



**SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTER
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**METROPOLITAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT REVIEW
APRIL 2013**

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1. INTRODUCTION

On the 25 October 2012, the Minister for Local Government released the Final Report on Metropolitan Local Government Review. This Report known as the “Robson Report” has been progressing to finalisation over the past 15 months or so.

The Minister appointed Professor Alan Robson and two other highly qualified persons (Doctor Peter Tannock AM and Doctor Sue van Leeuwen) to form the Metropolitan Local Government Review to Panel to prepare a report on the structural reform of local government. The Panel's Terms of Reference were as follows:

1. *Identify current and anticipated specific regional, social, environmental and economic issues affecting, or likely to affect, the growth of metropolitan Perth in the next 50 years.*
2. *Identify current and anticipated national and international factors likely to impact in the next 50 years.*
3. *Research improved local government structures, and governance models and structures for the Perth metropolitan area, drawing on national and international experience and examining key issues relating to community representation, engagement, accountability and State imperatives among other things the Panel may identify during the course of the review.*
4. *Identify new local government boundaries and a resultant reduction in the overall number of local governments to better meet the needs of the community.*
5. *Prepare options to establish the most effective local government structures and governance models that take into account matters identified through the review including, but not limited to, community engagement, patterns of demographic change, regional and State growth and international factors which are likely to impact; and*
6. *Present a limited list of achievable options together with a recommendation on the preferred option.*

According to the Consultants who were appointed to assist the majority of metropolitan local government's (Planning Context), the advantages of local government reform are as follows:

- Protection of liveability with an improvement in the environmental sustainability of the region.
- A more resilient and productive Metropolitan economy.
- Improved advocacy and representation of the region.
- A simple and clear system of governance.
- Improving efficiency and cost savings.
- Eliminating duplication.
- Improved community engagement.

In addition, it is noted that the total revenue derived from rates alone in the metropolitan area is in excess of \$1B per annum. The supporters of reform would no doubt argue that if only 1% of this amount could be saved through amalgamation, savings of in excess of \$10M per year would result.

The Final Report lists a number of recommendations which are detailed below together with the City's comments.

The State Government has not provided any comment or guidance on the content of the Robson Report and has given a public submission period of approximately five months for community comment. The comment period closes on Friday, 5 April 2013.

The City is pleased to provide these comments as part of the submission process.

In its submission to the Minister for Local Government in September 2009 on the topic of local Government Reform, the City made the following comment:

In terms of Local Government amalgamations the City of South Perth is open to boundary/amalgamation where there will be benefits to the residents as a result of boundary/amalgamations. It is acknowledged however that the Town of Victoria Park is firmly of the view that it does not wish to be either split or amalgamated and the City respects this view. The City has a very good relationship with the Town of Victoria Park and makes no claim on any land controlled by the Town.

The City does however recognise the potential benefits that may arise from an amalgamation with the Town of Victoria Park should the Minister mandate such an outcome. Only in this instance or should Town of Victoria Park change its position should boundaries be reviewed. Should this occur, an opportunity would be created to review boundaries including land currently in the City of Canning north of Leach Highway which, if consolidated into an amalgamated City of South Perth and Town of Victoria Park would result in a more logical boundary with greater compliance with the principles established by the Local Government Advisory Board.

Further options have been considered which involve the City of Belmont. A combined Local Government consisting of the City of South Perth, Town of Victoria Park and City of Belmont would equate to a Local Government the size of the City of Melville. The City of Belmont has however indicated that its future lies with established connections with the Eastern Metropolitan region and as a consequence, the City does not recommend any merger between the three Local Governments involved.

The City has been involved in many discussions with other local governments in the south-eastern metropolitan region. This has been necessary in order to arrive at a “fall back” position in the event that the Minister finally commits to a reform program by ruling out a position that the status quo should remain. It was felt important that the City should invest in this work as it provides an alternative position in the event that reform occurs. Should this be the case, it is far better that the City and other neighbouring local governments have a preferred position and publically states this position rather than not having a position and having the Minister determine a position without further City input.

The City has again initiated discussions with its neighbours and four years on, the City’s view remains very similar. The Town of Victoria Park has again resolved its position that its first preference is to remain as it currently is. The City of Belmont regards itself as a unique Local Government centred on the transportation industry.

During the course of this review, the City has had more discussions with the City of Canning for a number of reasons. The Robson Report raises the prospect of radical reform proposals – ranging from 1 to 12 Local Governments – and also introduces for the first time the prospect of new Local Governments being based around Strategic Regional Planning Centres of which Canning – the City’s southern neighbour is one.

Should the Minister mandate a new metropolitan structure centered around Strategic Regional Planning Centres, then the City of South Perth favours an arrangement with the City of Canning. Given that the City's largest land boundary is shared with the Town of Victoria Park, the Town must inevitably be included in this amalgamation process.

The Robson Report recommends at Recommendation 15 (c) that the City of South Perth should either wholly or partly become part of the City of Perth. The City of South Perth rejects the recommendation entirely and does not believe that this is the best outcome for the capital city or for South Perth residents. In particular, the City does not favour 'splitting' the Local Government at Manning road.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1

The City does not support Option A or B of recommendation 15(c) of the Robson report to either wholly or partly amalgamate with the City of Perth for the following reasons:

- There is no community of interest between the residents of the City of Perth and the City of South Perth;
- The City of Perth should remain with a 'Capital City' focus and not be side tracked on suburban issues;
- Assuming governance principles remain the same, the majority of elected members would be elected from south of the river – not the existing City of Perth area – which would be to the detriment of the CBD;
- The principles of the Local Government Advisory Board would be compromised in that there is no justification for the City of Perth to be extended south across the Swan river as it is a natural feature and provides an ideal Local Government boundary.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Subject to effective reform occurring in the western suburbs:

- (a) The City's preferred course of action is to amalgamate with the Town of Victoria Park subject to:
- The Burswood peninsular is retained by the City of Perth;
 - Boundary adjustments occurring to correct existing boundary anomalies between the Town of Victoria Park and City of Canning;
 - An extension of the new Local Government area at the existing southern boundary to Leach Highway being agreed;
 - Both Local Governments retaining existing Reserve funds to be spent specifically on uses in their current area for which the Reserves were created; and
 - All costs associated with the amalgamation being borne by the State.

Alternatively,

- (b) Should the Minister determine that the new structure of Local Government within the metropolitan area be based around Strategic Regional Planning Centres, the City's preferred course of action is to amalgamate with the Town of Victoria Park and with all or part of the City of Canning. Under this proposal, by definition, the new Local Government would need to include Cannington. It is acknowledged that the boundaries of the City of Canning may need to be adjusted in particular locations but the City of South Perth is not in a position to make any informed comments on what the most appropriate options might exist in this regard.

This outcome would be subject to:

- All affected Local Governments retaining existing Reserve funds to be spent specifically on uses in their current area for which the Reserves were created; and
- All costs associated with the amalgamation being borne by the State.

3. BACKGROUND

The topic Local Government Reform has been with the WA Local Government industry for a considerable period of time. In particular, the topic of reform has been active for the last five years when the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), on behalf of the industry, initiated its Systematic Sustainability Study (SSS). Whilst a considerable amount of work was conducted by WALGA as part of this process, the work was not finished because the Minister for Local Government announced that the State Government would be driving the Reform process.

In February 2009, the Minister for Local Government announced that he was keen to see reform of local governments in the State, with changes that may result in changes in four areas:

- A reduction in the number of elected members to between 6 and 9;
- Regional groupings of Councils for service delivery;
- Amalgamations of local governments; and
- Boundary changes.

In September 2009, the City prepared a comprehensive submission to the Minister in response and concluded that the City would be prepared to amalgamate with the Town of Victoria Park but only if the Town agreed. The Town of Victoria Park's preference was to remain as it was and still is.

Later, in August 2011 the City prepared a submission on the matter of Elected Member Representation and Ward boundaries, and agreed to reduce the number of Elected Members from 13 to 9 and the number of Wards from 6 to 4 with effect from October 2013. The Local Government Advisory Board has since agreed with this proposal and the new arrangements have been gazetted to come into effect later this year.

The Independent Metropolitan Governance Review Panel, chaired by Professor Robson, released an Issues Paper together with a series of questions in October 2011, inviting public submissions by 23 December 2011 to which the Council responded.

Following the consideration of submissions, the Panel released their Draft Findings in April 2012 seeking final comment by 25 May 2012 to which the Council also responded with a comprehensive submission.

In relation to the key amalgamation issue, numerous discussions have been held over the last three years or so with neighbouring local governments, in particular the City of Belmont (which ultimately decided its fate lay in the Eastern metropolitan area) and the Town of Victoria Park (which has decided that its preference is to "stay as is" for the time being).

Since the release of the Robson Report two further developments have occurred. Initially, the local governments within the South East region combined to review alternative options as there was a general consensus that the Robson Report did not arrive at a workable (or sensible) reform solution.

Secondly, the majority of local governments within the metropolitan region strongly believed that the local government industry should take responsibility for its own actions and lodge a submission on behalf of the majority of metropolitan local governments. There was a similar view expressed by this group that the Robson Report recommendations were neither appropriate nor realistic.

This group was known as the G20 and a number of proposals were presented as alternatives to the Robson Report recommendations dependent upon the number of metropolitan Local governments ultimately determined by the Minister.

The recommendations presented by the City of South Perth are consistent with the findings of the G20 report as well as the findings of the South East region group of Local Governments.

4. ROBSON REPORT

The Robson Report contains 30 recommendations however recommendation 15(c) generates the most interest and relates to the number of local governments that, in the Panel's view, best suits the metropolitan area. As a result, section 5 of this submission deals entirely with the City's response to this particular recommendation.

At the current time, there are 30 metropolitan local governments of varying sizes and capacities which the Panel found, will not serve the best interests of the Perth metropolitan areas into the future.

Metropolitan local Governments vary in size from the City of Stirling (current population 208,400 but projected to reach 285,800 in 2026) to the Shire of Peppermint Grove (1750 and 2000 respectively). By way of comparison, the whole of the six western suburbs local governments (excluding the Town of Cambridge, has a population of only 70,000 estimated to reach 90,000 in 2026).

When the draft findings were released by the Panel earlier this year for comment, three options were identified as follows:

- (a) 10 – 12 Local Governments
- (b) 5 – 6 Local Governments
- (c) 1 Metropolitan Local Government

Most local governments regard the single local government option and the 5-6 local government options as “red herrings” forcing focus on the 10 – 12 model. Similarly, most Local Governments did not favour the 10-12 local governments' option as being too severe. This would result in all Local Governments having an average of 150,000 residents rising to nearly 240,000 in 2026. Interestingly, it is understood that the Premier is on the record as saying that he would be satisfied with a solution of between 15-20 local governments. A final position within this range is supported by the City.

During the course of the Robson Panel conducting its investigations, WALGA continued to be involved in coordinating a response on behalf of metropolitan local governments. For example, in May 2012, WALGA conducted a survey of metropolitan local governments and arrived at the following consensus (in part):

“WALGA supports a Governance Model for the Perth metropolitan region consisting of approximately 15-20 local governments, and will work towards achieving the objective, based on sustainability principles, with reference to Directions 2031, using existing local government boundaries as a starting point.”

The Robson Report finally recommended the 10-12 local governments' option based on existing metropolitan 'Strategic Regional Planning Centres'.

A. STRATEGIC REGIONAL PLANNING CENTRES

Strategic Regional Planning Centres are currently identified as Perth, Armadale, Cannington, Fremantle, Joondalup, Morley, Midland, Stirling, Rockingham and Yanchep (emerging) – a total of 10 centres around which new local governments would be located.

In addition, two new local governments would be based around ‘secondary centres’ i.e. Claremont and Cockburn. The 12 local governments created under this model would have an average population of 190,000 in 2026.

Interestingly, Claremont and Cockburn are only two of 19 ‘Secondary Centres’ in Directions 2031 which have been selected as the centre for proposed local governments. The Bentley / Curtin ‘Specialised Centre’ has also been overlooked.

The proposal to base new local governments around Strategic Regional Planning Centres is sound, as it provides for a more equitable distribution of non-residential rate revenue. Those local governments that currently have access to rate revenue derived from Strategic Regional Planning Centres’ (or other significant commercial or industrial areas) have significantly increased financial capacity than those who do not.

