

**ELECTION SUBMISSION**

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**WA LABOR PARTY**

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**MARCH 2021**

**STATE ELECTION, WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

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The South West Group was established in 1983 as a Regional Organisation of Councils, and our member councils include: Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Kwinana, Melville and Rockingham. In total, we have almost half a million residents living in our region, more than 220,000 workers and a regional economy valued at approximately \$30 billion.

As proactive Local Governments, we are builders of thriving and sustainable communities. The six local authorities within the South West Group Region are determined to overcome the effects of the global pandemic and to ensure the essential services that we provide deliver immediate and lasting benefits for our communities and the regional economy.

Those essential services total almost \$600 million for communities within the South West Group region every year. However, the South West Group believes that further investment by the State Government is vital if the region is to fulfil its potential and to achieve shared Local and State Government objectives.

This submission provides 16 recommendations to the Western Australian Labor Party grouped into three key themes:

**1. MOVEMENT**

**2. JOBS AND INNOVATION**

**3. COASTLINE AND RIVER FORESHORE MANAGEMENT**

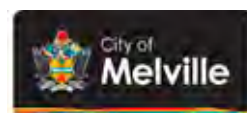
Collectively we ask that these recommendations be incorporated into the Labor Party's March 2021 election platform and are supported publicly. The recommendations relate to major regional scale projects that are aligned with Labor Party policy positions and strategic objectives. They are intended to stimulate economic activity and create jobs by removing capacity constraints and investing in enablers to economic growth.

I would like to thank the State Government for the productive working relationship we've shared since you were elected in March 2017, and many years before that for some Members of Parliament. On behalf of the South West Group Board that I currently chair, I wish you the best of luck in next March's State election.

Yours sincerely,



His Worship the Mayor  
Logan K Howlett, JP  
Chair of the South West Group in 2020, and representing the following Local Governments:





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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This submission provides 16 recommendations to the Western Australian Labor Party grouped into three key themes:

## **1. MOVEMENT**

## **2. JOBS AND INNOVATION**

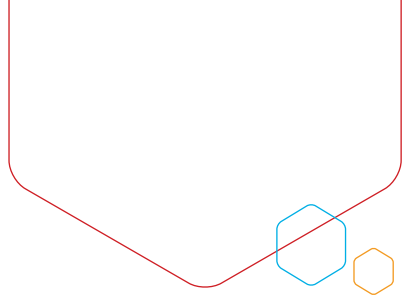
## **3. COASTLINE AND RIVER FORESHORE MANAGEMENT**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MOVEMENT THEME**

1. Continue the upgrading of the Kwinana Freeway to include the section farther south, between Russell Road and Thomas Road, northbound and southbound.
2. Partner with the City of Rockingham to deliver Stage 2 of the Rockingham Integrated Transit and Foreshore Redevelopment.
3. Make a public commitment that:
  - the Fremantle to Murdoch transport link has strong merit and include the link in future stages of Metronet, and
  - it will budget appropriately in 2021/22 FY for a full business case assessment (including all route options, types of technology etc.).
4. Make a public commitment that:
  - the Fremantle to Cockburn Coast transport link has strong merit and include the link in future stages of Perth's transport network, and
  - it will budget appropriately in 2021/22 FY for a full business case assessment (including all route options, types of technology etc.).
5. Allocate the Canning Bridge project to a State agency and provide an appropriate budget to develop a masterplan for the important node, in consultation with key stakeholders including Local Governments.
6. Work with Fremantle Ports and the City of Fremantle on a plan to address the poor quality connection between the Fremantle Passenger Terminal and the Fremantle City Centre.
7. Nominate a lead agency to coordinate and deliver a masterplan for the Western Trade Coast and commit to a timeline to develop and implement the plan.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JOBS AND INNOVATION THEME**

8. Find an alternative location for the PTA car park at Murdoch Activity Centre, freeing up the land parcel for the Stage 2 mixed use precinct.
9. Provide \$150,000 funding for analysis of diversification and export market opportunities for priority sectors within the South West Group Region.
10. Work with Local Governments within the Region to develop a cohesive regional tourism network plan and supporting governance mechanism to integrate existing and new activities aimed at increasing tourism links within the Region.
11. Develop and deliver a Victoria Quay Precinct Plan aimed at improving integration with the city centre as well as realising the excellent opportunities for activation.



