



Mid West

Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework

Part B: Regional Infrastructure Planning

February 2015



Department of
Planning



Western
Australian
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Commission



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1 Introduction

To assist in contributing to this Framework's vision, a range of regional infrastructure projects have been identified that are considered significant from the region's perspective to facilitate further economic and population growth.

This has involved the contemplation of the Mid West region's anticipated direction for regional infrastructure requirements. The identification of these potential Mid West regional infrastructure projects in this document should not be taken as a commitment for Government funding and individual projects will still be subject to normal budgetary and Treasury processes. In addition, it is recognised that any potential Mid West regional infrastructure projects will need to compete with infrastructure projects in other regions for funding and resources. In this regard, Figure 1 illustrates the considerations for identifying infrastructure requirements throughout the State.

2 Recent Mid West regional infrastructure projects

A range of Mid West regional infrastructure projects have been recently undertaken or committed to, which has assisted in contributing to this Framework's vision. Examples of these projects include:

- Mid West Energy Project Stage 1 (Southern Section) – 330 kV transmission line from Neerabup – Three Springs via Eneabba and a new 330/132 kV terminal substation at Three Springs;
- new and upgraded rail lines from southern Mid West mines to Geraldton, including:
 - new railway from Tilley to Karara Hill;
 - upgrade to existing rail line Morawa to Mullewa; and
 - upgrade to existing rail line Mullewa to Geraldton;
- Geraldton Port upgrades – including port rail upgrade and upgrades to existing train unloader;
- Brand Highway upgrades including replacement of the bridge at Greenough River¹;
- sealing of overtaking opportunities and floodways at strategic locations on the Goldfields Highway between Meekatharra and Wiluna¹;
- Wubin–Mullewa Road upgrades;
- Geraldton Senior College engineering and laboratory trade training centre;
- expansion of residential college at Morawa;
- Allanooka–Casuarinas Groundwater Drilling Investigation;
- Regional Mobile Communications Project;
- Durack Institute of Technology upgrades and new facilities, including:
 - Centre for Resources Sector Workforce Training; and
 - Centre for Health Industries Training and Workforce Development;
- regional trade training centre at WA College of Agriculture – Morawa;
- new Geraldton Fire Station for Geraldton Career and Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services;
- Mumbida Wind Farm;
- Greenough River Solar Farm;
- Geraldton Regional Visitor Information Centre; and
- Kalbarri National Park Tourism Enhancement Stage 1.

¹ Project is identified as a *Freight Transport Priority to 2031* from the Department of Transport's *Western Australian Regional Freight Transport Network Plan*.



