



Government of  
**Western  
Australia**



**Wheatbelt**  
Development  
Commission

# *ANNUAL REPORT*

## *2004 / 2005*



## 1 – STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

**HON KIM CHANCE**

**MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, MID WEST AND WHEATBELT**

In accordance with Section 66 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Wheatbelt Development Commission for the financial year ended 30 June 2005.

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985.



**Wendy Newman**

Chair of the Board

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2005



**David Singe**

CEO and Member of the Board

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2005

## 2 – OFFICE LOCATIONS

### AVON

14 Wellington Street  
(PO Box 250)  
NORTHAM WA 6401  
Telephone: 08 9622 7222  
Fax: 08 9622 7406

### CENTRAL MIDLANDS

Foundation Centre  
13 Dandaragan Street  
(PO Box 240)  
MOORA WA 6510  
Telephone: 08 9651 1770  
Fax: 08 9651 1910

### CENTRAL COAST

Shire of Dandaragan  
Bashford Street  
(PO Box 657)  
JURIEN BAY WA 6516  
Telephone: 08 9652 2653  
Fax: 08 9652 1310

### WHEATBELT SOUTH

Government Offices  
11-13 Park Street  
(PO Box 258)  
NARROGIN WA 6312  
Telephone: 08 9881 5888  
Fax: 08 9881 3363

### CENTRAL EAST

110 Barrack Street  
(PO Box 420)  
MERREDIN WA 6415  
Telephone: 08 9041 1445  
Fax: 08 9041 2297

Email: [info@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au)

Website: <http://www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au>

### **3 – CONTENTS**

<b>1</b>	<b>LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>OFFICE LOCATIONS</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>CHAIR’S REPORT</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>ORIGINS &amp; OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>MISSION, OUTCOMES &amp; OUTPUTS</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>THE WHEATBELT REGION</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>BOARD OF THE COMMISSION</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS, SETBACKS AND ISSUES</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>REPORT ON THE STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK</b>

#### **PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES**

- Agency Activities
- Disability Services Plan Outcomes
- Cultural Diversity and Language Services Outcomes
- Youth Outcomes

#### **ECONOMY**

- Agency Activities

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

- Agency Activities

#### **REGIONS**

- Agency Activities
- Regional Development Policy Progress Report 2005

#### **GOVERNANCE**

- Agency Activities
- Equal Employment Opportunity Outcomes
- Evaluations
- Information Statement
- State Records Act 2000

- State Sustainability Strategy
- Compliance with Public Sector Standards and Ethical Codes

**12 OUTLOOK FOR 2005 – 2006**

**13 APPENDICES**

**(1) Regional Boundaries of the Wheatbelt Development Commission**

**(2) Statement of Performance Indicators**

**(3) Financial Statements**

## 4 – CHAIR’S REPORT

The 2004-5 financial year has presented many new opportunities and challenges for the Wheatbelt Development Commission. In meeting the realities of doing more with less, the commission has continued to refine its planning and report processes and in the last twelve months has initiated many new structures and processes to guide our work. From continuing to refine the state government planning processes through to the implementation of a board finance committee, effective organisational governance has been a key to ensure short, medium and long term results.

While being confident we can continue to deliver on our core work, our inability to extend our services into additional and important areas due to ongoing resource constraints has the potential to reduce our current high level of client satisfaction. The challenges of being considered a mature economy in a region with little political marginality are now evident and have been given a priority for strategic endeavour.

Irrespective of its wishes, the commission has received views from our client group on the perceived impact of changes to the voting system in favour of “one vote, one value”. Aside from the philosophical aspects of the issue, the practical impact will be reduced access to members of parliament for regional residents. This places even greater burden on the commission as the “voice” of the region.

We remain committed to focusing on key strategic projects that will diversify the region’s economic base at any opportunity. The long-term need to shield the region from seasonal economic surges remains.

This has manifested in many ways during the year. We commissioned some quality work on analysis of potential emerging industries and maintained our links to research through the Institute for Regional Development and the Biosaline Reference Centre at The University of Western Australia, the Muresk Institute of Agriculture at Curtin and the WA Department of Agriculture.

The commission continues its core efforts to ensure dialogue with key stakeholders, regional leaders and targeted government portfolios (health and education in particular) to change inaccurate historical perspectives of the region and to apply region-specific solutions to our unique circumstances.

The re-creation of the former Wheatbelt Regional Managers’ Group, in a contemporary framework and the emerging partnership of the commission and the Country Health Service, show how teamwork and trust can be harnessed for strategic benefit.

The efforts committed to marketing the region and placing a priority on communication paid great dividends with the WA On Show exhibition at the Convention Centre. Promoting diversity and creating a memorable impact, was testament to staff creativity and the team spirit of our regional producers.

The regional investment tour was a welcome initiative with specific, positive results. A varied number of positive outcomes were achieved for Wheatbelt businesses, ranging from organising the sale of businesses to investment groups, through to advice on sources of corporate funding.

I am proud to record that this commission has been a state leader in its application of the Regional Migration Program. Had the annual total of arrivals been the result of the creation of a single industry in the region, at one site, it would have made media headlines.

On the secondary industry front, it has been a most successful year in creating a new, positive partnership with Western Power and LandCorp. All three agencies aspire to achieve a significant upgrade to the electricity supply at the Avon Industrial Park. It is critical that we pursue this rigorously to ensure the enormous job potential becomes a reality.

In all of this work, the board and staff of the commission are committed to the concept of comparative advantage for assessing a wide range of regional activities. Its application has been in the form of a way of thinking rather than quantitative assessment. In continuing to apply this concept, we are wanting to ensure we build on the assets of the region and support initiatives that lead to innovative and collaborate service delivery models that suit the unique conditions of the Wheatbelt now and into the future.

In conclusion I wish to acknowledge the board members and staff who have left and those who have joined us this year.

Cr Wendy Williams from Goomalling joined the board, bringing experience in business, health and local government to our already diverse team.

Damien Martin resigned from the Assistant Director's position, having given a first-rate effort to this very demanding job. Damien had also worked as a Senior Regional Officer at the commission for some years. He is travelling, working around regional Western Australia and disappearing overseas regularly.

Mark South has acted in this position for some time and performed commendably in keeping our activities flowing.

Grant Arthur has been appointed to the position, returning to the commission after an absence of nearly five years, working in Perth.

Our Executive Assistant, Terri Alexander, resigned for family reasons to return unexpectedly to Brisbane. Her hard work has polished the activities of this position noticeably. We welcomed Judy Moore to the role and appreciate her considerable efforts to continue the initiatives.

Nadine Maisey left our Wheatbelt South office to travel to North America, having maintained the commission's profile very well during her tenure. Erin Bebbington also left to complete her primary teacher training, after working on some essential projects in marketing and communication.

I sincerely thank the board and staff for their diligence and the intellectual rigor they bring to the many and varied discussions, which contribute to determining the best way forward for our region.



Wendy Newman  
Chair

## **5 – ORIGINS & OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Wheatbelt Development Commission took its current form through enabling legislation passed on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1994. (The Regional Development Commissions Act 1993).

### **THE OBJECTS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (Regional Development Commission Act 1993)**

The objects of the commission are to:

- (a) maximise job creation and improve career opportunities in the region;
- (b) develop and broaden the economic base of the region;
- (c) identify infrastructure services to promote business development within the region;
- (d) provide information and advice to promote business development within the region;
- (e) seek to ensure that the general standard of government services and access to those services in the region is comparable to that which applies in the metropolitan area; and
- (f) generally take steps to encourage, promote, facilitate and monitor the economic development of the region.

For the purpose of achieving these objectives, the commission is to:

- (a) promote the region;
- (b) facilitate co-ordination between relevant statutory bodies and state government agencies;
- (c) co-operate with representatives of industry and commerce, employer and employee organisations, education and training institutions and other sections of the community within the region;
- (d) identify opportunities for investment in the region and encourage that investment;
- (e) identify infrastructure needs of the region and encourage the provision of that infrastructure in the region; and
- (f) co-operate with departments of the Public Service of the State and the Commonwealth, and other agencies, instrumentalities and statutory bodies of the State and Commonwealth; and local government authorities,

in order to promote equitable delivery of services within the region



## **6 – MISSION, OUTCOMES & SERVICES**

### **MISSION:**

**“MAXIMISE COMMUNITY WELL-BEING THROUGH SELF-SUSTAINING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT”**

### **OUTCOME**

“That positive benefits from development which are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, and consistent with the expectations of the regional community, flow to the people of the Wheatbelt”.

### **GOALS**

1. Self-Sustaining Regional Economic Development
2. Services Necessary for Regional Development
3. Effective Communications

The Commission’s Mission and Goals are consistent with outcomes, priorities and strategies outlined in the Government’s Regional Development Policy.

### **KEY SERVICES**

1. Information and Promotion Services
2. Facilitation Services

The Commission provides these services to government, business and community groups to enable the achievement of sustainable development for the Wheatbelt Region.

### **MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The Minister to whom the Wheatbelt Development Commission is responsible is the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, the Mid West and Wheatbelt, Hon Kim Chance MLC.

## 7 – THE WHEATBELT REGION

The Wheatbelt Region comprises an area of 154,862 square kilometres, more than twice the size of Tasmania. The region is home to over 72,000 people, making it the third most populous region in the State.

The Wheatbelt has a diverse population, with over 11% having been born overseas, and around 4% being Indigenous. Youth make up over 10%, with 12% aged 65 and over. The population is widely dispersed with only 16,000 people located in the main service centres of Northam, Narrogin, Merredin and Moora.



The economy of the Wheatbelt is as varied as the people. The Wheatbelt is Western Australia's largest contributor of agricultural products, honey, wildflowers and oranges. Grains, pulses, wool, livestock and other products are valuable export commodities. The central coast area, north of Perth, is home to rock lobster and wet-line fishing activities, with expanding aquaculture activities. This area also accounts for a major part of the region's tourism development and investment.

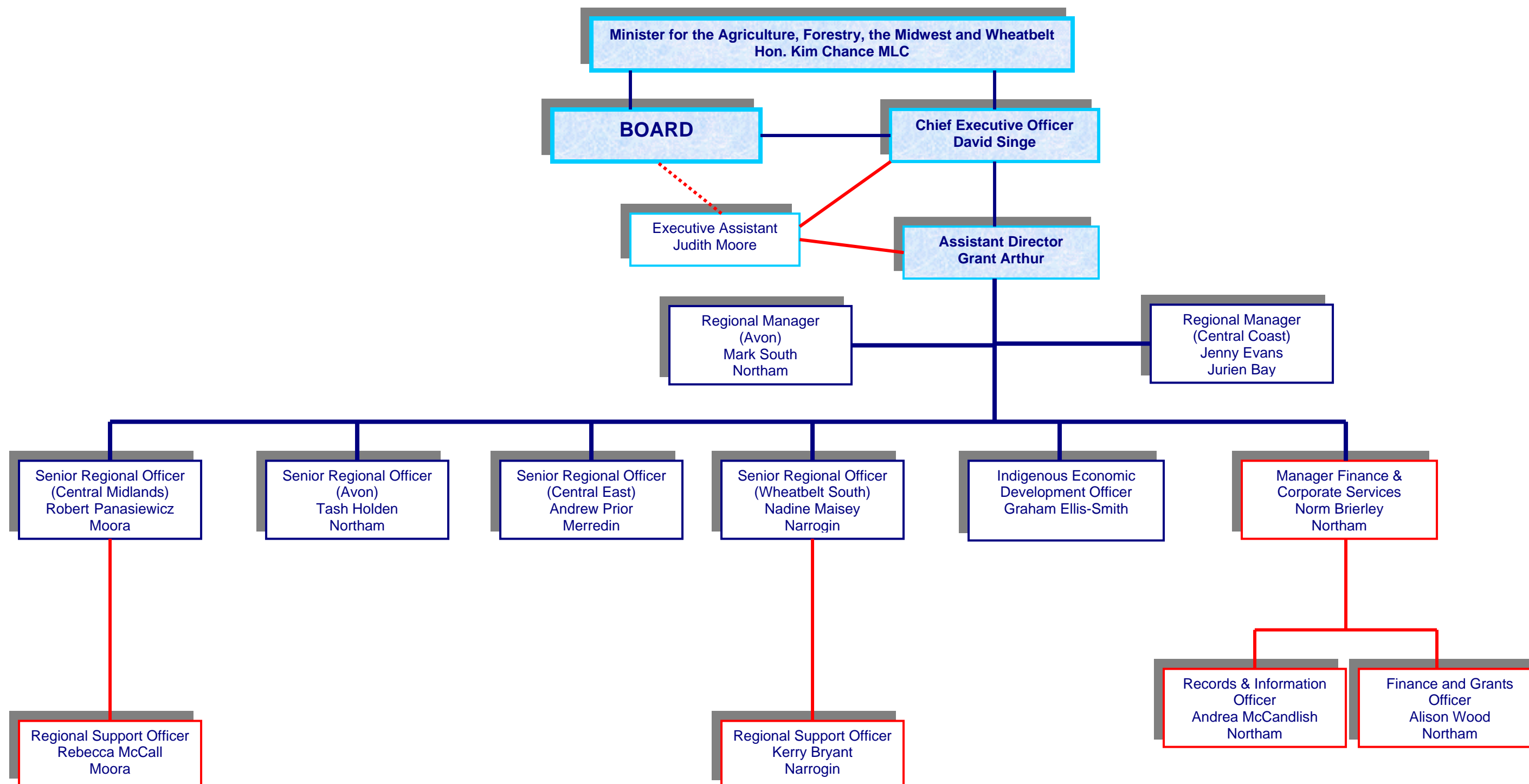
Gold, nickel and iron ore are mined in the eastern parts of the region and of other minerals are mined elsewhere, including mineral sands in the west.

A range of intensive agricultural and horticultural production industries is developing in the western end of the region. The future of the Wheatbelt rests with continuing economic diversity; production of high quality, competitively priced goods and services; and continuing innovation.

The region has well-developed transport links, with most major highways and rail routes to Perth passing through. The region has 35% of the State's roads with easy access to the Port of Fremantle and regional ports at Geraldton, Bunbury, Albany and Esperance. Private air charter services are available. Daily passenger rail services operate on the main east-west line and a variety of passenger road coach services traverse the region.

