



ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20





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Introduction

The South West Group, formed in November 1983, is a Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC) comprising of the following Member Councils:

- » City of Cockburn
- » Town of East Fremantle
- » City of Fremantle
- » City of Kwinana
- » City of Melville
- » City of Rockingham

The Group collaborates with State and Federal Governments, industry, business and community on activities that facilitate further economic development in the South West Metropolitan Region.

The vision for the Region is to be “the economic gateway to the west”.

The Region is the gateway to the dynamic Indo-Pacific Region. Its world-leading industries and expertise, abundance of ‘clean and green’ commodities, world-class liveability and its proximity to Asia are all reasons why the Region should be the State’s economic engine for years to come.

With a population of circa 475,000 in 2020, expected to grow beyond 625,000 by 2036, the Region is ideally positioned to develop as the economic, cultural and environmental powerhouse of Western Australia.



Role and Function

The South West Group acts as a regional advocate for increased investment, sustainable development, employment creation and the future wellbeing of South West Metropolitan Region of Perth and its residents.

The South West Group seeks to position local government as a facilitator, leader and senior partner in the future development and decision-making processes that impact on 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.

The South West Group undertakes an internal collaboration role on matters specific to the organisation and Member Councils, and an external advocacy role involving regional stakeholders such as State and Federal Government agencies and Members of Parliament (MPs), private sector organisations, business associations and industry groups.



Board of Management

Chair's Report

This past year has been like no other. Like every country, Australia was impacted severely by the Coronavirus pandemic. However, due to our relative isolation as a country and a State, and thanks to good management by our State Government, we have been less impacted than most regions around the world.

At the time of writing, Western Australia has recorded 654 positive Coronavirus cases, sadly these included with nine fatalities. The economic toll has been harsh, particularly on arts and recreation, accommodation and food services, retail, tourism and other personal service businesses. Over 2,000 businesses in our Region, or two in five, have accessed the Federal Government's 'Job Keeper' program.

The Local Governments within the South West Group stepped in with a range of support measures for their local communities and businesses. Collectively this was valued at tens of millions of dollars in immediate support packages and economic stimulus measures through accelerated and/or expanded capital works programs.

Despite the obvious disruption to our way of life and work programs, the South West Group has continued to work closely with external organisations to achieve alignment of objectives and to deliver projects in partnership. This meant strengthening relationships with organisations such as Austrade, CCIWA, and the State Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI). We have also developed new relationships with organisations like the Smart Cities Council and WA Asian Business Councils. This Annual Report provides an overview of the major accomplishments from the past year.

During the year the Board welcomed the newly elected City of Melville Mayor, the honourable Mr George Gear JP, as well as the City of Kwinana's new CEO Mr Wayne Jack. As we welcomed the new arrivals, we said a fond farewell to Mr Russell Aubrey, former Mayor of the City of Melville; Ms Joanne Abbiss, former CEO at the City of Kwinana; and Mr Stephen Cain, former CEO at the City of Cockburn.

Finally, I would sincerely like to thank the Board and Senior Officers from the Region for their hard work and strong character over this very difficult year. I have been so pleased to see the unity across the Region and I know there are better years ahead.

Mayor Logan Howlett
Chair South West Group, 2020



Board of Management

Director's Report

Over the past year, we have made progress with our investment attraction and export development program, while building an appreciation of the Region's advocacy priorities with State and Federal politicians.

As you'd expect, the second half of this past financial year has been incredibly disruptive and we have done our best to adapt to the ever-changing conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the South West Group's projects have been deferred while others have been adjusted in response to the challenging conditions.

We have built up the South West Group's profile, and an understanding of the Region's assets, with key State and Federal agencies. This has included briefings for a significant number of State and National Trade Commissioners who are now better informed about what the Region's strategic assets and what it has to offer to international markets.

I am pleased that we've built upon our 'regional capability statement' publication with a catalogue of tangible investment opportunities, categorised by mixed-use, industrial, and residential property development opportunities. We've also delivered programs to build the export capabilities of Regional businesses, and captured the rich content via a recorded webinar delivered in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA.

I am particularly excited about the potential of our member councils to embrace smart city practices. Our partnership with the Smart Cities Council is intended to help build understanding and capacity, and to facilitate regional scale smart city projects that improve delivery of important community services.