Even if those local governments that do not benefit from rate revenue derived from Strategic Regional Planning Centres’ but have access to large components of non-residential rate income will have increased capacity as the following table containing information from neighbouring local governments suggests:

	Estimated Resident Population 2011 census	Rate Revenue 2012			Rates per person \$
		Residential \$M	Non-residential \$M	Total \$M	
Belmont	37,350	14.020 (40%)	21.337 (60%)	35.387	947
Victoria Park	34,412	16.200* (62%)	9.976* (38%)	26.176	760
South Perth	43,963	22.684 (89%)	2.700 (11%)	25.384	577
Total	115,725	52.904 (61%)	34.013 (39%)	86.947	
Average	38,575	17.635 (61%)	11.337 (39%)	28.982	751
Canning	90,892	N/A	N/A	41.206	453
Melville	101,649	37.808 (77%)	11.381 (23%)	49.189	483

* Estimated

The importance of this data cannot be over emphasised. What it shows is that the City of South Perth is heavily reliant on residential rates in comparison with its immediate neighbours. Receipt of significant non-residential income not only increases financial capacity but increases flexibility and is more able to adjust to the need to provide emerging services.

For example, the average rates received per person at the City of Belmont is over \$350 greater than that at the City of South Perth because of the massive \$21M in rates received from non-residential land use. Despite the City of South Perth having a greater population (43,963 compared with Belmont 37,350 – an increase of 6613 or 18%), Belmont generates over \$9M in additional rates income. This clearly demonstrates the importance of a diversified rate base. A similar picture – but not so dramatic - arises from a comparison with the Town of Victoria Park.

Interestingly, it is only when local governments get to a sufficient size of approximately 100,000 residents, as is the case with Canning and Melville, that economies of scale operate which together with significant non-residential rates, results in the average rates per person tallying below \$500.

B. OECD PRINCIPLES

The Panel developed principles for Metropolitan Local Government Review based on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) principles, for improving governance in metropolitan areas. The seven principles developed by the Panel were:

- **Long-term approach:** *the Panel's recommendations will focus on long-term and strategic proposals for local government in the metropolitan area. This approach will ensure Perth is prepared for the future and able to sustain a productive economy, diverse communities and a healthy environment.*
- **Community outcomes:** *community wellbeing, both short and long term, will underpin the Panel's recommendations. Change to local government, if required, should improve metropolitan Perth for the people that live in it, work in it, and visit the area.*
- **Equity:** *the Panel's recommendations will seek equity, not only among the residents of the metropolitan area, but equity between generations. Decisions made now should not adversely affect future generations.*
- **Clarity:** *the Panel's recommendations will seek clarity as to which level of government, or other organisation, is best placed to provide services to communities. The recommendations will identify funding sources, and provide evidence of the sustainability of any proposed arrangements.*
- **City scale:** *the Panel will make recommendations for the benefit of metropolitan Perth as a city. While acknowledging the diversity of local communities, and the value of local-level governance, the Panel will focus on outcomes that are best for the metropolitan area as a whole.*
- **Best city:** *the Panel's recommendations will build on the best of Perth's attributes, ensuring its future as a sustainable, liveable, attractive, competitive, dynamic and connected city while building its international reputation as one of the world's most successful cities.*
- **Evidence based:** *the Panel's recommendations will be based on thorough investigation and sound research.*

The principles are soundly based and reflect ideal outcomes. The whole purpose of a metropolitan Local Government review is to improve the capacity of Local Government as a vibrant sector of our community that is able to contribute in a more meaningful way to the economic prosperity of our community.

Having regard for the extent of change – in just about every facet of life - in the 112 years since federation it is very surprising that the boundaries of Local government have not been significantly reviewed long before now.

These principles should therefore be taken into account when consideration is given to the recommendations of the panel.

C. ROBSON REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

In relation to the Recommendations of the Robson Report, the following comments are provided in relation to each of the Recommendations made.

Recommendation 1

The State Government give consideration to the inequities that exist in local government rating, including rate-equivalent payments and State Agreement Acts.

Comment: Agreed.

This is a very worthy principle worth pursuing. The intent behind this recommendation is that all local governments should have equal access to an equitable share of non-residential (commercial and industrial) rates. The City of South Perth is disadvantaged at this time because of its relatively low portion of non-residential rates. This basically means that the City of South Perth rate burden is principally borne by residential rate payers.

Recommendation 2

A collaborative process between State and local government be commenced to establish a new Partnership Agreement which will progress strategic issues and key result areas for both State Government and local government.

Comment: Agreed.

WALGA, LGMA and the Minister for Local Government have had a Negotiated Partnership Agreement for approximately ten years and it is periodically reviewed. Unfortunately, the State does not adhere to the principles and obligations contained in the Agreement. It is suggested that the reason for this recommendation is as a result of comments and made by local governments to the panel, in this regard.

Recommendation 3

The State Government facilitate improved coordination between State Government agencies in the metropolitan area, including between State Government agencies and local government.

Comment: Agreed.

Improved coordination between state agencies and the local governments is an ongoing priority and there is much to be improved. This may be in improving delegation, legislation, and funding.

Recommendation 4

A full review of State and local government functions be undertaken by the proposed Local Government Commission as a second stage in the reform process.

Comment: Agreed.

Recommendation 5

In conjunction with the proposed structural and governance reforms, that local government planning approval powers be reinstated in metropolitan Perth by the State Government.

Comment: Agreed.

This partly relates to the introduction of Development Assessment Panels (DAPs). It is doubtful whether the development application process has been improved with the introduction of DAPs. During the period of their introduction, the City has had only three applications referred to a DAP.

Recommendation 6

The State Government consider the management of waste treatment and disposal at a metropolitan-wide scale either be undertaken by a State authority or through a partnership with local government.

Comment: Agreed.

It has been recognised for some time that without State Government intervention, local government cannot satisfactorily manage the Waste Management function. This is for two reasons: First, if a local government was to become an owner/operator of a Waste Management plant (or a principal user) funding of up to \$100M would be required or guaranteed for each plant. Secondly, the State needs to ensure that adequate land is appropriately zoned for this purpose and is prepared to make that land available to local government.

Further, the State currently collects significant funds through the waste management levy which should properly be used for this purpose rather than applying the funds to supporting the administrative costs of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Recommendation 7

A shared vision for the future of Perth be developed by the State Government, in conjunction with local government, stakeholder and community groups.

Comment: Agreed.

Many organisations within Perth have their own vision, the City of South Perth for example has its own vision. The City of Perth will have its vision, the Committee for Perth will have its vision, and the State's vision is presumably expressed in Directions 2031. The point is made however, that there is no common view of the vision of the greater City of Perth and this is a valid observation.

Recommendation 8

A Forum of Mayors be formed to facilitate regional collaboration and effective lobbying for the needs of the metropolitan area and to provide a 'voice' for Perth.

Comment: Agreed.

This is a view that the City has supported in the past. This suggestion is based on a very successful model opted by Queensland Mayors (and Presidents) and can only serve to achieve a strong voice for local government.

To some extent this recommendation cuts across WALGA's role but nevertheless is seen as a useful position and could potentially be negotiated with WALGA.

Recommendation 9

The Forum of Mayors be chaired by the Lord Mayor of the modified City of Perth in the first instance.

Comment: Agreed.

The suggestion that the Lord Mayor in the first instance chair a forum of mayors is logical and supported.

Recommendation 10

The newly created local governments should make the development and support of best practice community engagement a priority, including consideration of place management approaches and participatory governance modes, recognition of new and emerging social media channels and the use of open-government platforms.

Comment: Agreed in principle.

Subject to further information being made by “participatory governance modes” and what this actually means in practice. References are also made to place management approaches and it is suggested that this would only be relevant if the 10-12 local governments’ option is introduced as local governments will generally be much larger entities than they are now.

Recommendation 11

The existing Regional Local Governments in the metropolitan area be dissolved, the provisions in the *Local Government Act 1995* be repealed for the metropolitan area and a transitional plan for dissolving the existing bodies in the metropolitan area be developed.

Comment: Subject to Council agreeing with the need for Reform, the action contained in this recommendation relating to amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* to facilitate change would be required.

Dependent upon the number of local government’s that ultimately is chosen, the need for regional local governments may or may not be relevant. Given that regional local governments have been primarily formed for the purpose of waste management treatment and other recommendations contained in the Robson Report touch on this subject, it may be that regional local governments are not be required in their current form in the future.

If new technology to dispose of waste is selected, i.e. waste to energy (incineration) and these plants are provided by contractors without the need for capital funding or guarantees by local government, then this may also be a reason for not dissolving regional local governments in their current form.

Recommendation 12

The State Government give consideration to transferring oversight responsibility for developments at Perth’s airports, major hospitals and universities to the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority.

Comment: Not agreed.

By its very name Redevelopment Authority should be focussed on revitalising Perth’s priority areas. This has been particularly successful to date with the redevelopment of East Perth, Subiaco and Midland. The redevelopment is also involved in the transformation of a number of areas of central Perth as well as the Armadale Town Centre.

There is no justification provided or need identified to transfer major developments owned or controlled by either the Federal or State Government to the Redevelopment Authority. Local government is heavily involved in all of the developments contained in this recommendation and no reasonable justification has been provided to remove these developments from local government jurisdiction.

Recommendation 13

Periodic local government boundary reviews are undertaken by an independent body every 15 years to ensure the city’s local government structure continues to be optimal as the metropolitan region develops.

Comment: Agreed.

Recommendation 14

The Local Government Advisory Board be dissolved and its operating and process provisions in the *Local Government Act 1995* be rescinded with the Local Government Commission taking over its roles, including consideration of representation reviews.

Comment: Agreed, in principle.

The Local Government Commission would have much broader roles compared to the existing roles of the advisory board but unconditional support could only be given when a full assessment of the roles and functions of the Commission has been conducted.

Recommendation 15

A new structure of local government in metropolitan Perth be created through specific legislation which:

(a) incorporates all of the Swan and Canning Rivers within applicable local government areas;

Comment: Uncertain.

The implications of such a recommendation are not sufficiently clear to provide meaningful comment. It is certainly agreed that some of the controls imposed by the Swan River Trust on Local Government should be relaxed or even eliminated altogether which would minimise duplication, streamline development approvals and cut administrative costs.

(b) transfers Rottnest Island to the proposed local government centred around the City of Fremantle;

Comment: Uncertain.

The only benefit of Rottnest Island being incorporated into the City of Fremantle is that it appears to cement the link between the Port City and the Island. Currently, Rottnest Island is incorporated into the City of Cockburn. The only area within the Perth metropolitan area that is currently not incorporated into any local government area is Kings Park.

(c) reduces the number of local governments in metropolitan Perth to 12, with boundaries as detailed in Section 5 of this report.

*Comment: This is the critical recommendation of the Robson Report and is the subject of further comment later in the submission at **section 5**.*

Recommendation 16

Consideration be given to all local government elections being conducted by the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

Comment: Not agreed.

It is suggested that other organisations may be able to participate in conducting local government's elections, such as the Commonwealth Electoral Commission. At the very least, the addition of the Commonwealth Electoral Commission would provide some competition to the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

Recommendation 17

Compulsory voting for local government elections be enacted.

Comment: Not agreed.

The City has previously agreed that compulsory voting may encourage politicisation of local government and councils which can have a negative affect or impact. It is also noted that whilst compulsory voting applies to Commonwealth and State Elections, these spheres of government are recognised in the Australian Constitution whereas local government is not.

Recommendation 18

All Mayors and Presidents be directly elected by the community.

Comment: Uncertain.

The City has previously agreed that the current system demonstrates a feature of the autonomy of local government whereby the method of election of Mayor is determined by each local government. It is odd that local government is the only sphere of government where electors have the capacity to elect a non-appointed leader.

Recommendation 19

Party and group nominations for local government electoral vacancies be permitted.

Comment: Not agreed.

This recommendation would clearly introduce party politicisation into local government and this is not felt as being desirable. Local government in WA is generally regarded as being free of politics which minimises opportunities for 'block voting'.

Recommendation 20

Elected members be limited to serving three consecutive terms as councillor and two consecutive terms as Mayor/President.

Comment: Not agreed.

This is an odd recommendation but could be supported if the same principles applied to commonwealth and state government elected representatives. No reason is given as to why local government should have a different set of principles applied to it when compared with commonwealth and state governments.

Recommendation 21

Elected members be provided with appropriate training to encourage strategic leadership and board-like behaviour.

Comment: Agreed.

Clearly appropriate training is desirable for Elected Representatives and this will certainly be more important for local governments which will be consolidated to 10-12 local governments within the metropolitan area of the recommendations of the Panel are implemented.