The region has extensive educational, health, recreational and cultural services and is home to the C Y O'Connor College of TAFE and Curtin University's Muresk Institute of Agriculture. It also offers affordable housing and business premises, including established industrial precincts ideal for manufacturing and new industry.

## 8 – ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



## 9 – BOARD OF THE COMMISSION

**Chair - Ms Wendy Newman** ... Ms Newman brings to the Board experience and interest in education, marketing, diversification, value adding, leadership and capacity building. She is actively involved in many organisations promoting rural, regional and remote WA, including Chairing the Heartlands Regional Branding Group, membership to the Muresk and Kondinin Group Boards, the RRR Network Reference Group and is currently President of WA Women in Agriculture. She was runner up in the 2004 WA Rural Woman of the Year Awards. Ms Newman farms in Dowerin with her husband John and runs a consulting business specializing in individual, organisational and community development.



**Deputy Chair - Mr Darren West** ... farms 2200 ha at Jennacubbine. Darren spent 12 months in the US as an agricultural exchange student before returning to the family farm. He is married with a young family and has roles with several community groups, including Chair of the Avon Community Development Foundation. His interests include sport and public affairs.

**Cr Phil Nolan** ... is a mining engineer for Portman Ltd at Koolyanobbing. Phil has lived in the Yilgarn for since 1998 and has spent his entire 20 year career in the mining industry. Phil was elected to Yilgarn Shire Council in May 2001 representing Town Ward. He is interested in public affairs, reading and flying as recreational pursuits.



**Mr Ian Landsmeer** ... Mr Landsmeer is the immediate past President of the Shire of Mount Marshall. His family moved here from South Australia in 1978. Ian has spent most of his working life in the motor industry, having owned motor repair businesses in both SA and WA. His interests are community development, model and real trains and motor racing. Ian's portfolio interests include transport, planning and social infrastructure.

**Mr Colin Adams** ... Colin is a retired farmer from Miling. He now lives in Jurien Bay and is the current Chairman for the UWA Biosaline Reference Centre. Colin has in the past held positions at the Shire of Moora as Councillor, Deputy President and President.





**Cr Steven Woods ...** Steven is a farmer from Victoria Plains, who graduated from Curtin University, Muresk with a Diploma in Agriculture. He is a Councillor with the Shire of Victoria Plains. His interests include St John Ambulance (Vice President of the Victoria Plains Sub-branch) and an instructor in first aid. He is also Chairman of Victoria Plains Landcare Committee.

**Tracy Meredith ...** Tracy's previous role in the blindness prevention programs of The Fred Hollows Foundation Inc. provides experience in sustainable development programs, which can be applied to the regional issues of the Wheatbelt. Tracy also has a background in the public health sector and her interests within the Wheatbelt Development Commission lie within health and social equity. Tracy is Chair of the Commission's health portfolio.



**Helen Bennett ...** Farmer and kindergarten teacher from Lake Grace, Helen Bennett joined the board in 2002. She has assumed portfolio responsibility for the education sector, and brings a wealth of business and local government experience to the Board. Having served as a Councillor on the Shire of Lake Grace for ten years, Helen has an intimate knowledge of the south eastern Wheatbelt.

**Wendy Williams ...** Wendy is a partner in the family farming business at Goomalling. She is active in the community as a councillor at the Shire of Goomalling, a member of the management committee of the Northam & Districts BEC and a member of the Avon Valley Tourism Association. Wendy is also a founding member of the Goomalling & Districts Development Group and participated in the State Government's inaugural Community Builders Program.



**Mr David Singe (ex officio)...** Director of the Commission, with a professional background in urban and regional planning, he has worked in the Western Australian Regional Development portfolio in the Wheatbelt since 1987. David is currently a member of the WA Aged Care Advisory Council, the State Partnership Steering Group, the board of the Institute for Regional Development and is on the Regional Issues committee of the National Centre for Vocational and Education Research.

## 10 - SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS, SETBACKS AND ISSUES

Some of the key achievements for the Wheatbelt Development Commission:

- Following the success of WA On Show, a display of regional areas in Perth, the Commission developed a portfolio of articles that can be used for targeted press releases to promote the region. Considerable research and relationship building has been undertaken with The Countryman, The West Australian, ABC TV and the Sunday Times.
- The Commission continues a strong focus on Regional Skilled Migration. In 2004/05 we assisted 106 skilled workers to migrate, again a relatively high success rate of migrants to a regional area.
- The IEDO has worked on numerous indigenous projects throughout the region, assisting aboriginal groups with marketing, infrastructure, production development and training. A number of plant nurseries are being established at Cataby, Wagin, Moora and Quairading, with aquaculture and seed collection enterprises being assisted in Mukinbudin.
- The Commission continued its work to promote the planning and construction of Indian Ocean Drive as an essential part of the region's future infrastructure. This included highlighting the importance of this project to the State's decision makers.
- The Commission continued to work with a vibrant local committee in Narrogin investigating all opportunities to see ongoing improvements in post compulsory education service provision in the Wheatbelt South.
- The Commission strengthened its work with regional organisations to achieve a more coordinated and holistic approach to development of the Wheatbelt Region. This included working with natural resource management groups such as the Avon Catchment Network, and voluntary organisations of local governments throughout the region.
- The Commission worked closely with the Avon Industrial Park Board in attracting business to the Park. During this period Swan River Kaolin made a commitment to develop a pilot project at the Avon Industrial Park, which, if successful, could lead to major investment and 80 jobs.

The underlining issues/setbacks faced by the Wheatbelt region and the Wheatbelt Development Commission include:

- Lack of profile of the Wheatbelt region in terms of political interest, investment and business attraction
- Ageing government infrastructure, specifically electricity and hospitals
- Dominant mono-culture of broad acre agriculture
- Uniquely dispersed population creating a challenge for government service delivery
- Regional Governance – changing land use and financial pressures requiring changes to the ways local governments operate and collaborate.
- Resource limitations restricting the Wheatbelt Development Commission to expand its activities to meet the changing needs of its region.



## 11 - REPORT ON THE STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

### PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES:

To enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of all people throughout Western Australia

#### AGENCY ACTIVITIES

Wheatbelt Regional Development Scheme: The Commission administers the Wheatbelt Regional Development Scheme funding which is targeted at projects that have regional significance. A diverse group of projects were funded this year, from the development of inland aquaculture to an air show. Examples of the funding break up appear on page 26.

#### SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

##### Education & Training

Education Working Party: The Commission's Education Working Party (EWP) has developed a number of strategic priorities for 2005/06 year. One of these is to provide a regional development perspective to Department of Education and Training with respect to the services provided to 16 and 17 year olds in the Wheatbelt. The Wongan community based VET and Tertiary Education in Narrogin are also priority area for this working party.

Wongan Community Based VET: The Wongan community has been working to develop a community-based model for vocational education and training in this sub-regional area. The Commission continues to work with this group in its attempts to attract funding for this proposal.

Tertiary Education in Narrogin: The Commission worked with a vibrant local committee in Narrogin, investigating all opportunities to see ongoing improvements in post compulsory education service provision in the Wheatbelt South.

##### ICT Services

Broadband Demand Aggregation Broker: The Commission was instrumental in developing the successful application to the Federal Government to fund a Community Broadband Broker for the Wheatbelt. A steering group was formed for this project including representatives from key stakeholders.

#### QUALITY OF LIFE

##### Youth

Wheatbelt Crew: The Wheatbelt Crew is a youth sub committee of the Wheatbelt Development Commission board formed in 1999. Members are aged between 18 to 35 years and live in the region. Crew meetings are held regularly and have enabled members to share issues and solutions with other young people from the region. The Crew initiated a project during this period that will see the University of Western Australia research the attitudes of young people to pursuing careers that involve living and working in the regions. This project will be completed in the 2005/06 fiscal year.

#### DISABILITY SERVICES PLAN OUTCOMES

The activities of the Wheatbelt Development Commission are focused on the delivery of facilitation and information services to clients from within and outside the region. The

common means of delivering these services is via mail, internet, email, fax and telephone, or by personal interaction. Personal interaction is usually in the client's own community or home environment, minimising the inconvenience to clients with disabilities. Staff are encouraged to be aware of the needs of people with disabilities in planning their work, and ensure these people have the same access to our services. Except for rare occasions, visits by members of the public to the Wheatbelt Development Commission's offices are for formally organised meetings, where the needs of individual attendees can be catered for. Any community forums are generally held in public buildings with facilities suited to the needs of the disabled.

The Disability Services Plan is reviewed in September of each year. The five outcomes addressed by the plan are continually monitored to ensure improved information flow to all members of the Wheatbelt community.

### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND LANGUAGE SERVICES OUTCOMES**

The operational activities of the Wheatbelt Development Commission are focussed around delivery of facilitation and information services to clients within and outside the region.

All staff are encouraged to be aware of the needs of people requiring language assistance to plan their work, ensuring these people have equal access to our services.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission is committed to the Government of Western Australia's Language Services Policy. We are aware of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Western Australian community and our client base. We will provide interpretation, translation, sign language, or other mechanisms to ensure clients with particular linguistic needs are treated equitably in accessing our services.

### **YOUTH OUTCOMES**

Central Wheatbelt Youth Network: The Commission has been an active contributor to the Central Wheatbelt Youth Network. This is a group of up to 30 organisations that identify and facilitate action on opportunities that allow our young people to be confident and innovative contributors to our rural communities.

The Network has been instrumental in identifying emerging social and economic issues and opportunities for young people in the region. It has been the initiator for projects like Innovative & Collaborative Youth Servicing by the Wheatbelt ACC and Sexual harassment awareness workshops by Mercy Reconnect. The latter led to Pru Goward, the Sex Discrimination Commissioner coming to Western Australia and the Wheatbelt in 2004.

WA Federation of Rural Youth (WAFRY): During 2004-05, the Commission has continued a complementary partnership with WAFRY. This is an organisation for young rural people 16-30 years old, aiming to improve their quality of life through social interaction. It provides leadership opportunities and access to rural industry bodies that value the contribution of young rural people in the industry.

The social interaction opportunities available through WAFRY for young Wheatbelt people complement business networking opportunities provided through the Future Farmers Network; youth servicing activities occurring through the Central Wheatbelt Youth Network; and, the youth skills development focus of the Wheatbelt ACC Youth committee.



## **THE ECONOMY:**

To develop a strong economy that delivers more jobs, more opportunities and greater wealth to Western Australians by creating the conditions required for investment and growth

### **AGENCY ACTIVITIES**

### **INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Agriculture**

Future Farmers' Network: The national Future Farmers Network held its first Future Farmers Week networking events in every Australian state and territory over 6-12 June. WA members held a networking sundowner at Quairading on June 11 with young Wheatbelt rural producers as guest speakers and people travelling up to 650km to attend.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission was a key sponsor of the event, together with the Shire of Quairading; Kondinin Group; WA Farmers Federation; Pastoralists and Graziers Association; Wheatbelt Men's Health Inc.; Central Wheatbelt Division of GP's; WA Department of Agriculture; and, the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The Future Farmers Network is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2002 to support and encourage young people entering into or continuing careers in rural industry. There are presently 71 WA members, the majority of those Wheatbelt based, of 512 members nationally.

Heartlands Regional Branding Group: Ongoing support of the Heartland Regional Group, supporting diversification and value adding of our agricultural produce. Development of the Corporate Marketing model to ensure long-term sustainability of marketing the region and its produce.

Industry Assessment: The Commission, in partnership with the Wheatbelt Area Consultative Committee (WACC), retained Pracsys Consulting to develop a model for assessing new industry ideas. Pracsys analysed the Narrogin Integrated Wood Processing proposal, and used that work to create a model for assessing industries in the Wheatbelt. The Muresk Institute of Agriculture (Curtin University) is currently considering ways in which this model can be used for industry research.

### **EMERGING PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

#### **Primary Industry Processing**

Parartemia Industry Development: Realising the economic potential of salt lakes and the native brine shrimp fauna they host is an exciting opportunity for the region. The Commission sponsored two PhD research projects into biosaline fauna and water systems from 2000/01 to 2004/05. Board Member, Mr Colin Adams, also Chairs the UWA biosaline Reference Group. This involvement assisted the Commission in attracting the Fifth International Branchiopod Symposium to Toodyay this year. Branchiopods are related to the parartemia brine shrimp that thrive in Wheatbelt salt lakes. The Symposium involved over forty scientists from India, Thailand, Europe, North and South America.

Semi Intensive Floating Tank System (SIFTS) for Aquaculture - Recognising the exciting potential for fish farming technology development within the Region, the Board approved

\$100,000 under the Wheatbelt Regional Development Scheme towards the CY O'Connor College of TAFE Inland Saline Aquaculture Technology Demonstration Farm in Northam.

Bio-fuel: The Commission is developing a partnership with the WA Department of Agriculture to determine the feasibility of an extensive bio-diesel industry in the Wheatbelt region. Bio-diesel can be used in place of diesel and can be processed from a number of natural sources of oil including tallow, oil seeds and palm oil. The Department of Agriculture has commenced work on this potential new industry, and the Commission will continue to work with them in a regional development capacity.

## **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

### **Tourism**

The Commission partnered the region's Tourism marketing bodies to strengthen them and help to consolidate project ideas.

The Commission has direct involvement with Aboriginal Tourism throughout the region. The Indigenous Economic Development Officer worked with individuals to improve their understanding of tourism business operation. Kellerberrin and the Wheatbelt South were focal areas during this period.

The Commission organised a number of local Aboriginal people to attend the major National Indigenous Tourism Conference, held in Perth in 2005. Those attending gained valuable information about business establishment and operation as well as hearing of issues faced by similar businesses throughout Australia. Since this conference, a number of attendees have decided to voluntarily work together to pursue business interests in the Wheatbelt.

Following significant activity in tourism in 2003-04, this financial year tourism associations across the region undertook a number of marketing initiatives. These have seen substantial growth in the self-drive tourist market through intrastate and interstate travellers.