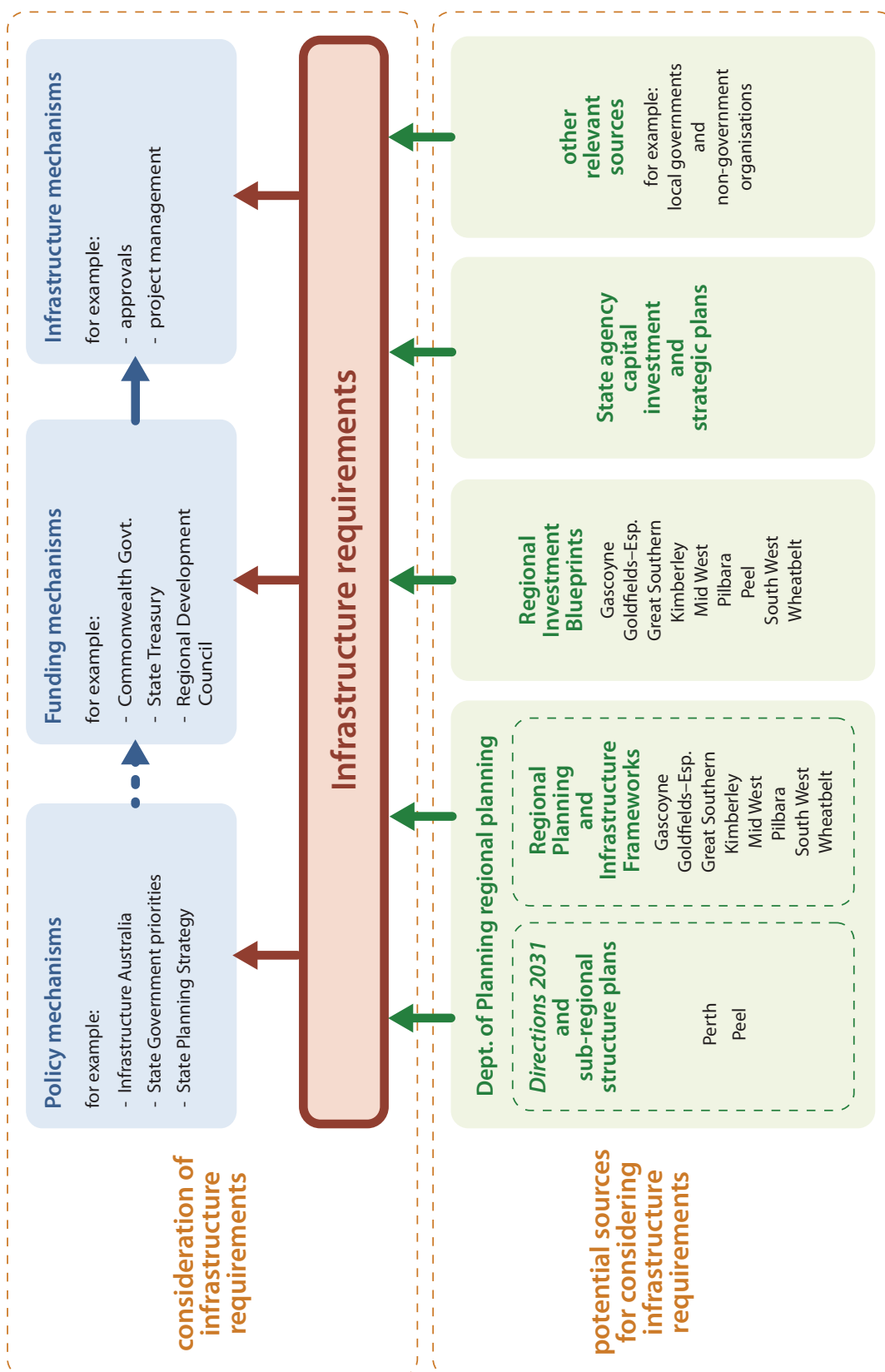


Figure 1: Considerations for identifying infrastructure requirements throughout the State



3. Anticipated direction for Mid West regional infrastructure requirements

A list of potential Mid West regional infrastructure projects (Table 1) that may be important from the region's perspective to facilitate further economic and population growth has been compiled as part of developing this Framework. This list was informed through a process involving the Western Australian Planning Commission's (WAPC) Mid West Regional Planning Committee² (MWRPC) and Infrastructure Coordinating Committee³ (ICC), in addition to consultation with other relevant State Government agencies and regional stakeholders.

Preliminary identification of Mid West regional infrastructure projects involved consideration of an audit of the *Mid-West Infrastructure Analysis* (WAPC, 2008); and consultation with the ICC, other relevant State Government agencies and regional stakeholders. Refinement of a preliminary project list, considering the outcomes of the consultation process, occurred through the MWRPC.

The resulting project list was then subject to an evaluation process that involved a joint workshop with the ICC and MWRPC. The *Mid West Regional Infrastructure Priorities Project 2010 Workshop Paper* (WAPC, 2011) documents the methodology and outcomes of the workshop, providing further context as

to how regional infrastructure projects were identified. The 2010 Workshop Paper was subsequently endorsed by the MWRPC and ICC.

To ensure its currency, as part of finalising the Framework the list of Mid West regional infrastructure projects has been further reviewed. This process was informed by the consideration of the submissions received on the draft Framework; and outcomes from further agency consultation processes.

When the WAPC considered the final *Mid West Regional Planning and Infrastructure Framework*, it resolved to undertake further consultation with relevant State Government agencies. In particular, alignment with the relevant State Government budgets and programs has been sought in preparing the current list of potential Mid West regional infrastructure projects presented in this document.

² The WAPC Mid West Regional Planning Committee membership is comprised of the Chair of the WAPC and regional representatives including from the local government sector; community sector; Department of Mines and Petroleum; Department of Environment Regulation; Department of Planning; Department of Regional Development; Department of State Development; Department of Water; Mid West Development Commission; Chamber of Minerals and Energy; and the Yamatji Land and Sea Council.

³ The WAPC Infrastructure Coordinating Committee membership is comprised of the Chair of the WAPC and representatives from the local government sector; professional sector; Department of Commerce; Department of Education; Department of Education Services; Department of Finance; Department of Health; Department of Housing; Department of Mines and Petroleum; Department of Planning; Department of Premier and Cabinet; Department of Regional Development; Department of State Development; Department of Transport; Department of Treasury; Department of Water; LandCorp; Office of Environmental Protection Authority; Public Utilities Office; and the Water Corporation.



