



Our Vision Ahead



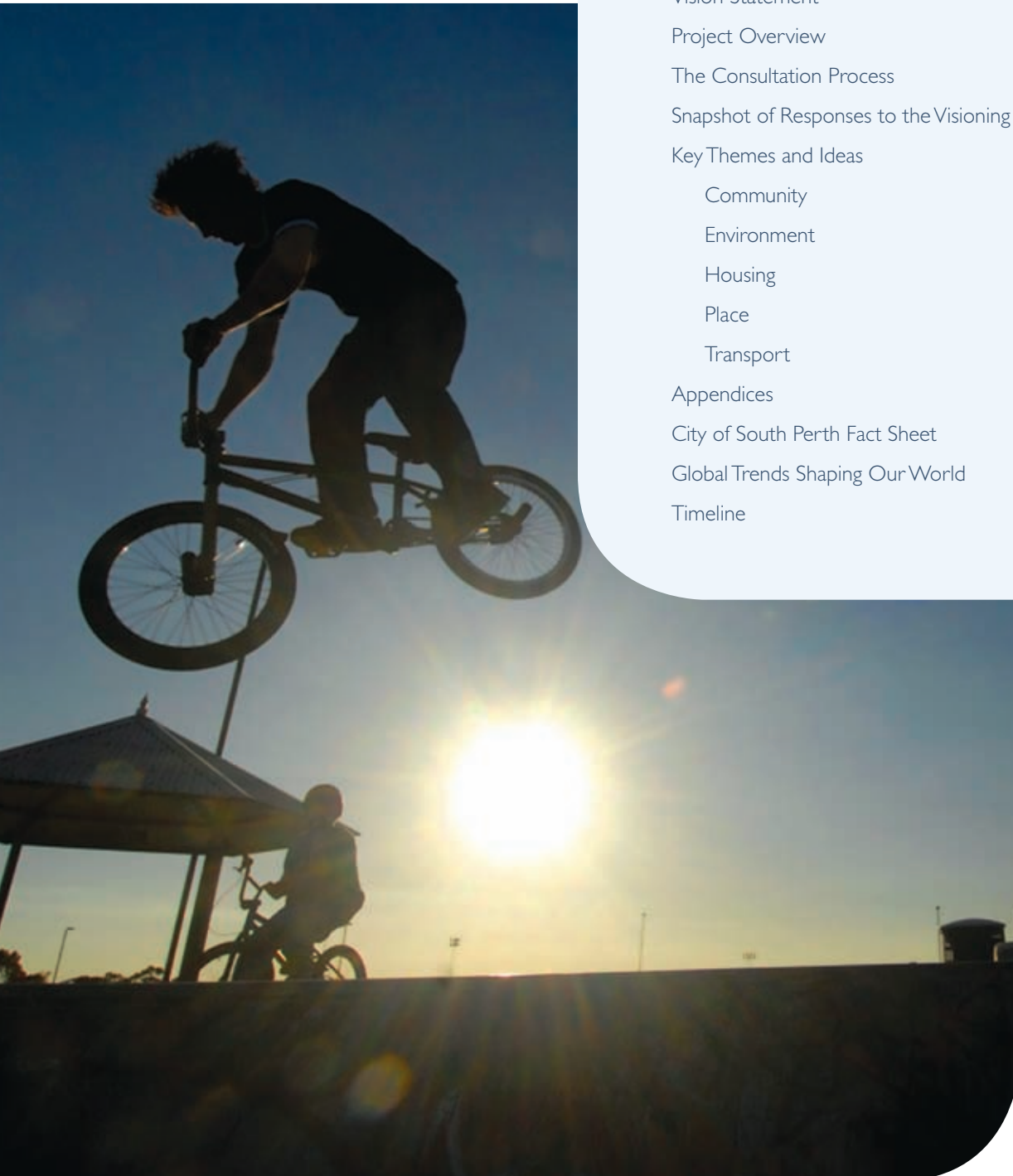
A community planning project
by and for the people of
the City of South Perth

City of
SouthPerth
Our Vision Ahead
Looking Back - Moving Forward



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Message from the **Mayor**



In May 2008 Council endorsed the community visioning project, *Our Vision Ahead*, with the aim of creating a long term aspiration-based plan that could guide the future direction of the City of South Perth and its community.