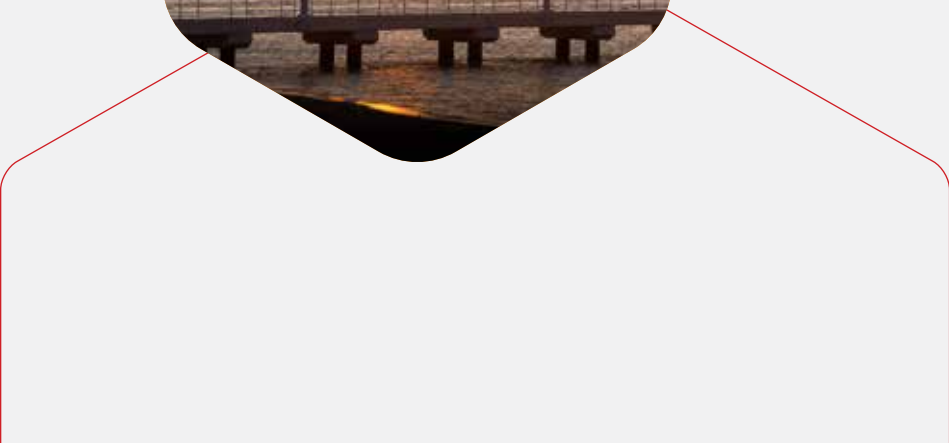
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## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COASTLINE AND RIVER FORESHORE MANAGEMENT THEME

12. Develop a cohesive coastal management plan for Western Australia and supporting governance mechanisms that integrates the delivery programs of all State agencies and Local Governments.
13. Develop and resource an ongoing, structured and standardised program for monitoring coastal data and reporting key findings to affected stakeholders including how the real world change compares with historical coastline modelling.
14. Establish an environmental emergency response fund that can be accessed as the need arises.
15. Increase funding for innovative projects that protect the coast and estuarine foreshores while generating additional environmental benefits.
16. Take a more active role in communicating to the public about the likely impact of climate change and the actions Governments are likely to take to adapt (e.g. coastal retreat).

Collectively we ask that these recommendations be incorporated into the Labor Party's March 2021 election platform and are supported publicly. The recommendations relate to major regional scale projects that are aligned with Labor Party policy positions and strategic objectives. They are intended to stimulate economic activity and create jobs by removing capacity constraints and investing in enablers to economic growth.







# ABOUT THE REGION

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Perth's South West Metropolitan Region is Western Australia's gateway to the dynamic Indo-Pacific Region. The Region's 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 generations to come.

The Region's major industries service the State's globally significant mining, petroleum and agricultural sectors, and Australia's largest naval base, HMAS Stirling. The Region has advanced capabilities in: Advanced Manufacturing and Defence; Agribusiness and Food; International Education; International Health; Resources and Energy; and Tourism.

It is home to the 'Western Trade Coast' that includes the Kwinana Strategic Industrial Area, Australian Marine Complex, Rockingham Industrial Zone, and Latitude 32. It is also home to major industrial precincts and emerging clusters of expertise that complement a range of growing markets in Australia and the wider Indo-Pacific Region.

However, the Region requires fresh public investment and renewed coordination to realise its full potential. This submission in the lead up to the March 2021 State Election outlines how we can collectively achieve the vision via strategic coordination of major projects at State and Local Government levels should the Liberal Party form a Government.