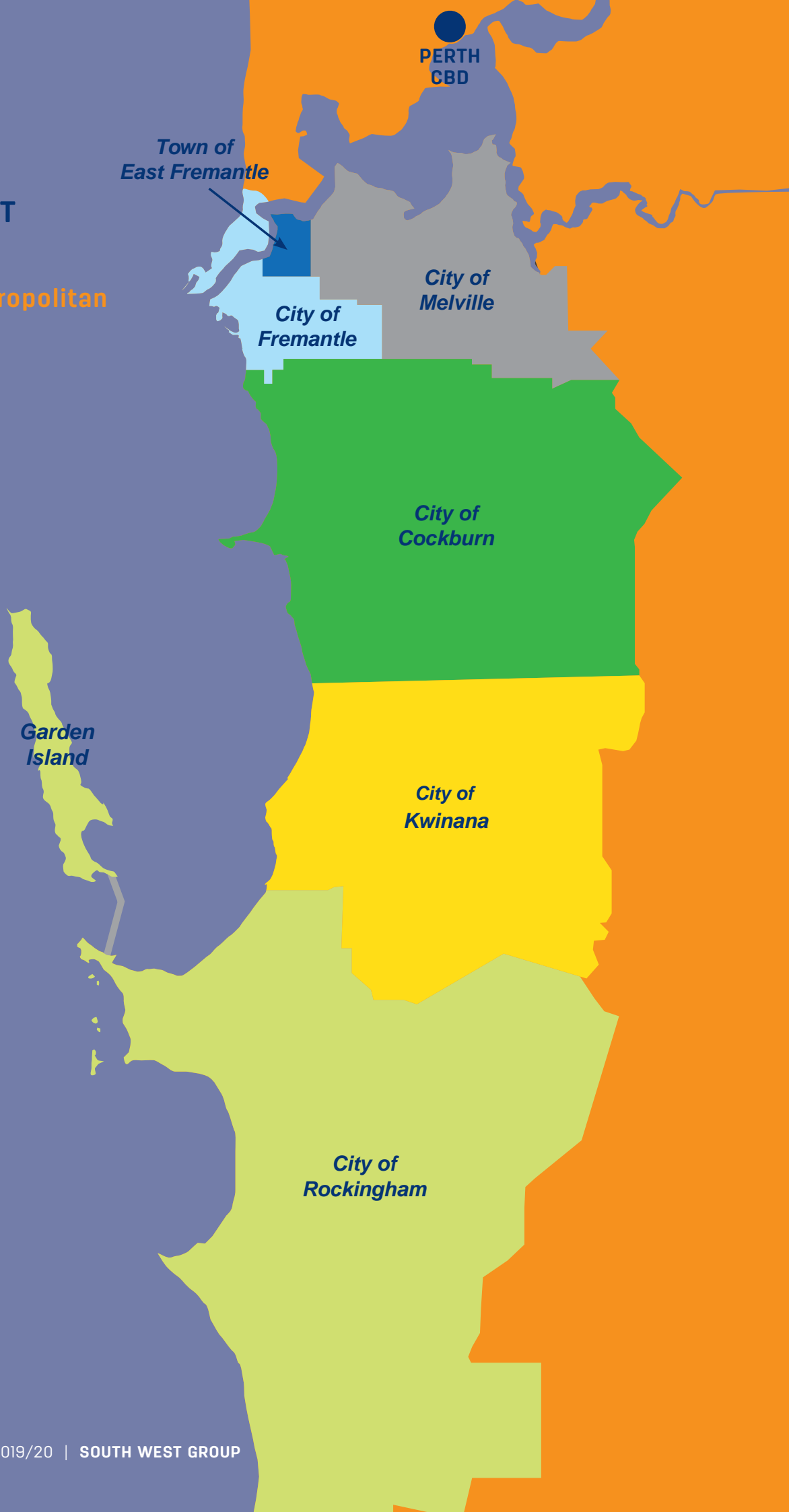
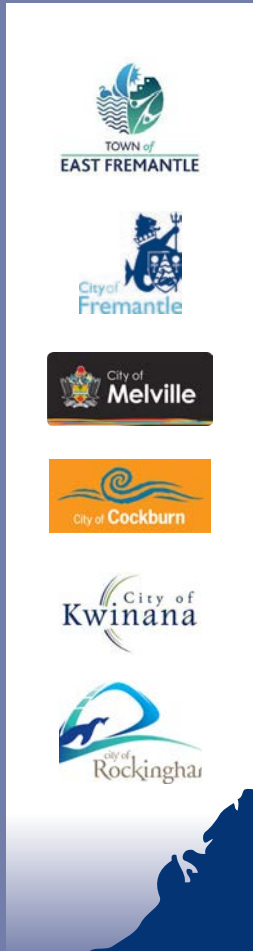
This Annual Report provides a high-level summary of the South West Group's activities throughout 2019/20, a year unlike any experienced in our lifetime.

Like Mayor Howlett, I would like to welcome the new arrivals to the South West Group Board. And I'd especially like to thank the Board members who departed in 2019/20: Russell Aubrey, Joanne Abbiss and Stephen Cain. It was a pleasure working with all of you and your valuable contributions to the South West Group will be sorely missed.

Tom Griffiths
Director South West Group



South West Metropolitan Region Map



South West Group Board and Committee Structure 2019/20

The South West Group Board comprises the Mayors and CEOs of the six member Councils and meets quarterly to consider regional issues, projects and priorities.