Recommendation 22

A full review of current legislation be conducted to address the issue of the property franchise and the most appropriate voting system (noting the Panel considers that first-past-the-post is inappropriate for the larger districts that it has recommended).

Comment: Not agreed.

The system of voting has changed a number of times in recent years, and it is not believed a case has been made to change the method of voting from the current system of "first past the post".

Recommendation 23

Implementation of the proposed setting of fees and allowances for elected members as set by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

Comment: Agreed.

A review of the fees and allowances for Elected Members is long overdue. A WA Salaries and Allowances Tribunal has now been created and is operational.

Recommendation 24

Payments made to elected members be reported to the community on a regular basis by each local government.

Comment: Unnecessary.

Disclosure of allowances paid is considered best practice and should be disclosed. The most appropriate method of disclosing this information is in the annual budget and annual report. No further disclosure is considered necessary.

Recommendation 25

The Public Sector Commission provide advice and assistance to local governments in the appointment and performance management of local government Chief Executive Officers with consideration given to the Public Sector Commission being represented on relevant selection panels and committees.

Comment: Agreed, in principle.

This recommendation is supported on the basis that the Public Sector Commission would only provide advice and assistance to local governments. Having said that, local governments could currently call upon the Commission at the present time for assistance, on a needs basis, should the need arise without there being any formal requirement in place.

Recommendation 26

A State Government decision on reform should be made as soon as possible, and if the decision is to proceed with structural reforms, the process of implementation should begin without delay.

Comment: Agreed.

Recommendation 27

Councils take on a leadership role in the reform debate and prepare their residents now for the possibility of changes in the future.

Comment: Agreed.

Council has communicated the main components of the Robson Report and sought comment from the community. Ultimately however, as the corporate body the council makes the final decision on behalf of the community.

Recommendation 28

The State Government assist and support local governments by providing tools to cope with change and developing an overarching communication and change management strategy.

Comment: Agreed.

Importantly, the Robson report does not identify the costs associated with Local Government Reform. It is very important therefore that the State Government commits to the funding of costs associated with reform; otherwise the additional costs – potentially significant costs – will need to be borne by rate payers.

There are major costs associated with Local Government reform, some of which are detailed in the summary of Section 5 of this submission. It is surprising that the Robson Report did not make any effort to provide 'costs and benefits' of the amalgamation proposals. It would therefore be unfair for the Local Government sector to bear the 'unknown costs' of amalgamation.

The transition is also likely to take an extended period of time before any real benefits of the reform are felt – if any at all. For these reasons it is considered unreasonable that the costs of reform should be borne directly by ratepayers. The reform programme is an initiative of the State Government and is being driven by the State Government and as a consequence, the costs should be totally borne by the State.

Recommendation 29

A Local Government Commission be established as an independent body to administer and implement the structural and governance reforms recommended by the Panel, and facilitate the ongoing relationship between State Government and local government.

Comment: Agreed, in principle.

If Local Government Reform eventuates unless the powers of the Local Government Advisory Board are changed, an entity such as a Local Government Commission would be desirable to facilitate change. Whether the functions of the Commission would be supported would very much depend upon its powers and role. A review of the Local Government Advisory Board should be first conducted.

Recommendation 30

The recommendations from the Panel should be considered as a complete reform package and be implemented in their entirety.

Comment: Not agreed.

It is doubtful whether the State or the local government industry would support all of the changes contained in the Report in their entirety and in any event, the City is on record not supporting many of the directions contained within some of the recommendations.

ROBSON REPORT SUMMARY

As with most reports prepared for State Government, there are likely to be a number of Recommendations that are palatable but many will not. There are many sensible and in comes cases long overdue recommendations. The suggestion to centre new Local Governments around Strategic Regional Centres is sound and equitable.

As mentioned, in response to Recommendation 30, it is most unlikely that the State would accept all the recommendations as a 'total package'.

Unless this reform initiative is given priority by the Department of Local Government – and in particular the legislative process required enabling the passage of legislation through Parliament – it is difficult to see how the recommendations could be implemented within a period of less than 12 months.

All costs of reform should be borne by the State directly and not by ratepayers.

5. ROBSON REPORT RECOMMENDATION 15(c)

As indicated above, the most contentious recommendation contained in the Robson Report is Panel recommendation 15(c). The Panel Recommendation 15(c) is as follows:

“A new structure of local government in metropolitan Perth be created through specific legislation which reduces the number of local governments in metropolitan Perth to 12.”

The Panel has identified and recommended two options for the future of metropolitan reform:

OPTION A - AMALGAMATION ONLY

(Table 5.10 Page 133 of the Robson Report)

Wholly merge the City of Perth along with the Town of Victoria Park and the City of Vincent (map 6.1).

Option A (amalgamation) is certainly easier to implement than Option B (new boundaries). In respect of the City of South Perth, it would be merged with the City of Perth, Town of Victoria Park and the City of Vincent. The following tables show the possible elected membership structure of a City of Perth under this option.

Combined new City of Perth based on current system of elected member election:

	Estimated Resident Population 2011 census	Population 2026 WA TOMORROW (Adj)	Electors 2012 #	Electors 2012 %	Councillor Representation (12 in total)	RATES TOTAL \$M (2012)
South Perth	43,963	56,504	25,700	34.2%	4	25.356
Victoria Park	34,442	59,136	18,500	24.7%	3	26.176
Perth	18,377	61,650	10,250	13.7%	2	66.892
Vincent	34,016	46,220	20,600	27.4%	3	23.962
TOTAL	130,798	223,510	75,050	100%	12	\$143.386

Unless governance provisions of the Local Government Act are changed, this option would see representatives from the City of Perth to go from controlling the organisation as it presently is, to only being represented by 2 of the 12 elected members. Under existing arrangements, representatives from the existing City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park would be represented by 7 elected members and could effectively ‘control the council.’

Presumably the State would be unlikely to allow this to occur and a unique governance model would be required to be adopted through legislation to prevent this from occurring. This could likely take the form of a specific condition on amalgamation. Diminishing the influence of elected members from south of the river is the inevitable and likely outcome.

The balance in representation would change over time as populations change (particularly in the current City of Perth and the Town of Victoria Park). The Mayor would presumably still be elected at large. It is possible that a candidate from south of the river could initially be successful because of the vastly superior number of electors from that area.

OPTION B – AMALGAMATIONS AND SPLITTING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

(Table 5.11 Page 13.5 of the Robson Report).

Partly merge with the City of Perth along with parts of Victoria Park, Nedlands, Stirling, Vincent and Cambridge (map 6.2.1).

Under option B, (the Panel's preferred option), the creation of the expanded City of Perth would mean the City being split with the area south of Manning Road being transferred to a new City of Canning (based around the Cannington Strategic Regional Centre).

Representation data is difficult to obtain because of the lack of information regarding population and electors for the new local government because this option involves parts of existing Local Governments.

Under this option, the Robson Report recommends that part of the City of South Perth, the Town of Victoria Park and parts of Vincent (together with other boundary adjustments) merge with the City of Perth. It is known that neither Vincent nor Victoria Park support this action. The City of South Perth has not supported this action in the past and on this basis, the City would not support this recommendation either.

It is considered that both options A and B would be a retrograde step and returns the capital City of Perth to a mid-1990's situation, where the Council will be dominated by suburbia and its issues. It is possible that the City of Perth would be controlled by elected members elected by residents from South Perth, Victoria Park and Vincent as these Local Governments will have the majority of the residents of the new local government.

This is the preferred option of the Panel.

SUMMARY

A merger of this nature will also inevitably reduce focus on the CBD of the capital city and is not supported. Since the 'split' of the City of Perth in the mid 1990's, this City has been able to focus on CBD initiatives and as a result, the maturity of the City has developed considerably since that time.

Consideration only has to be given to the major projects that have occurred – or are occurring – to emphasise the importance of this focus. These projects include:

- East Perth Redevelopment;
- Cultural Centre Precinct Redevelopment;
- Trinity (causeway) Project;
- Underground Perth Railway with grade connection to Northbridge; and
- Elizabeth Key Redevelopment.

It is also considered that the Robson Report is deficient in that despite the resources allocated to the project, the report fails to:

- Adequately quantify the costs and benefits associated with either option A or option B;
- Identify the issues associated with the reform proposed, i.e. costs of merging the Town Planning Schemes, Policies and Local Laws, IT systems and EBA's and HR Practices etc.;
- Take into consideration costs of inevitable redundancies rationalisation and other associated 'merger' costs; and
- Costs associated with rationalisation of administration/civic centre buildings etc.

There are also significant issues relating to Regional Local Governments, long term contracts, signage and branding etc. These matters need to be taken into consideration and fully considered during the course of the decision making process.

6. RESIDENTS SURVEY

A total of five options were considered in the survey covering a range of 'common' options.

OPTION 1 - ROBSON REPORT RECOMMENDATION A (map 6.1)

OPTION 2 - ROBSON REPORT RECOMMENDATION B (map 6.2.1 and map 6.2.2)

Comments on these options have been provided in section 5 of this submission. Neither option is favoured by the City for the reasons stated (or the residents for that matter).

OPTION 3 - THE CITY OF SOUTH PERTH AND THE TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK MERGING

This option appears to be the most logical and again, is relatively straight forward to implement (map 6.3). Based on the current system of elected member election, the following would result:

	Estimated Resident Population 2011 census	Population 2026 WA TOMORROW (Adj)	Electors	Ratio	Councillor Representation (8 in total)
South Perth	43,963	56,504	25,700	58%	5
Victoria Park	34,442	59,136	18,500	42%	3
TOTAL	78,405	115,640	44,200	100%	8

In the medium term, it is likely that representation would even out at 4:4 as the population of Victoria Park will increase at a greater rate than South Perth because of development around the Burswood Peninsula area. Of course, the Minister may condition any merger to require equal representation from the outset which would not be an unreasonable proposition as the two populations are similar.

With respect to any merger or boundary change involving the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park, the major community of interest factors other than common boundaries and roads are considered to be:

- Swan River, foreshore, and parklands - shared across South Perth and Victoria Park. The parklands are accessed by residents of all areas, as well as visitors from further afield.
- Curtin University - Located in Victoria Park on the border of South Perth and Canning. University facilities are utilised by South Perth and Victoria Park residents, as well as by community members from further afield. The needs of Curtin staff and students including housing, shopping and recreation are met by both South Perth and Victoria Park, as well as by the City of Canning.
- Canning Highway - Restaurants, commercial, and retail outlets used by residents of South Perth and Victoria Park. The extension of Canning Highway into the Great Eastern Highway links the City of South Perth with Victoria Park.

- Manning Road - Major arterial road linking the City of South Perth with Victoria Park and Canning in the Curtin University area. It is a major access road used by South Perth and southern suburbs residents to access the eastern suburbs (and vice versa), Canning Bridge Railway Station, to Cannington, and Curtin University. The Manning Road precinct provides services - medical, hairdressing, petrol stations, fast food outlets - some smaller retail outlets, and the Waterford Plaza Shopping Centre. The City of South Perth provides a library and recreation facilities in the area. Services and facilities in the Manning Road precinct are used by students of Curtin University located in the Town of Victoria Park, as well as residents of South Perth, Canning and the southern suburbs.
- The Park Shopping Centre and Albany Highway retail precinct located in Victoria Park are easily accessible and used by South Perth residents, particularly those who reside in Kensington.
- Victoria Park has numerous recreation facilities, including gymnasiums and swimming facilities which are also easily accessible and utilised by South Perth residents.
- Collier Park Public Golf Course - Located in South Perth, the course is considered a regional facility, very accessible by residents of Victoria Park as well as visitors from other regions.
- Bentley Technology Precinct - The Technology Park is located in both the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park. Staff, clients and visitors to the Technology Precinct utilise resources and localities within both municipalities.
- The City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park have a history of sharing services and resources across organisations. South Perth and Victoria Park currently have shared services arrangements such as street sweeping operations and have recently entered into a joint tendering process for services such as surveying and design, as well as maintenance work such as mowing, concreting and paving. Further opportunities for sharing resources are consistently being sought and identified in order to assist both organisations in the efficient and cost effective delivery of services across the communities.

This proposal increases the financial capacity of the new local government as its rate base would immediately increase to in excess of \$51.5M. The rate base would also be more diversified as follows:

	Rates 2012		
	Residential \$M	Non-residential \$M	RATES TOTAL (2012) \$M
South Perth	22.684 (89%)	2.700 (11%)	25.384
Victoria Park	16.200* (62%)	9.976* (38%)	26.176
TOTAL	\$38.884M	\$12.676M	\$51.560M

* estimate

The new local government would not however be based around Strategic Regional Planning Centres as proposed in the Robson Report. The amalgamation would however be consistent with the G20 preferred Option D – 16 Councils or Option C – 18 Councils (see section 9 of this submission).

