

UDIA SW Forum

Busselton
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Presentation on the SW Framework by Jeremy Dawkins

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The need for strategic direction for the SW

It is widely recognised that strategic planning for the South West region does not reflect the rapid changes which have taken place over the past decade.

While a number of sub-regional and other policies have been prepared in the past, there is no strategic view of the region as a whole.

To provide strategic guidance, the WAPC requested the Department for Planning and Infrastructure to prepare the South West Framework.

Development of the framework began in early 2007 with the formation of an interagency taskforce.

What is the SW Framework?

A *regional framework* provides a big-picture view of the long-term future of a region.

- It focuses only on the major challenges facing the region and the main opportunities to guide the region towards a desired future.
- It seeks consensus – or at least clarity – on the principal *policies* which will be needed to achieve this future.

The *South West Framework* brings together policies which are specific to the SW region.

- It does not replace the existing subregional policies.
- It does not replace the many policies which guide the WAPC's decision-making across the state.

The framework will be used to inform and guide the review and development of new or existing strategies and policies at state level, and local planning strategies and schemes at a local level.

There should be an ongoing program to keep the framework up to date and to address emerging issues.

How is the SW Framework being prepared?

The SW Framework has been prepared for the Western Australian Planning Commission by the WAPC's SW region planning committee.

Planners in the Department for Planning and Infrastructure have developed the framework in collaboration with many state agencies and the region's local governments.

DPI is actively seeking data from various agencies on the following.

- The distribution and quality of native vegetation
- The capacity of soils for agriculture
- Water resources
- The risks of inundation along sections of the coast
- Infrastructure and services for industry
- Ways to integrate local planning across current local government boundaries

The South West framework has already led to increased communication and cooperation between staff in some Government agencies.

How can others contribute to the SW Framework?

The preliminary SW Framework is expected to be published in the near future to encourage community groups, industry, experts and the public generally to contribute information, comments and ideas.

The SW region planning committee is aware that there is much more to be done.

- *More specific policies* still need to be developed.
- *Mechanisms* may need to be identified to give effect to these policies.

Everyone's ideas on the core issues will be very welcome. For example:

- Where should urban growth occur?
- Should there be any further rural residential subdivision?
- Which are the strategic tourism assets?
- Which areas of native vegetation should be protected?
- Which soils and farmlands should be reserved for agriculture?
- How should water resources be managed and put to use?
- What should be done on the coast where there are high risks of inundation?
- What are priorities for the provision of infrastructure and services for industry?
- What other issues are critical to the future of the SW?
- How can local planning be integrated across current local government boundaries?
- Can major government decisions be made locally?
- What decision making structures should be based in the region?

The release of the draft framework for public comment will facilitate the discussion of these and other issues while detailed data collection continues.

Being part of the process

Look out for the publication of the SW Framework in the near future. Comments, ideas and hard data will all be very welcome. You will be able to make more than one submission.

It is hoped that most comments and submissions will be received before mid-year, but comments at any time will be taken into account as the framework is further developed.

Keep an eye on the WAPC website at www.wapc.wa.gov.au.

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