The project arose in response to the changing nature of local government and our external environment, and the need to better understand the values and hopes of residents in order to create a great place for people to live, work and visit.

The *Our Vision Ahead* document was created following nine months of consultation with our community and it reflects what can be achieved when Council and community work together.

I would like to acknowledge that this is a community vision and cannot be achieved by Council alone. I encourage you as an individual or member of a group to think about how you can help fulfil the Vision in your own day to day lives and practices.

The findings will be integrated into the City's review of the Strategic Plan 2010/15 and will continue to influence our short-term decision and long term initiatives over the next 20 years.

On behalf of Council, I would like to thank all those who shared their ideas and hopes with us, the dedicated staff and consultants who facilitated the process, and all the speakers and experts who helped us along the way.

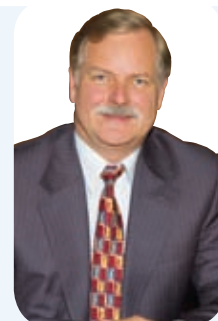
With everyone's commitment to the Vision, the future of the City of South Perth looks very robust indeed.

James Best

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Best". The signature is stylized with a cursive script.

Mayor
City of South Perth

Message from the **CEO**



I am proud to present *Our Vision Ahead*, a plan for the future created in partnership by the City of South Perth community and Council.

Our Vision Ahead has been a significant undertaking and an ambitious community consultation project for the City. The vision and subsequent ideas that have emerged will provide concrete and widespread future benefits to our residents, visitors, and business and all other community stakeholders.

This document will have long term strategic implications for the City's continued operational excellence and the delivery of tailored services to the municipality. It will be used as a reference in the development of a new Strategic Plan 2010/15 as well as numerous other key Council documents.

The work of local government is varied, but it touches almost all areas of day to day life. Well-resourced and consultation-

based planning of this nature represents best practice in local government and places the City in a solid position to meet the potential future challenges of population growth, sustainability, economic development and social cohesion.

Through an innovative and inclusive approach to decision making, I am looking forward to leading the City's residents and dedicated staff towards a shared vision for the future.

Cliff Frewing

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cliff Frewing'.

Chief Executive Officer
City of South Perth

Vision Statement

"We belong to an engaged and cohesive community that is linked by vibrant local centres and shared spaces. We live and travel in ways that nurture our environment, and our housing and amenities meet the diverse needs of a changing society."

Project Overview

Our Vision Ahead is a City of South Perth initiative designed to explore and articulate the aspirations of our local community. The aim of *Our Vision Ahead* was to create a shared vision for the future that both Council and community could work towards together.

From September 2008 to May 2009, the Visioning team asked the people of South Perth four simple questions:

1. What do you value most about your community and place?
2. What do you think are the key issues we will face in the future?
3. What is your vision for the future?
4. What can be done at a local level to achieve your vision?

The *Our Vision Ahead* consultation process was directly managed by the community through the Visioning Round Table, a community group of 20 members; 10 community groups, four state government

departments and six businesses. All key demographic groups were represented at the Round Table. Members of the group became the Vision Champions for the community, and held focus groups, encouraged community participation, providing a community perspective on issues and information.

Up to 1400 participants responded to the four Visioning questions through public workshops, focus groups, online surveys, survey hand-outs at City of South Perth events, a community conference, and as part of the Visioning Round Table, with encouraging results.

The following document summarises the key findings of the *Our Vision Ahead* project, and paints a picture of the type of future our community is striving to achieve. It will play a significant role in short-term and long-term Council plans and initiatives including the City's review of the Strategic Plan 2010/15, as well as providing invaluable direction for local community groups and individuals.

The Consultation **Process**

Facilitated by the City, the *Our Vision Ahead* project and subsequent vision were designed and driven by the community. Participants were given a number of different and engaging options to get involved:

Public Forum with Steven Ames

Consultation for *Our Vision Ahead* began on 10 September 2008, with a public workshop and information session hosted by internationally acclaimed long range planner Steven Ames (Portland, Oregon). More than 100 members of the community gathered at Como Secondary College to gain an overview of visioning and what it involved, and to be the first people consulted on the future of our City. Steven Ames brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience that he shared with the community, Councillors and City staff, helping to set the visioning project in motion.

Community Stakeholder Workshop

To initiate community involvement in the project design, the City hosted a Community Stakeholder Workshop. Forty people attended, representing 24 groups and 16 individuals. The aim of the workshop was to set the overall direction of the visioning project, encourage ongoing group participation, identify existing networks and to promote the role and membership of the *Visioning Round Table*.