It is noted however, that it is quite possible that the City of Perth will lodge a boundary adjustment bid for the Burswood Peninsula area, reducing the financial capacity and sustainability of the Town of Victoria Park. Whilst a merger between the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park appears to be a possible outcome, a merger without the Burswood Peninsula area would not likely result in a viable local government nor would it meet the requirements of the Robson Report, as it does not contain a Strategic Regional Planning Centre.

For these reasons, further boundary readjustments would appear to be necessary and this could only include the City of Belmont and or the City of Canning.

**OPTION 4 - THE CITY OF SOUTH PERTH AND THE TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK
MERGING WITH ALL OR PARTS OF BELMONT, CANNING OR MELVILLE**

There are obviously many potential options to be considered with this general heading – some of which are discussed in section 8 of this submission.

In an earlier submission to the Robson Panel, reference was made to the possibilities of a combined new local government – the City of Curtin – consisting of the City’s of Belmont and South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park (see map 6.4) This proposal would seem to be attractive and result in a new local government with the following features:

	Estimated Resident Population 2011 census	Population 2026 WA TOMORROW (Adj)	RATES TOTAL \$M (2012)
South Perth	43,963	56,504	25.384
Victoria Park	34,442	59,136	26.176
Belmont	37,350	54,722	35.387
TOTAL	115,755	170,362	86.947

For the purpose of this exercise, analysis including parts of Canning or Melville has been excluded because the necessary information is not available.

Upon amalgamation, a new City consisting of over 115,000 residents with an annual rate base approaching \$87M would be created increasing to over 170,000 by 2026.

It is known however that the City of Belmont sees itself in an entirely different light, as a strategically located Local Government with a focus as a major state transport hub. This essentially precludes the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park. The more likely scenario is that the combined Local Governments of South Perth and Victoria Park link with parts or all of the City of Canning (discussed below).

The most likely scenario therefore is that if the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park combined (with or without the City of Belmont), that the area should further expand into the area currently administered by the City of Canning. At the very least, it would appear that the area to the north of Leach Highway covering Bentley, St James and Wilson (to solve very odd boundary alignments with the Town of Victoria Park) should be considered.

Further encroachment into the current City of Canning also presents a number of opportunities. More information on those options is provided at section 8. It is still likely that the City of Perth may wish to ‘acquire’ the Burswood Peninsula incorporating the Casino, hotel developments and major stadiums.

OPTION 5 - DO NOTHING – STAY AS WE ARE

Unlikely to be supported by the State Government in the short, medium or long term. Change is seen as inevitable. The State has made it clear that Local Government reform will occur and it is in the best interests of the City to respond in an informed and proactive way.

SURVEY RESULTS

Residents were invited to complete a survey form on the Metropolitan Local government Reform issue. A survey was sent to 22,503 residents in January 2013 requesting responses be returned by Friday 22 February 2013. The survey was widely publicised and also displayed on the City's website. The survey asked the following questions – each related to principle options identified by the City. The options identified in the survey were:

	Description of Option
Option 1	The existing City of South Perth would be abolished and amalgamated with the City of Perth, City of Vincent and the Town of Victoria Park to form a new local government, with a projected population of 198,5000 by 2026. <i>[Robson Report Option A]</i>
Option 2	The City of South Perth would be abolished with parts being amalgamated with two neighbouring local governments. The area to the north of Manning Road and the west of Kent Street would be transferred to form a new local government comprising the City of Perth, together with the City of Vincent and parts of the Town of Victoria Park, with a projected population of 143,169 by 2026. It also includes all the area to the south of Manning Road and to the east of Kent Street being transferred to form a new local government comprising the City of Canning and parts of the City of Melville and Town of Victoria Park, with a projected population of 137,902 by 2026. This is the preferred option of the Panel. <i>[Robson Report Option B]</i>
Option 3	The City of South Perth merging only with the Town of Victoria Park. <i>[Alternative Option]</i>
Option 4	The City of South Perth merging with a new local government comprising the City of Canning and parts of the Town of Victoria Park, City of Melville and possibly City of Belmont. <i>[Alternative Option]</i>
Option 5	The City of South Perth remains the same with no change. <i>[Alternative Option]</i>

It is noted that there are many other alternative options and variations where boundary changes could be made. The survey should therefore be regarded as illustrative purposes only to gauge community opinion of a very general nature. In any event, the community response demonstrated that the topic of local government reform is an issue that is of no particular concern.

The response rate to this important issue was very disappointing. A total of 22,503 copies of the Peninsular were distributed to every residential property and only 238 (or 1.07%) responses were received. The majority of residents who responded preferred option 5 – 'no change' – and the least supporting Robson report 'Recommendation B'.

The survey results identified that the preferred option was as follows:

Option	# of Responses
1. Robson Report Option A	21
2. Robson Report Option B	13
3. Merger with the Town of Victoria Park	61
4. Merger with the Town of Victoria Park and part of the City of Canning	18
5. No change	125
TOTAL	238

SUMMARY

Because of the extremely poor response to the extensive residents survey at approximately 1%, it is clear that no definitive conclusion can be drawn from the results of the survey.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

In addition to the two alternative options proposed in the Robson Report and the options considered in the residents' survey, further options have been considered in other forums. The options discussed in these other forums are detailed as follows:

- South East metropolitan Local Government Review; and
- G20 Review – coordinated by Planning Context.

There are many potential opportunities for reform with many Local Governments and the most obvious options considered are identified in the following analysis. It is noted that the data does not contain any robust analysis of eventual financial positions of the 'new' local governments.

7.1 SOUTH EAST METROPOLITAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

A number of other different options could be considered, all of which include the City of Canning as follows:

7.1.1 "South Park" extended to Leach Highway – see map 7.1.1.

This option is as discussed above, which involves the combined local governments of South Perth and Victoria Park (South Park) but including the northern most section of the City of Canning including the suburbs of: Wilson, St James, and Bentley. The estimated result of this consolidation is as follows:

	Estimated Resident Population 2011 census	Population 2026 WA TOMORROW (Adj)
South Perth	40,739	56,500
Victoria Park	32,434	59,100
Canning North of Leach Highway	16,300	24,000*
TOTAL	89,473	139,600

* estimate

Upon amalgamation, a new City consisting of almost 90,000 residents would be created, increasing to almost 140,000 by 2026.

This option resolves a number of odd boundary alignments that exist, particularly between the Town of Victoria Park and the City of Canning. It also creates the new local government boundary at Leach Highway, at Centenary Avenue in the west and at Orrong Road in the east. One of the features of this option is that "South Park" would pick up largely residential sections of the northern part of the City of Canning although it is acknowledged that there are commercial components around Albany Highway in Bentley.

The new local government boundary would be entirely logical and only have two common boundaries with other local governments i.e. the balance of the City of Canning at Leach Highway to the south and Orrong Road in the City of Belmont in the east.

Although the boundaries are logical (and definitely more logical than at the present) this option is still not consistent with the principles of the Robson Report i.e. that the new local governments should be centred about Strategic Regional Planning Centres, and therefore may not be acceptable to the Minister of Local Government. In other words, the extent of the consolidation may not be sufficient.

Nevertheless, this option has merit and does reduce the number of Local Governments in this region by one, and creates a Local Government with a population in excess of 100,000 with the capacity to grow further. This is certainly the case if the status of Curtin University is taken into consideration as it is defined as a “Specialised Centre” in Directions 2031 and has the capacity to house approximately 20,000 residents within the next 20 years.

This option would at the very least appear essential if the boundary of the City of Perth is extended to include the Burswood peninsular.

7.1.2 “South Park” extended to Roe Highway – see map 7.1.2.

This option combines the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park extending across Leach Highway down to Roe Highway in the south east. The south western boundary would be the Canning River and the eastern boundary would extend to Orrong Road in Wattle Grove. The estimated result of this consolidation is as follows:

	Estimated Resident Population 2011 census	Population 2026 WA TOMORROW (Adj)
South Perth	40,739	56,500
Victoria Park	34,434	59,100
Canning north of Roe Highway and east of Canning River	37,880	57,000*
TOTAL	111,053	172,600

* estimate

Upon amalgamation, a new City consisting of 111,000 residents would be created increasing to over 172,000 by 2026.

Again, the boundaries are entirely logical with the south western boundary being the Canning River Regional Reserve, the south eastern boundary being Roe Highway and the eastern highway being Orrong Road. This option also addresses the principles of the Robson Report in that it includes the Cannington Regional Centre.

It would however, presumably result in the abolition of the City of Canning as it is now known and other remaining parts would probably be joined to other neighbouring local governments. This option includes the northern part of the City of Gosnells (that part north of Roe Highway to the existing boundary with the City of Canning).

**7.1.3 “South Park” extended to Roe Highway and to Canning River
– see map 7.1.3.**

This option is similar to the previous option but the south west boundary is not the Canning River but a creek line that runs to the west of the Canning River so that the new local government includes the suburbs of Ferndale and Langford. The estimated result of this consolidation is as follows:

	Estimated Resident Population 2011 census	Population 2026 WA TOMORROW (Adj)
South Perth	40,739	56,500
Victoria Park	32,434	59,100
Canning north of Roe Highway (including Ferndale and Langford)	47,670	72,000*
TOTAL	120,843	187,600

* estimate

Upon amalgamation, a new City consisting of over 120,000 residents would be created increasing to 187,000 by 2026.

Again, the boundaries are entirely logical with the south west boundary being the creek to the west of the Canning River Regional Reserve, the south eastern boundary being Roe Highway and the eastern boundary being Orrong Road. This option also addresses the principles of the Robson Report in that it includes the Cannington Regional Centre.

The impact on the City of Canning will be ever greater. Similarly, this option includes the northern part of the City of Gosnells (that part north Roe Highway to the existing boundary with the City of Canning).

**7.1.4 “South Park” extended to the City of Gosnells boundary
– see map 7.1.4.**

This option is similar to the previous option (7.1.3) but the southern boundary extends to the existing boundary with the City of Gosnells and not to Roe Highway. The estimated result of this consolidation is as follows:

	Estimated Resident Population 2011 census	Population 2026 WA TOMORROW (Adj)
South Perth	40,739	56,500
Victoria Park	32,434	59,100
Canning north of existing boundary with City of Gosnells*	20,000*	24,000*
TOTAL	93,173	139,600

* estimate by the City of South Perth

Upon amalgamation, a new City consisting of over 93,000 would be created increasing to almost 140,000 by 2026.

The boundaries for this option are not logical as the southern boundary recognises the existing boundary between the City of Canning and the City of Gosnells which is not necessarily ideal.

The south western boundary remains at the Canning River Regional Reserve, the south eastern boundary, being the City of Gosnells boundary and the eastern boundary being Orrong Road. This option also includes the Cannington Regional Centre. The City of Canning could no longer exist.

7.1.5 “South Park” extended to Vahland Avenue Willetton – see map 7.1.5.

This option is similar to option 7.1.3 but the south western boundary is not the Canning River Regional Reserve (or the creek) but extends to Vahland Avenue in Willetton. The estimated result of this consolidation is as follows:

	Estimated Resident Population 2011 census	Population 2026 WA TOMORROW (Adj)
South Perth	40,739	56,500
Victoria Park	32,434	59,100
Canning north of Roe and to Vahland Avenue	60,500	90,000*
TOTAL	133,673	205,600

* estimate

Upon amalgamation, a new City consisting of over 130,000 residents would be created increasing to over 205,000 by 2026.

Again, the boundaries are entirely logical with the south western boundary being Vahland Avenue in Willetton and the south eastern boundary being Roe Highway and the eastern boundary being Orrong Road. This option also addresses the principles of the Robson Report in that it includes the Cannington Regional Centre. The City of Canning could no longer exist.

7.1.6 Merger between the City of South Perth, the Town of Victoria Park and the City of Canning – see map 7.1.6.

This option simply consolidates the three local governments and is considered realistic particularly if the State desires to reduce the number of local governments in the metropolitan area to 15 or less. The result of this consolidation is as follows:

	Estimated Resident Population 2011 census	Population 2026 WA TOMORROW (Adj)	RATES TOTAL \$M (2012)
South Perth	40,739	56,500	25.384
Victoria Park	32,434	59,100	26.176
Canning	85,500	105,700	40.982
TOTAL	158,500	221,300	\$92.542M

Upon amalgamation, a new City consisting of almost 170,000 residents would be created increasing to over 240,000 by 2026. Initially, the new City would have an annual rate base of \$92.5M. The amalgamation would be consistent with the G20 Group preferred Option E – 15 Councils.