Key activities the Commission has contributed to in 2004-05 include:

- Further development of the Wheatbelt Tourism Association during its first year of operation, particularly in communication flow, information sharing and coordination of marketing activity;
- Development of a North East Wheatbelt (Voluntary) Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC) Tourism Plan, complementing and adding value to the NEW Travel Association;
- Commencement of the third of eight proposed tourism drive routes in the region, building on the Wave Rock experience undertaken by 130,000 tourists each year; and,
- Encouraging the further development of consistent tourism marketing products (and mapping) by sub-regional tourism associations, working towards the vision of creating a single Wheatbelt Tourism Guide for the region in 2006-07.

In 2005-06, the Commission will focus its involvement on working with the Avon Tourism Association and Wheatbelt Tourism Association. These reside in the WA Tourism Marketing Regions of Experience Perth and the Australia's Golden Outback respectively.

### **Aboriginal Economic Development**

The IEDO has worked with numerous indigenous projects throughout the region, assisting Aboriginal groups with marketing, infrastructure, production development and training. A number of plant nurseries are being established at Cataby, Wagin, Moora and Quairading, with aquaculture and seed collection enterprises being assisted in Mukinbudin.



Aboriginal art is an increasingly important economic business within the region, and the Commission has been assisting artists in Moora, Mukinbudin and Narrogin to establish and expand their business ideas.

The Commission has assisted Wheatbelt Aboriginal Corporation with Strategic Planning: Bibdjoool Craftwood in undertaking a Feasibility & Business Plan and in the development of an Indigenous fashion design business in Narrogin.

## INDUSTRY INPUTS

### Industrial Land

The Commission worked with the Avon Industry Park Board negotiating funding to upgrade the power supply to the Avon Industrial Park. This involved coordination between the AIPB, Western Power and LandCorp. The Commission is confident that there will be an announcement to upgrade the power supply early in the 2005/06 fiscal year. The upgrade is required to make the park attractive to prospective businesses.

### Labour Force

**RSMS:** The Commission acts as a Regional Certifying Body (RCB) in two immigration programs of the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA): the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) and Long Term Business Visa, Subclass 457. In addition, the Commission now supports the Skilled Migration Unit (SMU). This is a State Government body managing Federal skilled migration programs for Western Australia, which includes administering the Skilled Independent Regional (SIR) visa. The Commission also partners with the DIMIA and SMU in the promotion of skilled migration.

One hundred and six sought-after skilled migrants were assisted and certified under the RSMS and Visa 457 programs. With their families, this resulted in a total population increase of two hundred and thirty six. These figures place the Wheatbelt region amongst the most attractive to skilled migrants. The proximity of the Perth metropolitan area and urgent need of qualified labour in some areas of the Wheatbelt economy appear to be the main factors in the relatively high skilled migrant intake. Occupations related to the farming industry and health services have been in the highest demand in the region.

The Commission has also assisted the SMU with skill shortage information and advice on SIR visa cases. We participated with the SMU and DIMIA in promoting the skilled migration programs among rural communities such as Quairading and Corrigin, and contributed to overseas promotional events in the United Kingdom.

Attraction and retention of skilled staff for the Wheatbelt: Through the Wheatbelt Community Network (WCN) the growing issue of organisational capacity to attract and retain staff was initiated in 2004-05.

This is a voluntary network of 70+ Wheatbelt organisations involved in social and community development, business and the three spheres of government.

A sub-committee of WCN was formed to look at the issues surrounding attraction and retention of quality staff in the Wheatbelt Region.

The sub-committee comprises of the Department of Housing and Works; Share and Care Community Services Group; Department of Agriculture; C Y O'Connor College of TAFE;

Country Housing Authority; WA Local Government Association Wheatbelt Zones; and the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

## **Water**

The Commission has reactivated the Water Working Party (WWP). The WWP is a committee of the Commission Board, whose main goal is to develop partnerships with infrastructure providers and regional stakeholders to ensure the adequacy of water and sewerage infrastructure and services in the Wheatbelt region. The WWP also monitors developments of water and sewerage and provides advice to the Commission.

Assisting the Shire of Chittering with water supply issues was the first major task of the WWP. The Shire experienced a dynamic rate of industrial and residential development, including the Muchea Industrial Node, Merryville Estate, future “New Town” subdivision and developments at Bindoon. Strategic planning documents foreshadow a population boost of up to 30,000 new residents in the area. However, such planning has not adequately addressed sustainable water supply issues.

The WWP has closely liaised with the Chittering Shire, the office of the Minister for Water Resources and the Water Corporation to resolve the situation. An understanding has been developed between the main stakeholders, and progress has been made towards a long-term water resource and services planning document for the area of the Shire of Chittering.

## **Energy**

The Electricity Working Party (EWP) has consolidated its role as a leading advocate and champion of Wheatbelt electricity issues. The EWP has engaged in active dialogue with key stakeholders such as the Office of Energy and Western Power, as well as members of Parliament, to ensure adequacy of electricity supply and services in the Wheatbelt.

Among the main issues targeted by the group was a power infrastructure upgrade to the Avon Industrial Park. The EWP also pursued other important power related issues including a cost analysis of extending a gas pipeline to Northam, high cost of headworks to regional businesses, development of renewable energy, and regional impacts of the WA power reforms.

The EWP assisted individual rural communities (e.g. Northam, Kellerberrin, Dowerin, Goomalling, Toodyay) with power supply and services issues through liaison with Western Power. The Group also supported the poultry litter power station project at Muchea and remained a partner in the Narrogin renewable bio-energy plant. The EWP monitored relevant energy related issues and trends (i.e. global oil depletion, renewable and alternative energy generation, sustainable use of energy) to determine their impact on the Wheatbelt.

The Commission commenced developing partnerships with the WA Department of Agriculture, Curtin University of Technology (Muresk Institute) and Wheatbelt farmers to determine the feasibility of small to medium scale bio-fuel production. Bio-fuel is seen as a locally relevant alternative energy source in the approaching global oil depletion and oil price increase.

## **Science and Technology**

The Commission has been a stakeholder of the Gravity Discovery Centre (GDC) project. The Commission supports the project due to its strong regional development component through promotion of education, science and technology, and through showcasing the Wheatbelt to national and global audiences.

The GDC is a self-supporting, non-profit public education and tourism centre focusing on questions of gravity, astrophysics and cosmology. The GDC is part of the Australian International Gravitational Observatory (AIGO), a component of a multi-billion dollar international search for gravity waves. The Centre plays an important role in encouraging young people to engage in science and research and consider embarking on careers in these areas. The GDC contributes to public understanding of the importance of science and innovation in our society and supports the development of tourism in the Central Midlands area. The project is poised to become a leading science public interface and a major tourism feature.

The Commission provides ongoing advice and assistance to the GDC mainly through membership in the Centre's Foundation Board. Recently the Commission assisted the GDC with securing \$500,000 from the Regional Infrastructure Funding Program towards Stage 2 of its development.

## **TRANSPORT**

### **Road**

We have continued to communicate the results of the Indian Ocean Drive Economic Impact Studies, commissioned by us to State Treasury. This included compilation of an extensive business case to State Treasury to accompany the Main Roads Western Australia bid for capital works allocation for the construction of the Lancelin-Cervantes section. A February election commitment was made by the Government to fund construction over four years, commencing in 2007.

### **Marine**

The Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) Coastal and Facilities Division in Fremantle and Geraldton provides management services towards the Wheatbelt maritime facilities in Lancelin, Cervantes and Jurien Bay. Management by the Department is via local Maritime Advisory Committees (MAC) involving local stakeholders. The "Pricing Principles for boat harbours and jetties" and the "Small Craft Facilities Trust Fund" form the financial framework for the activities of Maritime Advisory Committees. Such facilities are fully funded by professional fishermen, with no contribution from State Treasury.

As an active member of the MAC the Commission has facilitated the following outcomes for Jurien Bay Users:

- Compiled the user impacts of poor water quality in the Harbour, on behalf of the 'Central West Coast Professional Fisherman's Association', to secure funding for Harbour remedial dredging works.
- Sourced Commonwealth funds for office and equipment upgrades for the Jurien Bay Volunteer Sea Rescue Group Inc. The Sea Rescue services recreational and professional vessels along 500 kilometres of Coast with twelve volunteers.
- Submitted formal recommendations and participated in public workshops as part of the State Governments five year review of the "Pricing Principles for boat harbours and jetties"

As an active member of the MAC the Commission has achieved the following outcomes for Cervantes Users:

- Cervantes Keys - Actively facilitated information exchange between the DPI, LandCorp, Shire and Rock Lobster Companies, with a view to having land leased to



companies for construction of receival depots adjacent to their professional fishermen's jetty and fuel facility.

- Compiled a successful Hardship Case to the 'Ministerial Fishing Industry Advisory Committee', on behalf of the 'Central West Coast Professional Fisherman's Association'. This secured a \$125,386 grant from the "Small Craft Facilities Trust Fund" to offset debt on the Cervantes User Trust Fund.
- Submitted formal recommendations and participated in public workshops as part of the State Government's five year review of the "Pricing Principles for boat harbours and jetties". Given the significant economic and regional development benefits derived from fishing industry infrastructure, the Commission does not support the requirement for the professional fishing industry to provide all capital costs for replacement or construction of harbours and jetties.

## Aviation

The Commission has worked with the aviation industry in the Avon Valley to expand its operations. We have supported the biennial Cunderdin Easter Air Show, provided assistance to upgrade the Brooklands Airfield in York and assisted the Avon Valley Aviation Alliance in the identification of the need for an automated weather station in the Avon. As the aviation industry expands, such a weather station has become important and the Commission has been liaising with the Bureau of Meteorology on this issue.



## THE ENVIRONMENT:

To ensure that Western Australia has an environment in which resources are managed, developed and used sustainably, biological diversity is preserved and habitats protected

### AGENCY ACTIVITIES

#### ENVIRONMENT

##### Natural Resource Management

Regional Catchment Councils: During 2004-05, the Commission has been an active contributor and advocate for the social and economic development components in the Natural Resource Management Strategies for the Avon, Northern Agricultural and South West catchment areas. The major focus during this year has been with the Avon Catchment Council.

Catchment Councils are funded through the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust (2) and National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, together with matching funds from the WA Government.

The Commission is directly represented in an ex-officio voting capacity on the Avon Catchment Council. It contributes to the Northern Agricultural and South West Catchment Councils via the Midwest and Southwest Development Commissions respectively.

During 2004-05 and into 2005-06, the Commission has, and will continue to work with stakeholders on projects such as desalination; water management and use in towns; emerging industries such as oil mallees; proposals for combined waste management/energy generation facilities; and, environmental activities and management of natural resources by local governments.



## THE REGIONS:

To ensure that regional Western Australia is strong and vibrant

### AGENCY ACTIVITIES

#### MARKETING

##### Communication Strategy

It has been recognised by the board of the Wheatbelt Development Commission that marketing the region is a high priority as part of the Commission's role of promoting improved service delivery and investment in the Wheatbelt. A communication strategy is constantly refined to reflect changing needs and priorities of the Commission and the region. The following marketing activities are results from this strategic planning.

##### Marketing the Region



Marketing – WA On Show: The Commission created an interactive display at the 2004 WA On Show event to mark the opening of the Perth convention centre. With the help of Heartlands Country Branding Group, JahRoc and the Avon Industrial Park Advisory Board, the display showcased over 100 different products, including over \$40,000 worth of furniture from JahRoc.

Over 188,000 visitors flowed through WA On Show over five days and the Commission's display in the form a "General Store" was always crowded with people tasting Heartlands products. As part of the display people were asked to describe the Wheatbelt in three words. Some suggestions were: Wheat & Waves, Progressive, Diversity and Food Glorious Food.

The results of the display included, promotion of the region, increased product recognition, promotion of the Commission, awareness of diversified value added industries within the Wheatbelt and showing the world the Wheatbelt is a great place to live and work.

Some of the letters of appreciation received by the Commission included:

- *"I am not one to be stuck for words but this is a bit different. I have done wine tastings all over the place as well as a week in Singapore and I would have to say this was by far the best...I am so glad I attended, had initial reservations which are now completely dispelled."* Donald Cochrane, Wandoo Wine - Duranillin
- *"We really appreciate all the efforts you put into promotion of our olive oil through the Wheatbelt Development Commission. The Wheatbelt stand at the Perth Convention Centre was both stunning and original."* Arnaud Courtin, York olive Oil Co
- *"Congratulations again – the stand looked excellent. It will be great to see it popping up again at some stage."* Carol Redford, Gingin Olives
- *"I have already received enquires from retailers wanting to stock my product. As I said previously, I have a passion for creating the product, not marketing it, so I am rapt with the response so far."* Pam Lannin, Sophisticake – Lake Grace



**Wheatbelt Roadshow :** As a follow on from the high success of WA On Show, the Commission developed, and continues to expand, a portfolio of articles that can be used for targeted press releases to promote the region. Initially Heartlands stories were compiled with the emphasis on value added agricultural enterprise in the region. Considerable research and relationship building has been undertaken with The Countryman, The West Australian, ABC TV and the Sunday Times.

The benefits of this strategy for the region include marketing support for the Heartland producers, profile raising of the region and increased awareness of the Commission for little cost.

**Wheatbelt Regional Investment Tour:** In partnership with Department of Premier and Cabinet staff, the Commission organised a successful four-day Investment Tour around the region. Investment bankers received presentations from thirteen investment-ready projects, and from two organizations seeking corporate sponsorship and business advice. Half of the businesses were sold to affiliates of the investment bankers, with the remaining businesses receiving assistance with restructuring their ventures. The tour was also an excellent opportunity to showcase the region to Ministers and business leaders who attended civic functions in Narrogin, Merredin, Northam, Moora and Cervantes.

#### Marketing the Commission

The Commission's website was completely reconstructed and on the 10 September 2004 went live. The new look website has received numerous positive comments as it creates a useful link for information exchange between the Commission and its clients/stakeholders.

### **Export Development**

The Commission has targeted the horticulture industry for support in the development of exports. In a co-ordinated exercise, the CEO undertook a field trip to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, with the Perth Market Authority, Department of Agriculture, Great Southern Development Commission and South West Austrade.

Development of the Wheatbelt's horticulture is greatly affected by the increased difficulties of maintaining market share in Asia. The emergence of Chinese production at high volume and the exchange rates are markedly reducing our exports.