Visioning Round Table

The *Visioning Round Table* served as the peak advisory group for the visioning project. Made up of around 20 key stakeholders from local business, community/service groups, government departments and City staff, the Round Table was designed to represent the key demographics and interest groups of the City. Convening four times during the Visioning process, the group provided invaluable guidance to the project team and played a vital role in championing the project across their own extensive networks.

Youth Summit

Sixty local students from Years 6-10 attended a Youth Summit at Wesley College to discuss their hopes and aspirations for the future. Facilitated by young people from the City of South Perth's *Youth Advisory Council* and *Youth Sustainability Ambassadors* with support from *Millennium Kids Inc.*, the one-day interactive forum also provided the opportunity for students to take part in a number of fun activities including snake handling, wheelchair basketball, an urban art workshop, and drama and music workshops.

DIY Kit

Community members were encouraged to carry out their own visioning discussion with a group of friends, neighbours, colleagues or peers with the assistance of a *Do It Yourself Kit*. The kit included the visioning survey, background information about the project, the City of South Perth Council and community, and external trends. The worksheets were sent back to the City for collation.

Website

A dedicated website, www.visionahead.com.au, was created as a key communication tool for the project.

The website included information about events, relevant news and downloadable versions of the *DIY Kit* and visioning survey.

Communication

The City used a number of communication channels to offer opportunities to get involved and keep the community informed about progress on the project. Promotion included *City Update* features, articles and advertisements in *The Southern Gazette*, media releases, email and direct mail outs, fliers and posters, the *Our Vision Ahead* website, articles in the City's quarterly publication *The Peninsula* and inclusion in the *Fiesta 2009* brochure (which were distributed to every household in the area).





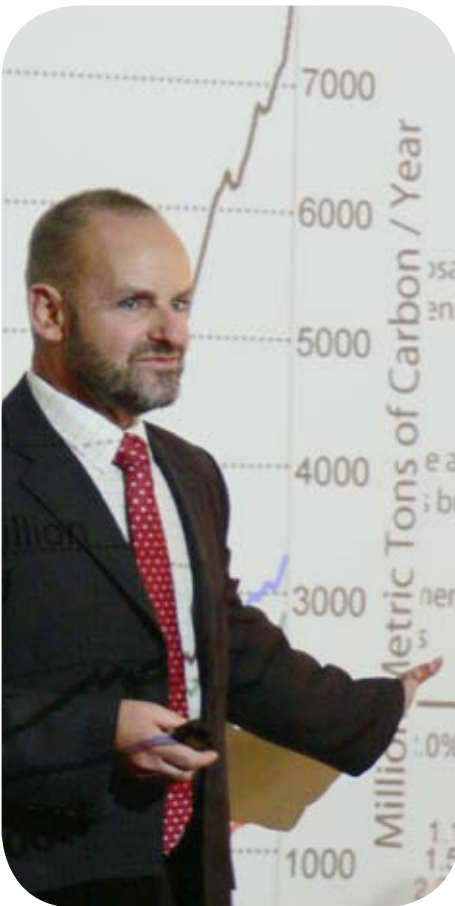
The Consultation **Process**

Surveys

Members of the public were surveyed at a number of City of South Perth events including *Fiesta 2009* and *Skyworks*, as well as on public transport (South Perth Ferry) and at busy shopping precincts such as Waterford Plaza and the Preston St shops. The visioning survey was also widely distributed at the City's libraries and made available online at www.visionahead.com.au.

Public Workshop

The City facilitated a public workshop in April 2009 to provide individuals with the opportunity to participate and get involved by having their say in an open and interactive environment. As with the first workshop, input from the public was highly valuable and participants enjoyed the chance to meet and share ideas with new people.



As We See It

As We See It was a youth community arts project which encouraged local young people to explore their hopes for the future through the exciting medium of film. Groups who produced short films included *The Esther Foundation* - a health and development program for young women wanting to get their lives back on track, *Communicare VIP Plus* - a program for youth at risk and young parents, and *Kensington Secondary School* - a school catering to students with physical and intellectual disabilities. All films gave an insight into the values of a diverse range of young people, providing invaluable information for the visioning project and personal development and learning opportunities for participants.