It provides 16 recommendations and is structured into three key themes:

## **1. MOVEMENT**

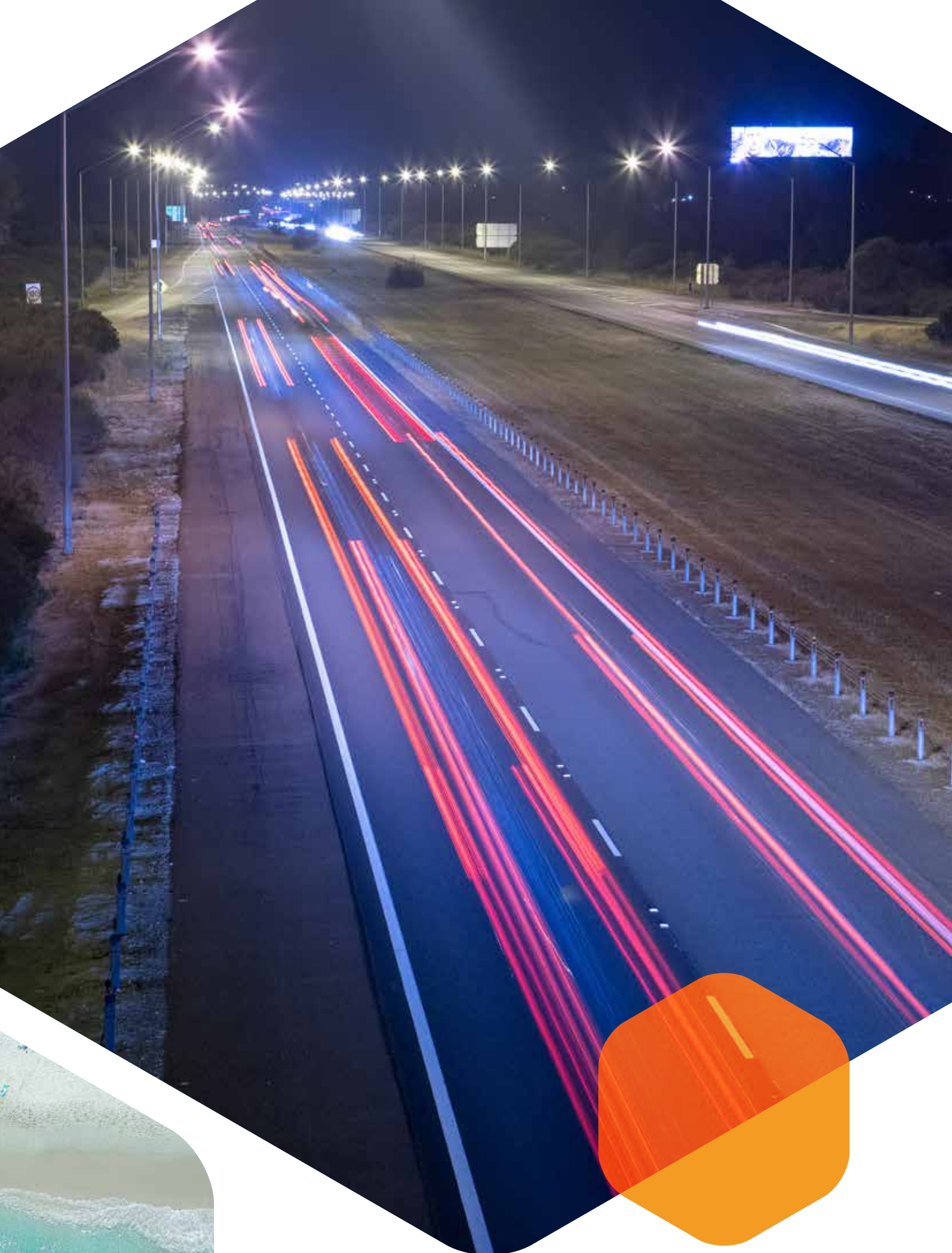
## **2. JOBS AND INNOVATION**

## **3. COASTLINE AND RIVER FORESHORE MANAGEMENT**

# 1. MOVEMENT



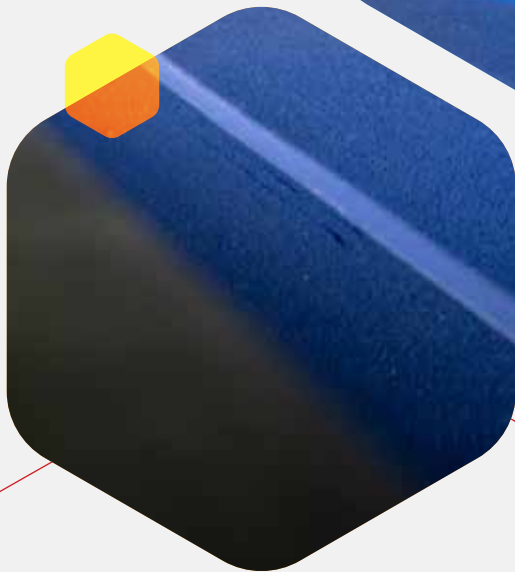
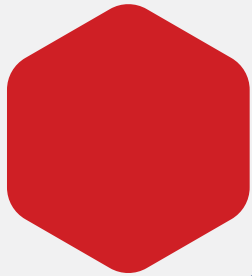




## RECOMMENDATIONS

THEME: MOVEMENT	
PROJECT #1: MITCHELL & KWINANA FREEWAY UPGRADES	
Intended community outcome(s)	Reduced congestion and improved travel times on Kwinana Freeway in both directions in the section between Russell Road and Thomas Road.
Specific problem	<p>Widening and introducing smart technology to parts of Kwinana Freeway has recently been completed and improved travel times. But it does not include the southern section of the Freeway between Russell Road and Thomas Road.</p> <p>A high proportion of Perth's urban and industrial development is planned within this area and the recent upgrading of the Kwinana Freeway to the north of this area is expected to move congestion farther south into this section.</p> <p>Therefore, the upgrading of Kwinana Freeway needs to continue farther south to include this section between Russell Road and Thomas Road. There are 46,123 vehicles per day south bound and 41,645 vehicles per day north bound using this section of the Kwinana Freeway, and travel efficiency is expected to decline rapidly in the coming years.</p>
Recommendation	<b>Continue the upgrading of the Kwinana Freeway to include the section farther south, between Road and Thomas Road, northbound and southbound.</b>
Government Recovery Priority Areas	#1 Driving industry development #3 Building infrastructure #9 Major road construction
Electorates benefitting	Kwinana, Cockburn and Rockingham

THEME: MOVEMENT	
PROJECT #2: ROCKINGHAM INTEGRATED TRANSIT AND BEACH FRONT DEVELOPMENT	
Intended community outcome(s)	Improved public transport options for the Rockingham community, and incentivised urban development within the existing metropolitan footprint.