Mayor Logan Howlett
City of Cockburn



Mayor Jim O'Neill
Town of East Fremantle



Mayor Brad Pettitt
City of Fremantle



Mayor Carol Adams
City of Kwinana



Mayor George Gear
City of Melville



Mayor Barry Sammels
City of Rockingham



Daniel Arndt
Acting CEO City of Cockburn



Gary Tuffin
CEO Town of East Fremantle



Philip St John
CEO City of Fremantle



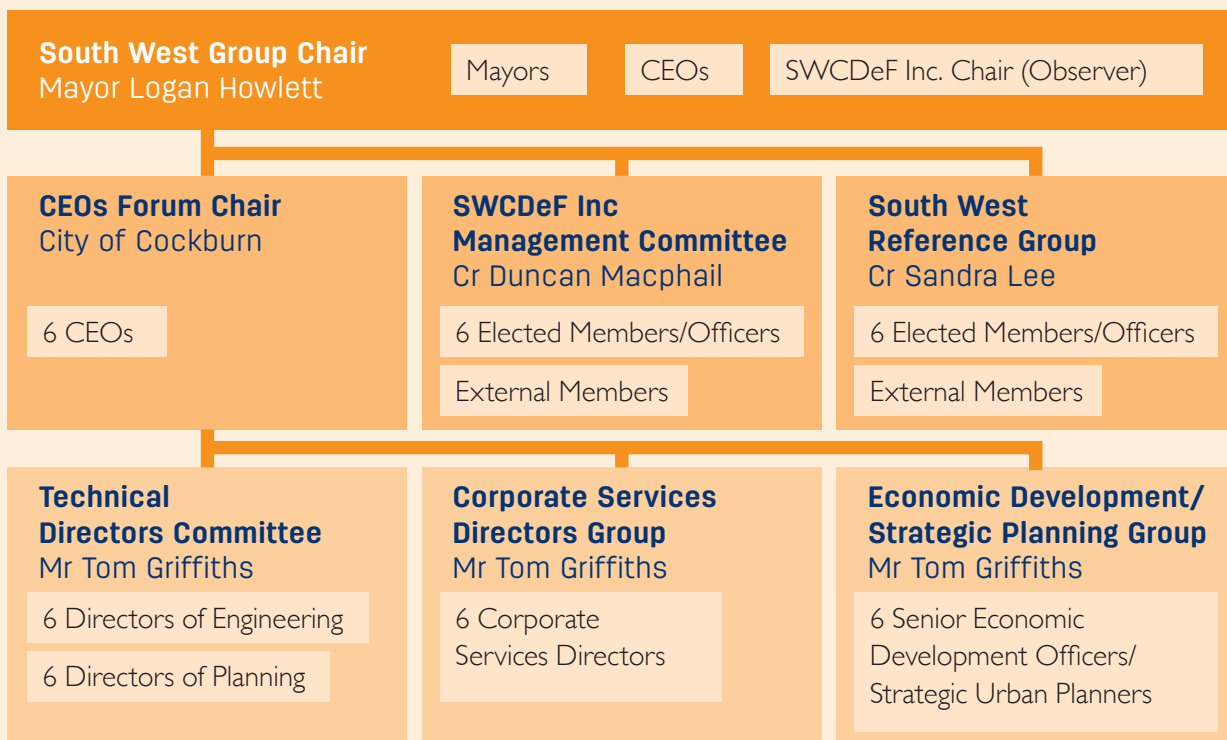
Wayne Jack
CEO City of Kwinana



Marten Tieleman
CEO City of Melville



Michael Parker
CEO City of Rockingham



Major priorities and achievements in 2019/20

PROGRAM AREA 1:

Export development and investment attraction

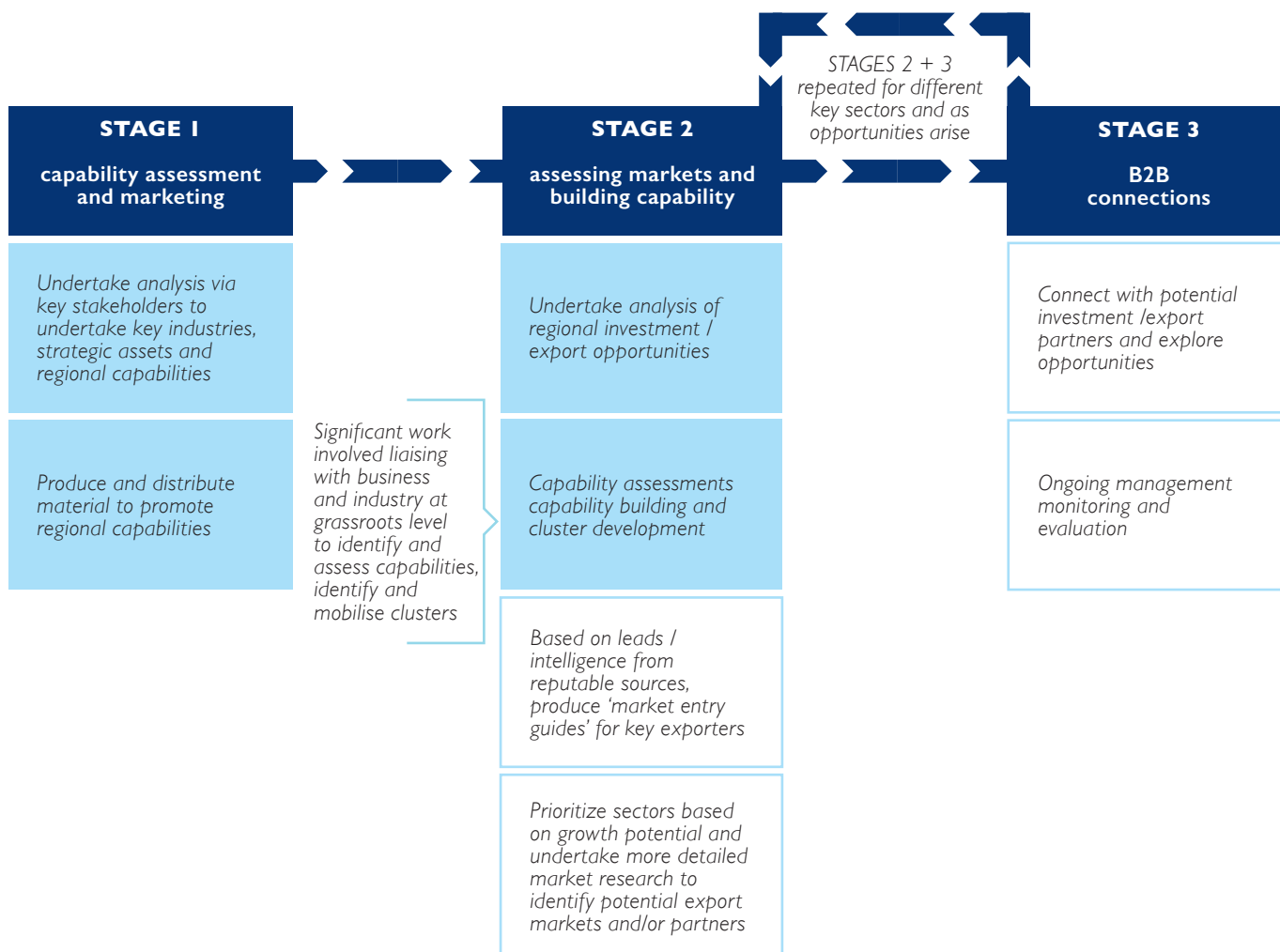
The South West Group takes an active role in supporting the growth of export-oriented companies and encouraging inward investment. The diagram below shows the key stages of this program - the first stage involved assessing the Region's capabilities, competitive advantages and building awareness of them in order to attract more investment to the Region in the future.