Following the trip, the participants formed a working group to develop a market strategy and encourage lateral thinking about the roles of each organisation in the group. The Wheatbelt Development Commission has already proposed that the State and the producers use some analysis of comparative advantage as a principle for strategic commitment.



## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY PROGRESS REPORT 2005

ACTIVITIES 2004/05 – DATA, DESCRIPTION ETC (Description of actions, data, tables as appropriate)	2005/06 – LONGER TERM – DATA, DESCRIPTION ETC (Description of actions, data, tables as appropriate)
<b>OUTCOME 2: PLANNING IN PARTNERSHIP FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE</b>	
<b>STRATEGY: Develop and implement Regional Sustainability Strategies</b>	
	Awaiting methodology from DPC before developing RSS
<b>STRATEGY: Encourage stronger regional partnerships and agreements under the overarching State and local government agreement</b>	
Partnered the shires of Gingin, Dandaragan, Coorow, Carnamah and Irwin and relevant government agencies in reviewing the Central Coast Regional Strategy.	Developing an MOU with the WA Country Health Service, to formally partner with them through the health reform process in the Wheatbelt.
Working extensively with the Regional Organisations of Councils in the Wheatbelt including NEWROC, AROC, WEROC and the newly created CMROC.	Continue to work with Local Government groups to assist them to work together and to concentrate activities on those areas in which their groups have comparative advantages.
Partnered with the shires of Gingin and Dandaragan to source contributory funding for the completion of Indian Ocean Drive. Developed a business case that was put before the DTF.	
In partnership with 15 LGAs, commenced the implementation of the Wheatbelt South Action Plan	.
Worked with Wheatbelt LGAs and government agencies on attraction and retention of staff in the region	
<b>OUTCOME 3: EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY TO REGIONS</b>	
<b>STRATEGY: Enhance the coordinating role of regional development commission on economic, social and environmental projects and initiatives in their regions</b>	
Worked with groupings of stakeholders/clients to progress projects and initiatives, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the Commission's limited resources and encouraging cooperation amongst a highly fragmented and parochial region.	Due to limited resourcing and the dynamics of the Wheatbelt region, the Commission will continue to utilise structures that are representative of an area of common interest. Identify more effective and innovative models for government service delivery in the Wheatbelt.
Worked with the Mooliabeenee Grape Growers Association and the industry association representing growers in the Wheatbelt South area, on profiling of Wheatbelt wines.	
The Commission assisted in the ongoing maintenance of the Avon Valley Aviation Alliance, especially the implementation of their marketing strategy.	Continue to support the Avon Valley Aviation Alliance as an important emerging industry for the Wheatbelt.
Worked with the Regional Tourism Associations to lobby for tourism development within the Wheatbelt	
Worked with the Rock Lobster industry to establish new land based receival and processing facilities in Cervantes.	Continue to partner with Landcorp, Shire of Dandaragan and the industry to resolve land development issues for this project.

<b>STRATEGY: Facilitate the collocation of Government agencies</b>	
Continued to promote and support community and government collocation projects.	
<b>OUTCOME 4: SKILLED COMMUNITIES</b>	
<b>STRATEGY: Encourage and enhance regional community leadership training and networks</b>	
The Board of the Commission instigated a "Wheatbelt Winners" program, which rewards identified Wheatbelt residents for outstanding leadership and excellence in their daily lives. In the 2004/05 year, eighteen Wheatbelt Winners were identified and certificates issued to them by the Board.	The Commission will continue to encourage regional leadership, through existing structures and will continue to reward identified Wheatbelt residents through the "Wheatbelt Winners" program of the Board.
Worked with the Heartlands Country Branding Group including in-kind support fostering a network of diversified/value-adding producers.	Attract funding to allow permanent resourcing of joint marketing and regional branding projects.
Continued support for the Avon Community Development Foundation as it takes a key role in community development in the Avon region.	
Sponsored the WA Leadership Program by providing regional perspective and Wheatbelt tour for over 30 participants of the program.	
<b>STRATEGY: Encourage the provision of training and support for regional communities in building key community economic development skills including facilitation, community planning and conflict resolution</b>	
Undertaken on an as needed basis in conjunction with DET and/or DLGRD, with key area of focus being Central Coast planning.	Implementing a comparative advantage philosophy into the Wheatbelt, including building community capacity to take advantage of their individual community's assets.
<b>OUTCOME 5: IMPROVED REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	
<b>STRATEGY: Consult with regional communities to determine the appropriate provision and maintenance of social infrastructure</b>	
The Commission continues to consult with the Wheatbelt community on the provision and maintenance of social infrastructure particularly health and education.	The Commission will continue to consult with the Wheatbelt community on the provision and maintenance of social infrastructure
<b>STRATEGY: Support community especially Health &amp; Education infrastructure and projects through the Regional Investment Fund</b>	
Provided \$100,000 from WRDS for Inland Saline Aquaculture Technology	Support communities to develop strategic approaches to collaborative & innovative infrastructure projects
Provided \$30,000 from WRDS towards a Mt Marshall regional desalination project	.
Provided \$70,000 from WRDS towards a Collaborative Community Education initiative in Lake Grace.	
Provided \$15,000 from WRDS towards a Milk Processing Plant in Narrogin.	

Provided \$15,000 from WRDS for the Cunderdin Air field.	
Provided \$30,000 from WRDS towards a Regional Crematorium in Northam.	
<b>STRATEGY: Continue to assist regional communities to access Commonwealth funding for infrastructure</b>	
Worked in partnership with the Wheatbelt Area Consultative Committee to facilitate this. Major projects that have involved both the Commission and the WACC include brokerage for the expansion of broadband services to the Wheatbelt, the development of a major regional recreational facility in Merredin, and the development of a model to highlight industry success factors relevant to the Wheatbelt.	Develop closer relationships with Commonwealth agencies via regular visits by the CEO and Chair to Canberra to lobby and promote the Wheatbelt region.
Developed and promoted a Broadband Demand Register to demonstrate to Telstra the need for affordable broadband rollout in the Wheatbelt region.	
Developed a successful application to the Commonwealth for a Community Broadband Broker.	Work in partnership with the Community Broadband Broker to identify new affordable broadband technology suitable for areas in the region.
<b>OUTCOME 6: DIVERSIFIED REGIONAL ECONOMIES</b>	
<b>STRATEGY: Encourage new regional industries and exports, for example green industries, aquaculture and plantation timber crops</b>	
Continued to facilitate economic development within the Wheatbelt, however the lack of reliable and quality power supply is a major deterrent for industry attraction.	Continue to highlight to Government and Western Power the impact of its aging electricity network and the associated lack of adequate power being available to business/industry
Made initial contact with horticulturalists keen on export and undertook marketing experience in Singapore	Continue to develop a strategy for export of horticultural outputs.
<b>STRATEGY: Enhance enterprise development, employment opportunities and wealth creation for regional and remote indigenous West Australians, particularly in areas such as arts and crafts, and cultural and eco-tourism</b>	
Assisted in arts, tourism and natural products industries throughout the Wheatbelt.	Continue to assist Aboriginal businesses in the Wheatbelt to expand and establish.
Assisted the Aboriginal communities of Cataby, Wagin, Moora and Quairading in their efforts to establish plant nurseries. Also provided assistance to aquaculture and seed collection enterprises in Mukinbudin	Assist in the development of a sustainable indigenous fashion design sector in the Wheatbelt.
Commenced the development of an Indigenous Economic Development Strategy Plan for the Wheatbelt.	Complete the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy Plan for the Wheatbelt.
<b>STRATEGY: Develop partnership approaches between all spheres of government, key industry associations and regional organisations to maximise regional employment and purchasing in relation to major mining, agribusiness and industrial development projects</b>	
With such a diverse region, 44 LGAs and the Commission's limited resources, all work undertaken by the Commission is done in partnership with other government agencies, industry associations,	Continue to work to strengthen voluntary groups of councils and encourage all levels of government to design service delivery to suit the region's projected future industry and population makeup. Follow

community groups, LGAs or other regional organisations.	recently developed communication strategies to further improve relationships with regional and industry organisations
<b>STRATEGY: Support small and medium sized regional business to access government initiatives and programs</b>	
Support the BEC network to deliver this strategy	Continue to support the BEC network to deliver this strategy
<b>OUTCOME 7: ENHANCED REGIONAL INVESTMENT</b>	
<b>STRATEGY: Market regional investment opportunities within the regions and to Perth, other States and overseas</b>	
Support the efforts of Heartlands Country (Regional Branding Group)	Continue to support Heartlands Country and evolve the organisation into an effective advocate of the Wheatbelt.
Had a high presence at the WA On Show event, marketing the opportunities of the Wheatbelt.	
Lobbied for and got agreement by LandCorp and Western Power to upgrade the power supply to the Avon Industry Park to allow further expansion.	Continue to support the proposal to pipe gas from Midland to the Avon Industrial Park.
<b>STRATEGY: Resource and undertake regional investment tours</b>	
Arranged and partnered with the DLGRD, on the Wheatbelt regional investment Tour.	
<b>STRATEGY: Undertake research to attract investment in new and emerging regional industries</b>	
Undertook research into four key strategic industries to identify opportunities for attraction and/or expansion, barriers to entry, economic drivers and enablers.	Use comparative advantage to assist communities to identify and capitalise on their existing assets.
Supported the development of a Grainbelt CRC	Continue to partner with Universities and other agencies on to develop Research and Development into new industry opportunities for the Wheatbelt.
<b>STRATEGY: Develop the export readiness of companies in regional areas</b>	
The CEO undertook a field trip to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, with the Perth Market Authority, Department of Agriculture, Great Southern Development Commission and South West Austrade to look at opportunities for the region's horticulture industries. Work continues with the industry.	Develop strategies to establish whether there is a need for a Tradestart officer in the region as well as addressing a number of "gaps" that resulted from the 2004 regional exporters project
<b>STRATEGY: Minimise constraints and encourage a positive climate to attracting investment in regional areas</b>	
Implemented a program of "winning hearts and minds" to increase the profile of the region and promote its benefits to investors, potential residents and government.	Continue with this program of "winning hearts and minds" to increase the profile of the region and promote its benefits to investors, potential residents and government.
	Develop an investment culture within the region, based on its comparative advantages.
Residential land and Industrial land release continue to be an issue requiring attention with respect to attracting investment to the region.	

<b>STRATEGY: Develop a coordinated regional and promotional approach to attracting potential business migrants</b>	
The Wheatbelt region has recorded a high number of immigrants coming into the region under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.	Will actively promote the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme through publications and other media to attract skilled migrants into the region
<b>OUTCOME 9: LIFE LONG LEARNING IN THE REGIONS</b>	
<b>STRATEGY: Investigate and develop ways to provide more tertiary education opportunities in the regions</b>	
The Commission continues to work with a vibrant local committee in Narrogin investigating all opportunities to see ongoing improvements in post compulsory education service provision in the Wheatbelt South.	The Commission's Education Working Party will continue to take a strategic approach to the promotion of post compulsory education services throughout the region.
The Commission works closely with the CY O'Connor College of TAFE to continue to improve its effectiveness and expand its role in the region	The Commission will continue to encourage greater use of Muresk Institute Curtin Uni in Northam
<b>OUTCOME 10: EFFECTIVE HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY</b>	
<b>STRATEGY: Develop a regional network of health infrastructure that supports the delivery of safe and sustainable health services to regional communities</b>	
The Commission has established a Health Working Party to ensure that the Wheatbelt communities issues can be highlighted to Government	The Commission will continue to ensure that the Wheatbelt communities are consulted about possible realignment of health service delivery within and to the region. An MOU will be developed to ensure the Commission is partnered through this process.
<b>OUTCOME 15: SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>	
<b>STRATEGY: Develop better information at a regional level to support environmental and natural resource management decisions</b>	
Worked with the ACC on strategy development and have fostered a network to assist in providing the Commission with NRM information. Have continued to ensure that NRM strategic planning includes economic and social development considerations	Continue to foster this valuable network, by maintain involvement with the regional NRM bodies in the Wheatbelt
Funded a scenario-planning project for the Avon River Basin in conjunction with the Avon Catchment Council and CSIRO. The project has identified four possible future scenarios for the ARB including the assessment of drivers and impacts.	Utilise the scenario-planning to make better decisions concerning land use, environmental and NRM projects
<b>STRATEGY: Integrate the work of the natural resource management strategies within broader regional planning processes</b>	
Utilise the NACC and ACC's strategies when providing input into regional plans and local rural strategies.	



## **GOVERNANCE:**

To govern for all Western Australians in an open, effective and efficient manner that also ensures a sustainable future

## **AGENCY ACTIVITIES**

### **PLANNING**

#### **Strategic Planning**

Wheatbelt Infrastructure Group - WIG is a sub-committee of the Board chaired by Board Member Mr Ian Landsmeer. Refocussed in 2003, it is the key body that enables communication between transport and planning agencies on strategic Wheatbelt region infrastructure issues. Members are senior public servants drawn from three Divisions within the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Main Roads Wheatbelt North and Wheatbelt South Regions, local government Chief Executive Officers and Wheatbelt Development Commission staff.



The main focus of WIG has been:

- Improving communication and cooperation between the Regional Development Commission and agencies within the Transport and Planning Portfolio.
- Developing a program for the Review and Implementation of the following Strategic Plans: Central Coast Regional Strategy (WAPC 1996), Avon Arc Sub-Regional Strategy (WAPC 2001), Gingin Coast Structure Plan (WAPC 2005) and the proposed Central Midlands Strategy.
- Working with DPI to communicate with the Wheatbelt on progress of the 'WA Strategic Grains Infrastructure Study', which concerns all road and rail grain freight logistics.

#### **Board Priority Settings:**

The Commission developed a strategic planning matrix, which aligned the organisation's vision, goals and projects with the State Government's new Strategic Planning Framework and Regional Development Policy. This allowed the allocation of existing and required resourcing to projects.

The matrix provided a strategic framework for the Board to work within. It allowed focus to be given to key strategic areas such as Health, Education and Marketing, whilst maintaining other existing projects. The matrix was used to support the budget submission.

## **ADVOCACY**

### **Government Advocacy**

The Commission presented on the topic of “Regional Development Commissions in Western Australia” to an Iraqi Government delegation at Muresk in Northam. The delegation was the second in a series comprising regional managers from the Iraq Agriculture Department and others. The delegation was particularly interested in the way regional development was structured in Western Australia and the coordination and facilitation approach to regional development.

