



## **SOUTH WEST GROUP**

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2007 – 2008**

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## Introduction

The South West Group, formed in November 1983, is a Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC). In 2007/2008 it comprised the Cities of Cockburn, Fremantle, Melville, and Rockingham, and the Towns of East Fremantle and Kwinana representing 331,301 people and with a Gross Regional Product over \$20 billion.

The Vision and Mission of the South West Group taken from the 2007 – 10 Strategic Plan are:

*Local Governments in South Metropolitan Perth, through cooperation with industry, community and the other spheres of government will capture a wide range of opportunities to enhance economic growth as well as supporting a diversity of quality lifestyles whilst servicing and sustaining cohesive, productive communities in an enviable environmental setting.*

*The South West Group will be persuasive, forward looking and influential in representing, supporting and promoting Local Government interests that affect the growth and sustainable development of South Metropolitan Perth*

## Role and Function

The South West Group acts as a regional advocate for the future development and wellbeing of South West Metropolitan Perth and seeks to position local government as a facilitator and senior partner in the future development and decision-making processes in the Region.

This approach seeks to place local government in a more influential position in determining positive outcomes for the Region and the community it serves.



### **SIGNING THE MOU AT THE TOWN OF EAST FREMANTLE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Standing: Mayor Russell Aubrey (Melville), Mayor Alan Ferris (East Fremantle),  
Mayor Barry Sammels (Rockingham) and Mayor Carol Adams (Kwinana)  
Seated: Mayor Stephen Lee (Cockburn and Chair of South West Group Board)



## Board of Management – Chairman’s Report

The South West Group took a major step forward with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by all Mayors and CEOs within the region as part of a strategy to cooperate on projects, policies and shared services. The MOU will greatly assist in the South West Group developing united positions on complex issues and advocating for regional projects.

In March this year we coordinated a successful delegation to Canberra which resulted in a National Skills Shortages Strategy Grant of \$100,000 for a regional workforce development plan. The delegation also lobbied on emissions trading, broadband planning, a Medicare Office at Cockburn Central and funding for regional sporting facilities.

Improved planning for transport infrastructure within the region has also been a consistent priority for the South West Group. In June 2008 the Western Australian Planning Commission agreed to carry out an integrated transport plan for the South West Corridor.

More than a dozen submissions have been made this year by the South West Group on areas ranging from planning through defence, education, innovation and health to tourism.

During 2007/08 a range of projects undertaken by the South West Group advanced regional trade, tourism and investment in regional infrastructure.

Sadly in April this year one of the foundation members of the South West Group, Rockingham CEO Gary Holland, passed away. Gary had made a substantial contribution to regional development and had been presented with the Outstanding Regional Leadership Award earlier in the year which stated “*Presented to **Gary Holland** in recognition of his outstanding contribution for over twenty years to the Leadership Team of the South West Group, to guiding the work of the South West Corridor Development Foundation Inc. and to sustained promotion of the development of the South West Metropolitan Region of Perth*”. Gary’s strong guidance and depth of experience will be greatly missed.

The South West Corridor continues to grow strongly and continues to benefit from the sustained commitment and cooperation of all of its local government authorities.

**Mayor Stephen Lee**  
**Chairman**



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