As part of that stage of the program, we produced overarching marketing material that identifies regional capabilities and strategic assets and provides high-level commentary on the potential investment and export opportunities within the Region. That document can be accessed via our website: www.southwestgroup.com.au/investing-in-perths-south-west-metro-region

Stage two of the program, delivered throughout 2019/20 involved identifying tangible investment opportunities within the property development sector, and developing lasting networks with potential international markets via Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA, JTSI, Austrade and Asian Business Councils.

Investment opportunities currently profiled within the Region are categorised by: mixed-use property development opportunities; industrial property development opportunities; and residential property development opportunities. They are showcased via our website:

www.southwestgroup.com.au/invest-in-the-region/all-investment-opportunities/



Capacity building of local small-medium enterprises is also an important part of this program. The South West Group worked with the WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry to produce a recorded webinar titled 'Getting your business export ready' available, here:

www.southwestgroup.com.au/invest-in-the-region/


Supplementing that webinar is the 'International Export Markets Report' that provides advice on export and market entry strategies for four key sectors within the Region: food and beverage; manufacturing and engineering; retail and distribution; and creative industries.

That report can be accessed here:

www.southwestgroup.com.au/international-exports-market-report-june-2020

In an effort to promote the Region's capabilities to international markets, the South West Group hosted a tour of WA Trade Commissioners on 18 June 2020 representing markets in China, India, Indonesia and Japan. The tour was supported by senior officers from the Cities of Kwinana, Cockburn and Rockingham. The itinerary included: Murdoch health precinct; Rockingham industrial zone and foreshore; Kwinana industrial area; and the Australian Marine Complex.

Hosting and organising regular inbound and outbound trade delegations will be an important role for the South West Group as we aim to connect export-oriented regional businesses with new markets, and to attract inward investment.




SOUTH WEST GROUP

Imminent investment opportunities in Perth's South West Metropolitan Region



SOUTH WEST GROUP

Industrial property investment opportunities in Perth's South West Metropolitan Region



SOUTH WEST GROUP

Residential property investment opportunities in Perth's South West Metropolitan Region

www.southwestgroup.com.au/resources/reports/

Major priorities and achievements in 2019/20

PROGRAM AREA 2:

Greater understanding and recognition of the region's needs and opportunities

As a coordinated and united group of local governments, the South West Group has a long-established role in advocating for regional priorities and enabling infrastructure that can help the Region fulfil its economic potential. To support this objective, the Group developed and published a proposal for consideration by State and Federal Governments titled 'Proposal for Government investment and partnerships' that can be found via our website here: www.southwestgroup.com.au/regional-advocacy/advocacy-priorities/. That document sets the direction for much of our advocacy work and informs interactions with State and Federal Politicians and their advisors.

Deputations

Often we invite senior representatives from external organisations to attend committee and Board meetings to share information and to discuss current or future collaborations. The table below shows the major deputations arranged throughout 2019/20.

Contact and date	Purpose
Ms Nicole Lockwood Chair Westport Taskforce Attended September 2019 Board meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Follow up presentation: Main Roads Traffic Modelling. » Provide an overview of the five shortlisted options for the future make-up of WA's Ports and the key data behind each option. » Provide an opportunity to discuss any other matters related to the Westport process.
Mr Matt Moran Executive Director DefenceWest Attended December 2019 Board meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Update SWG on DefenceWest's strategic priorities. » Update on the progress of lobbying for full cycle docking of Collins Class Submarines out of Henderson. » Discuss ways to collaborate to advance the Defence Industry in the Region.
Ms Nicole Lockwood Chair Westport Taskforce and Deputy Chair Infrastructure Western Australia Attended March 2020 Board meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Westport process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » update on overall process, timeframes etc. » opportunity for open discussion on any Westport related matters » Infrastructure Western Australia (IWA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » release of IWA discussion paper and consultation period » opportunity for open discussion and questions.
Mr Lance Glare A/Chief Executive Officers Infrastructure Western Australia Attended May 2020 Technical Director Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Discuss IWA and how it will go about engaging with Local Government and other stakeholders.
Ms Rebecca Ball Executive Director Invest and Trade WA Attended May 2020 Economic Development Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Discuss ways that the South West Group, member councils, and Invest and Trade WA can collaborate on common objectives. Talking points were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Mandate of Invest and Trade WA » Approach to accessing interstate and international investors » How SWG can help Invest and Trade WA meet their objectives (i.e. preparing investment opportunity information). » How SWG could support Invest and Trade WA in hosting or sending investment delegations.



Political briefings for member councils

In order to provide advice on advocacy strategies for the South West Group and individual member councils, we engaged GRA Partners to provide briefings and recommendations on advocacy strategy and tactics. Briefings were held on the “WA electoral distribution process” in December 2019, and on “Integrated advocacy” in March 2020.

The strategic objectives of the briefings were to better understand the State political climate and possible opportunities to advocate for greater investment in public infrastructure in the Region. The content of these sessions helped shape the advocacy activities of the South West Group and individual member councils.

Support for full cycle docking of Collins Class submarines

To support the push of the State Government for the full cycle docking of Collins Class submarines at Henderson (instead of South Australia), the South West Group took a proactive approach in making

its position known to all WA Federal and State Ministers, MPs and Senators. This was in the form of a written letter on behalf of the Group and face-to-face meetings with politicians.

The key advocacy messages were:

- » WA is cooperating with Federal Defence to attract work to the State, which is in the national interest.
- » Relocating full cycle docking to WA is in the national interest for a variety of reasons explained in a comprehensive report (not attached to this Annual Report).
- » WA is best placed to develop and retain the workforce required.
- » Significant infrastructure exists in WA with advanced planning underway to enable enhanced defence industry capability.

At the time of writing, the Federal Government has not yet made a decision on this matter.



Advocacy for use of Financial Assistance Grants

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the South West Group advocated for the increased use of Financial Assistance Grants (FA Grants) – the Federal Government’s existing funding mechanism for Local Governments.

Local Governments are ideally positioned to deliver ‘on-the-ground’ projects that can help stimulate the local economy and support the jobs markets and we considered expanded use of the FA Grants to be the ideal mechanism to achieve this.