Table 1: Potential Mid West infrastructure projects

Note:

1. Projects proposed in this table have been numbered for ease of reference only and not as an order of priority.
2. The responsibility for each project proposed in this table is that of the relevant agency or organisation; and not necessarily that of the Department of Planning.
3. This list is not intended to be a definitive list of all Mid West regional infrastructure requirements, rather it identifies those potential projects that may be the most important from the region's perspective to facilitate economic and population growth in the Mid West.

Transport

1	Optimise existing berths at the port of Geraldton to service the surge in resources trade to take the port to 20–30 Mtpa until Oakajee is developed ¹ , including through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – upgraded berths; – new and/or upgraded loading facilities; and – development to reduce the impact of swell and surge in the Geraldton Port
2	Plan for and invest towards common-user port infrastructure to develop the Mid West resources industry – Oakajee Mid West Development Project ¹
3	Construct Geraldton Outer Freight Bypass Stage 1: connect Oakajee Estate to Geraldton Mount Magnet Road creating an outer bypass of the City of Geraldton ¹
4	Construct Geraldton Inner Bypass Stage 1: southern section of a north-south link road for Geraldton ¹
5	Brand Highway upgrades, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) realign the Brand Highway at Bookarra and S-Bends; replace bridges at Pell's River and Irwin River¹; (B) passing lanes between Badgingarra and Dongara, including the extension of existing passing lanes north of Indian Ocean Drive; and (C) construction of Dongara bypass
6	New and upgraded Mid West rail lines, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) new rail lines servicing Mid West mines as required; (B) construct new rail line from Oakajee Port to existing Narngulu-Mullewa railway within Oakajee Narngulu Infrastructure Corridor alignment (when finalised); and (C) construct a potential dual-gauge extension to Brookfield Rail's southern Mid West network¹
7	Upgrades to North West Coastal Highway, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) realignment for access at Oakajee Port with grade separation at Oakajee Port and Rail railway (to be privately funded and constructed); (B) construct the Northampton heavy vehicle bypass¹; (C) duplicate the North West Coastal Highway within the City of Geraldton: Utaarra Road to Green Street¹; and (D) access to Oakajee Industrial Estate from North West Coastal Highway and Oakajee Port – including highway intersections and grade separation at rail crossings
8	Indian Ocean Drive upgrades, including improvements to road width and alignment (sections from Cervantes to Brand Highway)
9	Geraldton Mt Magnet Road upgrades, including construction of Mullewa bypass
10	Geraldton airport upgrades, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) extend existing runway or construct a full length parallel runway with associated taxiways, aprons and terminal aircraft handling capabilities to accommodate jet services; and (B) establish instrument landing system capabilities

Transport	
11	Oakajee Narngulu Infrastructure Corridor – finalisation of the preferred alignment, acquisition and management of required land for an infrastructure corridor primarily for the co-location of road and rail infrastructure
Water and wastewater	
12	Oakajee Port and Industrial Estate water and wastewater servicing requirements
Energy	
13	Mid West Energy Project Stage 2 (Northern Section) – improved transmission network through to Geraldton (extension of Stage 1)
14	New double circuit 132 kV transmission line; (A) Stage 1 Chapman – Oakajee; and (B) Stage 2 Chapman – Northampton (extension of proposed Stage 1 Chapman – Oakajee line)
15	Geraldton Port and Central Business District power requirements – to expand existing supply capacity to port operations and Geraldton CBD
16	Oakajee Industrial Estate power servicing requirements
Science and communications	
17	Square Kilometre Array – development of the world's largest radio telescope, including supporting infrastructure such as energy and road requirements
18	National Broadband Network – optical fibre rollout and next generation wireless coverage to Mid West towns
Social infrastructure	
19	Mid West regional health infrastructure, including: (A) Geraldton hospital/health service Stage 2 – including bed expansion, emergency department treatment bays, labour delivery room, cancer centre, renal dialysis and high dependency unit; (B) mental health inpatient unit and co-located community health mental health service at Geraldton Health Campus; and (C) regional drug and alcohol management and rehabilitation facilities, including those identified within the Mental Health Commission's Western Australian Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Service Plan 2015 – 2025.
20	Student/staff accommodation for Health Education precinct in Geraldton
Tourism	
21	Central Greenough Redevelopment – including critical restoration and preservation works to heritage buildings
22	Kalbarri National Park Tourism Enhancement Stage 2 – complete sealing of tourist roads and upgrading tourist infrastructure including trails and an iconic skywalk experience

¹ Project is identified as a *Freight Transport Priority to 2031* from the Department of Transport's *Western Australian Regional Freight Transport Network Plan*.



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