Speaker Series

Held in March and April as part of *Fiesta 2009*, the City hosted a Visioning Speaker Series in partnership with the City's Sustainability department. Designed to inform the local community about some of the big issues and to inspire further discussions, the Speaker Series was a great success with up to 65 people attending each of the talks. Speakers included Dr Ray Wills discussing renewable energy, Prof. Richard Weller on Boomtown 2050, and Roxane Shadbolt discussing the *Swan River Trust's* River Protection Strategy.

Our Vision Ahead Conference

The *Our Vision Ahead* Conference was the culmination of months of visioning discussions with the City of South Perth community. A full-day interactive forum, the conference provided an opportunity for around 60 participants to hear about the project findings, identify priorities and discuss some of the key dilemmas identified during consultation.

Focus Groups

Focus groups were hosted in early 2009 to target specific groups and utilise community networks. Project consultants facilitated some of these sessions whilst many groups chose to run the workshops themselves. Some of the groups who took part included:

- Moorditch Keila South Perth Aboriginal Community Group
- Seniors Groups
- Church Groups
- South Perth Historical Society
- Combined Rotary
- South Perth Youth Network

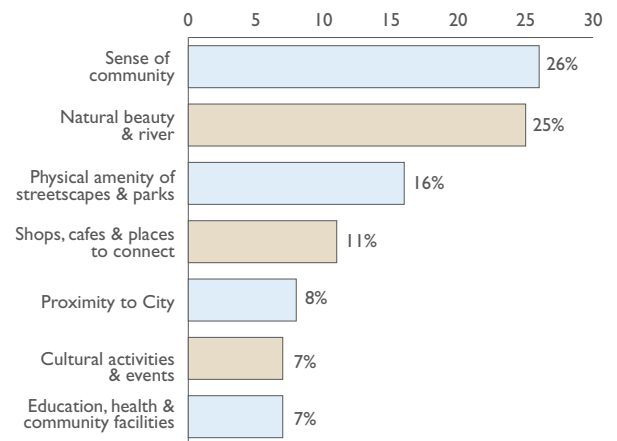
To assist on the day, a number of professionals provided their expertise and knowledge. The members of the *Brains Trust* were:

- Brian Cole - Managing Director, Pracsys (Economic Development Firm)
- David Wake - Workplace Project Officer, Travelsmart
- James Duggie - Principal Policy Officer, WA Office of Climate Change
- Dale Bastin - Strategic Planner, Department of Planning and Infrastructure

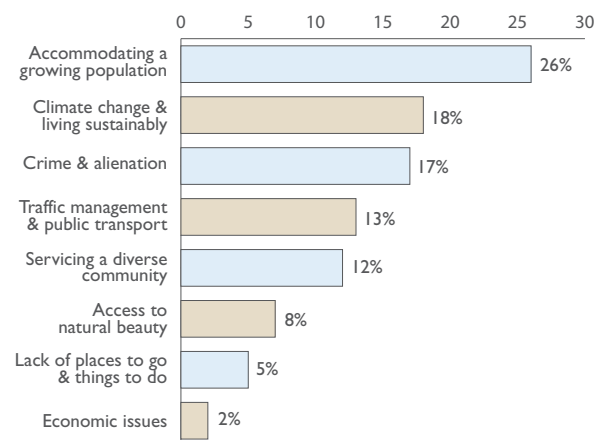


Snapshot of Responses to the Visioning Questions

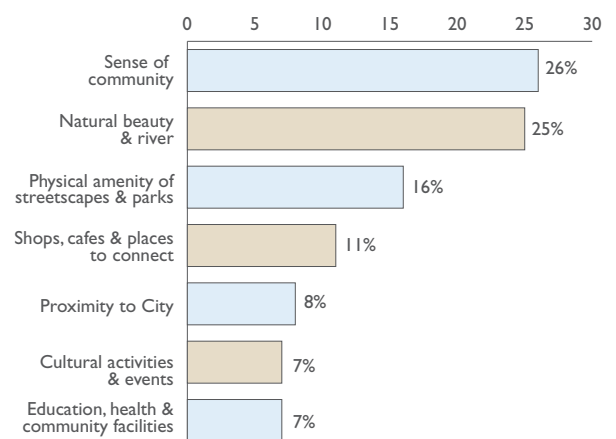
1. What do you value most about your community and place?