In addition to writing to the Prime Minister, advocacy efforts involved discussions with Federal politicians including Josh Wilson, Ben Morton, Celia Hammond, Madeline King, Matt O’Sullivan, and Federal Finance Minister Mathias Cormann.

Various other groups, including the Australian Local Government Association, were lobbying for the same outcome. In June 2020, the Federal announced expanded use of the FA Grants program (using the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program), albeit it was not to the funding level advocated for by the South West Group.



Advocating for a high quality mass transit link between Fremantle and Murdoch

For some time the South West Group has advocated for improved east-west connections within the Region, particularly between Fremantle and Murdoch. Efforts to convince the State Government to take the lead in investigating a potential Fremantle-Murdoch transport link have been unsuccessful. Consequently, the Group resolved to produce a Proof of Concept document to demonstrate the merits of the proposed link.

The advocacy objectives for this project are to gain public commitment from the State Government that:

- » the proposed transport link has strong merit
- » it include the link in its future stages of Metronet, and
- » it will budget appropriately in 2021/22 FY for a full business case assessment.

The project concept is about using land as a facilitator of community, development and opportunity. It is anchored by a sensible land-use intensification plan that includes the reasonable development of well-considered nodes along a high quality dedicated mass transport connection.

The transit solution is expected to accelerate achievement of the aspirations within Planning Strategy Perth and Peel @3.5 million by creating a network of connected activity centres that deliver employment, entertainment and higher density lifestyle choices sustainably and sensibly.

The transit corridor is book-ended by the Strategic Metropolitan Centre of Fremantle and the Specialised Centre of Murdoch. However, the key to the project involves unlocking the underutilized land between the two ends of the route in order to achieve Western Australia's residential infill targets.

Consultant's Arup were engaged to provide advice on transport engineering aspects of the project. The work is due for completion in September 2020 and advocacy efforts will escalate in the lead-up to the March 2021 state election.





Partnership project with the Westport Taskforce

Last financial year the Group developed a partnership with the Westport Taskforce to identify ways to leverage the opportunities that an advanced Port presents, including opportunities for industry development, job creation, clustering of firms and other economic development outcomes.

A work package was developed and tenders awarded to consultants. The work was intended to inform the economic development strategy component of the Westport Taskforce's work and contribute significantly to the achievement of the South West Group's mission.

The work was expected to analyse:

1. The nature of the enhanced Port and logistics capability, and the key related infrastructure improvements made to optimise them.
2. The drivers of economic symbiosis between Ports and their adjacent commercial land parcels. Analysis of the ingredients necessary to create a positive and symbiotic commercial relationships between a Port, its commercial precincts and surrounding areas. This includes analysis of the availability and suitability of adjacent land to facilitate development.
3. The rationale for investing and improving these functions – in terms of economy, productivity, jobs and trade.
4. The role of these upgrades within the broader and longer term economic development plan.
5. The kinds of Government partnerships that are formed to underpin these upgrades, in particular the alliances among Local Governments, and the relationship between Municipal and State level. This includes analysis of the size and capability of the Municipal and State Governments that have entered into such partnerships, and commentary on how those examples compare with the West Australian context.
6. The acceleration of infrastructure delivery through 'agreements', 'catalysts' or 'deals' with higher levels of Government (such as 'City Deals'). This includes commentary on whether these can be applied to the West Australian context.
7. The merits of establishing a designated economic area aligned with the Western Trade Coast with regulatory and/or economic conditions tailored to the strategic goals of the region and the State.
8. Successful models in planning for and delivering revitalisation or redevelopment programs for former / newly redundant or capped Port areas, particularly those in areas considered to include high-value land suitable for mixed-use development. This includes some analysis on the conditions required to achieve a viable development (e.g. analysis of land values and building costs).

Unfortunately this body of work was deferred by the State Government - it may be re-commenced in the near future.

Major priorities and achievements in 2019/20

PROGRAM AREA 3:

An operating environment that facilitates business success

Smart Cities

In the last year the Group entered into a two-year partnership with the Smart Cities Council (SCC). The purpose of the partnership is to accelerate the capabilities of SWG member councils to drive action and investment in technology and data solutions that improve service delivery to communities (e.g. enhance liveability, economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability in the region).

Key components of the partnership

- » Capability / training workshops delivered by SCC to member council officers.
- » Free use of 'Activator' on-line collaboration platform by member council officers, including access to global resources, tools, shared experiences etc.
- » Establishment of a 'Smart Region Leadership Group' or change champions, comprised of at least one senior officer from member councils.
- » Commitment to collaboratively examine business cases and trials for smart region projects
- » Other partners are welcome to participate, subject to agreement by the Group.

As a low risk, low resource way to progress smart city initiatives, the South West Group is in the process of establishing a LoRaWAN network for key activity centres within the region. Key points to note are:

- » it removes the reliance on the cellular network, negating the need for each smart device to include a SIM card.
- » simple smart devices can connect to the LoRaWAN network and therefore to the internet. For example, smart bins, pedestrian counters, and air quality sensors are able to be simple integrated.

The network is expected to be operational by the end of Q1 of the 2020/21 financial year.

Finally, the South West Group is working with the WA AustCyber Innovation Hub to deliver a program of focused workshops for Regional businesses that informs them of the latest risks in Cyber crime and what they can do to protect themselves. The program involves tailored cyber security assessments of each of the 40 participating business. The program is due to be delivered throughout the first half of the 2020/21 financial year.

For more information on the South West Group's smart cities program visit our website www.southwestgroup.com.au/smart-regions/





National Careers Institute Partnerships Grants

In early 2020, the Federal Government announced the National Careers Institute Partnership Grants program, which provides grants of up to \$700,000 for up to two years to enhance partnerships with industry, employers, schools and tertiary institutions to deliver innovative career advisory products and services for people at all stages of their careers.