Specific problem	<p>The City of Rockingham is one of the fastest growing areas in Australia. The population is forecast to grow to almost 172,000 by 2026 and 193,000 by 2036.</p> <p>It is a significant tourist destination for international visitors with over 600,000 visitor nights annually. This growth puts pressure on the creation of local jobs.</p> <p>The need for the Rockingham City Centre Transit System (RCCTS) arose from a decision by the Western Australian Government to build a light rail link from the Rockingham Station through the Rockingham City Centre to Rockingham Beach in lieu of the Station being placed in the City Centre. The City is open to all modes of light rail transit to perform the function."</p> <p>Implementation of Stage 1 of the Rockingham Beach Foreshore Master Plan cost around \$16 million, partly funded by the Federal Government. Stage 2 of Rockingham Beach is estimated to cost \$30 million. Works include a maritime playground, shared street, interpretive sites, a sea wall, kiosks, an event lawn, active youth node, play areas, toilets and revegetation.</p> <p>The delivery of the Rockingham Beach Foreshore Master Plan (Stage 2) and the RCCTS is a major opportunity to catalyse private sector investment in Rockingham and to generate sustainable jobs for the future.</p>
Recommendation	<b>Partner with the City of Rockingham to deliver Stage 2 of the Rockingham Beach Master Plan and advance the Rockingham City Centre Transit System.</b>
Government Recovery Priority Areas	#3 Building infrastructure #8 Building Metronet #9 Major road construction #12 Housing construction
Electorates benefitting	Rockingham



**THEME: MOVEMENT**

**PROJECT #3: FREMANTLE TO MURDOCH TRANSIT LINK**

Intended community outcome(s) Improved public transport options and east-west connections within the South West metropolitan region, and incentivised urban development within the existing metropolitan footprint.

