

# Lower Great Southern Growth Plan Partnership

## Memorandum of Understanding

Between the:

- City of Albany
- Shire of Denmark
- Shire of Plantagenet
- Great Southern Development Commission
- Department of Regional Development
- Department of Planning
- LandCorp
- Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc.

in relation to the Lower Great Southern Growth Plan



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## Purpose

The purpose of the MOU is to:

- Provide for an agreement for each party to partner in the development of a Growth Plan for the future economic and social development of the Albany (the Regional Centre) and its economic activity area.
- Establish the terms to resource the development of the Albany Growth Plan (the Growth Plan) under the Regional Centres Development Plan (RCDP) Regional Centres Program (Program), including allocation of Program funding in pursuit of the project management plan approved by the RCDP Steering Committee.

The MOU should be read in conjunction with the RCDP Framework and Growth Plan Toolkit.

## Background

The State Planning Strategy 2050 identifies Western Australia's network of Regional Centres and Sub-regional Centres, and the RCDP Regional Centres, Pilbara Cities and Super-Towns Programs support those of the highest strategic importance to the State's economy and regional communities. The State Planning Strategy 2050 identifies the need for these strategic regional centres to build on their competitive and collaborative advantages to support the sustained growth and prosperity of Western Australia.

The RCDP Framework provides a platform for the establishment of Growth Plan Partnerships and the development of Growth Plans through the Program. It is being implemented by the State Government to provide the necessary economic and strategic planning and partnerships to meet the objectives of the *State Planning Strategy 2050*, *Regional Development Strategy* and *Regional Blueprints* with respect to strategic regional centres. The Growth Plan is designed to unlock a regional centre's growth potential in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy, and require commitment across sectors to both develop the plan and implement it.

The outcome required is a comprehensive strategic economic and social development plan for the Regional Centre. It will identify objectives for economic and population growth, establish actions which are realistic and capable of being executed within an agreed time frame, and that are based on a defensible and comprehensive economic and social analysis.

The Growth Plan will note and have regard to the economic and social connections with communities within the boundaries of the Regional Centre and its economic activity area.

Finalisation of the Growth Plan will involve the following:

- The Growth Plan Partnership will endorse the final draft Growth Plan prior to referring it to the RCDP Steering Committee for feedback and to agree that it aligns with the RCDP Framework;
- Formal acceptance of the final Growth Plan by Local Government Council resolution and adoption by the Board of the Great Southern Development Commission (the Development Commission), and
- The Growth Plan Partnership referring the final Growth Plan to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) for noting.

Participation in this MOU also incorporates a commitment by the parties to cooperate in the implementation of the Growth Plan.

## Objectives

The objectives of the RCDP Program in the development of a network of competitive, growing and resilient Regional Centres are:

- Strengthen the capabilities of regional centres to drive long run investment, business and employment growth.
- Accommodate regional population growth generated by regional long run economic growth.
- Support the efficient and effective delivery of the Western Australian Government's regional development effort and investment.

The objectives of this agreement relate to the development of the Growth Plan for the Regional Centre and guide the development, implementation and review of the Growth Plan. The objectives are:

- Creation of a collaborative partnership to investigate, develop and promote a Growth Plan for the Regional Centre.
- Widely engage with industry and community stakeholders to promote the concept of a Growth Plan, build ownership, and obtain stakeholder input into the development and implementation of the plan.
- Produce a Growth Plan based on well researched economic and social development strategies for the Regional Centre by April 2018.
- Develop a brand and marketing suite to promote, broker and secure investment in the Regional Centre.
- Collaborate with other regional centres to advance economic opportunities and to share knowledge.

## Operational Principles

Signatories agree to:

- Use their best endeavours to achieve a collaborative partnership committed to the objectives of the MOU.
- Operate on an inclusive basis, seeking the views and aspirations of industry, community, academia and other government stakeholders.
- Cooperate and share information with other participants in the Program as appropriate in the interests of building a state-wide collegiate approach to regional economic development and growth.
- Recognise the Great Southern Regional Blueprint as the guiding regional economic and social development strategy, which informs the strategic direction for the Growth Plan.
- Align the Growth Plan to the RCDP Program performance framework, focussing on a process of continuous improvement towards achieving the RCDP objectives and by setting baselines and targets for building economic development capability, and business, employment and investment growth.

## Resourcing Commitments

Signatories to this MOU will commit sufficient resources to undertake their role as specified in this MOU to achieve the Objectives, including the support of the Growth Plan Partnership and to the development and review of a Growth Plan.