The existing boundaries are not logical as the boundaries between the City of Canning and Belmont, Gosnells and Melville remain unchanged. Whilst this option creates a large metropolitan Local Government, it is still smaller than the existing City of Stirling and others in the northern corridor. This option does address one of the principles of the Robson Report in that it includes the Cannington Regional Centre.

SUMMARY

Many potential options exist but without full data available it is difficult to assess the best result. All of the options identified above would possibly work but each has ramifications elsewhere. Ultimately, the final make-up of the boundary adjustments will be dependent upon the number of Local Governments that will exist in the metropolitan area post review.

7.2 G20 REVIEW

Another view of local government industry reform has been provided through a group known as the G20 which is a subset of 20 of the 30 metropolitan Local Governments. The 20 have participated in a further independent review of metropolitan boundaries as they:

- a) Recognise that Local Government reform will inevitably occur; and
- b) Do not wish to miss the opportunity of submitting an industry view (albeit not a complete view) as 10 Local Governments did not wish to participate in this review.

This group considered six base options with other variations related to certain boundary adjustments based on the ultimate number of local governments that would exist. These options are as follows:

Option A – 22 Local Governments

This option involves mergers of a number of local governments but the City of South Perth is not affected. This option (as it affects the City of South Perth) has been discussed at Option 3 (section 6). A table showing the affected Local Governments under this option is as follows:

	ERP 2011	WA Adj. Tomorrow 2026 Pop	Total Equity (\$'000)	Rate Total Revenue (\$'000)
Armadale & SJ	83,800	115,500	368,700	54,700
Fremantle & East Fremantle	36,000	49,000	425,800	39,800
Bayswater & Bassendean	80,100	100,00	312,000	42,500
Nedlands & Subiaco	41,000	54,600	273,200	36,500
Vincent & Perth	34,000	46,200	1,035,400	90,900
Claremont, Cottesloe, P Grove & Mosman Park	28,800	35,800	105,900	28,700

This was not a preferred option of the G20 Group of Councils as the extent of the reform did not go far enough and would likely not be acceptable to the minister.

Option B – 20 Local Governments

This option involves further mergers one, of which is the amalgamation of the City of South Perth with the Town of Victoria Park. This option (as it affects the City of South Perth) has been discussed at Option 3 (section 6).

A table showing the affected Local Governments under this option is as follows:

	ERP 2011	WA Adj. Tomorrow 2026 Pop	Total Equity (\$'000)	Rate Total Revenue (\$'000)
Armadale & SJ	83,800	115,500	368,700	54,700
Fremantle & East Fremantle	36,000	49,000	425,800	39,800
Bayswater & Bassendean	80,100	100,00	312,000	42,500
Vincent & Perth	34,000	46,200	1,035,400	90,900
South Perth & Vic Park	78,400	115,600	919,000	55,600
Cambridge & Subiaco	45,600	53,600	301,800	37,900
Nedlands, Claremont, Cottesloe, P Grove & Mosman Park	51,300	62,600	833,000	46,500

Similarly, this was not a preferred option of the G20 Group of Councils for the same reason.

Option C – 18 Local Governments

Option C was the second preferred option by the G20 Group of Councils. This option featured the amalgamation of the City of South Perth with the Town of Victoria Park with other Local Government amalgamations occurring which resulted in the reduction of two further Local Governments. Under this option 12 Local Governments are amalgamated as follows:

1. Armadale & Serpentine-Jarrahdale
2. Fremantle & East Fremantle
3. Bayswater & Bassendean
4. Vincent & Perth
5. South Perth & Victoria Park
6. Cambridge, Subiaco, Nedlands, Claremont, Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove & Mosman Park
7. Cockburn & Kwinana

A summary of the key characteristics of these amalgamated Local Governments is as follows:

	ERP 2011	Adj. Tomorrow 2026 Pop	WA Total (\$'000)	Equity	Total Revenue (\$'000)	Rate
Armadale & Serpentine Jarrahdale	83,800	115,500	368,700		54,700	
Fremantle & East Fremantle	36,000	49,000	425,800		39,800	
Bayswater & Bassendean	80,100	100,00	312,000		42,500	
Vincent & Perth	52,400	107,900	1,035,400		90,900	
South Perth & Victoria Park	78,400	115,600	919,000		55,600	
Cockburn & Kwinana	126,000	182,900	1,000,400		80,500	
Nedlands, Claremont, Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove, Mosman Park, Cambridge & Subiaco	97,000	126,700	540,700		84,400	

This option results in a number of Local Governments (12) that fits neatly into the range preferred by WALGA and consistent with the number that is apparently acceptable to the Premier but falls short of that identified in the Robson Report.

Option D – 16 Local Governments

Option D was the preferred option by the G20 Group of Councils. Similarly, this option involves further mergers and retains the amalgamation of the City of South Perth with the Town of Victoria Park. The result of this merger is the same as that contained in section 6 – Option 3.

Under this option 14 Local Governments are amalgamated as follows:

1. Armadale & Serpentine-Jarrahdale
2. Fremantle & East Fremantle
3. Bayswater & Bassendean
4. Vincent & Perth
5. South Perth & Victoria Park
6. Cambridge, Subiaco, Nedlands, Claremont, Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove & Mosman Park
7. Cockburn & Kwinana
8. Swan & Mundaring
9. Belmont & Kalamunda

A summary of the key characteristics of these amalgamated Local Governments is as follows:

	ERP 2011	Adj. WA Tomorrow 2026 Pop ³	Total Equity (\$'000)	Total Rate Revenue (\$'000)
Armadale & Serpentine Jarrahdale	83,800	115,500	368,700	54,700
Fremantle & East Fremantle	36,000	49,000	425,800	39,800
Bayswater & Bassendean	80,100	100,00	312,000	42,500
Vincent & Perth	52,400	107,900	1,035,400	90,900
South Perth & Victoria Park	78,400	115,600	919,000	55,600
Cockburn & Kwinana	126,000	182,900	1,000,400	80,500
Nedlands, Claremont, Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove Mosman Park, Cambridge & Subiaco	97,000	126,700	540,700	84,400
Swan & Mundaring	152,600	221,000	1,033,149	102,000
Belmont and Kalamunda	93,000	119,700	694,225	61,900

Similarly, this option results in a number of Local Governments (16) that fits neatly into the range preferred by WALGA and consistent with the number that is apparently acceptable to the Premier but again falls short of that identified in the Robson Report.

Option E – 15 Local Governments

Option E was the third preferred option by the G20 Group of Councils. This option involves one further merger which involves the amalgamation of the City of South Perth with the Town of Victoria Park with the majority of the City of Canning. The result of this merger is similar as that contained in the above Option B table and at section 7.1.6 but is subject to boundary variation adjustments.

Under this option 15 Local Governments are amalgamated as follows:

1. Armadale & Serpentine-Jarrahdale
2. Fremantle & East Fremantle
3. Bayswater & Bassendean
4. Vincent & Perth
5. South Perth, Victoria Park & Canning
6. Cambridge, Subiaco, Nedlands, Claremont, Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove & Mosman Park
7. Cockburn & Kwinana
8. Swan & Mundaring
9. Belmont & Kalamunda

A summary of the key characteristics of these amalgamated Local Governments is as follows:

	ERP 2011	Adj. Tomorrow 2026 Pop	WA Total (\$'000)	Equity Total Revenue (\$'000)	Rate
Armadale & Jarrahdale	83,800	115,500	368,700	54,700	
Fremantle & East Fremantle	36,000	49,000	425,800	39,800	
Bayswater & Bassendean	80,100	100,00	312,000	42,500	
Vincent & Perth	34,000	46,200	1,035,400	90,900	
South Perth, Victoria Park & Canning	169,300	237,200	1,034,000	98,700	
Cockburn & Kwinana	126,000	182,900	1,000,400	80,500	
Nedlands, Claremont, Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove, Mosman Park, Cambridge & Subiaco	78,100	99,200	540,700	84,400	
Swan & Mundaring	152,600	221,000	1,033,149	102,000	
Belmont and Kalamunda	93,000	119,700	694,225	61,900	

Similarly, this option results in a number of Local Governments (15) that fits neatly into the range preferred by WALGA and consistent with the number that is apparently acceptable to the Premier but again falls short of that identified in the Robson Report. It also results in half of the Local Governments being amalgamated which is attractive for the State's point of view.

Option F – 9 Local Governments

This option involves further mergers the Cities of Perth, South Perth, Vincent and the Town of Victoria Park in a similar fashion to the recommendations contained in the Robson Report at section 4.

Under this option 21 Local Governments are amalgamated as follows:

OPTION F	LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AFFECTED
9 Councils	1. Armadale & Serpentine-Jarrahdale
	2. Fremantle, East Fremantle, Melville & Cockburn
	3. Bayswater, Bassendean, Swan, Mundaring & Belmont
Lose 21	4. Vincent, Perth, South Perth & Victoria Park
	5. Cambridge, Subiaco, Nedlands, Claremont, Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove, Mosman Park & Stirling
	6. Canning, Gosnells & Kalamunda
	7. Kwinana & Rockingham

A summary of the key characteristics of these amalgamated Local Governments is as follows:

	ERP 2011	WA Adj. Tomorrow Pop	2026 Equity Total (\$'000)	Rate Total Revenue (\$'000)
Armadale & SJ	83,800	115,500	368,700	54,700
Fremantle & East Fremantle, Melville and Cockburn	233,000	330,700	1,903,700	146,700
Bayswater, Bassendean, Swan, Mundaring and Belmont	270,100	408,600	1,712,200	180,800
Vincent, Perth, South Perth, Vic Park	130,800	223,150	1,643,500	146,500
Nedlands, Claremont, Cottesloe, P Grove Mosman Park, Cambridge, Stirling & Subiaco	305,400	408,600	1,406,700	194,300
Gosnells, Kalamunda, Canning	130,800	223,500	1,787,100	120,800
Kwinana, Rockingham	139,800	256,900	624,400	77,200

There was no support for this option.

SUMMARY

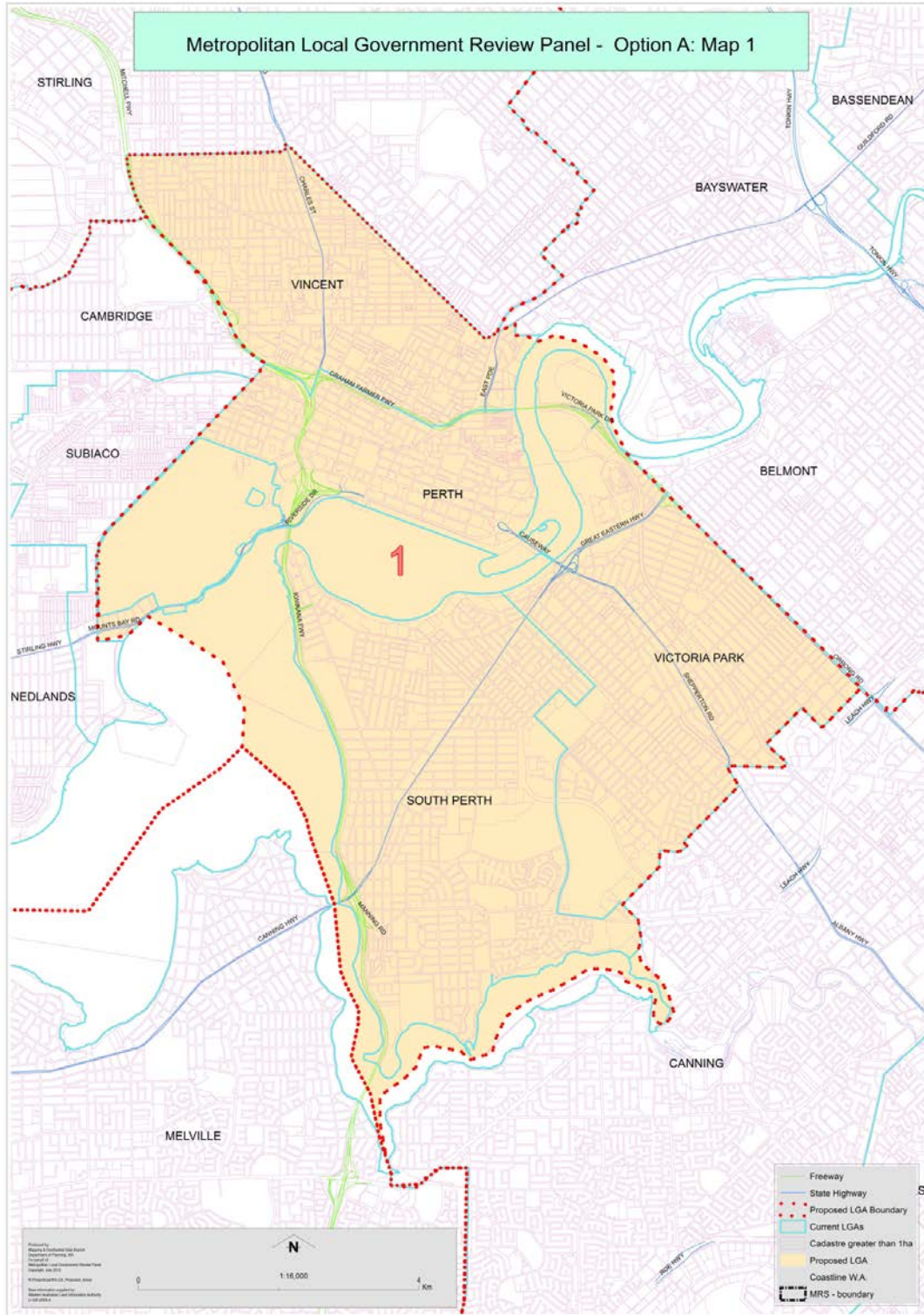
The G20 review proved a useful exercise and also resulted in a preferred view of an ultimate range of local Governments between 15 to 20 consistent with WALGA's and the Premiers' view.

