

# WAPC STRATEGIC PLAN 2022–2025

This plan will be subject to further review once the project to review the WAPC (Action Plan for Planning Reform initiative C9) has been finalised

## OUR VISION:

Creating better places to live and work for all Western Australians.

## OUR MISSION:

Ensuring the planning system develops policy and enables planning decisions for the long-term benefit of the Western Australian community.

Our functions	Our focus	Our priorities	Our outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Planning Strategy and Policy</li> <li>Regional, Sub-Regional and Local Planning Strategies</li> <li>Regional and Local Planning Schemes</li> <li>Development, Subdivision and Strata Title assessment</li> <li>State Design Review</li> <li>State Development Assessment</li> <li>Structure Planning</li> <li>Improvement Plans and Schemes</li> <li>Infrastructure Planning and Coordination</li> <li>Research, Modelling and Analysis</li> <li>Planning Reform</li> <li>Finance, Property Management and Land Acquisition and Disposal</li> </ul>	<b>Jobs and Infrastructure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate economic diversification and development</li> <li>Support delivery of the State Infrastructure Strategy</li> <li>Deliver a planning system and processes adapted for technological change in the community and economy</li> <li>Support delivery of METRONET through the planning system as part of a whole-of-government approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sufficient urban, commercial, industrial and priority agricultural land for growth</li> <li>Long-term strategic industry, infrastructure planning and corridor protection</li> <li>Strong industry and employment hubs with particular emphasis on tourism, food and agriculture, education, research, and technology</li> <li>Alignment and integration of land use, infrastructure, and transport planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased density and diversity around Activity Centres</li> <li>Achieve infill housing and density targets and greater housing choice</li> <li>Enable creation of liveable cities and towns with quality public and private spaces</li> </ul>		
	<b>Liveable Communities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate infill development and sustainable urban growth</li> <li>Address barriers to affordable living and housing diversity through policy leadership</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved design of urban centres, corridors and stations</li> <li>Improved design quality of the built environment</li> <li>Greater community support for more diverse housing options, urban centres, corridors and stations</li> <li>Protection and enhancement of the urban tree canopy across diverse communities</li> </ul>	
	<b>A Better Built Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead precinct planning to enable METRONET</li> <li>Develop a policy and decision-making framework to encourage greater housing options for changing demographic needs</li> <li>Promote the importance of robust design review and assessment processes across the State.</li> <li>Promote and protect the urban tree canopy for all communities for amenity and health benefits</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Efficient, transparent and timely assessment and decisions on planning applications and processes</li> <li>Contemporary region and local planning strategies, schemes and regulations</li> <li>Improved transparency, efficiency and community support for planning processes</li> <li>Updated and effective <i>Planning and Development Act 2005</i> and regulations</li> </ul>
	<b>Transparent, Equitable and Efficient Planning Processes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued review and reform of the planning system and processes</li> <li>Greater early, effective and genuine communication and engagement with the community and industry on planning and development issues</li> <li>Improve collaboration and capability of all key decision-makers in the planning system, including local government</li> <li>Implement technological improvements including quality online reporting on planning performance for all WAPC functions</li> </ul>				
<b>Environment and Natural Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the Coastal Management and Planning Program to deal with the risks posed by climate change</li> <li>Ensure bushfire regulations reflect planning appropriate for the risk to community and the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable development which protects, conserves and promotes natural assets (land and water) and biodiversity</li> <li>A planning system which addresses climate change</li> <li>Planning to mitigate risks from natural hazards and events</li> </ul>				
<b>Land and Finance Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the successful delivery of METRONET through strategic, efficient, and innovative use of the Metropolitan Region Improvement Fund</li> <li>Ensure WAPC land and property assets are used for long-term community benefit</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WAPC land management in place to deliver METRONET</li> <li>Effective and sustainable stewardship and management of the Metropolitan Region Improvement Fund</li> <li>Increased regional open space in Greater Perth</li> </ul>			