Specific problem Perth's public transport system is not advancing swiftly enough to meet the needs of a major 21st century city and there is a clear need to better connect Perth's urban footprint by linking existing and emerging activity centres. A high quality public transport link in this corridor will act as a catalyst for residential and commercial development in appropriate areas by providing certainty and an impetus for investment.

This project aims to address the sub-optimal approach to transport planning that has prevailed in Metropolitan Perth, perpetuating urban sprawl and incremental transport infrastructure investment.

The project is about strategically using land and transport infrastructure as a facilitator of community wellbeing and economic development. It is an opportunity to guide development of future residential infill intelligently and to transition to a greater use of public transport.

Recommendation **Make a public commitment:**

- that the Fremantle to Murdoch transport link has strong merit and include the link in future stages of Metronet, and
- that it will budget appropriately in 2021/22 FY for a full business case assessment (including all route options, types of technology etc.)

Government Recovery Priority Areas #3 Building infrastructure  
#8 Building Metronet  
#9 Major road construction  
#12 Housing construction

Electorates benefitting Fremantle, Willagee, Bateman, Bicton

**THEME: MOVEMENT**

**PROJECT #4: FREMANTLE TO COCKBURN TRANSIT LINK**

Intended community outcome(s) Improved public transport options within the South West metropolitan region, and incentivised urban development within the existing metropolitan footprint.

Specific problem Investment in this vital piece of public transport infrastructure would close the public transport loop from the Thornlie to Cockburn line. It would represent Perth's first major east-west connection and provide a higher level of public transport service to residents of the South West Region.

The investment would comprise of an additional heavy rail transit to link Cockburn Central to Fremantle via Cockburn Coast.

Recommendation **Make a public commitment:**

- that the Fremantle to Cockburn Coast transport link has strong merit and include the link in future stages of Metronet, and
- that it will budget appropriately in 2021/22 FY for a full business case assessment (including all route options, types of technology etc.)

Government Recovery Priority Areas #3 Building infrastructure  
#8 Building Metronet  
#9 Major road construction  
#12 Housing construction

Electorates benefitting Fremantle, Cockburn, Bicton

**THEME: MOVEMENT**

**PROJECT #5: CANNING BRIDGE ACTIVITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT**

**Intended community outcome(s)**      Reduced congestion and improved travel times within the vicinity of the Canning Bridge precinct.

Improved public transport options within the South West metropolitan region, and incentivised urban development within the existing metropolitan footprint.

**Specific problem**

The Cities of Melville and South Perth and the Western Australian Government developed an Activity Centre Plan for Canning Bridge in February 2016 that provides for an additional 24,000 residents within the 164-hectare area by 2051, as well as over 6,000 additional jobs.

This increased density and availability of local jobs should reduce congestion and promote greater use of public transport.

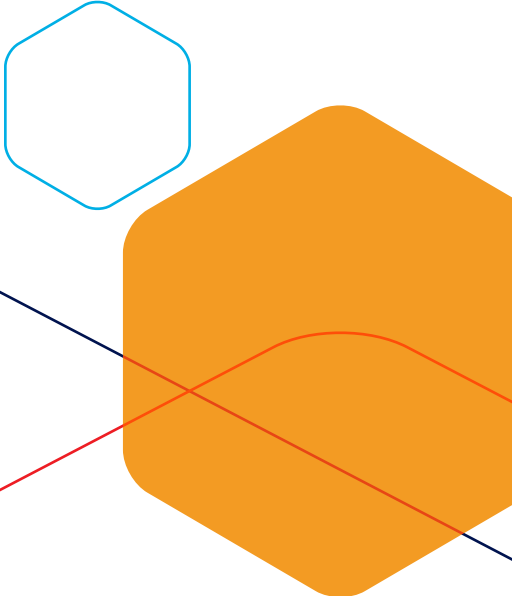
The plateauing of public transport use in Metropolitan Perth requires investment in improving intermodal transfers as well as increasing capacity. The traffic increase on Canning Highway requires additional capacity in crossing the Canning River as a matter of urgency.

