



MID WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION - Meeting the challenge

As the Mid West prepares for several new mining, resources and infrastructure projects, the Mid West Development Commission continues to advocate for integrated regional planning and social and economic investment that captures maximum opportunity for the region.

The Commission remains committed to planning for the Mid West based on different growth scenarios. This will ensure a proactive community and business responses to major projects including the proposed development of Oakajee and its associated infrastructure and mining operations, as well as various science projects including the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP), Square Kilometre Array (SKA) and the National Broadband Network (NBN). Key planning initiatives being undertaken include:

1. The **Mid West Regional Plan (MWRP)** - led by the Western Australian Planning Commission, the Plan is being developed by the Mid West Regional Planning Committee (MWDC is a member). The MWRP will focus on establishing a strategic regional planning framework with an emphasis on land use planning in the Mid West. It will strongly support planning and coordination across government.
2. The **Mid West Investment Plan (MWIP)** - managed and led by the Commission with support from the Department of Regional Development and Lands (RDL), the MWIP will outline specific, priority infrastructure projects and be used in consultation with the Mid West Region Plan to drive essential public and private investment into the Mid West. This will enable an appropriate, pro-active response to the community infrastructure needs arising from the development of Oakajee and other major Mid West projects.
3. **Country Local Government Fund (CLGF)** - The Commission is currently holding workshops to assist local governments identify and progress infrastructure priorities that could be funded from the Royalties for Regions CLFG. Information gathered will also feed into the MWIP and MWRP.

Underpinning this essential planning is the development of a robust and credible population, demographic and economic growth projection model, which can take into account various regional growth scenarios. The Commission has enabled this work through a Royalties for Regions Regional Grants Scheme allocation of \$90,000 to the City of Geraldton-Greenough.

The **Regional Development Council (RDC)** is the State's peak advisory body on regional development matters and comprising the Chairs of the State's nine regional development commissions, WA Local Government Association and RDL. The RDC considers a number of major project submissions, which have a state-wide significance.

At its August meeting the RDC directed the Mid West and Goldfields-Esperance development commissions to meet with the Department of Transport to progress a State Freight Transport Strategy. The MWDC has strongly advocated for the development of an integrated infrastructure corridor connecting Oakajee with Esperance via Kalgoorlie, providing standard gauge rail connection between Oakajee, Esperance Perth/Kwinana and the Eastern States.

For information and/or provide input into these initiatives please contact the Mid West Development Commission Ph: 99210702 or info@mwdc.wa.gov.au