## STATE PLANNING STRATEGY PRINCIPLES

### COMMUNITY

Enable diverse, affordable, accessible and safe communities

### ECONOMY

Facilitate trade, investment, innovation, employment and community betterment

### ENVIRONMENT

Conserve the State's natural assets through sustainable development

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Ensure infrastructure supports development

### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Build the competitive and collaborative advantages of the regions

### GOVERNANCE

Build community confidence in development processes and practices

## Chairman's message



The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) has state-wide responsibility for urban, rural and regional integrated and statutory land use planning and land development. The WAPC's vision is to create better places to live and work for all Western Australian's, while its mission is to ensure the planning system develops policy and enables planning decisions for the long-term benefit of the Western Australian community.

This *Strategic Plan* for the WAPC will guide our focus over the next four years. The WAPC has taken a whole-of-government approach to the development of a suite of high-level policies setting out a long-term vision and strategy for coordinating planning, infrastructure, transport, and environmental approval processes.

The WAPC is a statutory authority under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, with responsibilities including:

- advising the Minister for Planning on strategic land use planning and land development, legislation reform and local planning schemes;
- making statutory decisions on a range of planning application types;
- preparing, implementing and keeping under review the *State Planning Strategy* to provide a vision for the future development of Western Australia;
- preparing and amending State planning policies;
- approving integrated land use planning strategies for the coordinated provision of transport and infrastructure for land development;
- preparing and reviewing region schemes to cater for anticipated growth; monitoring and forecasting land supply throughout the State and developing strategies to ensure the timely supply of affordable residential land;

- researching and developing planning methods and models relating to land use planning, land development and associated matters; and
- acquiring land for public purpose reservations in region planning schemes and negotiating compensation for affected landowners.

The WAPC does this by assessing proposals, making decisions and providing advice and recommendations to the Minister on matters that impact land use planning. Our role is becoming increasingly complex given the scale and nature of developments that we consider. We research trends and data to ensure the planning system responds to present and future challenges. We also advise on the broader coordination of planning and infrastructure issues through recommendations to the Minister and Government. While the Minister is the primary recipient of our direct advice and recommendations, the beneficiary is the Western Australian community.

We have developed this *Strategic Plan* with these fundamental requirements at its core. This is consistent with increasing community expectations around the rigor and transparency of our advice and processes.

Our five operating principles underpin our oversight of a connected, credible, responsive, and accountable planning system. These are used to guide our approach to decision-making and strategic imperatives to ensure we act on behalf of the communities of Western Australia and the broader public interest.

- **Leadership:** The WAPC actively leads and coordinates whole-of-government land-use planning through its clear strategic direction, decision-making and innovative solutions.
- **Accountable:** The WAPC provides advice to Government and makes informed decisions in a transparent manner that is consistent with its strategic goals and objectives.
- **Responsive:** The WAPC is responsive to issues of critical significance through effective integrated strategic and statutory land use planning, land development and infrastructure coordination in Western Australia.

- **Collaborative:** The WAPC liaises and communicates with stakeholders to enable ongoing understanding of their diverse perspectives and takes their views into consideration in its decision-making and advice.
- **Corporate Governance:** The WAPC practices sound governance as a board of management. This includes the ongoing review of the Strategic Plan and meeting legislative requirements of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* and other relevant legislation.

Facilitating density around major transport infrastructure is a key priority of the State Government's METRONET initiative. The WAPC's sub-regional land use planning and infrastructure frameworks identify the most appropriate locations for density close to urban corridors and METRONET station precincts. The aim is to achieve significantly greater infill housing development through policy levers and initiatives to facilitate Perth's transition into a smarter and more liveable city for a substantially increased population.

The WAPC operates with the support of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage which provides professional technical expertise, advice, administrative services, and corporate resources to assist us in our decision-making and advice to Government and the wider community. On behalf of the WAPC, I thank the staff for their steadfast support.

**David Caddy**  
Chairman  
August 2022