The intended outcomes of the program are:

- » enhanced career pathways that help all Australians to reach their full career potential
- » increased understanding of skills sought by employers
- » stronger collaboration in the delivery of careers information and advice
- » improved quality of careers information and advice.

The South West Group facilitated a meeting of more than one dozen stakeholders to develop the scope of a collaborative grant application representing various stakeholders from the Region. From this initial workshop, the South West Group supported an application led by AtWork Australia that also involved Beeliam Regional Chamber of Commerce, Bridging the Gap, Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce, South Metro TAFE and Workskil Australia.

An additional three applications were made from other representatives from the Region, increasing the chances of funding being directed to the Region from this program. The outcome of the grant process will be known by October 2020.

Review of regional Natural Resource Management program

The South West Metropolitan region has many valuable natural areas that are widely recognised for their conservation value, including:

- » Over 80 Bush Forever sites and other valuable reserves and areas of natural vegetation.
- » Two RAMSAR wetland associations (Thompsons Lake and Becher Point Wetlands).
- » Coastal environment and near shore reefs stretching from Fremantle to Rockingham, including Garden Island, Penguin Island, the Shoalwater Marine Park and the Becher Point Sanctuary Zone.
- » The Swan and Canning Rivers, including the Alfred Cove Marine Park and shoreline sanctuary.
- » The Beeliar and Rockingham Lakes Regional Parks and the Port Kennedy Scientific Park.
- » The Jandakot Regional Park and Jandakot Mound, which is an important water supply and contains valuable wetlands and damplands.
- » Kwinana Industry Buffer Strip with its large areas of native vegetation and other areas that will be important for biodiversity and public amenity.

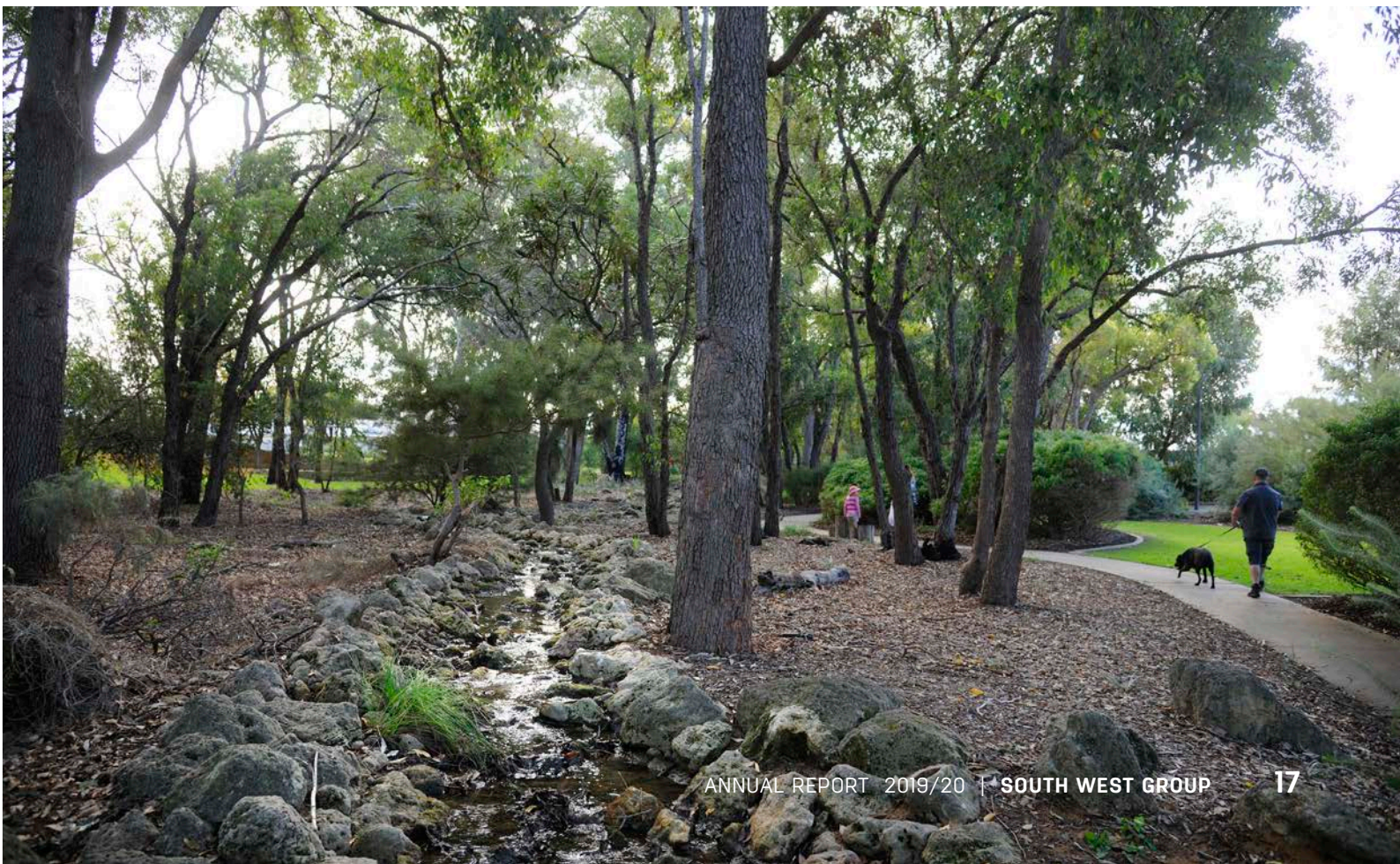
In recognition of this, the South West Group runs a natural resource management program involving five of its six member councils. That program focuses on five areas:

1. Grant Preparation and Project Management
2. Network Facilitation and Coordination
3. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing
4. Regional Representation and Influence
5. Climate Change Adaptation and Coordination

The current NRM program comes to an end in January 2021 and a review was undertaken to determine the scope and key performance indicators of the program beyond that timeframe. A summary report of the program's activities from 2017-20 can be found via our website:

www.southwestgroup.com.au/natural-resource-management/

The NRM program 2021+ has been developed by the South West Group's environmental forum and is expected to be in place from January 2021 onwards.