The site is already one of the busiest bus stations in suburban Perth with a bus movement every five minutes during AM and PM peak. It is only seven kilometres from the Perth CBD. Main Roads WA estimate that by 2031 there will be 105,000 vehicles per day crossing the Canning Bridge. The Canning Bridge section of Canning Highway is already one of the most congested roads in Perth.

**Recommendation**      **Allocate the Canning Bridge project to a State agency and provide an appropriate budget to develop a masterplan for the important node, in consultation with key stakeholders including Local Governments**

**Government Recovery Priority Areas**      #3 Building infrastructure  
#9 Major road construction  
#12 Housing construction

**Electorates benefitting**      Bateman, South Perth



PROJECT #6: PORT TO CITY PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION

Intended community outcome(s) Improved access for cruise ship passengers from the passenger terminal into the commercial precinct to enhance the image of both the city, the state and country at this important gateway. Improved connections will enable long-term opportunities for tourism, cultural and recreational uses along Victoria Quay.

Specific problem Fremantle is the dominant cruise industry port in WA and the estimated economic value of the cruise ship industry to Fremantle is \$314.7 million. However the existing connections between the passenger terminal and Fremantle are unattractive and difficult to navigate. The cruise industry understands its economic contribution and will readily relocate its home ports, turnaround ports and transit ports if facilities are not attractive for the cruise operator and/or cruise passengers. Transit visit passengers may choose to remain on the vessel if connections to attractions are poor.

Recommendation **There is an opportunity to capitalise on this revenue opportunity for the local economy as long as connections to central Fremantle are improved. One way to improve connections between the Fremantle Passenger Terminal and the Fremantle commercial centre is shown below.**

**We ask that the WA State Government work with Fremantle Ports and the City of Fremantle on a plan and investment to address this nationally significant problem.**



Government Recovery Priority #3 Building infrastructure  
#9 Major road construction

Electorate(s) Fremantle

**THEME: MOVEMENT**

**PROJECT #7: INTEGRATED MASTERPLAN FOR WESTERN TRADE COAST**

Intended community outcome(s) Coordinated planning and implementation for the Western Trade Coast that maximises its economic potential.

Specific problem There are numerous economic drivers around the Western Trade Coast, including urban growth, Marine and Naval expansion, Strategic Industrial Area growth, Westport and Latitude 32.

There are numerous stakeholders from the Commonwealth, State and three Local Governments, plus a range of industry associations, established businesses and individual land owners.

State Government has committed to masterplan for AMC but not the entire Western Trade Coast.

Private sector is leading discussion of strategy and development of the area and there appears to be conflict from the varying perspectives. And plans to expand naval capacity in the region, along with Westport plans and desalination plant expansion are already in conflict with no clear hierarchy for decision making.

Many plans in the area waiting on Westport outcome prior to planning proceeding. While this is understandable, the planning needs to proceed immediately following an announcement.