The preferred options, D and C involve the amalgamation of the City of South Perth and the Town of Victoria Park. Option E goes further by the additional amalgamation with the City of Canning (with some boundary adjustments).

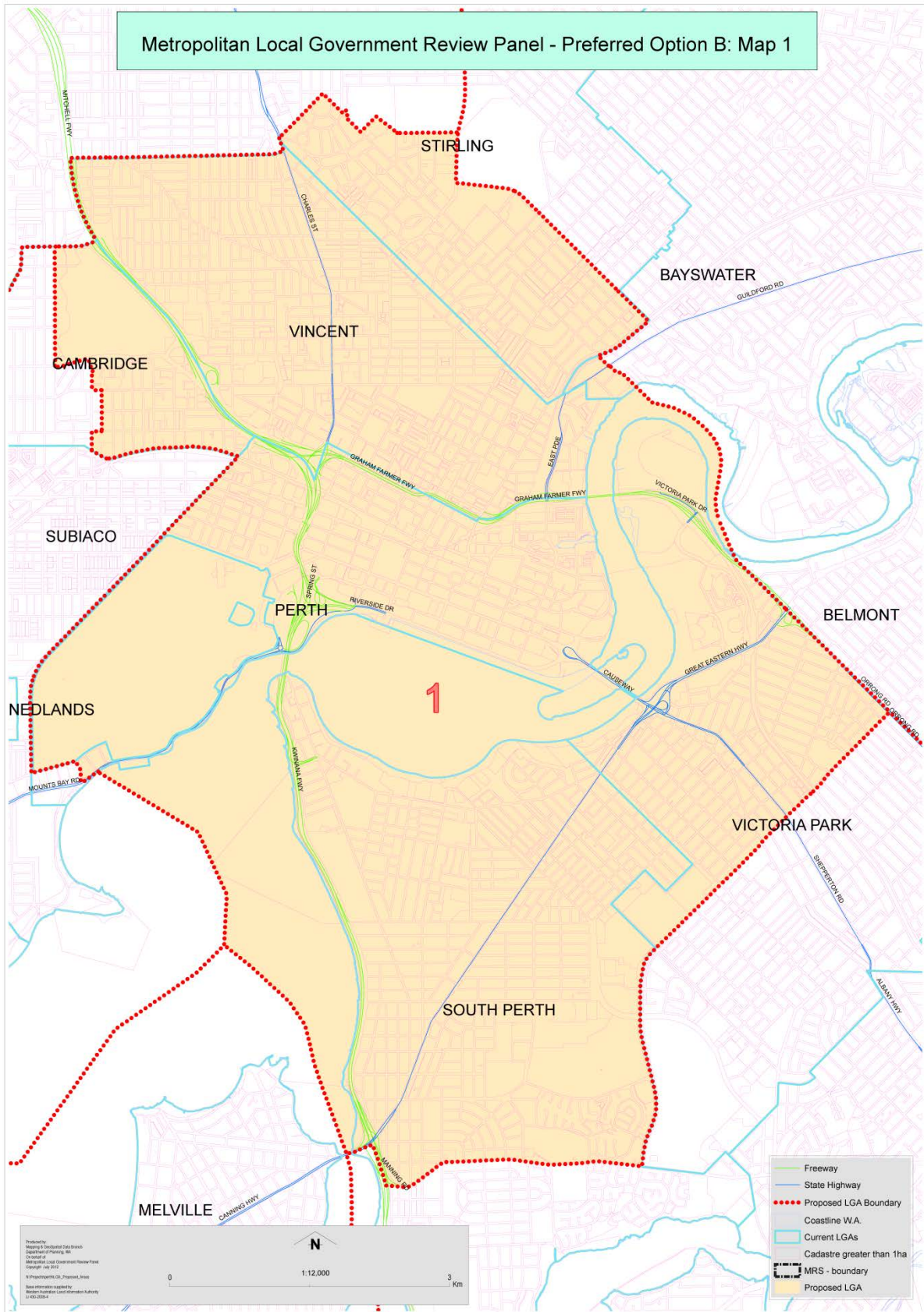
APPENDIX

MAP 6.1

OPTION 1 – ROBSON REPORT RECOMMENDATION A

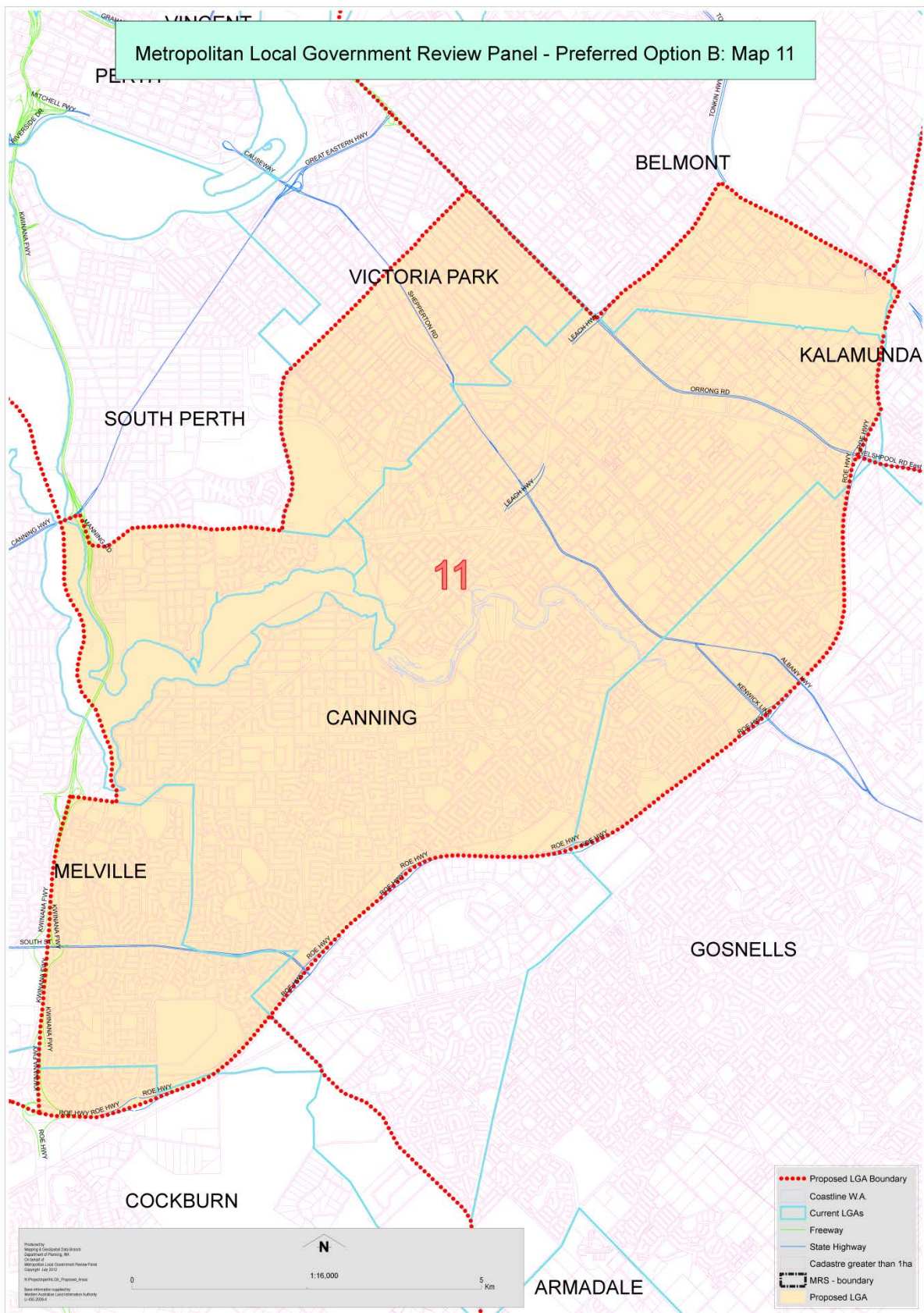


MAP 6.2.1
OPTION 2 – ROBSON REPORT RECOMMENDATION B: MAP 1

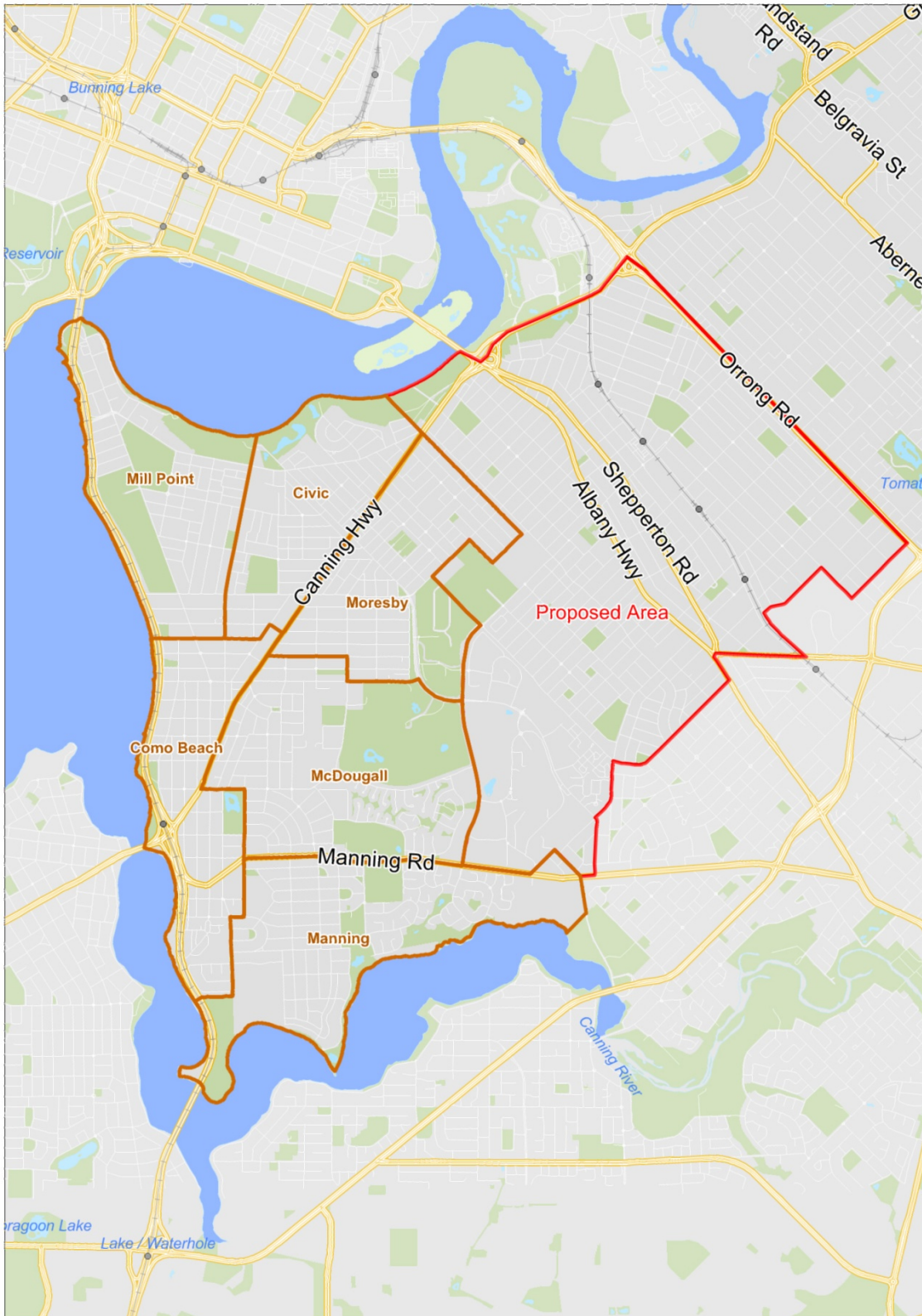


