advisory Committee will be held on **13 October 2009 (if required)** at EMRC Administration office commencing at **12.30pm with lunch at 12noon.**

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

Tuesday	13 October (if required)	at	EMRC Administration Office
Tuesday	17 November (formal)	at	EMRC Administration Office

## **13 DECLARATION OF CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1.25pm.