Recommendation **Nominate a lead agency to coordinate and deliver a masterplan for the Western Trade Coast and commit to a timeline to develop and implement the plan.**

- Government Recovery Priority
- #1 Driving industry development
  - #2 Boosting local manufacturing
  - #3 Building infrastructure
  - #4 Investing in renewable energy and new technologies

Electorate(s) Kwinana, Cockburn, Rockingham

# 2. JOBS AND INNOVATION







THEME: JOBS & INNOVATION	
PROJECT #8: MURDOCH HEALTH & KNOWLEDGE PRECINCT	
Intended community outcome(s)	Development of the Murdoch Activity Centre to its full potential by removing barriers to investment.
Specific problem	<p>The Murdoch Activity Centre is master-planned and intended to develop into a significant metropolitan centre based around key activities of health, education, innovation and research. Current structure planning provides for growth to 35,000 jobs, 44,000 students and in excess of 6,000 new dwellings.</p> <p>One key piece of enabling infrastructure required to fulfil the Activity Centre plan is the parcel of land to the west of the Murdoch train station, currently used for a Public Transport Authority (PTA) car park.</p> <p>Relocation of PTA car park will enable delivery of the Stage 2 mixed-use precinct planned for that location.</p>
Recommendation	<b>Find an alternative location for the PTA car park at Murdoch Activity Centre, freeing up the land parcel for the Stage 2 mixed-use precinct.</b>
Government Recovery Priority Areas	#1 Driving industry development #3 Build infrastructure #10 Building community infrastructure #21 Unlocking barriers to investment
Electorates benefitting	Jandakot, Willagee, Riverton, Bateman

THEME: JOBS & INNOVATION	
PROJECT #9: DEVELOPING EXPORT CAPACITY OF SMEs	
Intended community outcome(s)	Increase export readiness of small-medium enterprises within the region, develop export clusters and attract investment to the region.
Specific problem	Lack of knowledge and capacity of local small-medium enterprises to access export markets.
Recommendation	<b>Provide \$150,000 funding for analysis of diversification and export market opportunities for priority sectors within the South West Group Region.</b>
Government Recovery Priority Areas	#1 Driving industry development #2 Boosting local manufacturing #13 Supporting small businesses
Electorates benefitting	Bicton, Bateman, Riverton, Fremantle, Willagee, Jandakot, Cockburn, Kwinana, Rockingham

THEME: JOBS & INNOVATION	
PROJECT #10: TOURISM NETWORK PLAN	
Intended community outcome(s)	Identify new tourism infrastructure needs and/or upgrades.
Specific problem	Development of a South West Regional Tourist Network Plan that aims to increase the linkages of the region and iconic tourism attractions and will also identify new physical and digital infrastructure needs.
Recommendation	<b>Work with Local Governments within the Region to develop a cohesive regional tourism network plan and supporting governance mechanism to integrate existing and new activities aimed at increasing tourism links within the Region.</b>
Government Recovery Priority Areas	#1 Driving industry development #13 Supporting small businesses #17 Investing in our tourism sector
Electorates benefitting	Bicton, Bateman, Riverton, Fremantle, Willagee, Jandakot, Cockburn, Kwinana, Rockingham

**THEME: JOBS & INNOVATION**

**PROJECT #11: PLAN FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF VICTORIA QUAY, FREMANTLE**

Intended community outcome(s)    Redevelopment and activation of a significantly undervalued utilised piece of land in prime location.

Specific problem    Victoria Quay is a wharf located on the South Bank of the Swan River at its mouth in Fremantle. It contains a range of historic warehouses and facilities, the Maritime Museum, E-Shed Markets and Rottnest Ferry terminal and a range of Port facilities, but is underutilised and fragmented. The project proposes to repurpose the historic quay as a vibrant new tourism, commercial and urban hub via coordinated public and private sector investment.

Recommendation    **Delivery of a Victoria Quay Precinct Plan aimed at improving integration with the city centre and existing visitor attractions as well as realising the exceptional opportunities for activation and vibrancy at ground level with uses such as retail, cafes and restaurants.**

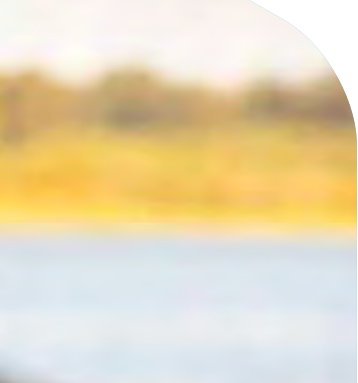
Government Recovery Priority Areas    #1 Driving industry development  
#3 Building infrastructure  
#21 Unlocking barriers to investment