MAP 6.2.2

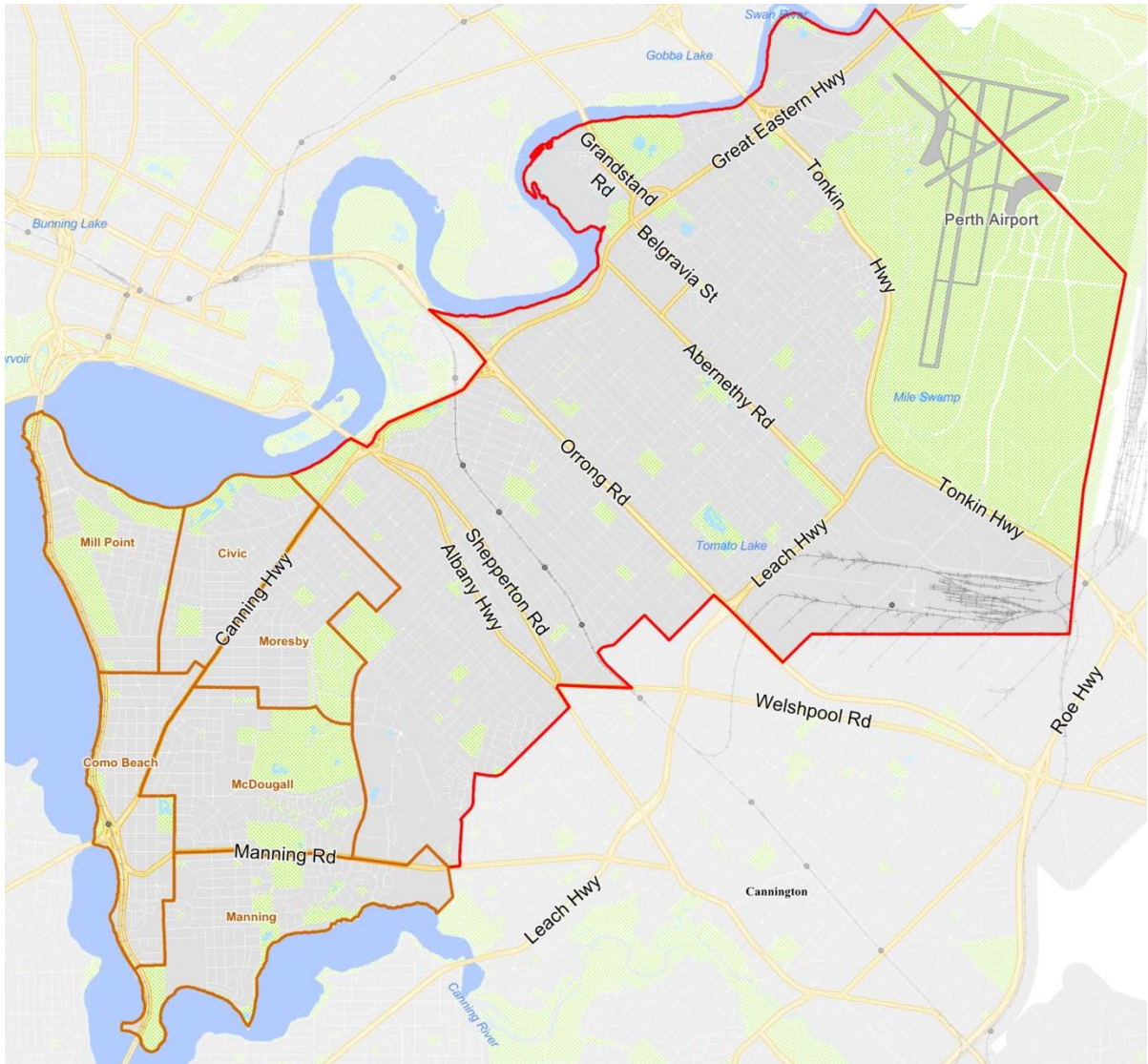
OPTION 2 – ROBSON REPORT RECOMMENDATION B: MAP 11



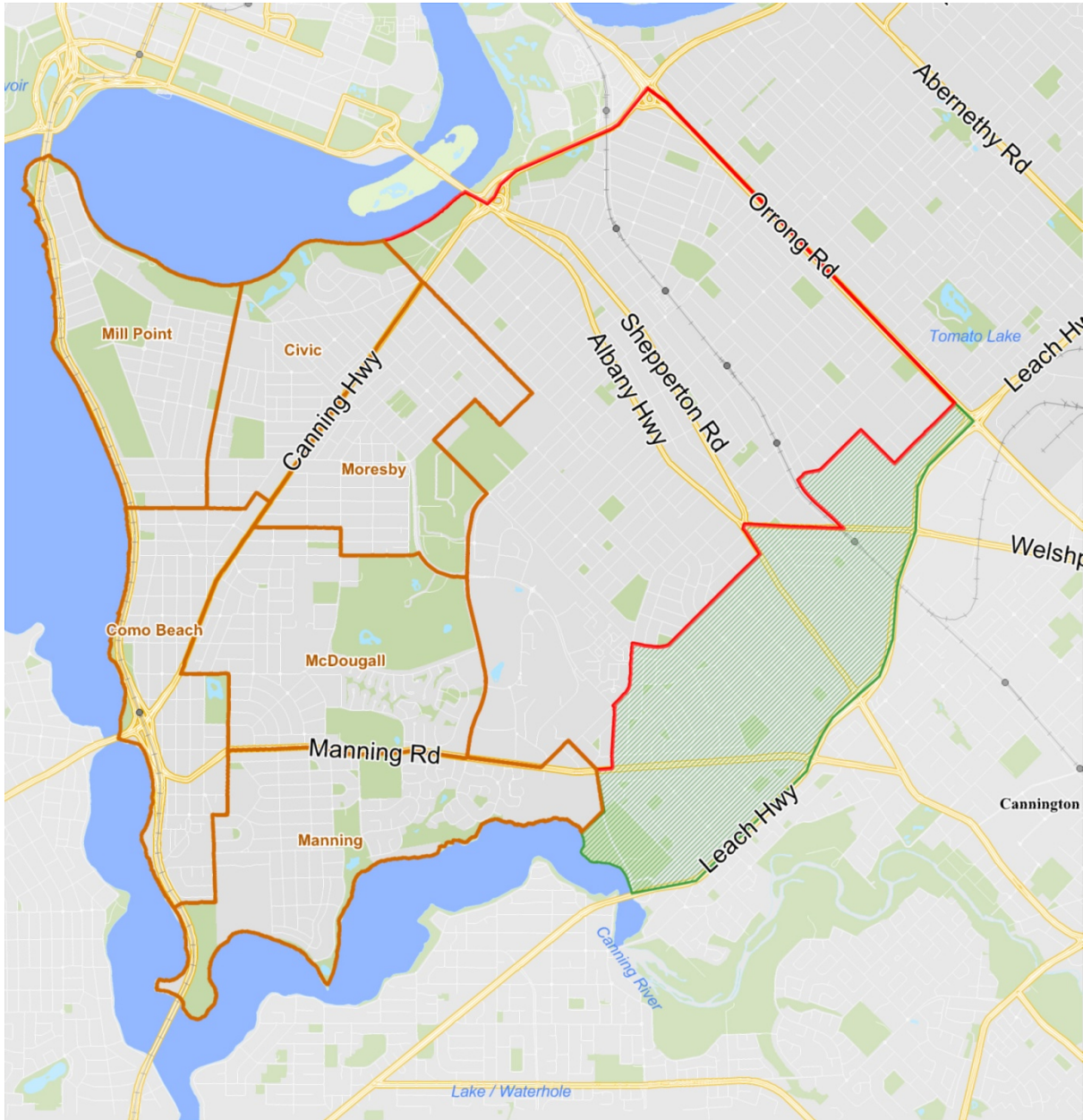
MAP 6.3
OPTION 3 – THE CITY OF SOUTH PERTH AND THE TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK
MERGING



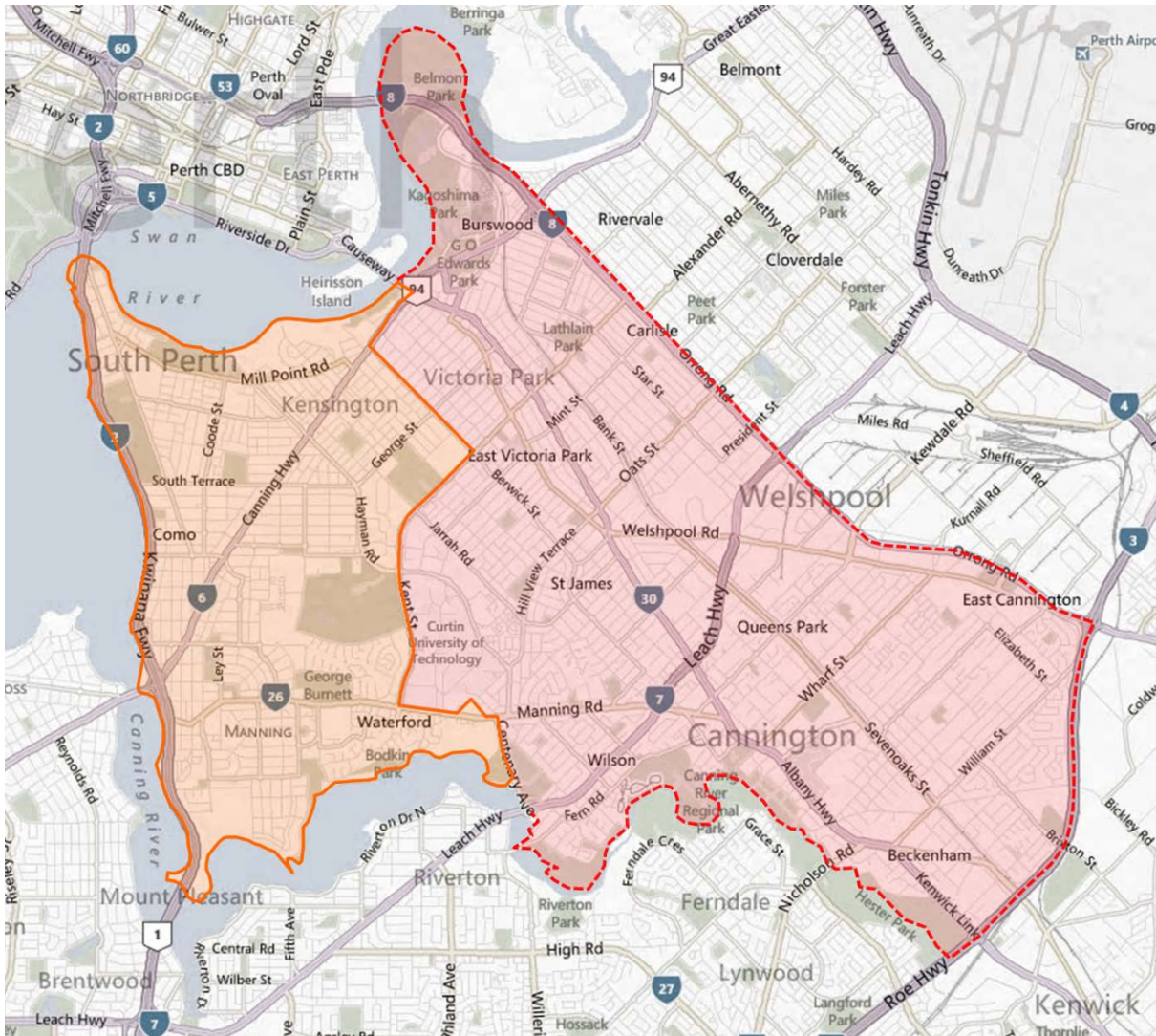
MAP 6.4
OPTION 3 – THE CITY OF SOUTH PERTH, THE TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK AND THE CITY OF BELMONT MERGING