2. What do you think are the key issues we will face in the future?



3. Imagine that the City of South Perth meets your highest expectation in 2030. What is your vision?



* Our Vision Ahead was a qualitative process therefore the above results are indicative only.

Key Themes

Data from the survey responses was collated and analysed by the project team. The data contained five key themes; Community, environment, housing, place, and transport. For each of these themes a vision statement, associated actions and main issues were developed.

Community

Regardless of our age, ethnicity, religion, income level, gender and ability we all feel that we belong together in communities that are vibrant, cohesive, safe and supportive.

Our communities are enlivened by neighbourly connections and interaction along with a range of cultural and community events where our local talents are on show for all to appreciate. We have easy, local access to a range of high quality community, government and business services that enrich our lives.

We have a genuine sense of citizenship and 'self determination' with an excellent relationship between community and Council.

Key Ideas from the Community:

- **Create Opportunities for social activity**
Develop strategies that create opportunities for interaction between people and encourage vibrant community activity in the local area.
 - Maintain and enhance the village-like atmosphere of our local communities.
 - Ensure balanced and evenly spread development throughout the City to bridge the Canning Highway divide.
 - Increase participation in active and passive recreational groups.
 - Promote the City of South Perth as a 'City for Everyone' and actively create a place where all people feel welcome, and where the diverse needs and aspirations of all people are respected equally.
 - Foster lifelong learning through the support and development of formal and community based learning centres.

- **Develop Safer Community Strategies**
Utilise strategies that reduce the extent and impacts of crime and anti-social behaviour:
 - Consider the introduction of private security patrols.
 - Design shared spaces e.g. parks and footpaths with more lighting and shade to encourage informal connections and walking.
 - Continue to encourage Neighbourhood Watch.
 - Increase community policing.
 - Provide services and opportunities for disadvantaged youth to positively engage in the community.
 - Provide recreation and community services to reduce appeal of identified risk taking in youth culture.
- **Foster Active Citizenship**
Encourage involvement in decision making, volunteering and leadership to enhance community life and address its challenges.
 - Establish precinct groups.
 - Encourage informal get-togethers e.g. street barbeques.
 - Create a 'network of networks' between community groups.
 - Actively foster a spirit of participation and volunteering in the local area, and provide support for local community and sporting groups.
 - Develop an annual conference to monitor and continue to develop and implement the community's vision
 - Find effective ways for involving young people and children in the decision-making process.
- **Increase Cultural Programs and Events**
Continue to produce and support cultural programs and events that are creative, well attended and well funded, whilst promoting and providing opportunities for local talent.
 - Establish a Moorditch Keila Aboriginal Cultural Centre where people can come to know and celebrate Aboriginal history, culture, heritage and spirituality.
 - Continue and increase support for cultural activities and events.

- Develop strategies to better utilise, and develop new venues to promote the arts such as bars, cafes, galleries and outdoor spaces as needed.

- **Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan**
Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan to help build better relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, and support the advancement of Aboriginal residents.
 - Involve Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents in the development and implementation of a reconciliation plan.
 - Create more opportunities for connection between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people e.g. NAIDOC Week.
 - Increase the visibility and promotion of Aboriginal heritage (physical, cultural, spiritual and social) throughout the community and City e.g. involvement of local Aboriginal artists at events, along with use of the Aboriginal flag.

Key Questions for our Future:

- Disadvantage and alienation can lead to disengagement and anti-social behaviour. How should we respond to this as a community?





Environment

We are living in a natural environment that nourishes us physically, emotionally and spiritually. In turn, we are living in ways both individually and collectively that cultivate, rather than damage, our local area and our planet. Our beautiful and peaceful open spaces, wildlife and the Swan and Canning Rivers, are even healthier and more accessible.

Key Ideas from the Community:

- Nurture natural open space and wildlife
Maintain and, where possible, expand natural open spaces such as bushland and wetlands.
 - Develop programs to maintain and improve the health of natural open spaces.
 - Develop protected areas to encourage fish and bird breeding.
 - Support the acquisition and retention of private bushland.
- Tree Planting by All
Develop a network of natural corridors (trees and other vegetation) within our neighbourhoods to link our open spaces and enhance the habitat of local wildlife.
 - Plant diverse vegetation around our homes, streets and parks to provide year-round food and shelter to wildlife.
 - Promote the use of drought resistant plants and ground cover in our private and shared spaces.