Committees and Associated Bodies

The South West Group Board is supported by a number of internal committees and forums that report to the CEOs' Forum. The South West Group also seeks nominations from Member Councils for committees comprising of Councillors and Officers including the South West Corridor Development and Employment Foundation Incorporated Association (SWCDEF Inc.) and the South West Environmental Forum.



South West corridor development and employment foundation

2019/20 Chair:

Cr Duncan Macphail – City of Melville

Objects of the association:

- a. facilitate and promote the development of the region and areas adjacent to the region;
- b. enhance and promote the region's attractiveness for industry and enterprise;
- c. enhance and promote the region's lifestyle;
- d. enhance and promote the region's natural attractions and
- e. enhance and promote the development of skills and expertise within and for the region.

Vice-Chair:

Cr Dennis Wood – City of Kwinana

Treasurer:

Cr Lee Anne Smith – City of Cockburn

Secretary:

Mr Tom Griffiths – Director, South West Group

The Committee meets on a quarterly basis with representation including:

- » Local Governments in the South West Metropolitan Region
- » South West Group
- » Chambers of Commerce
- » Education and training providers
- » Interested individuals

The Foundation works cooperatively to promote and initiate regional economic development, employment, workforce development and environmental projects.



Key activities 2019/20

Procurement opportunities with Perron Group

In November 2019, SWCDEF organised for Andrew Byars, General Manager Property Investment at Perron Group to local businesses on the imminent procurement opportunities from Perron Group. Attendees also heard about training pathways and Government incentives, and business support services for small-medium enterprises.

Youth jobs path industry pilots: unsuccessful submission

SWCDEF lodged an unsuccessful application for a grant offered by the Federal Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business. The Australian Government had made available \$10 million to help industry organisations develop pathways for young people to gain work experience and employment.

The initiative responded to calls from industry for greater input in selecting, training, matching and supporting young job seekers into work.

National Careers Institute Partnerships Grants

SWCDEF was a financial contributor to the costs associated with developing the collaborative application for the National Careers Institute Partnership Grants program outlined earlier in this Annual Report.

Partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)

- » Collaborative project between SWCDEF, five SWG Councils and CVA.
- » Agreement formed to manage Beeliear Rockingham Lakes Regional Parks trust funds and enter into partnership for projects of mutual benefit involving environmental restoration and rehabilitation activities. Contributions from Member Councils in 2017/18, 18/19 and 19/20 enabled CVA to recruit and supervise volunteers from the general public and corporate businesses to undertake weed control and revegetation on Council managed reserves, delivering in excess of \$3 in volunteer labour for every \$1 invested by participating Councils and raising awareness and educating volunteers in environmental management.
- » CVA has moved to a new delivery model in 2020/21 focussing on fewer signature projects but engaging in these for longer timeframes, superseding the current CVA/SWCDeF partnership. The SWG is exploring opportunities to engage with CVA in this new model.



Myer Foundation – Sustainability and Environment Capacity Building Grants Program

- » Collaborative project between four Councils, Myer Foundation and South East Region Centre for Urban Landcare (SERCUL) to build capacity of Friends groups undertaking voluntary environmental work.
- » Grant of \$62,264 obtained from Myer Foundation. Total value of project \$192,500 (includes in-kind).
- » A Friends Group Expo and nine targeted training events were held in 2018/19 and 19/20. SERCUL has been providing intensive support to several groups requiring hands-on assistance.
- » A second Friends Group Expo will be run in October 2020 and the project will conclude with a volunteer recruitment campaign to attract and direct prospective volunteers to volunteer in environmental groups.

Regional Cat Owner Education Project

- » Collaborative project between six Councils, State NRM Program, University of SA and Murdoch University.
- » Designed to raise awareness about how far cats roam, cat owners were invited to volunteer their cats for tracking via the National Cat Tracker Project run by the University of SA. However the National Cat Tracker Project was then unexpectedly terminated due to technical issues with tracking equipment. The SWCDeF project was restructured to adapt to this turn of events.
- » Murdoch University undertook research to determine whether wildlife predation or cat welfare concerns are most effective at encouraging cat owners to contain their cats within their property boundary, then produced

a series of educational videos for cat owners informed by these results. The videos cover topics such as cats' roaming behaviours, the dangers cats face when roaming, the harm cats do to wildlife and owners legal obligations, then provide information on how to keep cats safe and happy at home.

- » The Happy At Home webpage has been created on the SWG website to house information on a wide range of cat management topics and to encourage cat owners to keep their cats within their property boundary.
- » A short animated video was created for the project that contrasts how we manage our pet dogs, with how pet cats are allowed to roam freely. Its purpose is to direct cat owners to the Happy At Home webpage for information on keeping cats at home.
- » A coordinated public awareness campaign utilising all the above products will commence in late September 2020.
- » This project concludes in December 2020

Fox Tracking For Better Fox Trapping Project

- » Collaborative project between all SWG Councils and the City of Canning, State NRM Program, University of WA and consultant ecologists.
- » Seventeen foxes were trapped and fitted with GPS collars to determine how they move through the landscape. The foxes' movement patterns will be analysed and informed by the results, the consulting ecologists will provide recommendations to participating Councils on how to improve the effectiveness of future feral animal trapping programs.
- » This project concludes in December 2020.



South West Environmental Forum

Chairperson:

Sandra Lee – City of Kwinana

The South West Environmental Forum was established as a formal committee of the South West Group in 2012 to provide a regional engagement structure for the South West Group Member Councils and other key stakeholders for environmental and natural resource management (NRM) issues.