### **Regional Advocacy**

The Commission has worked tirelessly over this year to provide information to central Government agencies on the region specific issues faced by the communities and businesses in the Wheatbelt. This is becoming increasingly important as current methods and levels of service delivery become less relevant to changing population and industry needs in the region.

### **MOU on Health**

The Commission is working with the WA Country Health Service to partner development of innovative service delivery models for the Wheatbelt. The Department provides health service delivery expertise and the Commission contributes its knowledge of the region to the service delivery modelling process. It is hoped to expand this role to other key areas of service delivery such as education.

## **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY OUTCOMES**

The Wheatbelt Development Commission is committed to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity. Our “Equal Opportunity and Diversity Policy” was developed in 1999 and provides a series of principles by which employee selection, promotion and management is free from discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, cultural or racial background, or disability.

The policy helps create an environment where the best employee is appointed to each position and the individual skills, talents and cultural perspectives of each employee are valued.

The Commission experienced minimal of staff turnover in the 2004-05 year, with three new appointments amongst our total staff of fourteen. The representation of women is now 50% of Full Time Equivalents.

## **EVALUATIONS**

No formal program evaluations were undertaken during the financial year 2004 - 2005.

## **INFORMATION STATEMENT - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1992**

One of the Wheatbelt Development Commission’s key services is information provision. The Commission holds a number of publications and reports relating to economic, community and regional development which the public can access on request, either by contacting any office of the Commission or by ordering through the Commission’s website ([www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au](http://www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au)). The Commission’s Annual Report is available for download (as a PDF file) from the Publications page of the web site. There is no charge for publications that are posted on request.



The designated Freedom of Information coordinator for the Commission is the Records and Information Officer, based at the Northam office, and initial enquiries should be directed to this officer. Any written requests for information should be directed to the Wheatbelt Development Commission, P.O. Box 250, Northam WA 6401.

*Applications made under the Freedom of Information Act – NIL*

## **STATE RECORDS ACT 2000**

The Wheatbelt Development Commission is required to comply with the State Records Act 2000. In accordance with the State Records Act 2000, a Record Keeping Plan has been developed consistent with the six principles defined by the State Records Commission.

Approval of the Record Keeping Plan was granted with the proviso that a more detailed strategy of the Commission's digital records management be submitted to the State Records Standing Committee prior to October 2005. A strategy including the adoption of an Electronic Document Management System is being addressed.

The Commission does not have a formal recordkeeping training program due to the small number of staff. The effectiveness of recordkeeping practices is continuously monitored. The induction program for new staff addresses the responsibilities of the Commission and its employees with regard to compliance in a number of areas, including the Record Keeping Plan.

## **STATE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

The Wheatbelt Development Commission incorporates sustainability principles into all aspects of its strategic planning and day-to-day activities. The Mission and Strategic Goals are based upon achieving sustainable regional development outcomes for the Wheatbelt Region and are consistent with the Government's Strategic Planning Framework for Public Sector Agencies.

The Commission regularly evaluates and comments upon public policy and legislation. Sustainability considerations are incorporated into all assessments. The Commission also ensures that its activities comply with all relevant Government policies, including State Supply Commission Policies.

The Commission continually promotes partnership and consultation in all activities, to ensure appropriate and sustainable outcomes for our region. Diversity is embraced and co-operation encouraged in all aspects of our work. Our staff is encouraged to undertake training to improve their knowledge and capabilities, and regularly take advantage of such opportunities.

## **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC SECTOR STANDARDS & ETHICAL CODES**

### **Human Resource Management Standards**

The Wheatbelt Development Commission is fully compliant with the Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management. The Standards are applied rigorously across all specified areas of human resource management where those activities are undertaken. No instances of transfer, redeployment, discipline, termination or grievance resolution were encountered during 2004 – 2005. As a small organisation, the Wheatbelt Development Commission encounters a limited number of human resource events that require application of the Standards, and the same person manages each such event. This structure facilitates application of the Standards to each individual event.

*Claims for breaches of the Standards – Nil.*

## Corruption Prevention

In accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 825 and following analysis of the Commission's risk management policy, it was decided to place emphasis on corruption and misconduct. Particular attention was paid to unauthorised access and disclosure of confidential information.

The following initiatives have been maintained:

**Computer Access:** Wheatbelt Development Commission has an appointed Information Officer with delegated responsibility for managing compliance with privacy requirements and computer security.

The Commission has a policy in place to cover appropriate Internet usage.

The Commission has a fully maintained "firewall" and maintained anti-virus software.

**Staff Induction:** New staff are made aware of their responsibilities to safeguard confidential information at induction and are required to sign a confidentiality form at commencement.

**Gifts & Benefits:** Wheatbelt Development Commission maintains a gifts and benefits register with a monetary value of \$50, over which gifts and benefits need to be disclosed.

## Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003

The designated Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Officer for the Wheatbelt Development Commission is the Records and Information Officer. *No PID claims were handled in the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005.*

The Wheatbelt Development Commission does not have formal procedures in place for handling PID claims. The PID Officer will undertake relevant training as it becomes available.

## Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct

The Wheatbelt Development Commission has developed a Code of Conduct consistent with the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics. It is supplied to all employees on engagement, and periodic reminders of the requirement to adhere to the Code are provided to employees.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission is a small employer with a flat organisational structure. It has only four reporting levels and regular meetings of staff take place. As far as is geographically possible it operates in team environments where responsibilities and dealings with fellow staff members, clients and the general public are shared. The size of the organisation and regular contact with clients, as well as the annual client satisfaction surveys are conducive to a good understanding of the extent of compliance with the Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct. As far as can reasonably be ascertained, the Wheatbelt Development Commission is completely compliant with Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and its own Code of Conduct.

*Complaints lodged with the agency or with external bodies that include issues related to compliance with the Code of Ethics or the Code of Conduct – Nil.*

### **Electoral Act 1907 section 175ZE**

In compliance with section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907, the Wheatbelt Development Commission is required to report on expenditure incurred during the financial year in relation to advertising agencies, market research organisations, polling organisations, direct mail organisations and media advertising organisations.

The following expenditures were incurred (inclusive of GST):

#### *Expenditure with Advertising Agencies*

Media Decisions	\$ 5,655
-----------------	----------

<i>Class total</i>	<u>\$ 5,665</u>
--------------------	-----------------

#### *Expenditure with Market Research Agencies*

Patterson Market Research	\$ 4,565
---------------------------	----------

<i>Expenditure with Polling Agencies</i>	Nil
--	-----

<i>Expenditure with Direct Mail Agencies</i>	Nil
--	-----

#### *Expenditure with Media Advertising Agencies*

Marketforce Productions	\$4,488
-------------------------	---------

Other minor publications	<u>\$ 594</u>
--------------------------	---------------

<i>Class Total</i>	\$ 5,082
--------------------	----------

---

Total Expenditure	\$15,312
-------------------	----------

### **Requested Extension For Annual Report**

The Wheatbelt Development Commission formally requested that the Minister for the Wheatbelt, Hon Kim Chance MLC, grant an extension of the date that this Annual Report was due to be submitted to him.

The Minister for the Wheatbelt granted an extension from 31 August 2005 to 9 September 2005.

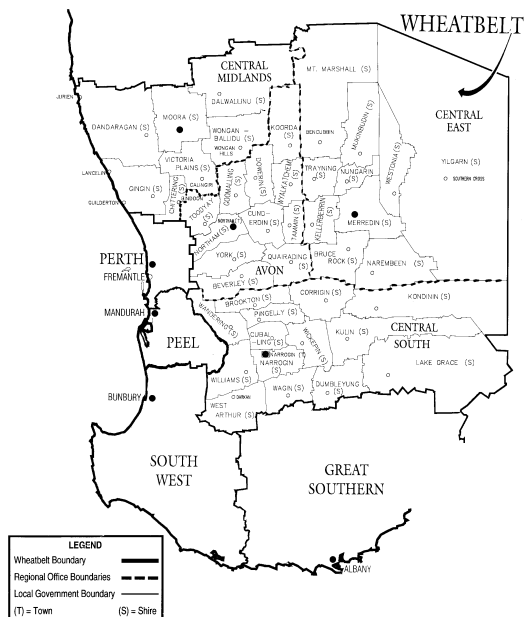
Finance Committee: The Wheatbelt Development Commission has formally convened a Working Party for Finance. The Corporate Services Manager provides regular reports to this working party for their consideration. This working party has considered the financial reports that appear in this Annual Report.

## 10 – OUTLOOK FOR 2005 – 2006

In 2005/06 the Commission's major initiatives include:

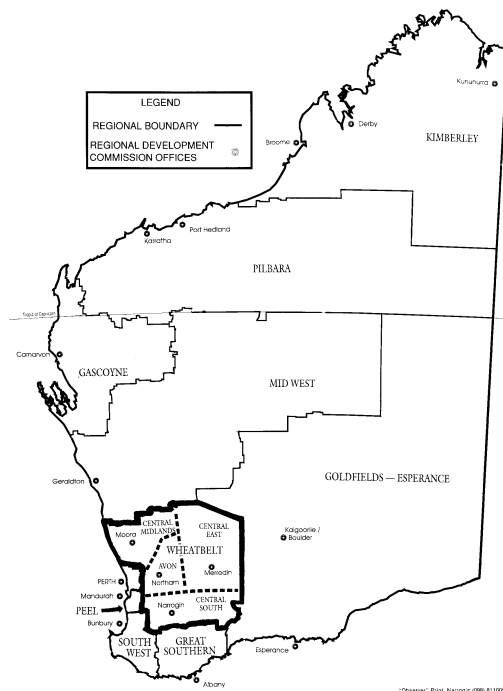
- Developing a methodology, based on comparative advantage to assist with regional planning of service delivery and business development.
- The Indigenous Economic Development Strategy being completed, focussing on arts, tourism and natural products based industries such as horticulture and aquaculture. An Agreement of Unity, Cooperation and Support will be signed by several communities and provide impetus for indigenous economic development in the region. The IEDO will continue to provide information and facilitation services to communities who wish to engage in development.
- Continuing to be involved in assisting communities to attract ICT services. A Community Broadband Broker has recently been employed to establish demand for broadband services within the region. They will also identify and facilitate access to broadband technology.
- Partnering with Heartland marketing group to develop a corporate model for partnering with companies that benefit from the region.
- Continuing to work in conjunction with key stakeholders to develop a Wheatbelt Future's CRC (cooperative research centre) providing a focal point to coordinate research effort for the Wheatbelt Region, and to facilitate focus on realising benefits from such research.
- Influencing the decisions to upgrade the electricity supply to the Avon Industrial Park making it attractive to new and diverse industries.
- Continuing to promote essential regional planning for the Wheatbelt, especially in the growth areas of the Avon Arc, Central Midland and Central Coast
- Working with the emerging horticulture sector to ensure its sustainability, including fostering export opportunities
- Continuing to foster strong partnerships with Regional Organisations of Councils (eg NEWROC, WEROC, AROC and CMROC) and other local government networks to maximise opportunities and to minimise the impacts of changing demographics and industry investment patterns in the region
- Continuing to work with service delivery agencies and groups to facilitate the improved of health and aged care services to the region
- Continuing to work with regional groups and service providers towards better coordination of education services, especially secondary and post compulsory, to the region.
- Continuing to work closely with those involved with Natural Resource Management to ensure that a balanced economic, social and environmental approach is taken to sustainability
- Working with emerging industries to improve their chances of success in the region. This involves partnering with the Department of Agriculture on emerging industries such as bio-diesel

## APPENDIX 1 – REGIONAL BOUNDARIES OF THE WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



### Wheatbelt Region

### Regional Boundaries



## APPENDIX 2 – STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

### CERTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005

We hereby certify that the performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Wheatbelt Development Commission's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Wheatbelt Development Commission's for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005.



**Wendy Newman**

Chair of the Board

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2005



**David Singe**

CEO & Member of the Board

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2005

## **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Treasury Instruction 904 requires Accountable Authorities to identify and report key performance indicators of efficiency and effectiveness. This enables users to assess the performance of the agency in meeting its objectives.

The nature of the Commission's work is such that results are often general in nature, and achieved in the longer, rather than the shorter term. It is therefore more difficult to provide easily measurable performance indicators in any one year.

An output-based management and reporting system has been implemented and reported upon.

## **OUTCOME**

The benefits from sustainable development, consistent with the expectations of the regional community, flow to the people of the Wheatbelt.

## **KEY SERVICES**

1. Information and Promotion Services
2. Facilitation Services.

The commission uses this framework for its decision-making, planning, service delivery and reporting processes.

The objectives of the Wheatbelt Development Commission, as reported in the Regional Development Commissions Act 1993, are as follows:

- a) Maximise job creation and improve career opportunities in the region;
- b) Develop and broaden the economic base of the region;
- c) Identify infrastructure services to promote economic and social development within the region;
- d) Provide information and advice to promote business development within the region;
- e) Seek to ensure that the general standard of government services, and access to those services, in the region is comparable to that which applies in the metropolitan area; and
- f) Generally take steps to encourage, promote, facilitate and monitor economic development in the region.

## EFFECTIVENESS INDICATOR

The most accurate and consistent method of measuring the Commission's performance is by surveying clients.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission has been surveying clients directly for six years, using independent market research consultants asking questions directly related to the Commission's outcome. Contacts were gathered over May and June with all clients having contact with the project staff making up the representative population (276 in 2004). 151 clients were surveyed producing a theoretical survey rate of +/- 5% at a 95% level of confidence.

It is assumed that contact period of the contact sample is no different to any other month in terms of client contact and Commission operations.