## Project Funding

Funding will be made available through the Royalties for Region RCDP Program, subject to the RCDP Steering Committee endorsing this executed MOU, a project management plan and a budget for preparing a Growth Plan.

Funding will be released in tranches pursuant to Growth Plan Partnerships meeting milestones requirements at review points in the Growth Plan development process as defined in the Growth Plan Toolkit.

Funding will be administered by LandCorp in accordance with the approved project management plan and budget, and in consultation with the Growth Plan Partnership. Additional work outside of the scope of works described in the project management plan approved by the RCDP Steering Committee is to be resourced and funded by the Signatories, unless approved by the RCDP Steering Committee as a variation to the approved project management plan.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### RCDP Steering Committee

The RCDP Steering Committee has been established to provide oversight of RCDP. It is responsible for approving the Growth Plan project management plan and budget, and any variations. The RCDP Steering Committee is required to agree that the final draft Growth Plan aligns with the RCDP Framework and may provide feedback to the Growth Plan Partnership. The RCDP Steering Committee is also responsible for the provision of advice to the Regional Development Council and to the Minister for Regional Development and the Minister for Planning.

### The Steering Committee membership includes:

- A member of the Regional Development Council (Executive Chair)
- The Director General, Department of Regional Development
- The Chair, Western Australian Planning Commission
- The Director General, Department of Planning
- The Chief Executive Officer of LandCorp

### Collaboration Team

The Collaboration Team has been established to support communication and effective collaboration within the Program, and inform Program-wide activities.

The Collaboration Team will be guided by its purpose and will set its own terms of reference, which will be in line with the RCDP Framework and this MoU.

The Collaboration Team will include representatives of:

- the Program Team (Department of Regional Development, Department of Planning and LandCorp);
- each Growth Plan Partnership;
- Western Australian Local Government Association; and
- Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

### Regional Development Commission

The Development Commission will support the development of the Growth Plan through participation in the Growth Plan Partnership, adopt the final draft Growth Plan by resolution of the Board.

The Development Commission is to ensure the Growth Plan Partnership refers the Growth Plan to the WAPC for noting.

The Development Commission will nominate a Board Member and one staff member to the Growth Plan Governance Group and will nominate staff to provide technical and administrative support as required.

The Development Commission is responsible for strategic alignment and integration of the Growth Plan and Regional Blueprint, and supporting structure for implementation of the Growth Plan, promoting and brokering investment in the Regional Centre.

The Development Commission is responsible for all media communications relating to Growth Plans in accordance with a communications plan approved by the Department of Regional Development.

### Local Governments

In this MOU Local Governments are the City of Albany, Shire of Denmark and Shire of Plantagenet and are collectively referred to as the Local Governments.

The Local Governments will consider adoption of the final Growth Plan by Local Government Council resolution.

The Local Government is responsible for strategic alignment and integration of the Growth Plan and Local Government's integrated planning framework, and promoting and brokering investment in the Regional Centre.

The Local Governments will each nominate one elected representative and the CEO to the Growth Plan Governance Group and will nominate staff to provide technical and administrative assistance as required.

### LandCorp

In relation to this MOU LandCorp will:

- provide project management services in accordance with the business case approved by Cabinet, for which LandCorp will be remunerated; and
- nominate a representative to the Growth Plan Partnership to provide technical support and advice in relation to principles of land development economics, identification of development opportunities and advice in relation to brand development for investment attraction.

### Department of Planning

The Department of Planning will nominate a representative to the Growth Plan Partnership to provide technical advice in relation to urban and regional land use research, data, information and planning, and strategic advice on alignment and integration with land use planning policy and strategy frameworks, and infrastructure coordination.

### Department of Regional Development

The Department of Regional Development will nominate a representative to the Growth Plan Partnership to provide technical advice in relation to regional development research, data and information, and strategic advice on alignment and integration with regional development policy and strategy frameworks.

### Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry will support the development of the Growth Plan and nominate a representative to the Growth Plan Partnership to:

- Represent the broad needs of industry and business within a regional centre;
- Provide guidance on industry and business development approaches; and
- Enable strategic and cross-sectoral collaboration across strategies to support the development and implementation of the Growth Plan.

## Governance and Decision Making

### Growth Plan Partnership

A Growth Plan Partnership will be established to oversee the development of the project and ensure that it meets the objectives of this MOU. In accordance with the Roles and Responsibilities outlined above the participating bodies are:

- The participating Local Governments
- The participant Regional Development Commission (Great Southern Development Commission)
- LandCorp
- Department of Planning
- Department for Regional Development
- Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc (ACCI)
- Other members as agreed by the Growth Plan Partnership.