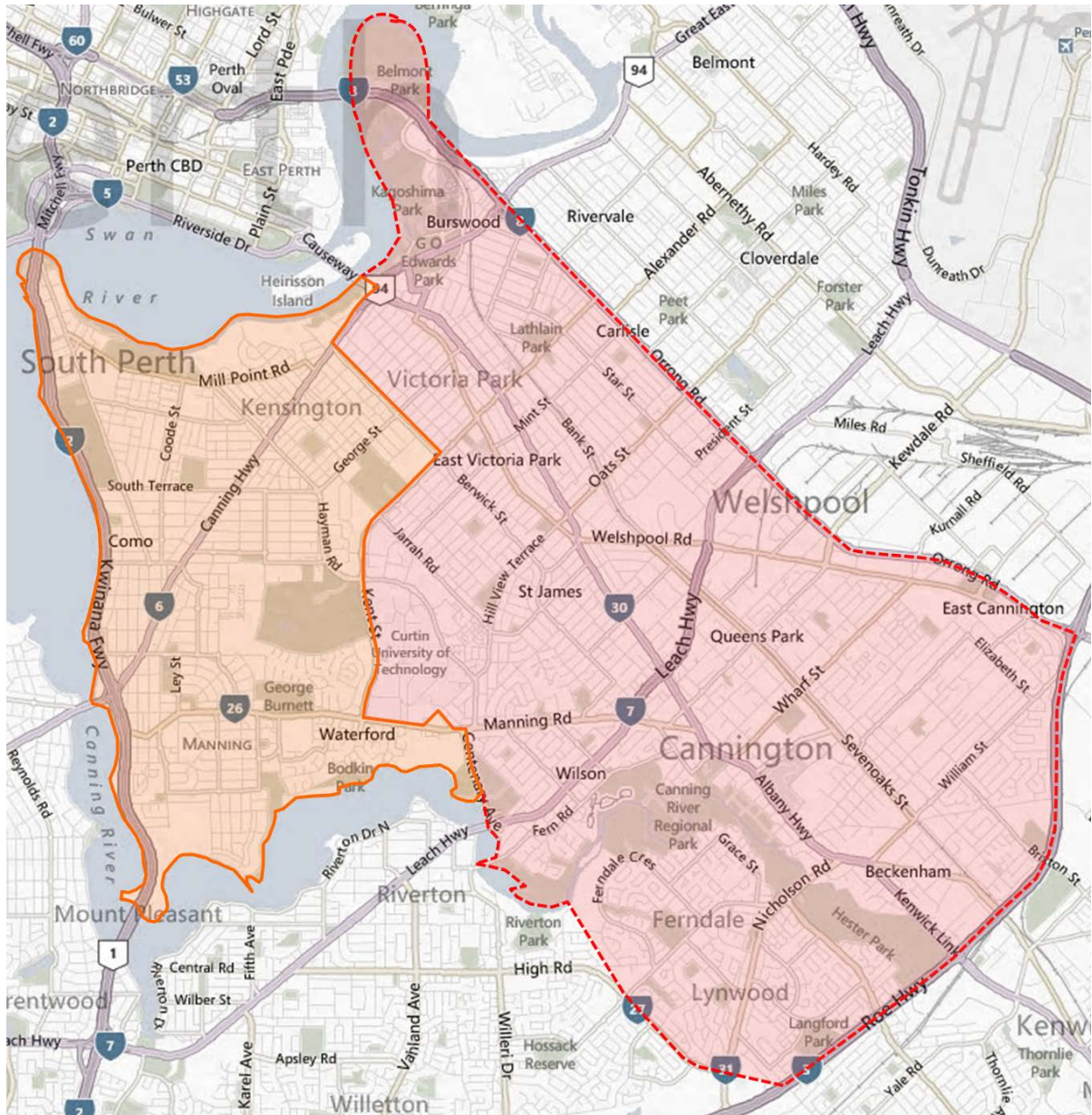
MAP 7.1.1
"SOUTH PARK" EXTENDED TO LEACH HIGHWAY



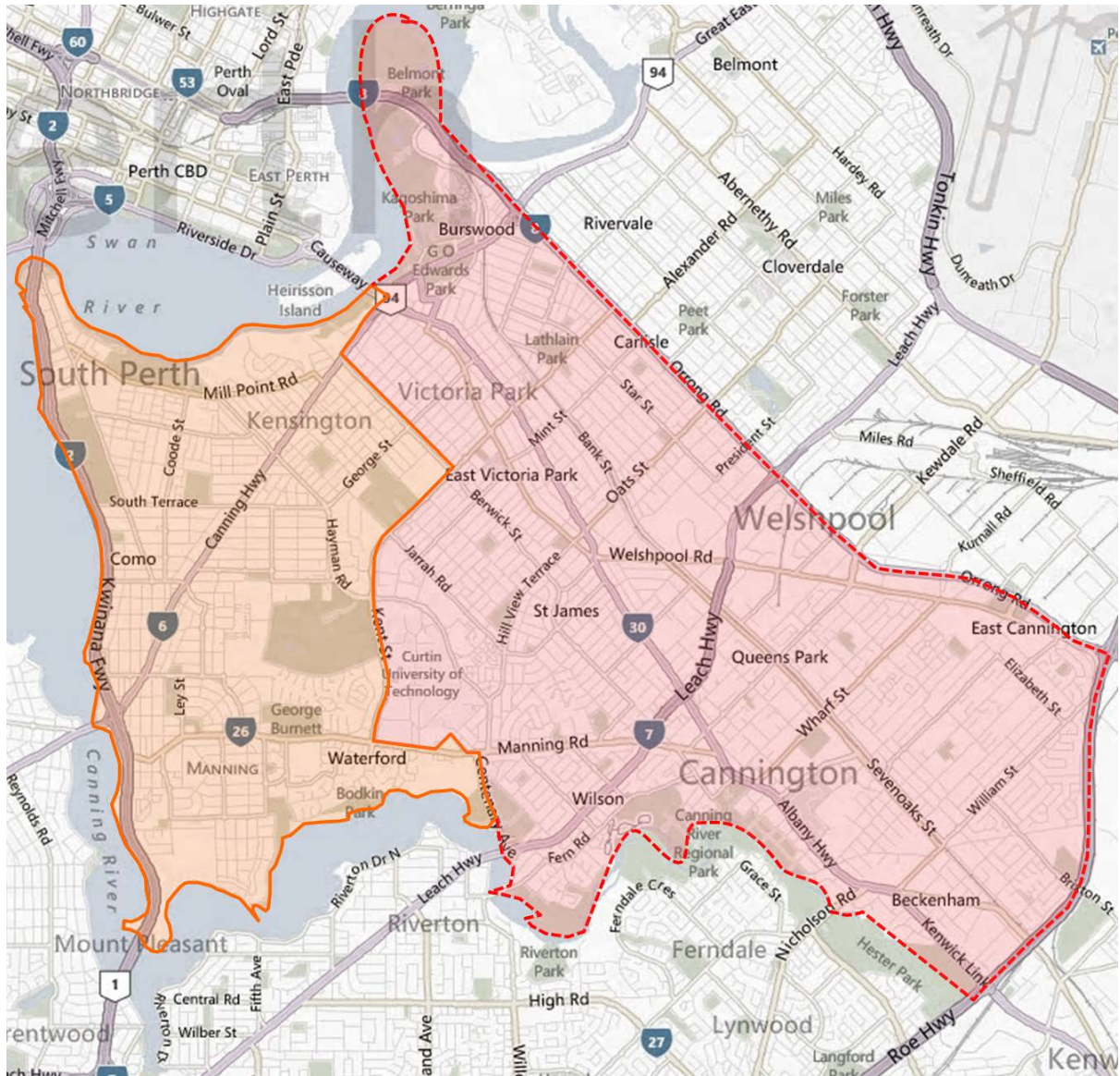
MAP 7.1.2
"SOUTH PARK" EXTENDED TO ROE HIGHWAY



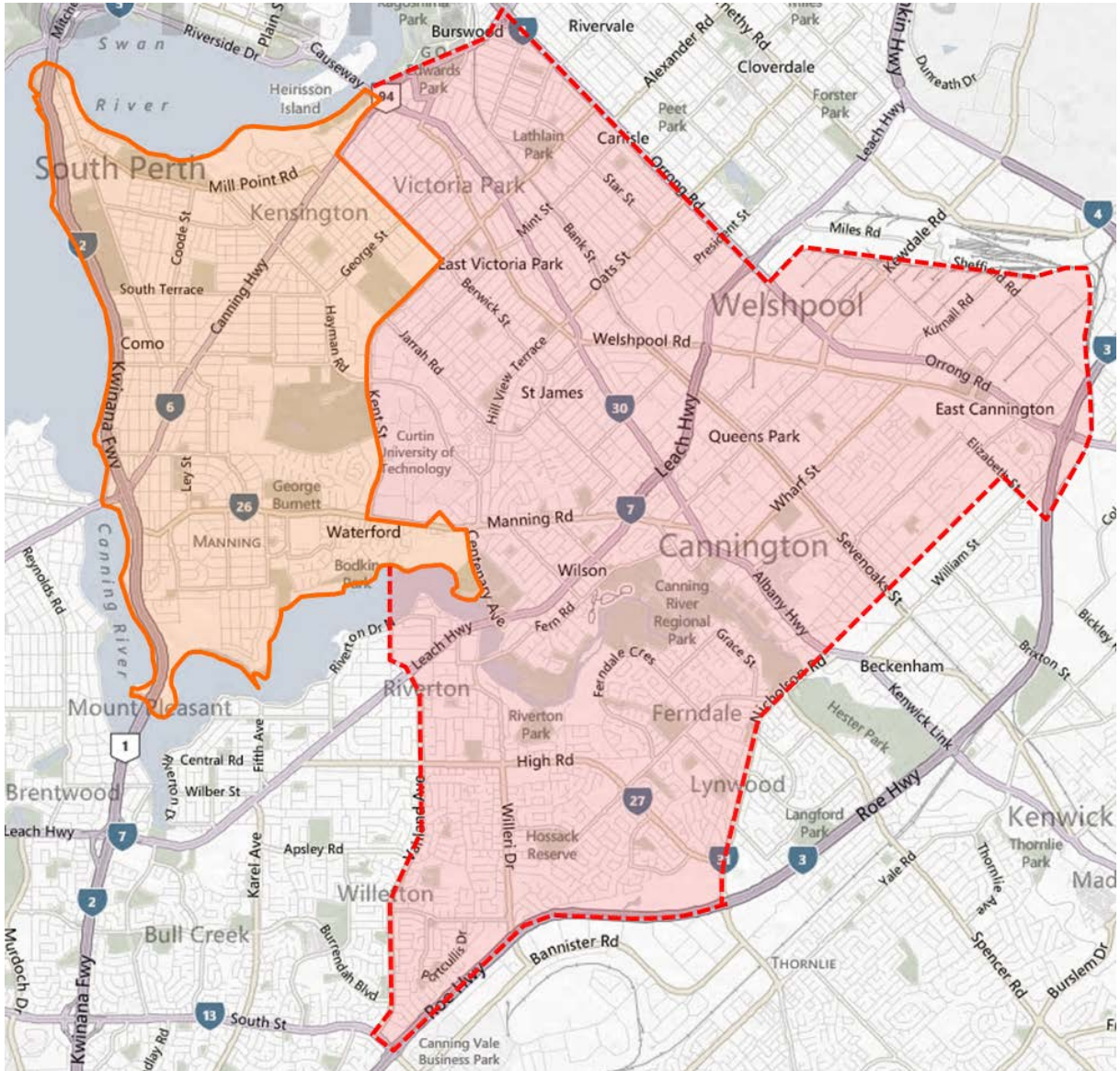
MAP 7.1.3
"SOUTH PARK" EXTENDED TO ROE HIGHWAY (EXTENDED)



MAP 7.1.4
"SOUTH PARK" EXTENDED TO THE CITY OF GOSNELLS BOUNDARY



MAP 7.1.5
"SOUTH PARK" EXTENDED TO VAHLAND AVENUE WILLETTON



MAP 7.1.6
MERGER BETWEEN THE CITY OF SOUTH PERTH, TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK AND
THE CITY OF CANNING

