



Eric Lumsden  
Chairman  
Western Australian Planning Commission  
Locked Bag 2506  
PERTH WA 6001

Attention: Phil Woodward

Dear Eric

### **REQUEST TO PREPARE IMPROVEMENT PLANS**

Firstly I would like to thank you for agreeing to come up to Karratha in June to discuss with Shire Councillors the implications of the proposed Improvement Plans and Improvement Schemes for the Anketell and Maitland Strategic Industrial Areas. I'm sure the Council will appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter with you firsthand.

In relation to the proposed Improvement Plans and Improvement Schemes, the Shire recently received a copy of a letter addressed to you from the Department of State Development A/Director General requesting a WAPC resolution to recommend to the Minister for Planning that these Improvement Plans be prepared. I believe the aim is for this request to be considered at the 27 May 2014 WAPC meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to convey our initial thoughts on this request prior to formal consideration by the WAPC.

The Shire of Roebourne is eager to see the timely development of both the Anketell and Maitland Strategic Industrial Areas and will be 100% supportive of any initiative that aids in the effective, efficient delivery of projects within these important precincts. The Shire has a good track record of helping facilitate some of the most significant resource development projects in the State and has the capacity to continue to do this into the future. Having said that, the Shire will work with the State Government to bring these estates on-line under whichever planning and governance framework is determined most efficient and effective.

The Shire notes that Improvement Schemes are only intended to be used in limited circumstances where the WAPC believes they are the best mechanism available to achieve objectives for the subject land, that Improvement Schemes take substantial time to prepare and are only short-term instruments (and that the WAPC looks at alternative long-term mechanisms before making a decision about the course of action it will take (*WAPC, Planning Bulletin 104, November 2010*)).

It also notes that Improvement Schemes prevail over local planning schemes. While this potentially raises some issues regarding lack of local engagement and input, the Shire is confident that its close working relationship with State Government will ensure that local issues are adequately considered during the planning and decision making process. If the Improvement Schemes are to be invoked, we would appreciate some early discussion on how appropriate consultation and involvement will be undertaken with the local authority and the local community.

If Improvement Schemes are to be introduced, then the Shire would be interested in further considering with the WAPC, delegation powers to the local government to determine some or all applications as we believe that this is likely to be a faster and more efficient mechanism for approvals.

The Shire looks forward to continuing the dialogue on this matter. Please let me know if there is anything in particular that you wish to discuss or see while you are up here and we will make sure that happens.

Yours faithfully



Chris Adams  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

22 May 2014

cc. Gail McGowan  
Director General  
Department of Planning