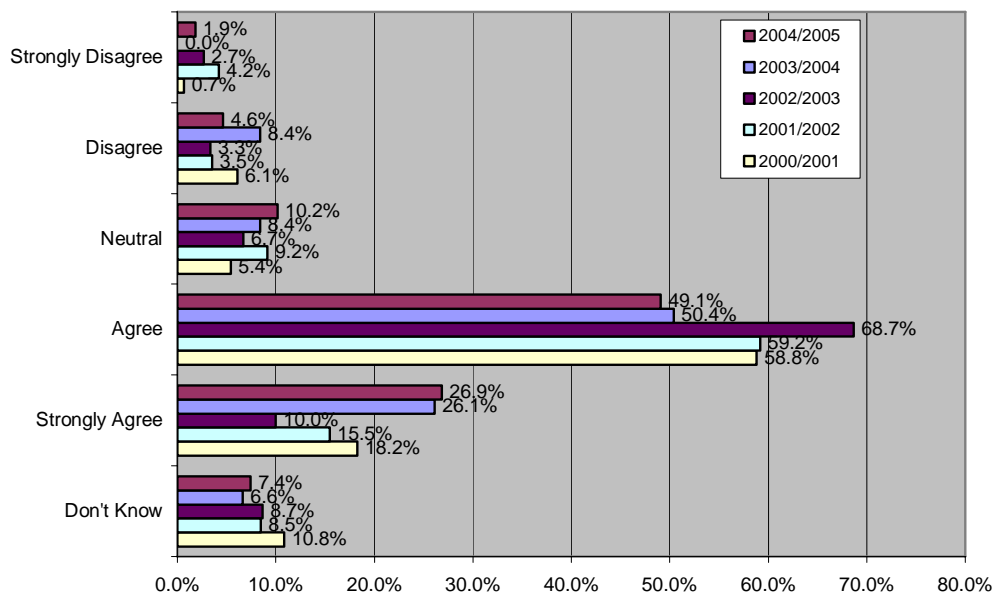
Three questions were asked which relate directly to the outcome. Each question had the same measurement scale –

Do you:

Strongly agree	1	Disagree	4
Agree	2	Strongly disagree	5
Neither agree nor disagree	3	Don't know	6

The following graphs indicate the response for each of the survey questions, with a comparison to the response from the previous two surveys.

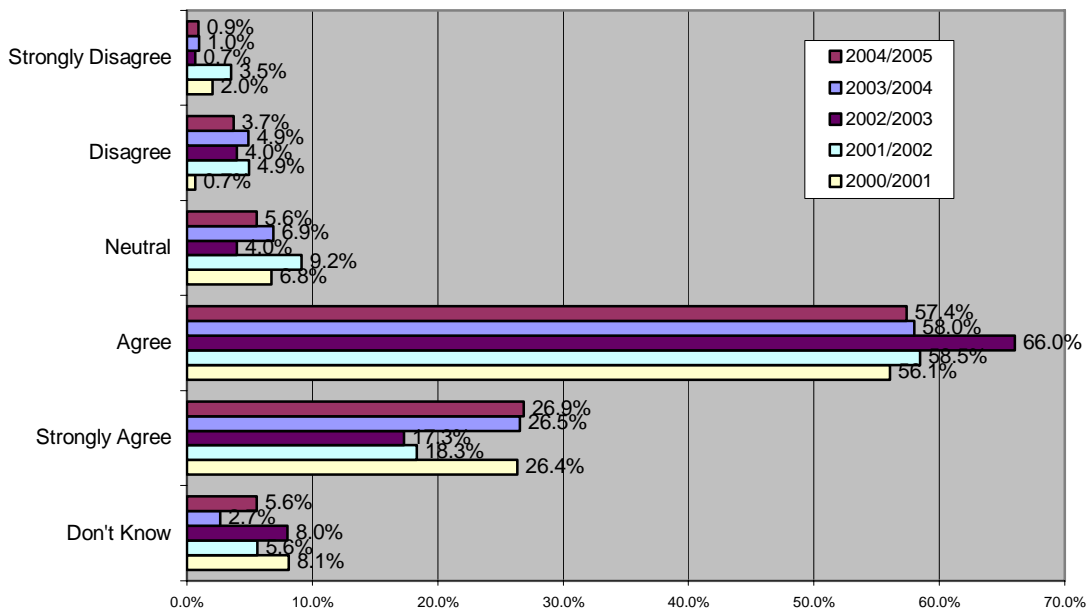
**Graph 1 – The activities of the Wheatbelt development Commission promote the development of the Wheatbelt region that is sustainable over time.**



A clear majority of clients 'strongly agree' (29%) or 'agree' (53%) that the activities of the Wheatbelt Development Commission promote the sustainable development of the Wheatbelt region. Only 7% of respondents feel that they do not carry out activities that will lead to a sustainable benefit for the region. The 2005 survey results were closely aligned with the 2004 findings.

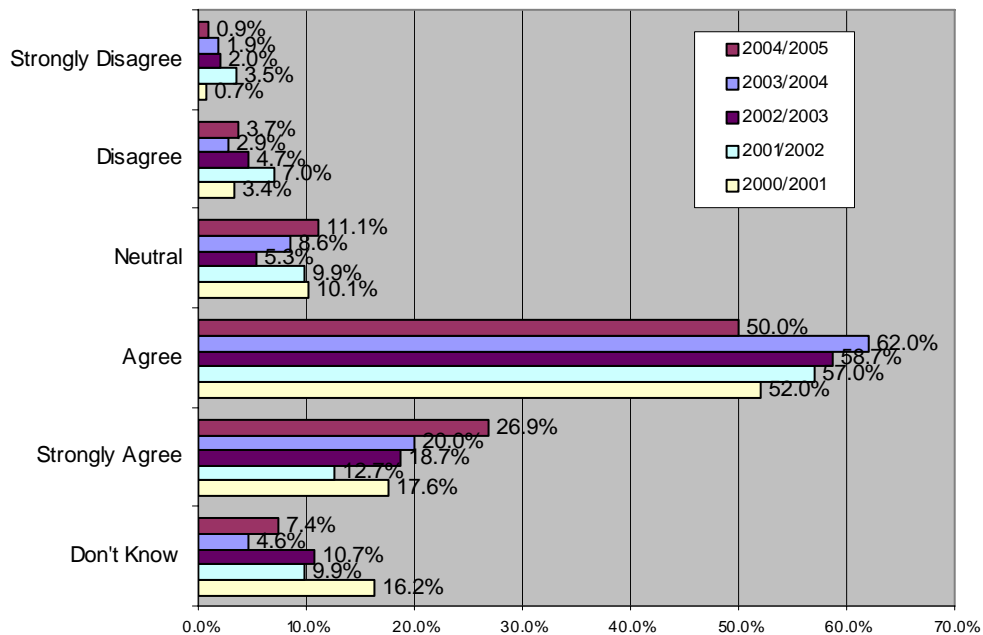


**Graph 2 – The activities of the Wheatbelt Development Commission lead to benefits for the people of the Wheatbelt region.**



The above figure appears to show that there is a strong agreement among clients that the activities performed by the Commission lead to benefits for the people of the Wheatbelt region with more than 8 out of 10 respondents either 'strongly agreeing' (29%) or 'agreeing' (62%). As evident in the above graph, these results show a slight improvement compared to the 2004 findings, however, this is not a significant shift.

**Graph 3 – The Wheatbelt Development Commission undertakes activities that are appropriate to the community's needs.**



The majority of respondents agree that the activities undertaken by the Commission are appropriate to the communities' needs, with 29% giving a 'strongly agree' rating and 54% offering an 'agree' rating. As per above graph, the 'strongly agree' proportion has increased by 8% on the 2004 and 2003 results. However, the "net" agreement level is slightly less (83% versus 86% in 2004), which is most likely due to the increase in the "neutral" proportion and certainly not a statistically significant shift.

## EFFICIENCY INDICATOR

All of the Wheatbelt Development Commission's core activities contribute to two services:

1. Information and Promotion Services
2. Facilitation Services

The Wheatbelt Development Commission uses cost per hour of service as its efficiency indicator, calculated separately for each service.

	Service 1	Service 2	Total
Hours of service	8591	9846	18437
Total cost of service	\$1,083,318	\$1,251,923	\$2,335,241
Less grant funds conveyed	\$328,775	\$379,944	\$708,719
Adjusted total cost of service	\$754,544	\$871,978	\$1,626,522
Service cost per hour	\$87.83	\$88.56	\$88.22

Comparative Efficiency Indicator figures for previous year

	Service 1	Service 2	Total
Hours of service	12070	9006	21076
Total cost of service	\$1,114,062	\$810,052	\$1,924,114
Less grant funds conveyed	\$162,068	\$117,843	\$279,911
Adjusted total cost of service	\$951,994	\$692,209	\$1,664,203
Service cost per hour	\$78.87	\$76.86	\$78.01

The overall cost per hour has increased by 13.09%, with an increase in cost per hour for Information & Promotion services of \$8.96 per hour and an increase of \$11.70 per hour for Facilitation Services.

### Service Measures (Unaudited)

The following measures are used to assess the degree to which the Commission has successfully produced the outputs for which resources have been allocated.

#### Service 1 – Information and Promotion Services

	2004-05 Budget	2004-05 Actual	Reasons for significant variation
<b>QUANTITY</b>			
Hours of regional development service	9652	8591	
Program of grants conveyed	16	7	Grants program not completed
<b>QUALITY</b>			
Degree to which clients judge (by survey) that the Commission has achieved its outcome	80%	66%	Budget over-optimistic given measured outcomes for previous given years. (*Outcome figures more consistent with historical data.)
<b>TIMELINESS</b>			
Agreed timeframes are met to the satisfaction of clients	75%	88%	Results comparable to previous year. Anticipated reduction in ability to meet client timeframes did not eventuate.
<b>COST</b>			
Service cost per hour	\$130.96	\$87.83	Decrease in hours of service provided, from previous year, at increased cost.
Grant funds conveyed	\$262,768	\$328,775	Grants program not completed

## Service 2 – Facilitation Services

	2004-05 Budget	2004-05 Actual	Reasons for significant variation
<b>QUANTITY</b>			
Hours of regional development service	8038	9846	Swing towards Output 2 in staff time allocation due to client demand and topical regional issues.
Program of grants conveyed	7	13	Grants program not completed
<b>QUALITY</b>			
Degree to which clients judge (by survey) that the Commissions has achieved its outcome	80%	66%	Budget over-optimistic given measured outcomes for previous given years. (*Outcome figures more consistent with historical data)
<b>TIMELINESS</b>			
Agreed timeframes are met to the satisfaction of clients	75%	88%	Results comparable to previous year. Anticipated reduction in ability to meet client timeframes did not eventuate.
<b>COST</b>			
Service cost per hour	\$131.13	\$88.56	Significant increase in hours of service provided, from previous year, at increased cost.
Grant funds conveyed	\$137,032	\$379,944	Grants program not completed

## APPENDIX THREE – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

The accompanying financial statements of the Wheatbelt Development Commission have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004 and the financial position as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005.

At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



**Norm Brierley**  
Principal Accounting Officer  
Date: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2005



**David Singe**  
CEO & Member of the Board  
Date: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2005



**Wendy Newman**  
Chair of the Board  
Date: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2005

# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE for the year ended 30 June 2005

	Note	2005 (\$)	2004 (\$)
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>			
Expenses from ordinary activities			
Employee expenses	2	1,080,003	1,083,684
Supplies and Services	3	62,390	55,679
Depreciation expense	4	40,096	47,551
Administration expenses	5	307,782	342,492
Accommodation expense	6	91,155	86,437
Grants and Subsidies	7	708,719	279,911
Capital User Charge	8	17,250	28,360
Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed of	11	34,789	-
<b>Total Cost of Services</b>		<b>2,342,184</b>	<b>1,924,114</b>
<b>Revenues from ordinary activities</b>			
<i>Revenue from operating activities</i>			
Grants received - Private Enterprise	9	5,000	-
Other revenue	10	50,846	99,291
Grants received - Commonwealth	12	9,000	-
<i>Revenue from non-operating activities</i>			
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets	11	7,072	658
<b>Total Revenue from Ordinary Activities</b>		<b>71,918</b>	<b>99,949</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>		<b>2,270,266</b>	<b>1,824,165</b>
<b>REVENUES FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>			
Services Appropriation	13 & 28	1,879,000	1,440,000
Resources received free of charge	13	6,999	6,678
Grants received from State Government Agencies	13	480,000	505,700
<b>Total Revenues from State Government</b>		<b>2,365,999</b>	<b>1,952,378</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>		<b>95,733</b>	<b>128,213</b>
<b>TOTAL CHANGES IN EQUITY OTHER THAN THOSE RESULTING FROM TRANSACTIONS WITH WA STATE GOVERNMENT AS OWNERS</b>		<b>95,733</b>	<b>128,213</b>

The Statement of Financial Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 30 June 2005

	Note	2005 (\$)	2004 (\$)
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash assets		141,529	39,245
Restricted cash assets	14	419,116	392,853
Receivables	15	49,566	33,636
Amounts receivable for services	16	73,000	45,000
Other assets	17	7,286	25,462
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>690,497</b>	<b>536,196</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Plant and equipment	18	60,532	119,192
Other Assets	19	-	3,667
Amounts receivable for services	16	25,000	99,000
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>		<b>85,532</b>	<b>221,859</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>776,029</b>	<b>758,055</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	20	27,655	69,553
Provisions	21	129,192	136,249
Other liabilities	22	20,104	69,104
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>176,951</b>	<b>274,906</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	21	34,980	14,785
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>		<b>34,980</b>	<b>14,785</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>211,931</b>	<b>289,691</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>564,098</b>	<b>468,364</b>
<b>Equity</b>	23		
Contributed Equity		75,000	75,000
Accumulated Surplus		489,098	393,364
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>564,098</b>	<b>468,364</b>

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS for the year ended to 30 June 2005

	Note	2004/2005 (\$) Inflows (Outflows)	2003/2004 (\$) Inflows (Outflows)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>			
Services Appropriation		1,839,000	1,354,000
Drawdowns from holding account		86,000	48,000
<b>Net Cash Provided by State Government</b>		<b><u>1,925,000</u></b>	<b><u>1,402,000</u></b>
<b>Utilised as follows:</b>			
<b>CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee costs		(1,125,263)	(1,061,409)
Supplies and services		(458,064)	(473,218)
Capital user charge		(26,180)	(19,430)
Grants and subsidies		(710,284)	(292,619)
GST payments on purchases		(65,012)	(76,646)
GST payments to taxation authority		-	-
<b>Receipts</b>			
Grants and subsidies		456,590	494,700
Other		75,371	82,971
GST receipts on sales		34,004	36,403
GST receipts from taxation authority		31,539	77,233
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	24( c)	<b><u>(1,787,299)</u></b>	<b><u>(1,232,016)</u></b>
<b>CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of non-current assets		(16,226)	(55,994)
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		7,072	658
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>		<b><u>(9,154)</u></b>	<b><u>(55,336)</u></b>
<b>Net Increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		<b><u>128,547</u></b>	<b><u>114,648</u></b>
Cash assets at the beginning of the reporting period		432,098	317,450
<b>CASH ASSETS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	24(a)	<b><u>560,645</u></b>	<b><u>432,098</u></b>

This Statement of Cashflows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

### 1 Significant Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements. Unless otherwise stated, these policies are consistent with those adopted in the previous year.