- Reduce Environmental Impacts
Develop better, and ideally self-sufficient strategies, to be implemented at the community and individual level, that dramatically reduce our carbon emissions, and increase water and waste management efficiencies.
 - Increase the use of community and private rainwater tanks.
 - Encourage energy-efficient urban design and retro-fitting in existing buildings and homes with renewable energy sources such as solar power.

- Encourage water sensitive urban design and retro-fitting in existing homes, buildings and public places with storm water capture, and grey water re-use facilities.
- Set greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the City of South Perth, residents and ratepayers.
- Develop strategies to minimise waste going to landfill

- Manage the River Foreshore
Enhance the river foreshore through sensitive management of the rivers and surrounding areas, ensuring the right balance is achieved between green open spaces for leisure and events, Natural River and vegetation, and opportunities for social/cultural activity and development.
 - Develop and facilitate collaborative planning forums to determine the right balance for the river foreshores.
- Reduce food vulnerability
Develop a strategy to maximise the use of private and public land for food production and community gardens.

Key Questions for our Future:

- How can we minimise the impact of population increase on our natural environment?
- What can we do about rising sea levels?

Housing

We are living in accommodation that offers us all, regardless of our stage of life and household size, a great place to call home. Our homes are situated in streetscapes that allow fulfilling, safe, healthy and connected lives. Our heritage and the evolving nature of architecture and society is visible in our buildings and streetscapes.

The way we design our streets and homes accommodates and responds to the pressures of a growing population, and an increasingly fragile global and local environment.

Key Ideas from the Community:

- **Accommodate a Growing Population**
Work towards ensuring diverse accommodation choices are available to us all, regardless of our stage in life, household size and income, whilst maintaining a positive, healthy quality of life.
 - Develop and facilitate a series of collaborative planning forums on accommodation to develop clear strategies (including consideration of zoning and building codes) for managing population growth and housing needs.
 - Ensure a range of affordable housing options are available to meet the needs of a diverse population.
- **Review the Town Planning Scheme**
Review and develop a new Town Planning Scheme that encourages housing design of a high quality, honours both our heritage and the evolving nature of architecture and society, and caters for a growing population.
 - Identify areas for high density e.g. along Canning Hwy, the freeway and train-line.
 - Develop and facilitate collaborative planning forums for the community to review the Town Planning Scheme.
 - Identify existing or possible village hubs that have the potential for mixed-use developments.

- Incorporate strategies that have been developed to manage a growing population.

- **Sustainable Housing**
Minimise the ecological footprint of housing by considering building design and its impact on the environment.
 - Encourage accommodation that leaves space for greenery and trees between, around and on top of buildings.
 - Encourage energy efficient urban design and the retro-fitting of existing accommodation with renewable energy sources such as solar power.
- **Imaginative and Well Integrated Planning**
Create fulfilling, safe and healthy communities, which are well integrated with public transport and local amenities, whilst ensuring that resources such as land and infrastructure are used efficiently.
 - Ensure developments are well integrated with public transport, infrastructure and local amenities.
 - Encourage high density developments that are imaginative in design and meet the aesthetic and practical needs of the community.

Key questions for our future:

- How do we incorporate a triple bottom line (social, economic and environmental) assessment of future developments?

Place

Our City is a vibrant place for visitors, tourists, businesses and residents. We have shared spaces for interaction and recreation within our suburbs that showcase and celebrate our unique heritage, culture, creativity and diversity, and give us a shared sense of enjoyment, belonging and connecting to the place in which we live.

Key Ideas from the Community:

• Vibrant Village Centre

Develop a Village Centre Strategy to create a number of vibrant hubs within walking distance of residents.

- Develop a reference group to work with Council on the creation of the strategy.
- Identify existing and potential hubs of activity to develop and enhance cafes, shops, town squares, community facilities, cultural and creative capital, business and tourism.
- Investigate employing a City of South Perth Economic Development Officer.
- Explore opportunities for partnering with other local councils to create neighbourhood centres.
- Utilise a place-making approach to enhance the unique local identity of each of our village centres.
- Develop a strategy to energise business development and sustainability.
- Map local creative capital e.g. artists, performers, musicians, venues and studio spaces in order to identify and address gaps in our cultural landscape.

• Create Safe and Connected Places

Develop a Safe Spaces Strategy to ensure that all our shared spaces and streetscapes are designed to be as safe and interactive as possible.