Electorates benefitting    Fremantle



# 3. COASTLINE AND RIVER FORESHORE MANAGEMENT





**THEME: COASTLINE & RIVER FORESHORE MANAGEMENT**

**PROJECT #12: COHESIVE COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Intended community outcome(s)	Protect and enhance the natural environment including coastal and river foreshores.
Specific problem	An opportunity to improve integration of coastal management activities and strategies across level of Government and State agencies.
Recommendation	<b>Develop a cohesive coastal management plan for Western Australia and supporting governance mechanisms that integrates the delivery programs of all State agencies and Local Governments.</b>
Government Recovery Priority Areas	#10 Building community infrastructure #16 Green jobs and environmental protection
Electorates benefitting	Bicton, Fremantle, Cockburn, Kwinana, Rockingham

**THEME: COASTLINE & RIVER FORESHORE MANAGEMENT**

**PROJECT #13: COASTAL AND RIVER FORESHORE MONITORING AND REPORTING**

Intended community outcome(s)	Protect and enhance the natural environment including coastal and river foreshores.
Specific problem	Lack of reliable data and structured reporting on the status of the Western Australian coastline.
Recommendation	<b>(a) Develop and resource an ongoing, structured and standardised program for monitoring coastal data and reporting key findings to affected stakeholders including Local Governments.</b> <b>(b) Report on how the real world change compares with historical coastline modelling - data should include how the position of the coast has changed over time, extent of erosion and/or accretion, and changes in near shore depths (bathymetry data).</b>
Government Recovery Priority Areas	#10 Building community infrastructure #16 Green jobs and environmental protection
Electorates benefitting	Bicton, Fremantle, Cockburn, Kwinana, Rockingham

**THEME: COASTLINE & RIVER FORESHORE MANAGEMENT**

**PROJECT #14: ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND**

Intended community outcome(s)	Protect and enhance the natural environment including coastal and river foreshores.
Specific problem	Responsive and ad hoc approach to coastal and river foreshore emergencies.
Recommendation	<b>Establish an environmental emergency response fund that can be accessed as the need arises.</b>
Government Recovery Priority Areas	#10 Building community infrastructure #16 Green jobs and environmental protection
Electorates benefitting	Bicton, Fremantle, Cockburn, Kwinana, Rockingham

**THEME: COASTLINE & RIVER FORESHORE MANAGEMENT**

**PROJECT #15: INCREASED FUNDING FOR EXISTING GRANT PROGRAMS**

Intended community outcome(s)	Protect and enhance the natural environment including coastal and river foreshores.
Specific problem	Limited funding and/or restrictive funding criteria for innovative projects intended to protect and enhance coastal and river foreshores.
Recommendation	<b>Increase funding available through State Government grant programs (e.g. CAP, Coastwest, Riverbank etc.) and broaden their criteria to include innovative projects that protect the coast and estuarine foreshores while generating additional environmental benefits.</b>
Government Recovery Priority Areas	#10 Building community infrastructure #16 Green jobs and environmental protection
Electorates benefitting	Bicton, Fremantle, Cockburn, Kwinana, Rockingham

**THEME: COASTLINE & RIVER FORESHORE MANAGEMENT**

**PROJECT #16: EDUCATING WESTERN AUSTRALIANS**

Intended community outcome(s)	Protect and enhance the natural environment including coastal and river foreshores.
Specific problem	Lack of community understanding about the likely impact of climate change on the natural environment.
Recommendation	<b>Take a more active role in communicating to the public about the likely impact of climate change and the actions Governments are likely to take to adapt (e.g. coastal retreat).</b>
Government Recovery Priority Areas	#10 Building community infrastructure #16 Green jobs and environmental protection
Electorates benefitting	Bicton, Fremantle, Cockburn, Kwinana, Rockingham



# ENQUIRIES TO:

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