#### General Statement

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and Urgent Issues Group (UIG) Consensus Views as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary the application, disclosure, format and wording. The Financial Administration and Audit Act and the Treasurer's Instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and UIG Consensus Views. The modifications are intended to fulfil the requirements of general application to the public sector, together with the need for greater disclosure and also to satisfy accountability requirements.

If any such modification has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and where practicable, the resulting financial effect is disclosed in individual notes to these financial statements.

#### Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention.

##### (a) Services Appropriations

Services Appropriations are recognised as revenues in the period in which the Commission gains control of the appropriated funds. The Commission gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited into the Commission's bank account or credited to the holding account held at the Department of Treasury and Finance.

##### (b) Contributed Equity

Under UIG 38 "Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities" transfers in the nature of equity contributions must be designated by the Government (owners) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions in the financial statements. Capital contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity in the Statement of Financial Position. All other transfers have been recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance. Prior to the current reporting period, capital appropriations were recognised as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance. Capital appropriations which are repayable to the Treasurer are recognised as liabilities.

##### (c) Grants and Other Contributions Revenue

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the Commission obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon their receipt. Contributions are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

## WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

#### 1 (d) Revenue Recognition

Revenue from sale of goods and disposal of other assets and the rendering of services is recognised when the Commission has passed control of the goods or other assets or delivery of the service to the client.

#### (e) Acquisition of Assets

The cost method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets. Cost is measured as the fair value of the assets given up or liabilities undertaken at the date of acquisition plus incidental costs directly attributable to the acquisition. Assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised at their fair value at the date of acquisition. Assets costing less than \$1,000 are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in value.)

#### (f) Depreciation of non-current assets

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits. Depreciation is calculated on the straight line basis, using rates which are reviewed annually. Useful lives for each class of depreciable assets are:

Computing Equipment and software	2 to 7 Years	Office Equipment	3 to 6 Years
----------------------------------	--------------	------------------	--------------

#### (g) Leases

The Commission has entered into a number of operating lease arrangements for office buildings and vehicles where the lessors effectively retain all of the risks and benefits incident to ownership of the items held under the operating leases. Equal instalments of the lease payments are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance over the lease term, as this is representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property.

#### (h) Cash

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash assets and restricted cash assets. These include short-term deposits that are readily convertible to cash on hand and are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

#### (i) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at the amounts receivable as they are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition. Collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off.

#### (j) Computer Software

Significant costs associated with the acquisition or development of computer software are capitalised and amortised on a straight line basis over the periods of the expected benefit, which varies from three to five years.

## WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

#### (k) Payables

Payables, including accruals not yet billed, are recognised when the Commission becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. Accounts payable are generally settled within 30 days.

#### (l) Employee Benefits

##### Annual Leave

This benefit is recognised at the reporting date in respect to employees' services up to that date and is measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

##### Long Service Leave

The liability for long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date is recognised in the provisions for employee benefits and is measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The liability for long service leave expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date is recognised in the provisions for the employee benefits and is measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Consideration given, when assessing expected future payments, to expected future wage and salary levels including relevant on-costs, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

##### Superannuation

Staff may contribute to the Superannuation Pension scheme, a defined benefits pension scheme now closed to new members, or to the Gold State Superannuation Scheme, a defined benefit and lump sum scheme now also closed to new members. All staff who do not contribute to either of these schemes become non-contributory members of the West State Superannuation Scheme, an accumulation fund complying with the Commonwealth Government's Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992. All of these schemes are administered by the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

The Pension Scheme and the pre-transfer benefit for employees who transferred to the Gold State Superannuation Scheme are unfunded and the liability for future payments are provided for at reporting date.

The liabilities for superannuation charges under the Gold State Superannuation Scheme and West State Superannuation Scheme are extinguished by payment of employer contributions to the Government Employees Superannuation Board.

The note disclosure required by paragraph 6.10 of AASB 1028 (being the employer's share of the difference between employees' accrued superannuation benefits and the attributable net market value of plan assets) has not been provided. State scheme deficiencies are recognised by the State in its whole of government reporting. The Government Employees Superannuation Board's records are not structured to provide the information for the Commission. Accordingly, deriving the information for the Commission is impractical under current arrangements, and thus any benefits thereof would be exceeded by the cost of obtaining the information.

##### Employee benefit on-costs

Employee benefit on-costs are recognised and included in employee benefit liabilities and costs when the employee benefits to which they relate are recognised as liabilities and expenses. ( See note 2 & 21)

# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

### (m) Accrued Salaries

Accrued salaries (Refer to note 22) represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the end of the last pay period for that financial year does not coincide with the end of the financial year. The Commission considers the carrying amount approximates net fair value.

### (n) Resources Received Free of Charge or for Nominal Value

Resources received free of charge or for nominal value which can be reliably measured are recognised as revenues, and as assets or expenses as appropriate at fair value.

### (o) Comparative Figures

Comparative figures are, where appropriate, reclassified so as to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year.

### (p) Rounding of amounts

Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
<b>2 Employee expenses</b>		
Wages and salaries	853,651	903,195
Superannuation	91,089	86,749
Long Service Leave	23,604	(2,312)
Annual Leave	74,166	66,568
Other Related Expenses (l)	37,493	29,485
	<b>1,080,003</b>	<b>1,083,684</b>

(l) These employee expenses include superannuation, workers compensation premiums and other employment on-costs associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability. The related on-costs liability is included in employee benefit liabilities at Note 20.

### 3 Supplies and Services

Consultants	41,666	4,741
Project supplies and services	4,284	39,140
Advertising and promotion	8,877	7,744
Travel - Interstate and overseas	7,563	4,055
	<b>62,390</b>	<b>55,679</b>

### 4 Depreciation expense

Office Equipment	14,490	16,905
Computing Equipment	25,606	30,646
	<b>40,096</b>	<b>47,551</b>



# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

### 5 Administration Expenses

	2005 \$	2004 \$
Communication	42,189	52,798
Consumables	70,233	50,596
Maintenance	12,589	13,042
Meeting Expenses	7,590	12,073
Other Staff Costs	89,624	81,526
Operating Lease - Vehicles	53,031	43,598
Other Administration Expense	32,525	88,859
	<b>307,782</b>	<b>342,492</b>

### 6 Accommodation expense

Lease/rental	62,076	58,240
Repairs and maintenance	16,648	12,963
Other accommodation expense	12,431	15,234
	<b>91,155</b>	<b>86,437</b>

### 7 Grants and subsidies expense

#### Recurrent Grants

Shire of Wickepin	-	47,000
Shire of Toodyay	14,000	16,000
Newdegate Crop Improvement Group Inc.	-	18,000
Wheatbelt Development Commission	83,092	20,000
Shire of Kellerberrin	-	12,000
Shire of Brookton	-	18,000
Heartlands Regional Branding Group Inc.	-	16,100
Lake Grace Development Association Inc.	13,182	6,818
Shire of Moora	36,000	24,000
Avon Tourism	-	10,000
C.S.I.R.O	-	10,000
Beacon Progress Association	-	10,863
Avon Valley Aviation Alliance Inc.	-	8,130
Shire of Goomalling	-	20,000
Shire of Dumbleyung	-	18,000
Town of Northam	430,000	-
Shire of Gingin	7,400	-
Shire of Cunderdin	15,000	-
Shire of Mt Marshall	15,000	-
Women's Farm Study Tour	5,045	-
Northam Districts Historical Society Inc.	7,000	-
Moore River Olive Association Inc.	5,000	-
Narrogin Agriculture College	15,000	-
Northam Race Club (Inc.)	40,000	-
Avon Community Development Foundation	23,000	25,000
	<b>708,719</b>	<b>279,911</b>

#### Total Grants expense

<b>708,719</b>	<b>279,911</b>
----------------	----------------

# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

	2005 \$	2004 \$
<b>8 Capital User Charge</b>	<b>17,250</b>	<b>28,360</b>
A capital user charge rate of 8% has been set by the Government for 2004/05 and represents the opportunity cost of capital invested in the net assets of the Authority used in the provision of services. The charge is calculated on the net assets adjusted to take account of exempt assets. Payments are made to the Department of Treasury and Finance on a quarterly basis.		
<b>9 Grants received</b>		
Foundation for Youth	5,000	-
	<b>5,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>10 Other revenue</b>		
GEHA rentals	25,763	17,813
Recoup of expenses	25,083	81,478
	<b>50,846</b>	<b>99,291</b>
<b>11 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets</b>		
<u>Loss on Disposal of Non-current Assets</u>		
Loss on sale of Pantec Trailer	(27,846)	-
<u>Gain on Disposal of Non-current Assets</u>		
Profit on sale of sundry computer and office equipment	129	658
	<b>(27,717)</b>	<b>658</b>
<b>12 Revenues from Commonwealth Government</b>		
Grant - Department of Transport & Regional Services - Identification & Scoping of Development Opportunities in the Wheatbelt	9,000	-
	<b>9,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>13 Revenues from State Government</b>		
Appropriation revenue received during the year		
(a) Services Appropriations	1,779,000	1,440,000
Supplementary Funding	100,000	-
	<b>1,879,000</b>	<b>1,440,000</b>
(b) Resources received free of charge		
Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
Department of Housing & Works	6,999	-
Department of Treasury and Finance - Commercial Property Branch	-	6,678
	<b>6,999</b>	<b>6,678</b>
(c) Grants received from other State Government Agencies		
Department of Local Government and Regional Development - WRDS	400,000	400,000
Dept of Industry & Resources - Indigineous Economic Development Officer	80,000	40,000
Dept of Primary Industries - Avon Arc Sub-regional Strategy	-	10,000
Dept of Industry & Resources - KEEDAC - Strategic Plan Proposal	-	30,700
Dept of Industry & Resources - NMI Arts Development Fund	-	5,000
Dept of Industry & Resources - Business Plan - Bibdjoool Craftwood	-	20,000
	<b>480,000</b>	<b>505,700</b>
<b>Total Revenues From State Government</b>	<b>2,365,999</b>	<b>1,952,378</b>

# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

### 13 Revenues from State Government (Cont.)

(d) Services appropriations are accrual amounts reflecting the full cost of services delivered. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.

(e) Where assets or services have been received free of charge or for nominal consideration, the authority recognises revenues equivalent to the fair value of the assets and/or the fair value of those services that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated, and those fair values shall be recognised as assets or expenses, as applicable.

(f) The Office of the Auditor General will be charging a fee for the audit of accounts, financial statements and performance indicators. The fee for the 2004-05 audit is \$15,000 and will be due and payable in the 2005-06 financial year.

<b>14 Restricted Cash Assets</b>	<b>2005 \$</b>	<b>2004 \$</b>
Wheatbelt Crew	20,000	5,952
Central South Action Plan	1,592	10,531
Indigenous Economic Development Officer	(1,597)	104,775
Avon Arc Strategy	-	11,000
Wheatbelt Images Project	-	3,286
Wheatbelt Profiling & Promotion Kit	2,868	-
WAC/KEEDAC - Business Plan	24,882	-
KEEDAC Bibdjoöl Craftwood Business Plan	2,086	-
Identification & Scoping of Development Opportunities	(6,494)	20,000
Indian Ocean Drive Research	10,000	-
NMI Arts Development Fund	4,300	-
Wheatbelt Regional Development Scheme	361,478	237,309
	<b>419,116</b>	<b>392,853</b>

These funds represent the unexpended portion of grants received which are required to be used for specific projects, and to which conditions are attached.

### 15 Receivables

Accounts receivable	50,930	33,636
GST receivable	(1,364)	-
	<b>49,566</b>	<b>33,636</b>

### 16 Amounts receivable for services

Current	73,000	45,000
Non-Current	25,000	99,000
	<b>98,000</b>	<b>144,000</b>

This asset represents the non-cash component of services appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

### 17 Other assets

	2005 \$	2004 \$
Prepayments - current	3,619	10,935
Prepayment -Merredin Office rent (refer non-current prepayments note)	3,667	14,527
	<b>7,286</b>	<b>25,462</b>

### 18 Plant and equipment

Motor Vehicles	-	35,652
Accumulated depreciation	-	(1,806)
	-	33,846
Office Equipment at cost	111,374	104,950
Accumulated depreciation	(76,731)	(66,736)
	34,643	38,214
Computing Equipment at cost	152,191	180,530
Accumulated depreciation	(126,302)	(133,398)
	25,889	47,132
Total non-current fixed assets	<b>60,532</b>	<b>119,192</b>

*Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below:*

2005	Office Equipment	Computing Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Totals
Carrying amount at the start of the year	38,214	47,132	33,846	119,192
Additions	10,914	5,312	-	16,226
Disposals	(4,490)	(45,255)	(35,652)	(85,397)
Depreciation	(9,995)	18,700	1,806	10,511
Write-off of assets	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount at the end of the year	<b>34,643</b>	<b>25,889</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>60,532</b>

### 19 Other assets - Non-current

Refurbishment costs paid for Merredin office, in exchange for five year rent free lease, capitalised	-	<b>3,667</b>
--	---	--------------

### 20 Payables

Current - Creditors	<b>27,655</b>	<b>69,553</b>
---------------------	---------------	---------------

### 21 Provisions

Current		
Annual leave	54,204	53,890
Long service leave	63,796	70,479
On-costs	11,192	11,880
	<b>129,192</b>	<b>136,249</b>

# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

2005  
\$

2004  
\$

### 21 Provisions (Cont.)

Non-current		
Long service leave	27,485	12,549
Deferred Leave	-	1,337
Superannuation	7,495	899
	<b>34,980</b>	<b>14,785</b>
Total employee entitlements	<b>164,172</b>	<b>151,034</b>

The superannuation liability has been established from data supplied by the Government Employees Superannuation Board. The Commission considers the carrying amount of employee entitlements approximates the net fair value.