- Ensure that our open spaces have good lighting, promote high visibility, are used by a wide range of people and purposes, and embrace universal access principles.

- Ensure that housing, unit and street design fosters interaction, connection, safety and universal access.

• Maintain and Celebrate Heritage

Cultivate a strong commitment to heritage to honour all the people who have contributed to our community from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

- Develop a Moorditch Keila (Happy Dolphin) Aboriginal Cultural Centre to foster business development with the aim of creating employment opportunities, cultural tourism and social support services.
- Preserve our heritage buildings, streetscapes and spaces, reinforcing the unique character of the local area.
- Incorporate heritage stories, places and values into business and tourism development strategies.

• Open Spaces that Build Community

Develop strategies to ensure that all open spaces are attractive and encourage a wide range of uses.

- Develop a strategy to increase active and passive recreational use of the City's parks, foreshores and rivers; including more barbeques, seating, shade and water based recreation activities.
- Promote community gardens as a tool for facilitating community interaction and increasing aesthetics.

Key questions for our future:

- How do we balance the desire for a Southbank-style development of segments of the South Perth foreshore with immediately adjoining residents' needs, open space landscapes and passive and active recreational uses?
- What other strategies are required to build an inclusive community that overcomes the Canning Highway divide?

Transport

The ways we move within, between and beyond our neighbourhoods are accessible, enjoyable and do little damage to our environment.

Key Priority Areas:

- **Improve Public Transport**
Consider creative strategies to improve public transport around our City.
 - Utilise the river more for transport e.g. multiple ferry points along the river.
 - Create a shuttle bus service to link our neighbourhood centres and train stations e.g. better use of local community buses.
 - Lobby for a light rail service along Canning Highway.
 - Establish a developers' contribution to support local public transport initiatives.
- **Improve Movement by Bike or Foot**
Create an attractive and safe environment for movement by bike and foot.
 - Investigate appropriate areas for separate bike and foot paths.
 - Look into developing and promoting educational strategies to increase safety on shared-use paths.
 - Increase the number and safety of cycle lanes on roads.
- **Car Reduction and Road Management**
Develop road strategies that limit the number and impact of cars moving through our neighbourhoods.
 - Develop traffic-calming strategies.
 - Encourage local business and shopping centres to provide incentives to members of staff and community who walk/ride.
 - Increase local amenities and services to reduce our car dependency.
 - Investigate the viability of traffic-free precincts.
 - Encourage car sharing by groups and community housing e.g. retirement villages.

- **Promote Personal Transport Choices**
Promote alternative transport choices and local amenities in order to maximise community connectivity and quality of life.
 - Conduct a survey of residents to determine existing attitudes, expectations and willingness to change current behaviours.
 - Develop campaigns to promote alternative transport choices.
 - Develop sustainable transport initiatives within Council. Suggestions to include the introduction of a workplace travel plan, staff bicycle pool and an electric/hybrid vehicle fleet.

Key Questions for our Future:

- How do people in the City of South Perth gain access to trains? The majority live too far from the train line to walk, our intra-bus services are limited and driving to the station can create parking problems.



City of South Perth **Fact Sheet**

Our Community

People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident population: 43,000 Change from previous year: 1.4% No. of electors: 25,359 Suburbs: Como, Karawara, Kensington, Manning, Salter Point, South Perth & Waterford Languages at home: 75% English only, 7% Asian languages 	Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural background: 32% overseas born, 19% Non-English speaking background Family types: 15% one parent families, 43% couples without children Age structure: 18% 0-17 years, 18% 60+ Religion: 20% no religion, 59% Christian 	Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area: 19.9sq km Major parks & reserves: 14 Area of parks, gardens, reserves & golf courses: 614.2ha Modes of transport: 65% car, 16% public transport, bike, walk Cars: 43% households with >2 cars, 8% no car
Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labour force: 3.9% unemployed, 61% full time Occupations: 46% managers & professionals, 9% blue collar Local industries: Offices, private colleges, tourism, hotels/motels, shopping precincts Tourists to our City: 74,300 pa, 30% international 	Other Facts of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council established 1892 Proclaimed as a City 1 July 1959 Tourist attractions: Old Mill, Swan River, Canning River, Perth Zoo, Collier Park Golf Course, Heritage House & precinct, Sir James Mitchell Park, water sports. Community events: Lotterywest Skyworks, Fiesta, Art Award, International Red Bull Race. Internet connection: 64% H/H Volunteers: 18% 	The Built Form <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dwelling types: 43% separate house, 11% high density Libraries: 2 Leisure Centre: 1 Senior Citizens Centres: 2 Child Health Centres: 3 Pre-schools: 6 Primary schools: 12 Secondary colleges: 5