Key activities 2019/20

Progress on Regional Priority NRM Projects and Initiatives – The Regional NRM Facilitator:

- » Coordinated and managed the Regional Scale Cat Owner Education, Fox Tracking for Better Fox Trapping, Myer Foundation Community Capacity Building and CVA/SWCDEF projects (see page 20).
- » Compiled an application seeking \$66,000 from the State NRM Program Community Stewardship grants program to undertake fauna surveys in four key reserves in the region to guide future fauna and management and potential for fauna translocation (successful applicants will be announced in late 2019).
- » Facilitated the Cities of Cockburn, Kwinana and Rockingham and DBCA in developing a regional identity for the Tramway Trail.
- » Worked with DBCA, DLGSC and WALGA to progress initiatives to better manage Off Road Vehicle impacts
- » Researched member Council history of remote sensing data acquisition, use and future needs to determine feasibility of regional scale data acquisition and analysis
- » Reviewed findings of newly completed Swan River and Helena Rivers flood study for relevance to member Councils.

Supporting Member Councils on NRM Activities – The NRM Facilitator has provided regular advice to member Council staff on grant funding and NRM partnership project opportunities, as well as providing direct assistance in the preparation of grant funding proposals and applications and compiled a regional response to the review of the Cat Act 2011.

South West Group Natural Areas Management Forum – The Regional NRM Facilitator facilitated meetings of the Forum that focussed on managing environmental connectivity and Banksia Woodland restoration, and improving knowledge sharing and cooperation between environmental officers in local and state governments.

Stakeholder Relationships – Maintained and enhanced strong relationships with key stakeholders including those involved in the Natural Areas Management Forum and other agencies and organisations such as the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries, NRM WA, Perth NRM, Birdlife Australia, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the WA Biodiversity Science Institute.





Statement of Income and Expenditure

Financial Reports

For the year ending 30 June 2020

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SOUTH WEST GROUP
CERTIFICATION BY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020


The Board has determined that the South West Group is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.


In the opinion of the Board, the financial report, as attached:

- (i) Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of South West Group as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

- (ii) At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that South West Group will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

Signed: 
Name: Tom Griffiths
Place: Melville
Date: 27. AUG. 2020

Signed: 
Name: Mick McCarthy
Place: Melville
Date: 28 August 2020

Chartered Accountants **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**
TO: THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH WEST GROUP

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of South West Group ("the entity"), which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2020, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Certification by Members of the Board on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the entity.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the entity as at 30 June 2020 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the Financial Report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report which describes the basis of accounting. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Board for the Financial Report

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.




INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (Continued)


Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report (continue)

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entity or business activities within the entity to express an opinion on the financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the entity audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.


MACRI PARTNERS
CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS
SUITE 2, 137 BURSWOOD ROAD
BURSWOOD WA 6100


A MACRI
PARTNER

PERTH
DATED THIS 31st DAY OF AUGUST 2020.

SOUTH WEST GROUP

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	483,950	560,473
Trade and Other receivables	3	27,517	11,011
TOTAL ASSETS		511,467	571,484
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	4	164,196	204,461
Provision for Long Service Leave		33,502	28,259
		197,698	232,720
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision for Long Service Leave		0	0
		0	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES		197,698	232,720
NET ASSETS		313,769	338,764
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Retained Surplus	5	313,769	338,764

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTH WEST GROUP

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
INCOME			
Contributions and Donations		498,924	499,277
NRM Facilitator Contributions		117,500	117,500
Visual Fuel Assessment		9,182	0
Freemantle to Murdoch Transport Link		80,000	0
Recoups - Travel		0	6,507
Interest Received		976	6,518
		706,582	629,802
EXPENDITURE			
Employee Costs		272,526	269,492
Travel Expenses	6	2,289	35,766
Secretarial & Office Costs		22,411	18,484
Consultant and Management Fees	7	423,913	316,061
Audit Fees		5,000	5,000
Other Project Costs	8	5,438	6,313
		731,577	651,116
Current year Surplus/(Loss)		(24,995)	(21,314)

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

SOUTH WEST GROUP
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a special purpose financial report. The Board has determined that the South West Group is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non current assets.

Long Service Leave - Entitlement calculated based on 13 weeks after 10 years of service.

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
NOTE 2 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at Bank	483,950	560,473
	483,950	560,473
NOTE 3 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
<u>CURRENT</u>		
Trade Debtors	27,517	11,011
	27,517	11,011
NOTE 4 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
<u>CURRENT</u>		
Creditors	158,474	204,157
GST Payable	5,722	304
	164,196	204,461
NOTE 5 RETAINED SURPLUS		
Opening Funds	338,764	360,078
Current year surplus/(loss)	(24,995)	(21,314)
Closing Funds	313,769	338,764
	Equity	Share
	\$	%
City of Cockburn	69,908	22.28%
Town of East Fremantle	24,192	7.71%
City of Fremantle	41,323	13.17%
City of Kwinana	40,759	12.99%
City of Melville	62,722	19.99%
City of Rockingham	74,865	23.86%
	313,769	100.00%

SOUTH WEST GROUP
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

NOTE 6 TRAVEL EXPENSES

Travel expenses for 2019/20 include expenses incurred by the director to attend the Smart Cities Conference in October 2019 where he spoke as part of a panel session. There was no Board travel during the year due to the COVID19 pandemic. A delegation to Queensland planned for May/June 2020 was postponed indefinitely.

NOTE 7 CONSULTANT AND MANAGEMENT FEES

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Accommodation Charge - City of Melville	5,000	5,000
Admin Service Charge - City of Melville	20,000	20,000
Lobbying and Communications Strategy	143,185	8,264
Economy ID Subscription	24,000	24,000
NRM Strategy	116,907	134,203
Economic Development Consultancy	83,381	124,594
Operating Environment Review and Benchmarking	31,440	0
	<u>423,913</u>	<u>316,061</u>

NOTE 8 OTHER PROJECT COSTS

Meeting Expenses	1,587	6,234
Visual Fuel Load Assessment	3,851	79
	<u>5,438</u>	<u>6,313</u>



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