The settlement of the annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including superannuation and workers compensation premiums. The liability for such on-costs is included here. The associated expense is included under Other Related Expenses (under Employee Expenses) at Note 2.

a) The assumed rate of increase in employee entitlements due to wage rate increases was 3%, with a further 3% assumed for level increments.

b) The discount rate used was 5.266%, being the pro rata average of the 3 year and 10 year government bond rates as at 30 June 2005.

c) The average term to settlement for non-current long service leave is 4.63 years. The actual term to settlement for each employee was used in the present value calculation.

### 22 Other Liabilities

Accrued Expense - incomplete contracts not yet invoiced	20,104	27,846
Accrued salaries and allowances	-	6,700
Accrued superannuation	-	6,286
Board Members' annual and sitting fees and allowances	-	28,273
	<b>20,104</b>	<b>69,104</b>

### 23 Equity

Contributed Equity		
Opening Balance	75,000	75,000
Capital Contributions (a)	-	-
Closing Balance	<b>75,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>
Accumulated surplus		
Opening Balance	393,364	265,151
Change in net assets	95,734	128,213
Closing Balance	<b>489,098</b>	<b>393,364</b>

(a) Capital Contributions, have been designated as contributions by owners and are credited straight to equity in the Statement of Financial Position.

# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

2005  
\$

2004  
\$

### 24 Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

#### a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

Cash assets	141,529	39,245
Restricted cash assets (refer to note 15)	419,116	392,853
	<b>560,645</b>	<b>432,098</b>

#### b) During the financial year, there were no assets/liabilities transferred/assumed from other government agencies that were not reflected in the Statement of Cash Flows.

#### c) Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows used in operating activities

Net cost of services	1,790,266	1,318,465
Non-cash items		
Depreciation expense	(40,096)	(47,551)
Resources received free of charge	(6,999)	(6,678)
Net profit/(loss) on sale of assets	(27,717)	658
Increase/(Decrease) in assets:		
Current receivables	17,294	33,172
Other current assets	(18,176)	8,234
Other non-current assets	(3,667)	(14,527)
(Increase)/Decrease in Liabilities		
Current payables	41,897	(3,503)
Current provisions	7,057	(23,762)
Other current liabilities	49,001	(30,451)
Non-current provisions	(20,195)	16,039
Net GST payments	840	(16,251)
Change in GST in receivables/payables	(2,206)	(1,829)
Net cash used in operating activities	<b>1,787,299</b>	<b>1,232,016</b>



## WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

2005  
\$

2004  
\$

#### 25 Commitments for expenditure (Cont.)

- a) Non-cancellable operating lease commitments  
Not later than one year  
Later than one and not later than five years

27,867	32,392
8,633	8,486
<b>36,500</b>	<b>40,877</b>

This relates to the lease of nine (9) motor vehicles ranging between terms of 12 months to 36 months through Fleet Australia.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission had no finance lease commitments outstanding at the end of the financial year. All funds held as restricted cash were committed for expenditure within one year.

#### 26 Contingent Liabilities

The Wheatbelt Development Commission had no contingent liabilities at 30 June 2005

#### 27 Events occurring after reporting date

There were no events that occurred after 30 June 2005 that materially affected the financial statements.

#### 28 Explanatory Statement

##### (i) Significant variations between actual revenues and expenditures for the financial year and revenues and expenditures for the immediately preceding financial year

Details and reasons for significant variations between actual results and the corresponding item of the preceding year are detailed below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10% or \$20,000.

	2005	2004	Variance	Variance
	\$	\$	\$	%
Supplies & Services	62,390	55,679	6,711	112%
Administration Expenses	307,782	342,492	(34,710)	90%
Grants and Subsidies	708,719	279,911	428,808	253%
Capital User charge	17,250	28,360	(11,110)	61%
Loss on Disposal of Non-current Assets	27,846	-	27,846	-
Other Revenue	50,846	99,291	(48,445)	51%
Services Appropriation	1,879,000	1,440,000	439,000	130%

# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

### 28 Explanatory Statement (Cont.)

#### (i) Significant variations between actual revenues and expenditures for the financial year and revenues and expenditures for the immediately preceding financial year

##### Supplies & Services

Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in the cost of consultants of \$36,925, a decrease in project supplies of (\$34,856), an increase in travel (overseas & interstate) of \$3,508 and an increase in advertising & promotion of \$1,134.

##### Administration Expenses

The decrease in expenditure from 2003/04 occurred in the following areas; decrease in communications \$10,609, increase in consultants costs (\$19,637), decrease in maintenance \$453, decrease in meeting costs \$4,483, increase in other staff costs (\$8,098), decrease in other administration costs \$56,334 and an increase in operating lease motor vehicles of (\$9,434).

##### Grants & Subsidies

There was an increase in this category which was mainly due to the receipt of \$400,000 from the Department of Treasury & Finance to payout on an electoral commitment to the Town of Northam for the completion of the Central Business District Project.

##### Capital User Charge

The decrease in this category is mainly due to the decrease in net assets which provides the basis for the calculation of the capital user charge as determined by the Department of Treasury & Finance. The reduction of net assets is due to the allowance for increase in restricted cash.

##### Loss on Disposal of Non-current Assets

The Wheatbelt Development Commission was administering a project called Experience IT!. This project held an asset as work in progress with a cost of \$33,746. Due to the lack of ongoing funding, this project folded. The asset was a Pantec trailer which was sold for \$6,000, resulting in the unbudgeted loss of \$27,846.

##### Other Revenue

There was a decrease in this income category due to the reduction of returned, unspent grants from the Wheatbelt Regional Development Scheme compared to the previous year.

##### Services Appropriations

The increase in appropriation this year of \$439,000 is, in the main, due to the funding received for the grant to the Town of Northam for their CBD project.

#### (ii) Significant variations between estimates and actual results for the financial year.

Details and reasons for significant variations between estimates and actual results are detailed below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10% or \$20,000. It should be noted that the expense line items were reclassified during the current year, with the budgeted expenditure allocated accordingly

	Budget	Actual	Variation	Variation
	\$	\$	\$	%
Employee Expenses	871,000	1,080,003	209,003	24%
Supplies and Services	97,000	62,390	(34,610)	-36%
Grants and subsidies	800,000	708,719	(91,281)	-11%
Capital User Charge	23,000	17,250	(5,750)	-25%
Loss on Disposal of Non-current Assets	-	27,846	27,846	0%
Other Revenue	25,000	50,846	25,846	103%
Grants Received	470,000	494,000	24,000	5%
Services Appropriations	1,783,000	1,879,000	96,000	5%

# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

### (ii) Significant variations between estimates and actual results for the financial year (Cont.)

#### Employee Costs

Additional staff and board expenses, to meet client demands and incremental increases for staff, were the reasons for the increase in employee costs when compared to budget.

#### Supplies & Services

This variance is due to a decrease in project supplies and services resulting from a decrease in staff training courses and a conscious effort to reduce staff project meetings in an effort to reduce costs.

#### Grants & Subsidies

This variance is due to lower than expected grant payments from the Wheatbelt Regional Development Scheme. This is primarily due to the applicants awaiting further external funding.

#### Capital User Charge

This variance to budget is due to a larger than budgeted restricted cash balance because of unpaid grant payments from the Wheatbelt Regional Development Scheme. The higher restricted cash balance resulted in lower capital user charge from the Department of Treasury & Finance.

#### Loss on Disposal of Non-current Assets

This variance is due to unbudgeted expenditure in this category. The loss was due to the sale of a Pantec trailer which was an asset under the Experience IT! Project

#### Other Revenue

This variance to budget is due to an increase in recoups of expenses from outside parties and other government agencies.

#### Grants Received

This variance is due to funding received from other sources during the year from Commonwealth agencies and from private enterprise.

#### Services Appropriation

This variance is due to supplementary funding of \$100,000 received plus an increase in budgeted salaries of \$19,000 and a decrease in other expenditure of \$15,000 for harvested savings. The salaries and harvested savings adjustments were initiated by the Department of Treasury & Finance.

## 29 Financial Instruments

### (a) Interest Rate Exposure

2005	average effective interest rate %	Floating interest rate \$	<u>Fixed interest rate maturities</u>			Non - interest bearing \$	Total \$
			1 year or less \$	1 to 5 years \$	Over 5 years \$		
Assets							
Cash resources	-	-	-	-	-	141,529	141,529
Restricted cash resources	-	-	-	-	-	419,116	419,116
Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	49,566	49,566
Total financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	<b>610,211</b>	<b>610,211</b>
Liabilities							
Payables	-	-	-	-	-	47,759	47,759
Total financial liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	47,759	47,759
Net financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	<b>562,452</b>	<b>562,452</b>
2004							
Financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	465,734	465,734
Financial liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	138,657	138,657
Net financial assets	-	-	-	-	-	<b>327,077</b>	<b>327,077</b>

# WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

### 29 Financial Instruments - Interest Rate Risk Exposure (Cont.)

#### (b) Credit Risk Exposure

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any provisions for losses, represents the Commission's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

#### (c) Net Fair Values

The carrying amount of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements are not materially different from their net fair values, determined in accordance with the accounting policies disclosed in note 1 to the financial statements.

### 30 Remuneration and Retirement Benefits of Accountable Authority and Senior Officers

#### Remuneration of Members of the Accountable Authority

	2005 \$	2004 \$
The number of members of the Accountable Authority whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation and other benefits for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:		
0 - \$10,000	5	2
\$10,001-\$20,000	3	6
\$20,001-\$30,000	1	-

The total remuneration of the members of the Accountable Authority is:	<b>79,639</b>	<b>113,435</b>
--	---------------	----------------

The superannuation included here represents the superannuation expense incurred by the Authority in respect of members of the Accountable Authority. No members of the Accountable Authority are members of the Pension Scheme.

#### Remuneration of Senior Officers

The number of Senior Officers other than senior officers reported as members of the Accountable Authority, whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation and other benefits for the financial year, fall within the following bands:

\$130,000-\$140,000	1	1
---------------------	---	---

The total remuneration of senior officers is :	<b>134,667</b>	<b>130,999</b>
--	----------------	----------------

The superannuation included here represents the superannuation expense incurred by the Authority in respect of Senior Officers other than senior officers reported as members of the Accountable Authority. No Senior Officers are members of the Pension Scheme.

### 31 Remuneration of Auditor

Remuneration to the Office of Auditor General for the financial year is as follows;	15,000	12,000
Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	<b>15,000</b>	<b>12,000</b>

## WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2005

2005  
\$

2004  
\$

#### 32 Affiliated Bodies

Avon Industrial Park Advisory Board

24,529

16,633

The Avon Industrial Park Advisory Board is a Ministerially appointed government affiliated body and it received administrative support and all administrative funding from the Wheatbelt Development Commission. The Avon Industrial Park Advisory Board is not subject to operational control by the Wheatbelt Development Commission. The expenses of the Board have been included in the financial statements as part of the Commission's operations.

#### 33 The Impact of Adopting International Accounting Standards

Australia is adopting Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) for reporting periods on or after 1 January 2005. The Wheatbelt Development Commission will adopt these standards for the first time for the year ended 30 June 2006.

AASB 1047 "Disclosing the Impacts of Adopting Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards" requires disclosure of any known or reliably estimable information about the impacts on the financial statements had they been prepared using AIFRS.

The information provided below discloses the main areas impacted due to the effects of adopting AIFRS. Management have determined the quantitative impacts using their best estimates available at the time of preparing the 30 June 2005 financial statements. These amounts may change in circumstances where the accounting standards and/or interpretations applicable to the first AIFRS financial statements are amended or revised.

(a) Reconciliation of total equity as presented under previous AGAAP to that under AIFRS

	30th June 2005 \$	1st July 2004 \$
Total equity under previous AGAAP	564,098	468,364
Adjustments to accumulated surplus/(deficiency)		
There were no adjustments made to accumulated surplus in the transition to AIFRS	-	-
Total equity under AIFRS	564,098	468,364

(b) Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) for the period as presented under previous AGAAP to that under AIFRS

	30th June 2005 \$
Surplus/(deficit) for the period under previous AGAAP	95,733
There were no adjustments made to accumulated surplus in the transition to AIFRS	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the period under AIFRS	95,733

(c) Statement of Cashflows

No material impacts are expected from adopting AIFRS with respect to the Statement of Cash Flows.



## AUDITOR GENERAL

### INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

### WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

#### Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the controls exercised by the Wheatbelt Development Commission provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of moneys, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (ii) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia and the Treasurer's Instructions, the financial position of the Commission at 30 June 2005 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date.

#### Scope

##### *The Commission's Role*

The Commission is responsible for keeping proper accounts and maintaining adequate systems of internal control, preparing the financial statements, and complying with the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 (the Act) and other relevant written law.

The financial statements consist of the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and the Notes to the Financial Statements.

##### *Summary of my Role*

As required by the Act, I have independently audited the accounts and financial statements to express an opinion on the controls and financial statements. This was done by looking at a sample of the evidence.

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial statements is error free. The term "reasonable assurance" recognises that an audit does not examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the financial statements.

D D R PEARSON  
AUDITOR GENERAL  
11 November 2005





## AUDITOR GENERAL

### INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

### WHEATBELT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005

#### **Audit Opinion**

In my opinion, the key effectiveness and efficiency performance indicators of the Wheatbelt Development Commission are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Commission's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2005.

#### **Scope**

##### ***The Commission's Role***

The Commission is responsible for developing and maintaining proper records and systems for preparing performance indicators.

The performance indicators consist of key indicators of effectiveness and efficiency.

##### ***Summary of my Role***

As required by the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985, I have independently audited the performance indicators to express an opinion on them. This was done by looking at a sample of the evidence.

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the performance indicators is error free, nor does it examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the performance indicators.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D D R Pearson'.

D D R PEARSON  
AUDITOR GENERAL  
11 November 2005