Our City

Current Major Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manning Community Facility consultation study Civic Centre Library/Hall refurbishment Precinct Studies : Canning Bridge Rail Station, Bentley Technology Park, Waterford Triangle Sir James Mitchell Park beaches 	Planned Major Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redevelopment of Manning Community Facility Sir James Mitchell Park river walls & pedestrian promenade Town planning scheme review Civic Triangle 	Finance (2008-09) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total revenue: \$38.02m Rate revenue: \$20.64m Total operating expense \$42.82m Use of Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks, rec & libraries: 29.4% Transport: 28% Community amenities: 16.5% Housing: 8.2%
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Global Trends That Are Shaping Our World

The Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global population will cross the 10 billion line about 2060. • WA may double to more than four million people by then. • There will be more people 65 years and over by 2050. • Innovative affordable housing options will be needed. • Potential for less food and water to support the population. 	Urbanisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2025 almost two thirds of the world's population will live in cities. • Increased population and the move to cities brings with it densification. • State Government policy is aiming at around 60% infill housing for Perth. • A focus on designing active places which promote healthy and connected communities. 	Communication & Connection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technological solutions will continue to shape our world. • Social networking on-line is growing rapidly and challenges how we relate to each other. • Education and learning on-line provides broader access. • Enables citizen empowerment.
Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008/09 economic downturn has created the opportunity to re-evaluate the economic system. • Innovation and change come from times of recession. • Relocalisation i.e. buying locally is a growing movement. • Exploring strategic partnerships towards mutual benefit continues as a trend. 	Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community standards and expectations are demanding greater accountability through transparent processes. • The engagement of citizens in decision making via participatory democracy has grown in the western world. • Increasing pressure for Local Government to respond to local needs with new strategies while having a limited revenue raising capacity. 	Social Entrepreneurship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The growth of corporate social responsibility is challenging business to consider the interests of society. • Volunteering will need to be supported by both business and government. • Social entrepreneurship is growing across sectors –creating new and innovative ideas for change.
Diminishing Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The demand for oil as our prime source of energy is growing, with use beginning to exceed supply resulting in oil price fluctuations. • This energy crisis requires fundamental rethinking of our urban energy systems including adoption of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. • An era of 'cheap 'n' easy water' is coming to an end, natural water supplies are running dry, drought and unpredictable rainfall as well as pollution is reducing access to fresh water. 	The Atmosphere <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change presents significant challenges with cities beginning to be thought of as 'ecosystems'. • Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a focus for all govt. and requires strategies for waste and water management, sustainable transport and building and natural resource management. • Environmental degradation has lead to increased environmental awareness and action demanded by citizens. 	Green Remodelling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reduce, reuse, recycle catch-cry challenges us all to consume differently. • Carbon offsets to reduce human impacts on the environment are being introduced and require different ways of living and working. • The future of food is threatened by the cost of fuel, drought, genetic modification and poor labelling. • There is a growth of community gardens and citizens wanting to grow their own.

Timeline

May 2008	Council approves community visioning project.
August 2008	Tim Muirhead & Associates contracted to facilitate project.
September 2008	Public workshop facilitated by acclaimed long-range planner Steven Ames (Portland, Oregon).
October 2008	Youth Visioning Summit hosted in partnership with <i>Millennium Kids</i> .
October 2008	Community Stakeholder Workshop held with key stakeholders including local business, community and service groups.
January 2009	<i>Our Vision Ahead</i> website www.visionahead.com.au launched.
February 2009	DIY Kit launched and distributed to groups.
February 2009	Visioning Round Table convenes for the first time.
March 2009 - May 2009	Main consultation phase carried out.
May 2009	<i>Our Vision Ahead</i> Conference.
August 2009	Draft <i>Our Vision Ahead</i> document presented to Council and put out to community for comment.
October 2009	<i>Our Vision Ahead</i> document endorsed.
November 2009	Launched to the community.
February 2010	<i>Our Vision Ahead</i> document integrated into the City's review of the Strategic Plan 2010/15.