The Growth Plan Partnership will set its own terms of reference in line with the RCDP Framework and this MoU to effectively oversee the project's delivery.



The Growth Plan Partnership will submit bi-monthly progress reports through the Program Coordinator to the RCDP Steering Committee.

The Growth Plan Partnership will be required to endorse the final draft Growth Plan prior to referring it to the RCDP Steering Committee for feedback and final agreement that it aligns with the RCDP Framework.

The Growth Plan Partnership will refer the final Growth Plan to the WAPC for noting.

The Growth Plan Partnership will identify, establish and facilitate the governance arrangements required for successful implementation of the Growth Plan.

The Growth Plan Partnership will establish a stakeholder reference group that represents business, government, academia and community stakeholders within the Regional Centre and its economic activity area, and ensuring their views are incorporated into the development of the Growth Plan.

### Project Control Group

The Project Control Group will be responsible for the operational delivery of the Growth Plan in accordance with the approved project management plan and direction provided by the Growth Plan Partnership. The Project Control Group will include a member or representative of the Growth Plan Partnership who is authorised to provide direction to the Project Control Group.

Membership of the Project Control Group will be:

- Growth Plan Partnership representative;
- Local Government representative(s);
- Development Commission representative;
- Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry representative;
- Collaboration Team representative (if different from the above)
- Project Manager;
- Lead Consultant; and
- Other members as agreed by the Project Control Group.

The Project Control Group will establish its own terms of reference in line with the RCDP Framework and this MoU.

The Project Control Group will provide the RCDP Program Coordinator a monthly progress report.

### Dispute Resolution

All parties agree to use best endeavours to resolve disputes. Disputes of a technical or strategic nature within the Project Control Group will be referred to the Growth Plan Partnership for resolution. Disputes are to be resolved on the basis of the intent of the RCDP, and the objectives set out in this MOU.

### Media and Communications

All signatories will undertake communications relating to Growth Plans in accordance with a communications management plan, which is to be approved by the Department of Regional Development.

All media communications in relation to the Growth Plan will be undertaken by the Chairperson of the Growth Plan Partnership in consultation with other relevant signatories as required.

Royalties for Regions funding recipients are required to acknowledge the funding provided by the Western Australian Government, in accordance with the approved format.

### Legal Facilitation

The MOU is not intended to be a legal document. It is an administrative document that seeks to ensure mutually beneficial working arrangements and to clarify the relationship between the parties to this MOU in view of their responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 1995* and other relevant legislation.

The MOU is not intended to define, create, recognise, affirm, deny or amend any rights or obligations of the parties or any other individual or group nor restrict any of the parties from participation in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies or parties.

### Signatories

Signatories to this MOU are authorised by each participating body through appropriate resolution or delegation.

### Timeframe

The agreement commences on the date of the signing of the MOU by all parties and is applicable until the Growth Plan is noted by the WAPC.

Nothing in the MOU prevents the parties changing any provision by mutual agreement at any time.

## Signatories

Signed on behalf of the **City of Albany** by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer:

**Mayor**

Dennis Wellington

**Chief Executive Officer**

Andrew Sharpe

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Signature

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Signature

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Date

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Date

Signed on behalf of the **Shire of Denmark** by the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer:

**Shire President**

David Morrell

**Chief Executive Officer**

Bill Parker

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Signature

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Signature

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Date

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Date

Signed on behalf of the **Shire of Plantagenet** by the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer:

**Shire President**

Ken Clement

**Chief Executive Officer**

Rob Stewart

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Signature

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Signature

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Date

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Date

Signed on behalf of the **Great Southern Development Commission** by the Chair and Chief Executive Officer:

**Chair**

Ross Thornton

**Chief Executive Officer**

Bruce Manning

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Signature

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Signature

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Date

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Date

Signed on behalf of the **Albany Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc** by the President and Chief Executive Officer:

**President**

Caroline Hayes

**Chief Executive Officer**

Russ Clarke

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Signature

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Signature

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Date

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Date

Signed for an on behalf of

**LandCorp**

**Chief Executive Officer**

Frank Marra

Signed for an on behalf of the

**Department of Regional Development**

**Director General**

Ralph Addis

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Signature

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Signature

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Date

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Date

Signed for an on behalf of the

**Department of Planning**

Director General

Gail McGowan

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Signature

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Date